St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a Christian community composed of free thinkers who include conservatives, moderates, liberals, skeptics, believers & atheists. All are welcome!

St. Luke's Weekly Magazine
October 20, 2019

Please take this home with you today.

Love God….Think for Yourself!

Gaugin’s bold manner of handling color, shape and line is thought to be inspired by Japanese woodblock prints he personally owned. However, here Gauguin develops the idea of non-naturalistic landscapes. He applies large areas of flat color to the composition, and the red ground departs from conventional representation of earth, field, or grass. In the watching figures he experiments with the distortion of shapes, exaggerating features, and uses strong shifts of color tones. The brown tree trunk, black garments, white hats and red field are painted with minimal color shading. Here he moves towards more abstraction even symbolism. While formal elements of Gauguin's paintings reflect the influence of Japanese prints. However, his choice of subject matter and composition are uniquely his own. Here Gauguin structures his painting’s elements to create a visual separation between the women and their vision of an angel wrestling with Jacob. This composition frames the main subjects of the painting. The overall perspective of this painting is purposely skewed and effectively accomplished by his clustering of people in diminished sizes along its left edge.

For Reflection: Pay attention to your inner response to the painting. Notice what it is that draws your attention. Start an inward dialogue with it! What feelings do you notice? Is there a spiritual wrestling in your own life right now? Can you, like Jacob refuse to let it go until some kind of blessing is given to you?—even if, as with Jacob’s limp, there may be an unknown outcome? (See Genesis 32:22-31)
In Need of Prayer or Home Communion?
St. Luke’s Prayer Ministers are available during the 10:30 AM service to pray with you. If you would like a name added to our Prayer Chain or someone who needs Home Communion, contact Beckie in the Church Office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR............

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:
Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Scott, our Diocesan Bishop and for ALL the people and parishes in our diocese. Pray especially for St. Paul’s Church in Vernal. And for all people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the Church in Province of the West Indies.

OUR NATION & ITS LEADERS:
Our government leaders that they may live & work in a spirit of calm reason & cooperation on behalf of the common good.

THOSE WHO ARE FACING SUFFERING & HARDSHIP:
Robert++++ (husband of Iris Thompson), Jennifer++++ (Strachan), Randy & Dave+++++ (brothers of Beckie Raemer), Jane+++++ & Joanne+++ (friends of Leslie Wood) Burr++++ (son of Linda Dugins) Gabrielle+++ (daughter of Bernadette Rothman), Dick++++ (brother in law of Derrell & Teddi Reeves) Fred++ (brother in law of Linda Sears) Derrell++++ (Reeves), Chris++++ (son of Elizabeth Fetter) Anthony+++ (son in law of Beckie Raemer) Bob++ (Casey) Slob Family+ and the health of their new baby (friends of Maribel Cedillo)

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
✞ Pray for our nation and the whole human community that we may find the wisdom to live in greater respect and harmony with each other and our planet home.
✞ For safety and recovery for all people effected by natural disasters throughout the world.
✞ For healing for every soul captured by fear, bigotry and resentment. May we all develop the ability to see the Sacred in those most different from ourselves.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED……

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR…..

All of our Tellers and their families.

For those having Birthdays this week: John Swanger on Thursday and Steve Baker on Saturday.

Our Parish Community Prayer list: ++ Please note that we will place a + after each name for each week the name is on our prayer list. After four weeks (+++++) the name will be removed unless otherwise requested.
**The Scriptures**
Proper 24c - October 20, 2019

**COLLECT OF THE DAY:** Each of today’s scripture readings point to a central truth: the heart of religion is not compliance with external obligations; it is the transformation of our hearts and minds through our communion with Love Itself. We pray for the grace that enable us to open ourselves fully and complete to this Eternal Love; with Jesus our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen.

**FROM THE HEBREW TRADITION:**
Our passage from the Hebrew tradition comes from the 31st chapter of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. **But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.** Here ends the reading.

