God said to the Prophet Jeremiah, "Come, go down to the potter's house and I will let you hear my words." When Jeremiah arrived, he saw the potter working at his wheel. The vessel he was working on was not well formed, so he "reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him." 

Jeremiah 18:1-4

Like any artist, God intends for us—God's creation—to reflect something of the One who made us. In God's patience, the clay of which we are made is formed and reformed in the potter's hand until its beauty reflects God's intention for the clay. And God always says of the vessel, "I love it because I made it."

For Reflection:
In what ways are you aware of our Holy Potter forming and reforming you at some deep level? Can you imagine yourself as the clay on the potter's wheel, being pushed, pulled, and gentled into form? What might that clay pot want to say? How might the Potter respond?

Potter, by Else Berg, 1877-1942
from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
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 The Cathedral Church of St. Mark in Salt Lake City.
✓ All people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of Burundi.

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), Alexa++++ (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++++ (mother of Sharon Christiansen) Sandor+++ (friend of Harriet Stephens) Shelle++ (wife of Jim Jennings) Joan++ (friend of Barbara Wine) Maguel++ (father of Bernadette Rothman) Ty++ (friend of Ann Deyo)

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
✓ The many people displaced by the tropical storms and hurricanes.
✓ The victims of the earthquake in Italy,
✓ 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 all of our Altar Guild Members and their families.
✓ And for those having birthdays this week: Jessica DiCaprio on Tuesday and Bob Briggs on Saturday.
The Scripture Passages
Proper 18c - September 4, 2016

Collect of the Day: Grant us, O Lord, to humbly trust in you with all our hearts recognizing our need for You and one another; for we know that you always resist the arrogant who trust completely in their own strength alone; with Jesus, our Brother, Teacher and Lord. AMEN.

The Hebrew Scriptures:
Reader: Today’s reading from the Hebrew scriptures comes from the 139th Psalm. The Psalmist has several sub-themes within this one Psalm, and “knowing” and “being known” are very significant to him: “God has examined my heart and knows everything...God knows my movements, my thoughts.” God’s hand has placed a blessing on his head, and it was too much for him to deal with: “such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to know!” Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print..... Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. My body was not hidden from you while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them. How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

The Hindu Scriptures:
The religious life begins with a decision. It is not something that comes in the natural course of an unexamined life, but it must be consciously chosen and cleaved to. Please read with me from the first chapter of the Upanishad by reading the parts in bold print....... Arise! Awake! Approach the great and learn. Like the sharp edge of a razor is that path so the wise say hard to tread and difficult to cross. Here ends the reading.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Offertery 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.]
Everything Will Be Affected; Nothing Will Be the Same
Proper 18c - Sept. 4, 2016

This morning, we are going to talk about the cost of following Jesus. The question today’s Gospel passage lays before us is a good one. I mean, who in the world would take on something important without thinking it through, without being sure of all the details, requirements and potential pitfalls before starting? For example, who would ever take a chance on buying a home without being certain they could afford the mortgage? Can you think of anyone who would send their kids off to college without knowing they had enough money already in the bank to cover the costs over the next four years? Would anyone get married after knowing each other just a short time? That reminds me of a cute story…”Daddy,” a little boy asked his father. "How much does it cost to get married?” "I don't know, son. I'm still paying for it.”….And certainly no student imaginable would ever start writing her term paper in the hours just before it is due?

If you think about it, we do this kind of thing all the time. We’re always moving forward in directions we may not have expected and for which we haven’t fully planned. Life can sometimes make this unavoidable. So much comes at us that we sometimes feel compelled to undertake important things like school, marriage, jobs, community leadership or even religious commitment without giving them all the thought, consideration and deep introspection they require and deserve. But this morning, we are being invited to take some time to think and reflect carefully about the costs involved in committing our lives to the spiritual path of Jesus; the costs borne of choosing to live each day as people who say Yes to the Call to live the ethical life of Jesus.

Jesus says there is nothing we have and nothing of which we are a part that is more crucial for ourselves and the world than living courageously and faithfully in response to the Ethical Call of the Sacred. Such a life will bring blessing and happiness, not only to ourselves, but to others, but sooner or later such a life will also inevitably call us to give up those things that do not support that life. Now, the blessing part sounds good, but the letting go and giving up part seems a bit easier said than done. I, for one, know that there are things that are dear to me that I intend to retain. Take, for example, my home. I don’t intend to give up the place where my family and I live to follow Jesus, but what if possessing my home begins to keep me from serving others? My job? No, I would never give up my job to say Yes to the Call, but what if my job somehow demands that I act with greed, the domination of others or dishonesty?

