Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much… The Gospel of Luke

Lucy Janjigian: "Lilies of the Field IV"
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There is an "inherent tension between care for ourselves, our own families and communities, and a respectful concern for the broader community of faiths, cultures, and the environment." This image "calls us to a broader world view, inviting us to see ourselves as part of a larger whole and to act upon that understanding."

We invite you to sit with [this image] and see what response awakens within you.

Diane Walker, Curator ECVA Justice and Peace Exhibit

TO OUR GUESTS - WELCOME - THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY!
St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a Christian community composed of free thinkers who include: conservatives, moderates, & liberals; agnostics, skeptics & atheists. All spiritual seekers who are searching for an approach to faith that makes the most sense to them personally are welcome here!

PLEASE NOTE: During the 10:30 worship service, we normally video-record the sermon for posting on You-Tube. Your image may be captured during recording.
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 St. John’s Church in Logan.
✓ All people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of Pakistan.

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), Pat++++ (Sanger), Rita++++ (wife of Kevin Tischner), Alexei++++ (granddaughter of Deedee Sihvonen), Gerry ++++ (wife of Jim Brooks) Mildred & Tom ++++ (mother and brother of Cheryl Popple) Cassie & Gabrielle++++++ (daughters of Richard & Bernadette Rothman) Tom++++ (brother of Joe Cordery) Kelle++++ (mother of Aimee Altizer), Aone++++ (sister of Teddi Reeves) Mary Gene++++ Scott++ (mother & brother of Sharon Christiansen) Sandor++++ (friend of Harriet Stephens) Joan++++ (friend of Barbara Wine) Maguel++++ (father of Bernadette Rothman) Ty++ ++ (friend of Ann Deyo) Ryan++ (daughter of Christy Bergin)

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
✓ Comfort and peace for the families and friends affected by the recent deaths of two teenagers in Park City.
✓ An end to terrorism and the wisdom to find a way to live together in peace.
✓ Safety and recovery for those effected by the typhoon that hit Taiwan and China.
✓ An end to the conflicts in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan and healing for all victims.
✓ A lasting, permanent peace between Israel & her neighbors.

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR......
✓ For our Layreaders and their families.
✓ And for those having birthdays this week: Heidi Smith on Monday; Susan Row on Tuesday; Tim Ramsey and Mary Swanwick on Saturday.

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

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.

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.

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.

The Rev. Charles Robinson, Rector
Cell Phone: 435-901-2131 Email: pastor@stlukespc.org

The Rev. Claudia Giacoma, Asst. Priest
435-513-0441 Email: giacomaclaudia@gmail.com
The Scripture Passages
Proper 20c - September 18, 2016

Collect of the Day: Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious and fearful, but to love that which you love; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, enable us to hold fast to those that shall endure; with Jesus, our Brother, Teacher and Lord. AMEN.

The Hebrew Scriptures:
Reader: Today’s reading from the Hebrew scriptures comes from the 8th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Amos. Old Testament Professor Rolf Jacobson, in his commentary on this passage, lays out five aspects of the definition of “justice.” He goes on to say, “Finally, justice and injustice are systemic. When a person participates in systems that create a more just social order, one is ‘doing justice.’ Conversely, when one participates in systems that create a less just social order, one is ‘doing injustice.’ Which means, of course, basically everyone is already both doing justice and doing injustice. This is so because everyone participates in many systems. Some of those systems create a more just social order; some maintain unjust social structures, and some do a little of each.”

Prof. Jacobson continues, “That final point is worth stressing—almost all of us are already both doing justice and doing injustice, merely by the fact that we are participating in multiple social systems. Too often when Christian preachers take up the topic of justice, an implicit dualism is communicated in which the congregation hears the pastor saying, ‘Some of you do injustice, while some of us do justice. Be like me and do justice.’ Especially the men and women in the congregation who work in business too often hear the preacher as suggesting the secular realm automatically is a realm of injustice. We know that this is not true, but too often this is what the congregation hears from the pulpit. If that is the message a preacher were to preach this Sunday, it would be better just to skip the sermon altogether.” Please read the Amos passage with me by reading the parts in bold print…..Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying,

"When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?"
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,

buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds
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 jugs 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 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.]
Justice - Six Layers of Meaning
Proper 20c - September 18, 2016

This homily is based largely on the work of Prof. Rolf Jacobson, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. This week’s Old Testament lesson from the prophet Amos offers a chance for us to explore the concept of justice, in order to "thicken" our understanding of this central biblical concept. The eighth-century prophets Amos, Isaiah, and Micah were in one accord about the Lord's demand for justice: “Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” (Amos 5:24) “Cease to do evil, Learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” (Isaiah 1:16d-17) “He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Prof. Jacobson notes that there are at least six layers of meaning embedded in the definition of “justice.” First, justice or mercy starts with the very character of God. Justice is part of the Lord's nature—"The Lord is a God of justice" (Isaiah 30:18). Second, because the Lord has elected Israel as God's own people, the Lord demands that the people reflect God's merciful and caring character—that is, Israel must be a people of justice. Third, justice is a social concept—it has to do with the external ordering of society in which the most life can thrive. A more just social order is one in which more life can thrive, whereas a less just social order is one in which less life can thrive. Fourth, justice requires a special concern for the powerless—those who lack the capacity to protect their own welfare. In the Old Testament social concept, these "powerless" are often described as the widow, the orphan, the sojourner (resident alien), the needy, and the poor.

