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
September 15, 2019
Please take this home with you today.

Jesus said, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!  Luke 12:49

For Reflection:
The need for justice grows out of the conflict of human interests. That is to say, if there were no conflict of interests among mankind we should never have invented the word justice, nor conceived the idea for which it stands.
THOMAS NIXON CARVER, Essays in Social Justice

TO OUR GUESTS - WELCOME - THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY!
All spiritual seekers who are searching for an approach to faith that makes the most sense to them personally are welcome here!
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 the clergy and people of Spirit of The Desert Episcopal Church Community in Ivins. And for all people within the worldwide Anglican Communion; pray for the united Church of Tanzania.

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), Rita (Baden) Jennifer (parents of Cathy Callow-Heuser) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Randy & Dave (brothers of Joe Cordery) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & Robin (brothers of Beckie Raemer) Phil & 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Our Staff is There for You!
Please do not hesitate to contact us.
A full listing of all positions and ministries is available on the information table at the church.

Beckie Raemer, Parish Administrator
Office Phone: 435-649-4900 Ext. 12
Email: beckie@stlukespc.org

Manuel Clayton, Minister of Music and Liturgy
Cell Phone & Text: 435-513-2768
The Rev. Charles Robinson, Rector,
Cell Phone: 435-901-2131 Email: pastor@stlukespc.org

The Rev. Claudia Giacoma, Asst. Priest
Cell Phone: 435-513-0441 Email: giacomaclaudia@gmail.com
The Rev. Aimee Altizer, Asst. Priest
Cell Phone: 801-915-9059 Email: aimeealtizer@gmail.com

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.

If your birthday does not appear on our list, please notify Beckie in the office so that she can add it.
The Scriptures
Proper 19c - September 15, 2019

COLLECT OF THE DAY: There is a wise saying in the recovery community, “Perfection is not an option.” While true, this should not be an invitation for us to flee self-examination. We pray for the courage to evaluate our thinking and behaviors with honesty and integrity. And when we find cause for repentance, we pray for the faith and moral strength to change what needs to be changed; with Jesus our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen.

FROM THE HEBREW TRADITION:
Our passage from the Hebrew tradition comes from the 4th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. It is a stern warning against turning away from love, compassion and justice. Please read with me from the Hebrew tradition by reading the parts in bold print.

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse -- a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them. "For my people are foolish, they do not know me; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good." I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled. I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger. For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end. Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black; for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back. Here ends the reading.

FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS:
Our next passage is found in the first chapter of the Second Letter of Timothy. Paul began his first epistle to Timothy with thanks for Timothy's salvation and thanks for his own salvation and ministry. In this second epistle he began with thanks for Timothy's salvation and ministry. Throughout this letter Paul looked to the past and ahead to the future, when he would no longer be alive. Paul regarded his own ministry as part of the continuation of God's great ongoing plan of the ages. He was one of the faithful throughout history who have loyally served God sincerely. Evidently when they had parted last, Timothy had taken their separation very hard. A reunion would encourage Timothy as well as Paul. Please read with me from the Christian tradition by reading the parts in bold print.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace

of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners -- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. Here ends the reading.

Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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.]

YIKES!!!! Barb Wine’s Last Sunday at St. Luke’s will be October 6th!!!
The Serenity Prayer
Proper 19c - September 15, 2019

The following well-known prayer is attributed to the 20th century theologian Reinhold Niebuhr: “God, grant me the Serenity to Accept the things I cannot change, the Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.” Today’s scripture passages, both Hebrew and Christian, invite us into a conversation about repentance; about the possibilities and the limitations involved on our attempts to change our own lives.

First, allow me to share some information about Reinhold Niebuhr. He is one of the best known theologians of the 20th century in part because of his insistence that Christianity is a religious orientation that demands a relationship between faith in God and courageous action in the midst of society and the world. From Encyclopedia Britannica: “Niebuhr served as pastor of Bethel Evangelical Church in Detroit from 1915 to 1928. His earliest writings exhibit the religious liberalism and social idealism that pervaded the theological atmosphere of the time. But his experience in Detroit—and especially his exposure to the American automobile industry before labor was protected by unions and by social legislation—caused him to become a radical critic of capitalism. [Before the advent of organized labor, workers were at the near total mercy of their bosses. This powerlessness was often accompanied by company practices of disrespect, oppression and even abuse by the hands of factory owners and managers.]