And what about the relationships within my family? Am I really supposed to hate my relatives? Today's Gospel is a good example of a literary device known as hyperbole or exaggeration. Hyperbole is obvious exaggeration used for effect. Let me give you an example. You are sitting in a restaurant eating a sandwich and it's really delicious. You turn to a friend and say, "I could eat a million of these." Do you mean that literally? Of course not! You are not going to literally eat a million of those sandwiches. You are simply using exaggeration to emphasize the fact that you think the sandwich is delicious. That's hyperbole and hyperbole was used commonly in the days of Jesus. It should never be interpreted literally, but understood to be a way of making a point and doing so in a way the listener can, only with great difficulty, avoid or ignore.

Continued on next page……………

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
Next Week: Instructions will be provided for making our prayer origami cranes.
So in today's Gospel, when we hear Jesus telling the crowd that one cannot be his student and cannot walk the spiritual path he has chosen unless one hates her family or gets themselves crucified, we must understand his words through the lens of hyperbole. It's the only way his words can make sense. It is the misinterpreting of this kind of literature that leads to bizarre and often violent behavior. It is the misinterpreting of these kinds of passages in the Bible (or the Koran, or any other religious literature) in a literal, concrete way that lead religious zealots to enact cruelty in the name of their religion or their god.

What is the deeper meaning embedded in the words of Jesus in today's Gospel? I think it is essentially this; if you plan to walk the ethical path taught and modeled by Jesus of Nazareth, it's going to have implications for every aspect of your life. Traveling this path is going to shape and influence all of your attitudes and decisions. It's going to change the way you do business, the way you treat your employees and your co-workers, the way you think about your possessions and the way you behave toward the poor, the unpopular and the outcasts in your community. I think the point of Jesus' teaching is this: saying Yes to the Ethical Call of God will impact every part of your life and you gotta know that going in.

But, before you get too panicky, be assured that the changes and challenges will not come all at once. I love what Deepak Chopra says about our journey, "The soul is like a ragged army on the march. Some aspects push ahead; others lag behind." In other words, the spiritual path of Jesus, our journey into the heart of God is a process. It is a gradual becoming, a slow transformation, a two-steps-forward and one-step-back movement from one set of attitudes and practices to another. In my limited experience, no one simply gets "zapped" and is suddenly and totally healed of all their animal instincts, fears, prejudices, unhealthy tendencies and places of secret brokenness. An authentic spirituality must be understood to be a life-long journey; a lifetime spent laboring to move oneself down the same road Jesus traveled. It must be understood to be a trip that will involve lots of inclement weather, a thousand unexpected turns, and huge potholes in the road along with glorious landscapes, breathtaking sunsets, and a deep abiding sense of knowing where you are going.

The questions present in today's Gospel are: (1) what difference has your relationship with God made in your life? In other words, what is different about the way you live because of your religious commitments? and (2) are you prepared to embark upon a faith journey in which your life is changed and reordered? Are you aware that saying Yes to the Call to the Ethical Life of Jesus will claim every part of your life? You cannot take only half your body. You cannot take only your arms and leave your legs behind. You cannot take your mind and leave your heart. You cannot bring your heart and leave your business practices out of it. And you cannot commit your gifts and abilities while trying to hide away your money and possessions. It is likely the case that either all of you will be affected or none of you will be touched. Remember, we are not called to be a comfortable people who never change. We are called to be a committed and faithful people transformed by that to which we are committed and faithful.

Blessings,
Charles+

A HUGE THANK YOU to Jim Jennings for all the things he does to keep our buildings in good repair…including maintaining the lights in the church.

Also, a big thanks to Diego Ize, Lee Osborne and Rusty Martz for mounting the “St. Luke’s Loves Children” banner to the front of the church. THANK YOU!!!!

Present: Karl S., Ed F., Barbara A., Leslie W., Susanne B., Beckie R., Susan B., Ted C., Christine M., Sharon C., Charles +, and Bernadette R.

Charles+ invited the group to perform the Opening Litany and share personal reflections. Beckie did so.

The May minutes were approved.

Finance Report - We are doing better. We have a cash balance of $19,000. We have been doing well at keeping expenses down. Our relationship with the latino community is going well. The only caveat is that we are going through 3 times more paper products than we once did. Beckie will look at the numbers on this.