**FROM THE HINDU TRADITION:**
Please read with me from the Hindu tradition by reading the parts in bold print.

The Atman is the light:  
The light is covered by darkness:  
**This darkness is delusion: That is why we dream.**  
When the light of Atman drives out our darkness,  
**That light shines forth from us, a sun in splendor,**  
The revealed Brahman. Here ends the reading.

**FROM THE CHRISTIAN GOSPELS:**
Luke 18:1-8  
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.  
Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**OFFERTORY SENTENCES:**
Priest: Now my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, when you come to the Table of the Lord come not only to receive the presence of the Lord, but also to give your life completely to Him. As Jesus said, “The greatest commandments are these.”

People: **You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul and mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

[Hebrew & Christian scripture passages are reprinted with permission from the World Council of Churches. Passages and commentary from World Scriptures were edited by Andrew Wilson.]

**On the Information Table**  
(in front of the sound booth):  
+ Spiritual Direction at St. Luke’s  
+ September Parish $$报告  
+ Info regarding the new tax law  
+ Letter announcing the Bishop’s retirement - October 2021  
+ How to order a St. Luke’s shirt  
+ Winter rooms for rent are needed for seasonal workers  
+ Full text of today’s sermon  
+ Add your name to the St. L’s Covenant of Safe Disagreement  
+ Rector’s report on the recent parish survey
From Charles+: A Report on Our Parish Survey

Regarding the statistical data………

Q-1 (the first question) deals with attendance. Attendance was sufficient at both services that I largely trust the feedback as being more than a knee-jerk reaction to change.

Q-2 & 3 asked one’s preference for a shorter vs. longer sermon. A low score favors a short sermon while a high score favors a long sermon. The average score at 7:45 on Q2 (do you favor a 10 min. sermon?) was 3.25 with a mode of 2. The average score at 10:30 on Q2 (do you favor a 10 min. sermon) was 3.28 with a mode of 2. Both congregations seem to agree that a shorter sermon in the range between 12 to 20 minutes (15 minutes?) is what most would like.

The answers to Q-3 (will a shorter sermon make it more likely you will attend church?) at 7:45 averaged 2.42 with a mode of 1. This indicates that while most would prefer a somewhat shorter sermon, they will not decide whether to attend based upon sermon length. Q-3 at 10:30 has an average score of 2.44 with a mode of 1 - almost identical to the 7:45 scores.

I interpret this data to mean that the majority of people would prefer that my sermons be about 15 minutes in duration with an upper limit of 20 minutes.

Q-4 & 5 were answered by the 10:30 folks only. They dealt with the 10:30 liturgy. With respect to length (Q-4), the average score was 2.89 and the mode was 2. This indicates a fairly strong preference for a service that ends in about an hour. With respect to the importance of length in effecting attendance, the average was again 2.53 indicating a slight bias in the direction of brevity. The mode score was 1 which means that the largest group of responders indicated they will not base their decisions to attend worship on the length of the service.

The comments made in the 10:30 surveys received do seem to indicate a preference for a service that is closer to one hour in duration, but not rigidly so. The good news here is that our congregation seems to be very flexible and generous on this question. While many did express a preference of a service of about 60 minutes in length, the almost universal sentiment was that a 70 or even 80 minutes service would be acceptable when needed.

From the comments and the data, here are Charles’ recommendations to the Vestry and people of St. Luke’s:

1. At both services, perform all of the readings, but delete the introductory commentaries.
2. Keep the 10:30 service closer to one hour when possible with the hope that a briefer service will be more attractive to new families and individuals seeking a parish home.
3. Modestly reduce the length of the music program offered at 10:30.
4. The experimental liturgy is acceptable to everyone. There was no push-back with respect to the new eucharistic liturgy which emphasizes the ethical path of Jesus.

