



Luke's Log

Inside this issue:

A Message from the Interim Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write this in the "time between the times," with Lent half over and Easter on the horizon. A sign of this is that our eucharistic preface switches from echoing Jesus' temptation in the wilderness to our preparing "with joy for the Paschal Feast." In witness to the duality of this moment, my letter has two parts, one focuses on Lent and one for Easter.

I need to encourage myself and all of us to continue to make the most of Lent as a time for reflection, self-examination, repentance and renewal. And yet, like readers of mysteries, our temptation to skip ahead is all too real. At one level, that's not only normal, it's all right. The knowledge that Easter is coming with its ever-fresh affirmation of Love's triumph over death and all that is dark and evil and cruel gives us courage to face the genuine darkness in our world and in our own hearts. Dr. Theodore

Ferris was so powerful a preacher in Boston years ago that a college classmate working on his MBA used to go hear Ferris preach—though he had no intention of ever leaving his Lutheran roots and becoming an Episcopalian. One of Ferris' prayers seems especially apt as we continue our Lenten journey toward another Holy Week:

We acknowledge, O God, in ourselves the desire to seek our own way and to have our own will regardless of what it may cost us or other people. Open our eyes to these facts, unpleasant as they may be, and then so empower us to trust you that we may be prepared to meet the crooked streak that runs through our world and through us, and finally be saved from it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I also need to encourage us to make the most of Holy Week and Easter. Our celebration of Easter is enriched if we take to heart the New Commandment

that gives Maundy Thursday its name: the commandment not merely to love, but to love one another as Christ has loved us. Our Easter is enriched if we observe that awful, dread full, agonizing Friday we call "Good" and resist the impulse to flee with the rest of the Disciples. Only if we do take Jesus' death straight, with absolute heart-break and shame, can the new light of Easter dawn with earth-shaking power and hope, and we cry out Alleluia, the Lord is Risen, the Lord is Risen indeed! The great poet George Herbert eloquently affirms that Easter does not merely dawn as one glorious new day, but rather ushers in an everlasting day. I invite you to read and re-read Herbert's "Easter."

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Special points of interest:

- ♦ Holy Week
- ♦ Sr. Warden's Report
- ♦ More information Inside!

A Message From the Interim Rector *(continued)*

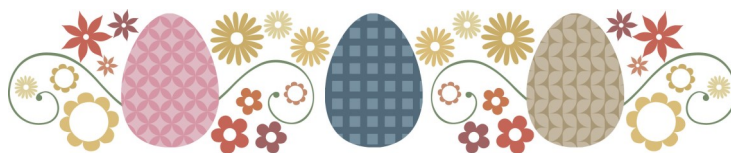
EASTER

I got me flowers to straw thy way;
I got me boughs off many a tree:
But thou wast up by break of day,
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.

The Sun arising in the East,
Though he give light, and th' East perfume;
If they should offer to contest
With thy arising, they presume.

Can there be any day but this,
Though many suns to shine endeavor?
We count three hundred, but we miss:
There is but one, and that one ever.

— George Herbert (1593-1633)



Confirmation, Reception & Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Bishop Hanley will visit St. Luke's on Sunday, May 14th. I welcome the opportunity to engage any people who would like to consider being Received into the Episcopal Church from another denomination, being Confirmed, or Reaffirming their Baptismal Vows when he is here. One of the many great gifts of our no-longer-new "new" Prayer Book is the opportunity for those who have grown in the knowledge and love of God to publicly renew their vows. Many of us were baptized as infants without any commitment on our part, or confirmed some time in adolescence. These acts cannot be repeated, but many of us feel the need to renew the Baptismal Covenant from our present understanding of the Christian faith and the ministry given to all members of the church. If those who might be interested would contact me we can work out a mutually convenient time to meet for discussion and inquiry.

Fr. Morgan

Special Dates & Events

April 1 (Sat.) April Fool's Day; 10:00 a.m. Southern Convocation Meeting at St. Mark's, Medford

April 2 (Sun.) 11:30 a.m. "Comfort Food" Potluck Lunch — bring a dish of comfort food to share during this tax season — per last name: A-I side or salad, J-R entrée, S-Z dessert — donations benefit Ft. Vannoy Elementary School

April 5 (Wed.) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice with Dcn. Joani

April 9 (Sun.) The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday — Blessing of the Palms and Palm Sunday Liturgy at 8 and 10:00 a.m. services

April 13 (Thurs.) 7:00 .m. Maundy Thursday Service with foot-washing, stripping of the altar

April 14 (Fri.) No 7:15 a.m. Morning Prayer; 12 noon Good Friday service; 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

