In Luke, Jesus tells the parable of a shepherd who had one of his sheep wander off. After searching and searching until he finds his lost sheep, he carries it safely home on his shoulders and calls together his friends and family, saying “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!”

**For Reflection:**
Sometimes, Jesus’ Parable of the Lost Sheep is interpreted as focusing upon human nature as sinful, lost and in need of repentance. However, Jesus’ focus is upon sharing the joy of recovering the sheep from certain death, of restoring it to life, to relationship with the shepherd—not upon the lost sheep’s need for repentance.

I would like to suggest that the sheep’s failure was one of mindlessness, of lack of attention in the present moment. With little awareness of self and place, it would have drifted mindlessly away into certain death had not the shepherd gone after it. Perhaps the spiritual practices of mindfulness and self-awareness are more important than we sometimes realize!! That said, we can truly rejoice in the faithfulness of Jesus, the Good Shepherd!

The Rev. Claudia Giacoma

---

This image from the catacombs of Rome is one of the earliest symbolizing Christ as the good shepherd. The image is unique in depicting a halo-less young man in a short tunic carrying a lamb around his neck and was probably not understood as an actual portrait of Jesus.

*Image Source Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia.*
In Need of Prayer of 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, contact Tami Wrice with your request at 435-901-1128 or t-wrice@hotmail.com. If you know of someone who needs Home Communion, contact our Lay Eucharistic Visitor Team by calling or emailing the Church Office. Blessings!

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

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:
✓ Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Scott, our Diocesan Bishop and for ALL the people and parishes in our diocese. Pray especially for Grace Church in St. George.
✓ All people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of England.

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:

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
✓ In memory of September 11, pray for an end to terrorism and the wisdom to find a way to live together in peace.
✓ Those effected by the flooding in the Southern states and the fires in the West.
✓ An end to the conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan and healing for all victims.
✓ A lasting, permanent peace between Israel & her neighbors.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED……

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR......
✓ For our Layreader Ministry Chair, Jane Hamilton and her family.
✓ And for those having birthdays this week: Arthur Mayo, Brandon Romano on Monday, Jackson Straughan on Wednesday and Luna Hill on Friday.

If your birthday does not appear on the list, please contact Beckie in the office, 649-4900 ext. 12.

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 you need pastoral support or know someone that does, please call Fr. Charles+, at 435-901-2131. Remember, Charles+ still can’t read minds so he will not know unless you tell him. Calls will be kept confidential.
The Scripture Passages
Proper 19c - September 11, 2016

Collect of the Day: O God, we give grateful thanks for your Holy Spirit living in and through and all around us. Through the love and compassion of your Spirit, empower us to more fully love the world as you love the world; with Jesus, our Brother, Teacher and Lord. AMEN.

The Hebrew Scriptures:
Reader: Today's reading from the Hebrew scriptures comes from the 32nd chapter of Exodus. God has been deeply hurt and angered by the infidelity of the Hebrew people and wants to destroy them. Moses reasons with the Deity to have mercy. Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print…..

"The Lord said to Moses, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people. Here ends the reading.

The Christian Gospels:
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." Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Offertory Sentence:
Priest: 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, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

[Hebrew & Christian scripture passages are reprinted with permission from the World Council of Churches. Passages from extra-biblical sources are reprinted with permission from World Scriptures.]
The Parable Of Ground Zero
By Father James Martin, SJ

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, I was working at my desk at America magazine in midtown Manhattan. Around 9 a.m., my mother called from Philadelphia to say that she had heard about a plane crashing into the World Trade Center. I thought it was odd that she would call; she knew that my office was uptown, not downtown. A few minutes later, I decided to turn on the television set. It was only then that I saw the unfolding tragedy.

That morning I had a doctor's appointment and so, still unsure of what exactly was happening, I walked the few blocks to his office. But as I peered down Sixth Avenue (a few feet away from our office) I was horrified to see the Twin Towers with inky black smoke pouring from their tops. Even then, panicked people were streaming uptown, desperately trying to use their cell phones (many of which had ceased to work since the cell phone towers at the World Trade Center had been rendered useless). Numbly, I made my way to my doctor's appointment.

An hour later, the scene was utterly different. Everyone's eyes faced downtown. People were weeping in the streets, scanning the skies for another plane, racing toward subway entrances and desperately hailing cabs.

When I returned to our offices, our receptionist told me that one of the buildings had collapsed. "That's ridiculous," I said, angrily. "What radio station is saying that? That's impossible." Turning on the television confirmed my worst fears.

That evening, I put my collar on and made my way to a local hospital a few blocks away, where victims were to be brought. But the police officers in the lobby suggested that I walk farther downtown. So through the empty streets, I walked to Chelsea Piers, a large sporting arena, to wait for victims who never came.