Fifth, justice is a legal concept. The laws, courts, and judgments of the legal system are supposed to be about creating and maintaining justice. Here it is good to recall the biblical uses the law in at least two ways: for a "civil" purpose—to create a more civil society and for a "theological" purpose—to remind human beings that even the most just people need grace and forgiveness.

Finally, justice and injustice are systemic. When a person participates in systems that create a more just social order, one is "doing justice." Conversely, when one participates in systems that create a less just social order, one is "doing injustice." Which means, of course, basically everyone is already both doing justice and doing injustice. This is so because everyone participates in many systems. Some of those systems create a more just social order, some maintain unjust social structures, and some do a little of each.

In this week's passage of Amos, the Prophet condemns practices that "trample the needy" and "ruin the poor." Specifically, the prophet challenges practices that create untrustworthy markets. Neither money nor the markets in which money is exchanged are evil in and of themselves. Money and markets are necessary tools. Our ethical failure usually shows up in how we structure our markets, the ways we set them up. The challenge is to always begin with the question of how to design our markets, business practices and political discourse so that we create social prosperity and economic security for all? How do we build and maintain market practices that are a fair means of exchange for everyone involved?

For example, in the ancient world, units of weight and measure had not been standardized, so a "shekel" used in the markets of Jerusalem might be different than those employed in the markets of Samaria, or Damascus, or Tyre. This means a merchant might need to have different sets of weights in order to trade in different markets. But given human nature, the temptation to cheat the illiterate or those not particularly good at math would often have proven irresistable. One can see that in Amos' day, untrustworthy market places were contributing to a sense of injustice, to a lack of mercy.

See next page.........
That reminds me of a cute story... A big city lawyer was called in on a case between a farmer and a large railroad company. A farmer noticed that his prize cow was missing from the field through which the railroad passed. He filed suit against the railroad company for the value of the cow. The case was to be tried before the justice of the peace in the back room of the general store. The attorney immediately cornered the farmer and tried to get him to settle out of court. The lawyer did his best selling job, and the farmer finally agreed to take half of what he was claiming to settle the case. After the farmer signed the release and took the check, the young lawyer couldn't help but gloat a little over his success. He said to the farmer, "You know, I hate to tell you this but I put one over on you in there. I couldn't have won the case. The engineer was asleep and the fireman was in the caboose when the train went through your farm that morning. I didn't have one witness to put on the stand." The old farmer replied, "Well, I'll tell you, young feller, I was a little worried about winning that case myself because that durned cow came home this morning!"

Amos also condemns those who yearn for the end of the Sabbath day, so that they can cheat their neighbors. It is well here to remember that the Sabbath day was not first-and-foremost about a time for worship, but rather was originally a justice (mercy) law designed to give rest to all of society—not just to the property owner, but also "your ox and your donkey, and your livestock, and the resident alien in your towns" (Deuteronomy 5:14).

One can trace what Patrick D. Miller has called "the Sabbatical principle" through the Pentateuchal laws and see how justice is a theme of the Sabbath. As one traces this principle, one sees how the laws are creating a society in which more life can thrive. In these sabbatical laws, the poor and wild animals are provided with food (Exodus 23:10-11), slaves are given release to freedom after six years (Deuteronomy 15:12-18), those in deep debt are forgiven their debts (Deuteronomy 15:1-11), and so on.

But in Amos' day, the justice sense of the laws had been lost. People longed for the merciful Sabbath to be over, so that they could return to exploiting those without means and power. The phrase "buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals" refers to the practice of enslaving those in debt, even those who owed only a pair of sandals. Note how far this is from a just and merciful social order in which debts are forgiven! "Selling the sweepings of the wheat" was prohibited because these were to be left for the poor.

I need your help to think about how to apply these principles and ideals to contemporary business goals and practices and to the political and social policy decisions we face. I hope we get a chance to talk about it with one another.

Blessings,
Charles+
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 sharone435@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  Thanks!!!

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.
THANK YOU TO ALL THAT ASSISTED IN THE ORDINATION OF
THE REV. AIMEE ALTIZER

Jim Jennings for repairing the lights in the foyer. Bonnie Brown for organizing the missions donation table. Barbara Wine for handling the details of the receptions and dinner preparations also with set up, clean up and many hours the in days before. Nancy Conrow for the decorating and doing the flowers for Aimee’s ordination. Ann Deyo for the Guest Book and preparing the pews. Judy Hanley for coordinating the desserts for the reception. Chris Munro for preparing the dinner for the clergy and rehearsal crew. The set up and clean up crews: Roger Stephens, Charles Robinson, Sharon Christiansen, Judy Hanley, Barbara Wine, John Swanger, Lou and Claudia Giacoma, Ann Deyo and Bob Leary. All those in involved in making both the red and green vestments given to Aimee at her ordination: Linda Sears and Ginny Kennamer for design and stitching of a green stole and Karan Swanger for design and stitching of the red vestments with Nancy Conrow coordinating everything.

Everyone who helped during the ordination service: Iris Thompson- on Altar Guild. The liturgical ministers and participants in the service: The Rev. Charles Robinson, The Rev. Claudia Giacoma, Eric Smith; Taylor and Savannah Volmrich, Ann Deyo, Jim Jennings, Judy Hanley, Roger Stephens, Julie Ficus, Joyce Pearson, Manuel Clayton and Shelle Jennings and the Choir members for an outstanding music program. And for the many others who have supported and helped Aimee on her journey. What a beautiful evening to celebrate in the ordination.
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.

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

TAI-CHI for Health and Arthritis resumes 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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY We are doing the Priscilla Shirer study "Breathe-Making Room for the Sabbath". We have a total of 7 books and will bring them to the 1st 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

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.