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 22, 2019
Please take this home with you today.

Love God….Think for Yourself!

Linda Witte Henke
“Transformation”
textile acrylic, 38 by 36 inches

The path of descent is the path of transformation. Darkness, failure, relapse, death, and woundedness are our primary teachers, rather than ideas or doctrines. .....Richard Rohr, OFM

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 Church of the Holy Spirit in Randlett. And for all people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the Church of the Province of Uganda.

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 (+++) (Strachan), Randy & Dave (+++) (brothers of Beckie Raemer), Janet (+++) (friend of Leslie Wood) Urs (+++) (brother in law of Stacey Reko) Burr (+++) (grandson of Barbara Wine) Gabrielle (+++) (daughter of Bernadette Rothman), Dick (+++) (brother in law of Derrell & Teddi Reeves) Fred (+++) (brother in law of Linda Sears) Derrell++ (Reeves), Sam, Matt, Marilyn, Peter (+++) (friends of Teresa McMillan), Kara, Debbie & the Skaar family (+++) (friends of Stacey Reko), Beckie+++ (Raemer)

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.....
Our Usher and Greeter Leader, Lee Osborne and his family.

For those having Birthdays this week: Tim Ramsey and Mary Swanwick on Tuesday; Nancy Conrow on Thursday and Harriet Stephens 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 20c - September 22, 2019

COLLECT OF THE DAY: It is our experience as human beings that too great an emphasis upon the acquisition of riches can have unintended consequences. We may find ourselves more selfish and afraid then ever expected. We pray for the wisdom and faith that will allow us to have a generous and joyful relationship with our money so that we may be deeply free to use it to make the world a more compassionate place; with Jesus our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen.

FROM THE HEBREW TRADITION:
Our passage from the Hebrew tradition comes from the 8th and 9th chapters of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. Scholars have long noted that within the Hebrew scriptures there is a consistent note of compassion and concern for the poor. To love God is to love and care for the poor and powerless in one’s community. Please read with me from the Hebrew tradition by reading the parts in bold print.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people! Here ends the reading.

FROM THE MUSLIM TRADITION:
Giving alms to the poor and hospitality to strangers are traditional virtues encouraged by all religions. A relationship to the Highest Good naturally builds a bond among all members of the community—for all people are as brothers and sisters with the absolute value of God's children. Giving alms and charity is a concrete expression of this spiritual bond. Along with admonitions to practice charity, texts such as the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats from the New Testament, liken helping a poor man to giving offerings to God. Please read with me from the Muslim tradition by reading the parts in bold print.

Be kind to parents, and the near kinsman, and to orphans, and to the needy, and to the neighbor who is of kin, and to the neighbor who is a stranger, and to the companion at your side, and to the traveler, and to the poor and powerless among you. Surely God loves not the proud and boastful for such are selfish, and bid other men to be greedy and selfish, and themselves conceal the bounty that God has given them. Here ends the reading.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jug[3]s of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." 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 your 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.]

The memorial service for Judy Hanley will take place at the church on Saturday morning, October 12th at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Unshackled/Flourish Bakery and/or St. Luke’s Mission Fund.
Dear Reader: I’ve been asked to share this excerpt from The Myths of Happiness so often that I decided to share it on my blog. Please take a look at the four key points below:

Much has been said and written about whether money makes people happy, and the conclusions offered can differ radically, depending on which psychologists, economists, or commentators we listen to. Indeed, the data are confusing and contradictory, but I believe that I can offer some reasoned, data-based conclusions.

1. Income and happiness are indeed significantly correlated, although the relationship isn’t super strong.

In other words, it’s true that the higher we are on the economic ladder, the happier we report ourselves to be. In many ways, this finding is not at all surprising, given that having money not only gives us opportunities to acquire conveniences and luxuries, but affords us greater status and respect, more leisure time and fulfilling work, access to superior health care and nutrition, and greater security, autonomy, and control. Wealthier people lead healthier lives, have the wherewithal to spend time with people they like, live in safer neighborhoods and less crowded conditions, and enjoy a critical buffer when faced with adversities like illness, disability, or divorce. Indeed, it’s a wonder that the correlation between money and individual happiness isn’t stronger than it is.

Two important caveats are in order, however. First, the relationship between happiness and money only holds for a certain kind of happiness. When people are asked to consider how happy or satisfied they are in general, those with more money report being happier and more satisfied. But when people are asked how happy they are moment-to-moment in their daily lives — e.g., “How joyful, stressed, angry, affectionate, and sad were you yesterday?” — then those with more money are no more likely to have experienced happy feelings. This pattern of results suggests that wealth makes us happy when we are thinking about our lives — “Am I happy overall? Well, I’m making a good living, so I must be” — but money has a much smaller impact on our feelings as we actually live our lives (“Am I happy today?”).