Progress on Goals:

1. Sanctuary Donation Kiosk - Beckie. The Episcopal Church Stewardship Network has a program called “Tithely.” This allows someone to donate from their phone using a text message and it will work with our parish website. The website is www.tithe.ly. The only thing she has not figured out how to integrate into the system is how we would have a kiosk. A kiosk will really not be needed. Tithely works with both Apple and Android phones. When a person makes a donation via phone, there will be a two day processing window. We will have to educate our congregation about this and have instructions in the Weekly Magazine and the projector. There are normal bank fees associated with the program similar to what we are already paying by using our website for donations, but the program itself is free.

Decision: The vestry approved Beckie proceeding with Tithely.

2. Not much progress on the photo directory. Beckie said the most popular company is Life-Touch (which used to be Olin-Mills). We need a coordinator to arrange appts for everyone in the parish to have their photos taken. There are some online programs.

Decision: The vestry approved using Life-Touch. We will try to recruit a coordinator through the “Weekly Magazine.”

3. Karl reported on pollution reduction and increasing our solar panels…..AT&T uses most of our electricity and we charge them accordingly. Given this reality, it may not be feasible for us to add panels unless AT&T would be willing to pay for most of them. Prices are coming down. DwellTek will give us an evaluation.

Karl recommends we wait until we get the feedback from DwellTek and he has a chance to see if AT&T will pay their fair share.

4. Marketing - Charles and Ted - The Marketing Team (Pamela, Ted, Aimee and Charles) are working well together. They have not yet addressed marketing in Heber, but this will need to be addressed in the future.

Recommendation - Look into the cost of programs that will tell us whenever someone moves into one of the surrounding area codes.

5. Spiritual Vitality Program - Christine talked about asking the women’s group about this. Feedback: Having spirituality and the arts program of some sort…..we could think about how to enhance the sanctuary through art….Having services outdoors was a popular idea…a sculpture garden would be welcome….Susanne suggested promoting Cursillo and also small group ministry….We could support Jan’s centering prayer group…..EFM (Education for Ministry) program is another possibility - a 4 year study in which you meet once a week and study the Old Testament, New Testament, Church History and Theology….perhaps we could do something with Temple Har Shalom….

6. Ted - no real progress on the empty lot question. Sharon - can we plant wild-flowers during the interim? Beckie said she talked with the people who do our lawn-care and they recommended we not plant wild-flowers because of the need to do weed control. They are working on the weed control, but it may be a few years before it is under control.

Charles recommended that Sharon gather a group of volunteers and work a small patch of the lot to see how it goes. If it goes well, we can build on this.

7. Susan - Parish Communications - We need to work on a Church Calendar so that events do not get double-booked….Beckie has started a Google Calendar….Anyone planning an event should let Beckie know so that she can place it on the calendar. Ted - Is there a way to subscribe to the Church Calendar so that people are automatically notified whenever an event is added? Beckie referred him to Andrew Pratt for the technical question.
8. **Painting the Chapel** - Leslie - The Chapel is still on the schedule to be painted in late September or early October. Ed asked about the rust on the Chapel steps. Leslie will consult with the painters about this problem.

9. **The Endowment Fund** - Sharon and Christine - Sharon passed out a handout from the Episcopal Church Foundation that describes setting up an endowment fund. We need an “Enabling Resolution” through which the Vestry authorizes the establishment of the fund. An endowment fund is a planned giving fund. The money would be managed by money managers. The rules of the fund would be designed according to our specifications. We should put together a team with Sharon and Christine as leaders to develop the structure of the fund. The fund could be initiated at the Annual Celebration in Feb. 2017.

**Decision** - We want more time to study the subject. Christine will contact New York about having one of the Foundation consultants meet with the Vestry. Charles recommended that Christine and Sharon begin recruiting their team. In the meantime, each Vestry member will do their own research including emailing questions to Christine and Sharon.

10. **Leslie reported on the Pledge Drive**….Much of the prep work has already been done….we are ahead of schedule….Kick off Sunday is October 16th. On that day all of the “dealers” meet for breakfast. **A volunteer is needed to do the breakfast….pastry and coffee.

**NEXT MEETING = Monday, November 7th**
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 YouTube 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 ladies night, Tuesday, September 13th, 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 Sunday on September 11th. This is a great way to invite your neighbors, family and friends to attend church with you that day. We want to spread awareness to the greater community that St. Luke's loves and welcomes the youth of our community and their families. 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. Please think of someone you know who can attend services with you that day and then invite them. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Clayton, Linda Dugins or Katherine Martz.

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 1st session which will be Wednesday September 7. 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.