The next day I spent several hours at a family counseling center downtown, helping family members pore through hospital records of patients who had been admitted. But, in the end, there would be few survivors.

Finally, on Sept. 13, I returned to Chelsea Piers and asked a police officer if they needed any help downtown. He nodded curtly, waved for a police cruiser, and I jumped in and was taken down to "the site."
It was an absolutely appalling sight — the colossal, twisted buildings still on fire, piles of rubble covered with a heavy layer of gray ash, and hundreds of uniformed firefighters and police officers seemingly everywhere. Ten years later I can still remember the terrible acrid smell that pervaded everything. I felt like I was in hell.

After emerging from the police car, stunned, I wondered what to do. I thought: I cannot bear to look at bodies, I cannot bear to be in the morgue, but I can help the rescue workers. So I spent the next few days and weeks, in between my work at the magazine, ministering to the rescue workers — firefighters, police officers, EMTs, nurses, construction workers, military personnel and government workers from every conceivable office. In time I was joined by my Jesuit brothers, many of them still in training.

In this hell I found grace. Working at the World Trade Center was one of the most profound experiences of the Holy Spirit I've ever had, for there I encountered an overwhelming sense of charity, unity and concord. Every person working at Ground Zero was "other-directed." Every person was selfless, utterly unconcerned for himself or herself. Every person seemed kind, considerate, loving.

All of their work, of course, was deeply informed by the sacrifices that had already been made by the firefighters and rescue workers who gave their lives as they raced into the burning buildings on September 11. For me, it was as if God was offering us a parable. In the Gospels, when people asked what God or the Kingdom of God is like, Jesus offered them a parable, a story drawn from nature or everyday life to help them understand things more deeply. Jesus would say: God is like the father welcoming back his son. Or: God is like a woman sweeping her house.

And here was God offering us a parable today. As I looked around at the rescue workers, I thought, what is God like? God is like the firefighter who rushes into a burning building to save someone. That's how much God loves us. And I saw this love expressed in the great charity of all the rescue workers who gathered at the American Golgotha.

So for me, the experience of September 11, 2001, was not simply one of tragedy but also of resurrection. For me it embodied the Christian mystery of the cross: the place of unimaginable tragedy can also be the place of new life that comes in unexpected ways.

Father James Martin, SJ, is a Jesuit priest, culture editor of America magazine, and the author of several books, including Searching for God at Ground Zero.
Transition

Yes, I am going to retire this year! My last service will be Sunday, October 23, 2016. The Bishop will be here as the Celebrant and I hope it will be a joyous time of remembering and send off for Jim and myself to a new adventure. Please plan to be present with us.

In the meantime however, there is the reality of a major change taking place in our lives. Rooms are emptying out, bookshelves are becoming empty, the walls no longer are adorned with our favorite pictures. I am attempting to empty the freezer. The clothes we haven’t worn in years are finally being given away as we clean out the closets. Then there is the office and all the files to be ready for the new Vicar.

It is all part of a transition in the making. Sometimes it is sad, sometimes funny and sometimes overwhelming. Sometimes, the answer is; “throw it out. If you need it again we’ll buy a new one.” Decisions, decisions and lots of them after 14 years of living in Whiterocks, Utah. We are downsizing at least 1/3 and with almost no storage. Maybe that is a good thing as it is causing us to evaluate what is really important. Yet, we are truly stepping into the unknown.

Perhaps at this time, we can’t answer, what really will be important. It is a transition to a new adventure. I have worked full time for the last 55 years of my life. Retirement? What is that? Once I said that I wanted to spend a year free, without commitments on a calendar. People laughed and said they thought I’d last 2 weeks. Well, I guess we shall see what the transition to this new adventure will hold for both of us.

I did a reflection for a Diocesan Council Retreat in March of 2007 on Once an Eagle, always an Eagle, In the Spirit of the Circle, Luke 4: 16-21. Jesus knew who he was and what God was calling him to do and be---He took a leap and began to soar like an eagle. Jesus and the eagle show us a special kind of freedom to be all that we have been created to be.

This transition is truly one that will give me the freedom to explore new avenues in my life that have never been open before. It is going to be interesting. However, what ever happens, these last 14 years have been a unique and rewarding time for both Jim and myself. They have been a time filled with memories that we shall treasure the rest of our lives. Please know we shall always hold each of you close in our hearts whatever we do or wherever we go. With love and gratitude,

Sue
Help!!! The Ministries of St. Luke’s Needs Your Involvement: These 5 Positions Need to be Filled as Soon as Possible

OUR PARISH WEBSITE: With new events and classes coming on line at St. Luke’s frequently throughout the year, we need someone who would be willing to work with Charles+ and Beckie to keep our parish website dynamic, interesting, current and helpful. This work could be done from home. For more information, please speak to either Charles+, Beckie beckie@stlukespc.org or Pamela Davey (Marketing Team) pmdavey101@gmail.com
Thanks!