The St. Luke’s Vestry discussed these matters and came to a consensus decision to support these changes in the hope that they will support the growth and development of our parish community.

Parish Survey - October 2019 - Comments

1. 10:30: Use the BCP instead of a booklet….Preach on Jesus and be more traditional.
2. 10:30: I like that we sing less….the Offertory Anthem should be shorter….I prefer that you continue to print three lessons, but only read the Gospel.
3. 7:45: Keep jokes, Bible history, quotes from interesting sources….fewer examples in sermons.
4. 7:45: The lessons are important….do not skip the readings.
5. 7:45: Fine as is.
6. 10:30: Keep all scriptures readings and reduce the number of verses per hymn…..less liturgy and Communion less often.
7.  10:30:  Put at least one reading back in because its the only time we hear and reflect on scripture…..shorten communion music…it should end when the priest is ready to lead the post-communion prayer.
8.  10:30:  Use a form of the Prayers of the People in which there is congregational response….consider alternating short and long services….I miss the readings.
9.  10:30:  Keep all of the readings and the Gospel.
10.  10:30:  Keep the lessons.
11.  10:30:  Enough has been taken away with shortened service.
12.  10:30:  Less verses in the songs…..Communion once a month.
13.  10:30:  Add back the readings….keep shorter hymns…..reduce time for announcements by referring people to the bulletin.
14.  10:30:  Keep the readings…..the Eucharist liturgy seems appropriate…..A service of 60 to 70 minutes is fine.
15.  10:30:  Keep the Prayers of the People and the Community Prayer.
16.  10:30:  Does not need improvement.
17.  10:30:  Liked the shorter version [of the liturgy]…..We can also sing few verses of songs, e.g. first and last verses…..Please do not cut the sermons in any way…..cut other parts of the service if need-be.
18.  10:30:  If we move to the shorter service, use 1 verse of the Gospel hymn before the Gospel and 1 verse after….I like revisiting Morning Prayer from time to time…..Compromise [sermon length] in the middle and keep the full text in the Weekly Magazine.
19.  10:30:  Do not delete the reading of the scriptures….sermon 15-20 min.
20.  10:30:  Keep some music transitions, but perhaps shorten some music, e.g., processional and offertory…..miss some readings - possible to do some short ones?
21.  10:30:  Shorten the readings.
22.  10:30:  Keep the sermon, all scriptures, music, eucharist….Change Prayers of the People - too mechanical, impersonal?  Need “reflective” prayer?
23.  10:30:  Add the lessons back into the service…..Delete the list at the end of the Prayers of the People unless there has been a recent event….Saying the same thing every week becomes rote and meaningless.
24.  10:30:  Generally good and in favor of present liturgy…suggest adding “Let us pray” before the Post-Communion Prayer……Prayer so that the congregation takes part.
25.  10:30:  I like the readings and Charles’ longer sermons to really feel connected.
26.  10:30:  Keep longer sermons, Gospel readings and other faith readings…..Change: a few too many songs.
27.  10:30:  Keep Ministry Minute and longer sermons…..Keep the longer service time to allow for Children’s Church session to be longer.
28.  10:30:  Sermons are my favorite part of the mass…..may we eliminate the Doxology?
29.  10:30:  The sermon is a big part of why I come…..No need for Communion every Sunday.
30.  10:30:  Keep music, scriptures, sermon….Delete nothing - We love this church!
31.  10:30:  Keep the music and readers for scripture and prayer.

I am VERY grateful to each and everyone of you who filled out this survey.  We had a total of 48 responses.  I am grateful for your insights, your flexibility, your openness and your generosity of spirit.  I am biased, but I think our little parish community is very special.