“As a theologian Niebuhr is best known for his ‘Christian Realism,’ which emphasized the persistent roots of evil in human life. In his Moral Man and Immoral Society (1932) he stressed the egoism and the pride and hypocrisy of nations and classes. He emphasized the tendency for sin—in the form of destructive pride—to appear on every level of human achievement, especially where claims to perfection were made, either in religious or political terms.” He wrote that the image of God in all people is never completely destroyed by sin and that the grace of God does not exclusively belong to the limits of any religious systems.

Professor Niebuhr was a hopeful political activist and emphasized the good that could be achieved if honesty replaced self-deception. His outlook is well expressed in his statement that “the saints are tempted to continue to see that grace may abound, while sinners toil and sweat to make human relations a little more tolerable and slightly more just.” He always had faith in what he called “indeterminate possibilities” for humanity in history. He passionately advocated that men and women stand up against Hitler and do what was necessary to defeat him. I think the rise of Hitler’s fascism was the likely context that birthed the serenity prayer (which called for the courage to act and to change what can be changed.) Niebuhr had, in other words, not only one’s personal private conflicts and struggles in mind. He also was thinking to the struggle among nations for peace, compassion and justice for all members of the human community.

Now, let’s turn to the Serenity Prayer itself and talk about what its key terms might mean. (1) “Serenity” is a synonym for inner peace or peacefulness of mind. Life often brings variations of chaos, loss of control, and emotional turmoil. We and those we love can experience sudden illness, difficult circumstances in their work and family life, life-altering accidents, broken relationships and much more. As the Buddha noted, suffering is part of human existence. Our reactions to the difficulties and stressors of life can sometimes make a bad situation much worse. In the face of internal distress, anger and anxiety, we can easily say or do something inflammatory. Serenity is a much better alternative response. Serenity is a positive state of mind where you cultivate the capacity to encounter life’s ups and downs with rationality, calmness and emotional equanimity. It means remaining calm and true to yourself, regardless of what else is going on. Some would even say that serenity is one of the primary goals of the spiritual path.

(2) Acceptance refers to taking what is offered without any conscious or secret demand that things be otherwise. Acceptance means making the best of what we have. It means realizing the reality of what life has given us – including the positive and negative of our genetic makeup – and still working with what we have been given to live the best life we possibly can. Acceptance is the opposite of what Psychologist Albert Ellis called “musterbation.” Musterbation is the mental demand that the world MUST!!! be what we want it to be. We are engaged in it when we are internally shaking our fist at the heavens demanding that circumstances and people be and do whatever we want. Musterbation is a guaranteed prescription for personal misery and unhappiness because - to put it simply - our ego is not the center of the universe and we do not control very much. As long as you are trying to force other people or life itself to be other than what it is, you will live in a state of chronic frustration and anger. Acceptance of what is is the smart alternative because it leads to peace and the possibility of true happiness.

(3) Courage refers to acting in spite of feeling afraid to act. Courage means reacting and moving forward positively, even
when we feel negative – doing the right thing, even when we are unsure. Courage doesn’t mean that we have NO fear; it means that we refuse to be ruled by our fears. Courage can take many forms: Honesty – even when the truth is uncomfortable; Fortitude – even when doing the right thing is hard; Perseverance – even in the face of obstacles; Faith – even when we feel like giving up; Willingness to change – even when we are unsure. We cannot face the causes of pain and suffering within ourselves and within the human community without courage. Courage is the willingness to look a Pontius Pilate or a Hitler or an abuser in the eye and speak the truth knowing it may cost you dearly.

(4) Wisdom refers to learning from our mistakes. Wisdom means recognizing when something doesn’t work and being willing to try something else. It means putting our ego and stubbornness aside in order to reach our goals. Usually, wisdom means listening to the quiet voice within, the voice that empowers us to discern, that is, to see or clearly perceive that which is as it is. Your inner voice is the voice of wisdom whenever it leads you toward health, well-being, love and goodness.