April 15 (Sat.) 11:00 a.m. Holy Saturday — Morning Prayer

April 16 (Sun.) **EASTER** — 6:00 a.m. Easter Vigil & Holy Eucharist; 8:30-9:30 a.m. Celebratory Easter Breakfast; 10:00 a.m. Easter Festal Eucharist

April 17 (Mon.) No 7:15 a.m. Morning Prayer; Parish Office closed

April 20 (Thurs.) 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

April 21 (Fri.) 9:30 a.m. Gardening Angels

April 25 (Tues.) St. Mark the Evangelist



Easter Celebratory Breakfast

On April 16, Easter Sunday, there will be a delicious breakfast served between services, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. John Kirschner and crew will provide baked ham for breakfast sandwiches. The rest of the food will be provided by volunteers: there is a sign-up sheet at the back of the kitchen door. Please sign up to bring the requested items. If everyone pitches in to bring something, it will be an abundant and wonderful breakfast. So, please sign up. Thank you!



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY:

Apr. 9 8:00 and 10:00 AM: Blessing of the Palms in Parish Hall (no outside procession); Liturgy of the Palms

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

Apr. 13 No meal prior to service
7:00 p.m.: Eucharist in main Sanctuary
Foot-washing to take place in baptistry area
Stripping of altar in silence

GOOD FRIDAY:

Apr. 14 No Eucharist
12:00 noon: Good Friday service — Officiant: Dennis James
7:00 PM: Stations of the Cross — Officiant: Dcn. Joani Bristol

HOLY SATURDAY:

Apr. 15 11:00 AM: Morning Prayer — Officiant: Lynn Hughes

EASTER SUNDAY:

Apr. 16 6:00 AM: Easter Vigil & Easter Eucharist. Begin in main Sanctuary (no outside procession)
8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Celebratory Easter Breakfast
10:00 AM: Easter Festal Eucharist

MONDAY IN EASTER WEEK

Apr. 17 No 7:15 AM Morning Prayer; parish office closed



Treasurer's Report — by Myrna Rafalovich



As of March 23, 2017

Budget	\$24,000.00
Payments	<u>\$19,500.00</u>
Shortfall	< \$4,500.00 >

Estimated payments as of March 26, 2017: \$1,000.00

Estimated shortfall as of March 31, 2017: <**\$3,500.00**>

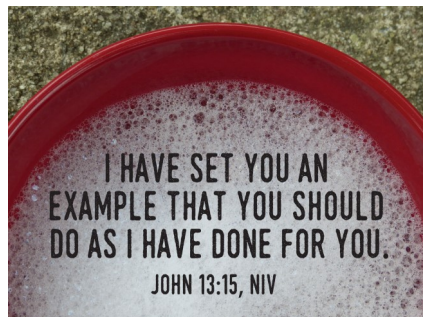


5	Deborah Crow
7	Jack Allen, Barry Boston, Robin Griffiths, Lucy Roberts
11	Dennis James
16	Olivia Huber
20	Phyllis McGill
21	Elizabeth Baumann
23	Michael Riding
24	Myrna Rafalovich

If your name is not on the list, please contact the parish office and we'll add you on.

Christ Risen *and* realized

Author George Thompson tells of a Jewish rabbi's appeal to Christians during the tumultuous 1930s. On Easter Eve, the rabbi wrote in a newspaper: "I challenge the Christian world to measure itself by the standards of Christ. As long as any group is judged by its creed or color or country in place of its character, Christianity is a sacrilege rather than a sanctity. To this end, I summon Christians everywhere to make this Easter to signify Christ realized and not merely Christ risen."



Sr. Warden's Report

There are multiple short items this month:

State of the Parish

At services, meetings, coffee hours and in individual conversations, it is gratifying to feel the energy and enthusiasm coming from all of you. This situation is supposed to be a time of renewal for a parish. I don't know how it works out for other churches, but the vitality at St. Luke's now is palpable and exciting. Whatever the next rector arrangement turns out to be, we are proving that "a church is a ministering community, not a community gathered around a minister." A church does not belong to the rector, whoever that is. It was created by people to worship and serve God. The clergy are transitory and so are the parishioners. The great spirit of caring and community at St. Luke's, the origin of which is beyond the memory of any of us, lives on and we are charged with being stewards of it.

Rector Search Process

Canon Neesa Ellgren Shepley, the Diocesan Transition Officer, told the Vestry and Profile Committee members who met with her on March 25 that the St. Luke's rector search process appeared to be on time and on track. At the present stage, this is largely attributable to the efforts of Juli Mimnaugh and the Profile Committee that she chairs very ably, but there is plenty for the rest of us to do. Selection of the Search Committee will be done in April. If you have an interest in serving on that committee, please contact me, preferably with a note or an email message stating something about your qualifications. Experience in hiring and evaluating employees is particularly sought. Many parishioners have expressed interest in serving on the Search Committee, but the Vestry intends that it will be a manageable size, so please understand that not everyone can be chosen.