With Much Affection,

Charles+
St. Luke’s Covenant of Safe Disagreement

As a friend/member of St. Luke’s, I want to support the dream of a community in which any topic can be discussed without fear of derision or desertion. Whenever I find myself disagreeing with a member of our community, I therefore commit myself to:

(1) Share my point of view with honesty and respectfulness recognizing that with disagreement comes learning and personal growth;

(2) Make curiosity, the desire to understand and the asking of probing yet respectful questions my primary practice;

(3) Take responsibility for the regulation of my emotions in order to maintain a calm and rational state of mind at all times;

(4) Never resort to personal attacks, sarcasm or rude behavior;

(5) Never walk out on my relationship with the person(s) with whom I disagree or on my community due to disagreement (ethical exception: no one should ever be asked to stay in a relationship or a parish community in which he/she is chronically unhappy and/or is repeatedly mistreated.)

Mike Andrews, Ph.D.   Felicia Lundie
Anne Bransford   Jim Jennings
Bonnie Brown   Shelle Jennings
Susan Burkett   Perry Martin
Bill Case   Sherry Martin
Bob Casey   Katherine Martz
Janice Casey   Rusty Martz
Maribel Cedillo   Gail McBride
Ted Clayton   Mary McEntire
Nancy Conrow   Dudley McIlhenny
Julie Crittenden   Teresa McMillan
Pamela Davey   Lee Osborne
Ann Deyo   Mary Parsons, M.D.
Linda Dugins   Cheryl Popple
Robert Dugins   John Popple
Elizabeth Fetter   Suzanne Pretorius
Dave Fiscus   Robyn Ramsey
Julie Fiscus   Derrell Reeves
Edward Fiscus, Ph.D.   Teddi Reeves
The Rev. Claudia Giacoma   The Rev. Charles Robinson
Lou Giacoma   Karl Sears, Ph.D.
Michael Giese   Deedee Sihvonen
Jane Hamilton   John Snyder
The Rev. Jessica Hatch   John Swanger
Marilyn Heinrich   Karan Swanger
Myra Herzog   Carol Syroid
John Hoener   Betsy Tanner
Rudi Kohler   Iris Thompson
Matt Lindon   Deb Walter
Jeffrey Louden   Barbara Wine
Diego Ize-Ludlow, M.D.
The Current Financial Health of Our Parish Community

Sept. Total Pledge & Plate Donations $18,302
Budgeted Pledge Income $20,588
Received PLEDGE Income $12,423

😊 Monthly Surplus $2,921

Budgeted Plate Income $2,958
Received PLATE Income $5,879

😢 Monthly Deficit $8,165

Sept. Income from other sources $2,844
Sept. TOTAL Income $21,146
Sept. TOTAL Expense $27,383

😢 SEPTEMBER DEFICIT $6,237

TOTAL Year To Date Income $248,454
TOTAL Year To Date Expense $256,031

😢 YEARLY DEFICIT $7,577

Cash Balance $22,800 approx.

Missions Balance on Jan. 1, 2019 $11,782
Missions Yearly Income $5,693
Missions Yearly Expense $9,687

TOTAL MISSIONS BALANCE $7,788

INCOME

YTD Budget = $243,693
Monthly Budget = $27,077

YTD Actual = $248,454
Monthly Actual = $21,146

Over budget by $4,761 😊
Under budget by $5,931 😞

EXPENSES

YTD Budget = $252,173
Monthly Budget = $27,069

YTD Actual = $256,031
Monthly Actual = $27,383

Over budget by $3,858 😞
Over budget by $314 😞

"The love of money is the root of all evil? Is that the whole Treasurer’s Report?"
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
You will find info about our church and what to expect when you visit. www.stlukesparkcity.org. There is information about our missions, finances and programs. You can view previous sermons through a link to You-Tube on your phone or home computer. Go to You Tube, St Luke’s Episcopal Church Park City, UT.