That reminds me of a dumb story…..An angel appears at a meeting of religious leaders and tells their leader that in return for his unselfish and exemplary behavior, God will reward him with his choice of infinite wealth, wisdom, or beauty. Without hesitating, the leader selects infinite wisdom. “Done!” says the angel, and disappears in a cloud of smoke and a bolt of lightning. Now, all heads turn toward the leader, who sits surrounded by a faint halo of light. One of the others whispers, “Say something.” The leader sighs and says, “I should have taken the money.”

What can the regular use of the Serenity Prayer do for you in your daily life? By being mindful of the meaning behind the words of the Serenity Prayer, we gain a number of benefits: (1) We practice differentiating between those things we can and cannot control. (2) We learn to make the best of what we have and where we are in life. (3) It supports our practice of self-examination, repentance, and amendment of life. (4) We get out of our own way and stop sabotaging our own efforts. We stop repeating the same mistakes. (5) We stay humble, because we realize our human limitations. (6) Most of all, it becomes possible for us to rediscover happiness through acceptance. We can find the good in what IS and in what we CAN do within ourselves and in our society, instead of focusing on the frustration of what we CAN’T do. Blessings!

HELP US HEAL THE NATION AND ONE ANOTHER:
REGISTER FOR THE BETTER ANGELS WORKSHOP
Saturday - September 28th from 9:00 AM to Noon

The workshop will be 3-hours of safe, respectful conversation and active listening by an equal number of self-identified conservatives and liberals….. about 7 and 7. Through tightly structured group exercises, participants will share their viewpoints, talk about how they came to the positions they hold and engage in some reflective self-evaluation.

Those who have registered thus far:

Blues/Liberals/Democrat-Leaning
1. Gail McBride
2. Mike Andrews
3. Don Wood
4. Ann Deyo
5. Jeff Louden
6. John Swanger
7. Moe Hickey

Reds/Conservatives/Republican-Leaning
1. Mike Collet
2. Mark Blackwell
3. Patti Blackwell
4. Katherine Martz
5. ?
6. ?
7. ?

Three more Republican-Leaning individuals are needed. To register or to ask questions, contact Charles+ at pastor@stlukespc.org or 435-901-2131. Please do it today. Thanks!!!
Is this covenant something that you can agree to? If not, what needs to happen in order for you to sign it? Please contact Charles+ to ask your questions and share any concerns you may have. Our goal: EVERY adult in our parish community will commit themselves to this Covenant before January 1st, 2020. St. Luke’s will become known as a place of honest, open and valuable learning through the safe exchange of ideas, perspectives and information.
PARISH COMMUNITY SURVEY
(To be completed the first two weeks in October)

I am completing this survey based upon my experiences during the following service:  _____ 7:45  _____ 10:30

I attended worship on _____ Sundays during the month of September.

Concerning Charles’ Sermons,
Please rate your preference….  

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<td>10 minute sermon summary</td>
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A shorter sermon time will motivate me to attend Sunday worship more often.

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<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
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Concerning the 10:30 Worship Service,
Please rate your preference……….  

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<td>Service less than 1 Hour</td>
<td>No opinion</td>
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A worship service lasting less than one hour will motivate me to attend Sunday worship more often.

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<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
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Concerning the Abbreviated Liturgy of Holy Eucharist,
Please tell us how to improve it……..(Please print clearly and be specific whenever possible.)

Items to Keep: ___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Items you would Change or Delete: __________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Please use the back of this sheet if you need more room for your good ideas. When completed, please give this to Charles+, another parish leader or the Church Office. Thanks for your honest feedback. Changes will be made only if there is a clear majority of the congregation desiring change.
Exciting Happenings

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 and 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 rewards card or phone number 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 both help Flourish grow and prosper.

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@stlukespc.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.

WOMEN'S GATHERING:
We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

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 will 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 Popple at Park City Community Church beginning Thursday, September 5, at 9:30 a.m. We will be using the book, Pleading, Cursing, Praising: Convering 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 katherinemartz@comcast.net or Harriet, harriettmstephens@gmail.com, (435) 655-1888.

TAI-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!!

THE PROJECT FOR DEEPER UNDERSTANDING:
FREE public forum:
“Growth: Is Regional Planning the Answer? + 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 24th @ St. Luke’s + 1 hour of panels discussion followed by 1 hour of audience Q&A. All are welcome!!!

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.