It is vital that we call a priest who is a good fit for St. Luke's and the community. We want that person to be happy and comfortable here and we want to be at ease with them. In furtherance of that objective, we intend that this Parish Profile will be candid and forthright in describing our parish and the local community and we will be as specific as possible about the skills and traits of the priest who would be well-suited here. Juli is soliciting input from everyone about what they would prefer in that regard. It is imperative that everyone respond by stating their preferences. Please think hard about this and then fill out a survey card or send an email.

Because we are seeking a rector, not the CEO of a software company, we can ask that the power of the Holy Spirit support and direct our efforts. Please pray that we will be guided to a successful conclusion and please pray for the priest who will be called as our next rector, even though we do not yet know who that is.

Gifts of Time and Talents

Dry weather will probably appear during the next month or so, present appearances to the contrary, and there will be maintenance and cleaning projects undertaken inside and outside of the church building. Please be alert for announcements of these from the Junior Warden, the Gardening Angels and others. Stewardship is not just about pledges, we also are charged with taking care of the facilities left to us by parishioners who were here before us.

Gifts of Appreciated Property

Father Morgan and Dennis James spoke at the Annual Meeting about the tax advantages of making gifts of appreciated property to support charitable organizations during your lifetime. I hope that your favorite

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Sr. Warden's Report *(continued)*

Worthy cause is St. Luke's. If you have, as a typical example, some stock that has appreciated in value (although it can be any property), you would have to pay income tax on the capital gain if you sold it. If, however, you give the stock to St. Luke's, you will pay no tax on the increase in value, but you will get an income tax deduction equal to the higher value at the time the donation is made. This is not a "gimmick" or a "loophole." Congress added this feature to the Internal Revenue Code a long time ago to encourage charitable giving.

If you wish to make such a gift, please contact Myrna Rafalovich or Mike Dawson. There are some forms to complete so that the brokerage that serves the St. Luke's Memorial Trust can transfer ownership, but it is not an arduous thing to do.

Outreach through Poultry

As you know, Starr and Joe Hungate have a flock of about ten chickens, including a rooster, and Starr sells the eggs during coffee hours. The proceeds are donated to international relief organizations. It's a worthy ministry that begins with poultry farming and that is pretty cool.

Because they are moving to Arizona, the Hungates must find a good, new home for this little farming operation. It would be nice if the birds continued to support a ministry, but that is not a prerequisite. If you have an interest in taking over this little egg production operation, or if you know anyone who does, please contact Starr Hungate.

Thank you all and the peace of God be with you,

John Barnard

Easter's Dawn

On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak ... found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.

— G.K. Chesterton



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St. Luke's Episcopal Church publishes Luke's Log monthly. Submit articles to our email address or to the parish office by the 20th of the month. For more information, visit our website above.

IDENTITY STATEMENT FOR ST. LUKE'S

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a community of diverse and unique individuals and families, joined together in the Body of Christ. We are a family united by worship, discovering God's purpose in our lives and using our gifts in service to him, to one another, and to the world.

We believe the historic Christian creeds. We carry on the heritage of Christian worship, celebrating the biblical faith with traditional and contemporary forms. We encounter God in word and sacrament, in music and prayer, and in one another.

We offer opportunities for education, spiritual growth, service, fellowship, and the giving and receiving of pastoral care

We seek, through worship and service, to show forth in the world the healing love of Jesus.



**ST. LUKE'S SERVICES
SUNDAY MORNING**

8:00 a.m. Holy
Eucharist, Rite II
10:00 a.m. Holy
Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery available

MONDAY—FRIDAY

7:15 a.m. Morning
Prayer

WEDNESDAY

12:15 p.m. Mid-week
Eucharist

**ST. LUKE'S MISSION
STATEMENT**

Together We:
Gather
Worship
Proclaim
Provide

**ST. LUKE'S
OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00
p.m.
541-476-2493

THE REV. MORGAN SILBAUGH, Interim Rector
Cell: 541-631-1150

ST. LUKE'S OFFICERS & VESTRY

John Barnard (2020) Senior Warden
Louis Delp (2019) Junior Warden
Susan Lee Hall (2020)
Myrna Rafalovich, Treasurer
Mary Wineteer, Clerk of the Vestry
Marcus Allen (2018)
Alison Huber (2019)
Bill McBee (2018)
Juli Mimnaugh (2018)
Hana Rubens (2019)
Scott Swindells (2020)