ESTABLISHING AN ENDOWMENT FUND: The St. Luke’s Vestry is seriously considering launching a St. Luke’s Endowment Fund next year. A team is needed to structure the fund and decide how it will work. Christine Munro and Sharon Christiansen will be co-charing this team, but they need other who have experience with endowment funds and long-term financial planning. If you are interested in helping, please speak to either Christine chris@torchlightinn.com or Sharon sharonc435@gmail.com

LEADING ART & SOUL: Are you passionate about spiritual exploration and growth? Do you love creativity? Claudia+ is in need of an apprentice-partner who will help her this fall with Art & Soul and learn how to use creativity and the arts to help people explore their spirituality. If you are interested in this important ministry opportunity, please call Claudia+ at 435-513-0441.

PHOTO DIRECTORY COORDINATOR: It’s time to update our parish photo directory. The company that will be doing most of the work for us will be Life-Touch, but a Photo Directory Coordinator will be needed to work with the photo company and to arrange for parish members to meet with the photographer. If you enjoy organizing events and accomplishing administrative tasks, you will enjoy this service opportunity. For more information, please speak to Beckie at beckie@stlukespc.org or Charles+.

BREAKFAST FOR OUR POKER RUN DEALERS:
Our Annual Parish Pledge Drive begins on Sunday, October 16th and once again we will be doing our collective “Poker Run” together. On that day, there will be a breakfast gathering of all of our Poker Run Dealers, that is, the leaders of the various communities’ ingathering process. A volunteer is needed to coordinate a simply breakfast for the Dealers that morning; simply pastries and coffee for everyone. If you would be interested in doing this or if you have questions, please contact Leslie Wood at newdawn.wood@gmail.com

Sunday - October 16th
A CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. LUKE THE PHYSICIAN
A special healing service
An opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to “check out” St. Luke’s
Pick up the instructions for making our prayer origami cranes.
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.

AUTUMN GOSPEL GROUP FOR WOMEN 50ish & UP: FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM Meets on the fourth Saturday of each month, 10:00 - NOON. We are beginning a new book, "A New Harmony: The Spirit, The Earth, and The Human Soul" by J. Phillip Newell. Please join us for coffee, fellowship and a lively discussion! For more info. please call Dyan Pignatelli, 435-782-3330 or Joyce Pearson, 435-659-0724.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE: WWW.STLUKESPARKCITY.ORG It’s not completely finished, but there is enough content to make it worth a visit. On the website newcomers will find info about our church and what to expect when they visit. In addition, there is information about all of our missions, finances and programs. You can view previous sermons through a link to You-Tube on your phone or home computer. Happy exploring!!!

WOMEN'S GET TOGETHER Please join us on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. We gather to get to know and support one another. The September 13th ladies night is the same night as Aimee Altizer's ordination at St. Luke’s. We will plan to attend that ordination for our September ladies gathering instead of having a separate event.

TAI-CHI for Health and Arthritis will resume on Wednesday, September 21st at 5:10 PM at the Church. A sign up sheet is in the back on the bulletin board near the refreshment area. The cost is $30 for six weeks. We need six participants to continue. The class is open to beginners and continuing students.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! ST. LUKE'S IS CELEBRATING FAITH, LOVE, CHILDREN! St. Luke's is having a special Back to School today. As part of the festivities, we will have a special Sunday School that day. Also, the children will participate in communion with Fr. Charles. After the service, for coffee hour, we will have a tailgating party in the parking lot. The church will provide hot dogs, buns and condiments and the various shepherding groups will provide drinks and sides. It is sure to be a great time and for it to be successful, we need everyone to participate.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY We will be doing the Priscilla Shirer study "Breathe-Making Room for the Sabbath". It is a 5 week study and the homework starts after the first session which will be Wednesday September 7. We have a total of 7 books and will bring them to the first session. If we need more later they are available at Lifeway in SLC or on Amazon. Hope to see you there!

A COURSE IN MIRACLES Our A Course in Miracles study group will continue to meet during the summer. Please join us at 4:00 each Wednesday in the St. Luke's library to read and discuss theory and practice of this thought system based on non-judgment and love. For information call Ann Fiery, 304-617-5714, or visit www.acim.org.

CENTERING PRAYER: Meets Monday mornings at 9:30 AM & Friday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Jerusalem room. Please join us in this contemplative practice of Holy Silence. For any questions contact Jan at jan.e.hafner@gmail.com

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, harriettstephens@gmail.com, (435)655-1888.

REMEMBER that you can now donate online through our website to contribute to our church and its missions. Click in the “Make an online donation” button and you’ll be able to use your credit or debit card. www.stlukespc.org You can also fill out an offering card found in the pews to make a Credit Card donation.