The second caveat, which may be even more important, is that when psychologists, sociologists, and economists discuss the relationship between money and happiness, they invariably assume that money is the causal factor. But, of course, the causal direction could (and undoubtedly does) go both ways. That is, money buys happiness, but happiness also buys money. Indeed, several studies have suggested that happier people are relatively more proficient or gifted at earning more.

2. The link between money and happiness is a great deal stronger for poorer people than richer ones.

When our basic needs for adequate food, safety, health care, and shelter aren’t met, an increase in income makes a much larger difference for us than when we are relatively comfortable. Another way to put it is that money makes us happier if it keeps us from being poor. After all, those of us who have very little are more likely to be evicted from our homes, go hungry, live in a crime-ridden community, have a child drop out of school, lack the resources to obtain medical care, or be unable to manage the pain, stress, and practical demands of a disease or disability. Even a modest increase in income can alleviate or prevent many of these adverse situations.

These ideas help explain why money makes poorer people happier, but why does money have a relatively weak effect on wealthier people’s happiness? One answer is that as income rises beyond a certain level, its positive effects (e.g., the ability to fly first class or retain top-notch medical specialists) may be offset by some negative effects, like increased time pressure (e.g., longer working hours and commutes) and increased stress (e.g., holding powerful positions, anxieties about investments, and problems with overindulged children). And because wealth allows people to experience the best that life has to offer, it can reduce their capacity to savor life’s small pleasures.

3. The link between money and happiness is even stronger when nations (as opposed to individuals) are compared.

Those of us who live in wealthier nations are a great deal happier than people who live in poorer nations. A huge caveat, however, is that wealthier nations don’t just have higher GDPs than poorer nations; they are also more likely to be characterized by democracy, freedom, and equal rights, and less likely to have political instability or rampant corruption and graft. Consequently, it’s not clear what really drives the relationship between wealth and happiness at the national level.

4. In many countries, as people’s economic fortunes have improved, their average reported happiness levels have not budged.

This last finding seems puzzling in light of the fact that people who have more money are happier. Hence, it’s this particular finding that is usually behind proclamations in the media or elsewhere that money does not buy happiness. From my previous descriptions of research, you can probably already speculate about why, for example, Americans have not gotten happier as their incomes have tripled. First, higher incomes foster higher aspirations, such that we now consider necessary what we once considered extravagant or optional (such as vacations, cars, or indoor plumbing). Second, higher incomes force a shift in our social comparisons, such that we now feel poorer relative to people in our neighborhoods or offices who have more than we do. Second, higher incomes force a shift in our social comparisons, such that we now feel poorer relative to people in our neighborhoods or offices who have more than we do.

References:
1 For a review of this vast literature, see Diener, E., & Biswas-Diener, R. (2002). Will money increase subjective well-being? A literature review.


3 Kahneman & Deaton (2010). op. cit. See ch. 6, note 267

4 Diener, E., et al. (2002). Dispositional affect and job outcomes. Social Indicators Research, 59, 229-259. For a review, see Lyubomirsky, King, et al. (2005), op. cit. (See ch. 4, note 207).


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.)

Please express your gratitude to those who have committed themselves to live by this covenant:

Bill Case  Charles Robinson
Bob Casey  Barbara Wine
Maribel Cedillo  Don & Leslie Wood
Ann Deyo
Dave Fiscus
Julie Fiscus
Edward Fiscus
Lou Giacoma
Michael Giese
Jane Hamilton
Myra Herzog
John Hoener
Diego Ize-Ludlow
Rusty & Katherine Martz
Gail McBride
Mary McEntire
Suzanne Pretorius
Derrell & Teddi Reeves

Let Us Say, “Farewell” to the Beloved Members of our Community moving away:
+ Barb Wine (moving to SLC)
+ Brian & Deborah Smith (moving to Longbeach, CA)
+ Jamie & Julie Crittenden (moving to San Diego)

Please be sure to them know how much they are appreciated and loved by our congregation. Plan to attend a special “Farewell Coffee Hour” for Barb Wine on Sunday, October 6th hosted by her family.

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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<tr>
<td>10 minute sermon summary</td>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>Full text sermon (approx. 25 min.)</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>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>Strongly Agree</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>
<td>Full 75 to 90 minute service</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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<tr>
<td>Strongly Disagree</td>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>Strongly Agree</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 YouTube on your phone or home computer. Go to YouTube, 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.

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’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 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 cpopple@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, harrietmstephens@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.