AUTUMN GOSPEL GROUP
FOR WOMEN 50ish & UP: Autumn Gospel meets the fourth Saturday morning of each month from 10 to noon, in members' homes. We use books as a springboard to share and discuss our own spiritual journeys at this stage of our lives. We are reading "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others" by Barbara Brown Taylor. Please join us for coffee, fellowship and a lively discussion! For more info please call Nancy Conrow, nancy.conrow@gmail.com or 435-640-0556.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES: Our ACIM Study Group meets every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. in the St. Luke’s Library. A Course in Miracles is a curriculum focusing on forgiving grievances, leading to a change of perception (the Miracle), which leads to inner peace. Feel free to join us. Our next meeting will by September 9th. For more information, call or text Ann Fiery, 304-617-5714

SHOP AT SMITH’S FOOD & DRUG & FLOURISH BAKERY WILL RECEIVE A DONATION!
To participate in the program, visit the Smith’s Food & Drug web site, log into your account, click on INSPIRING DONATION PROGRAM, search for Flourish Bakery SLCC by name (or use HE559, the Bakery’s nonprofit number with Smith's). Every time you use your fresh values card related to your account, Smith’s will donate .5% of your purchase to Flourish Bakery. It's that simple! Flourish appreciates your support and this inspiring program.

CONSIDERING JOINING THE ST. LUKE'S COMMUNITY? JUST WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?
Our rector would be delighted to make an appointment to meet with you. He will do his best to answer your questions and to help you to feel welcomed and included at St. Luke's. When you are ready to have a conversation, just let him know at either: pastor@stlukespcc.org or 435-901-2131.

CENTERING PRAYER:
Meets Friday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Library. Please join us in this contemplative practice of Holy Silence.

T’AI-CHI:
There will be tai chi this Wednesday starting at 5:10. Registration for new students is closed.

A FREE COURSE ON ISLAM:
We meet each Wednesday at 4:00 in the Church Office area. 30 minute lecture followed by an hour of discussion. Come anytime…..you do not need to have attended earlier classes to benefit from the class this week. BYOB or your favorite beverage and snacks to share. For info, call Charles+ at 435-901-2131. All are welcome!!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE CHOIR?
St. Luke’s Church Choir is looking for new members! A love of singing is the only requirement, although the ability to read music would be helpful. Whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass, you’ll be most welcome! We meet to practice at 9am each Sunday, plus Thursdays at 6pm if you can make it. If you are interested, please see Manuel after the service, or email him at pianospecialists@gmail.com.

ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY:
All women are invited to join an ecumenical Bible study led by Cheryl Poppel at Park City Community Church on Thursday’s at 9:30 a.m. We will be using the book, Pleading, Cursing, Praising: Conversing with God through the Psalms by Irene Nowell. The book can be purchased through Amazon in new or used condition. If you have any problems finding the book, please contact Cheryl. 435-901-3978 crpopple@comcast.net

ST. LUKE’S CARE GUILD:
If you or someone you know has any requests or needs, please contact Katherine at katharinemartz@comcast.net or Harriet, harrietmstephens@gmail.com, (435) 655-1888.

WOMEN’S GATHERING:
We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. The November 12th gathering will be held at the big church.

WEDNESDAY EVENING WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY:
We are studying The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe by Richard Rohr. We meet each Wednesday from 6:30-7:45 in the Library at the Church. Please order the book through your favorite book vendor. We will have discussion questions weekly. For more information, please contact Mary Parsons at Mary.Parsons@hsc.utah.edu. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN CENTER FOOD PANTRY:
Please bring canned goods and non perishables to St Luke’s as we will be making regular donations to the Christian Center's food pantry. Please donate only the kinds of foods you would want to feed your own family. Let's fill the red wagon each week in the foyer! PCHS senior, John Reko, will be picking up our donations and making regular deliveries to the Christian Center. Thanks for supporting this important ministry!

You can now make a donation directly from your mobile phone, computer or a tablet.
Go to our new website: www.stlukesparkcity.org
To make a one time donation or set up a recurring donation from a credit card or checking account.
You can also text the word “Give” to 385-219-4489 to make a donation right from your phone.