



Luke's Log

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A Message from 1/2 of Your Interim Rectors

To all the Saints at St. Luke's—
Happy New Year!

We live and worship in the part of the church that follows the Church Year from Advent to Christmas, on to Epiphany and into Lent, then to Easter with its Great Forty Days, Pentecost and the long season of Sundays that follow. Advent makes us seem out of step with much of the world around us. While Christmas carols echo in the malls, we will be saying, "Not yet," we are not ready for Christmas. A wise and somewhat impish old friend used to threaten to wish his early-celebrating cohorts "a blessed and penitent Advent." We do well to take seriously the admonition of one of our beloved Christmas carols: "let every heart prepare him room..." More than our homes need to be spruced up if we are to truly welcome the newborn Son of God into our world and into our lives. The brute fact is that there is much still to be done if we are "to live more nearly as

we pray." While some regret about who we are and what we have allowed ourselves to become is fitting, Advent is primarily a season of anticipation, of standing on our tiptoes and stretching toward the Holy One who is coming to us in love. And it offers us that most welcome of gifts, one that always comes in the right size, the chance to start over. Can you remember hearing children calling out, "Do over!" in hopes of improving some playground outcome?

Elie Weisel survived Hitler's death camps and lived to share profound grace and wisdom with the members of his race—the *human* race. His life became a blessing to many. One piece of Jewish wisdom he shared seems right on target for us as another Advent begins December 3rd. He said that God's greatest gift to humankind was not the ability to begin, but the opportunity to begin again. A new beginning, a "do over," a fresh start. That's not

anything we can earn, it is a gift.

What to do with this gift? That can take many forms, all better than ignoring the opportunity. Maybe tackle some soul-nourishing reading, and lay aside your "popcorn" stuff for awhile. Maybe gift yourself some quiet time for reflection. Maybe roust yourself early in the morning to savor Morning Prayer right here at St. Luke's— 7:45 a.m. Monday-Friday. Perhaps dare to try something new— inviting someone who lives alone to join you for coffee or a meal.

We get the shortest possible Advent the way the calendar works out this year, and I invite you to make the most of it.

Happy New Year!

Love, Fr. Morgan ☩

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Needle & Thread Sale and Raffle
- ◆ ECW Advent Tea

More information inside!!



Treasurer's Report - by Myrna Rafalovich

As of November 30, 2017

Pledged Amount	\$88,199.00
Pledge Payments	<u>\$79,747.00</u>
Shortfall	<\$8,452.00>

Needle & Thread Sale & Raffle



St. Luke's Needle & Thread sewing and quilting group is having a sale on Saturday, December 2 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All proceeds go to finance the St. Luke's quilting ministry.

Raffle tickets for the Christmas quilt on display in the Parish Hall are available: 1 ticket for \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

The quilt drawing will be December 2 at the "Stitchery Witchery Sale" at **2:30 p.m.**



YOU'RE INVITED

ECW Advent Tea

On Saturday, December 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. there will be an ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Advent Tea at St. Luke's. Come and enjoy a relaxing time of fellowship, conversation and tea with your sisters at St. Luke's. You are welcome to bring yourself, a friend, a smile, a tea cup to use, a favorite teapot or tea or goodie to eat, if you have something you'd like to share at the tea.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Envelopes for Christmas Flowers are in the pews. Please use these envelopes to order your flowers for Christmas. Please print. The last day to order is Sunday, Dec. 17.



Special Dates & Events

Dec. 2 (Sat.) 10-3 Needle & Thread Sale & Raffle; 2:30 p.m. Raffle of Christmas Quilt

Dec. 3 (Sun.) First Sunday of Advent; 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist; 10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols

Dec. 7 (Thurs.) Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Dec. 8 (Fri.) Gardening Angels — Final Leaf Clean-up before Christmas

Dec. 9 (Sat.) 2-4 ECW (Episcopal Church Women) Advent Tea

Dec. 10 (Sun.) Second Sunday of Advent

Dec. 12 (Tues.) Hanukkah Begins at Sundown

Dec. 14 (Thurs.) 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Dec. 17 (Sun.) Third Sunday of Advent; 11:30 Appreciation Luncheon for the Rev. Mary & Harry Piper; Greening of the Church following luncheon; last day to order Christmas Flowers.

Dec. 21 (Thurs.) St. Thomas the Apostle; Winter Begins

Dec. 24 (Sun.) Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve; No 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist; 7:30 p.m. Carol Sing; 8:00 p.m. Festal Eucharist

Dec. 25 (Mon.) Christmas Day; 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer; Parish Office closed

Dec. 26 (Tues.) St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr; Boxing Day; Kwanzaa Begins; Parish Office closed

Dec. 27 (Wed.) St. John, Apostle and Evangelist; no 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Dec. 28 (Thurs.) The Holy Innocents

Dec. 31 (Sun.) First Sunday after Christmas Day; 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist; 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Christmas Lessons & Carols; New Year's Eve

Jan. 1 (Mon.) New Year's Day; Parish Office closed





- 4 Frances Widdison
- 6 Lee Smith
- 9 Tom Peterson
- 16 Gwendolyn Moscoe
- 17 Beverly Eckman-Howell
- 21 James Pollard, Kevin Widdison, Ruth d'Albenas
- 24 Mary Wineteer
- 27 Miriam Roberts
- 30 Fiona Allen

If your name is not on the list, please contact the parish office to be added on.

Faith House Wreath



The Faith House Wreath is up in the narthex again this year. Please choose a tag, purchase the item listed, wrap and return gift with tag attached no later than Sunday, Dec. 10th. (Pick-up date is Dec. 12th.)

What is Faith House? Faith House is a Christian-based transitional home which helps women with new beginnings to escape the entrapment of drug/alcohol abuse, damaging relationships and poverty. The home also provides education, safety, personal support, and physical, emotional and spiritual guidance.

The following is a prayer that Fr. Morgan particularly likes and finds that speaks to him.

*Blessed are you,
God of growth and discovery;
yours is the inspiration that has altered and changed our lives;
yours is the power that has brought us to new dangers and
opportunities.
Set us, your new creation,
to walk through this new world,
watching and learning,
loving and trusting,
until your kingdom comes.
Amen.*

from A New Zealand Prayer Book

Sr. Warden's Report — by John Barnard

It is with great pleasure and quite a lot of personal relief that I report that The Reverends Mary Piper and Morgan Silbaugh will continue to serve as alternating interim rectors after the first of the year. This arrangement cannot continue forever and will be evaluated in a few months, but for now we will continue to have with us these two wonderful priests of whom we have grown very fond. Please thank each of them personally as soon as you can.

We continue to search for a permanent rector and the Search Committee will report on that in the near future. Please include the Committee and its work in your prayers. "Interim" means just that. We will call a permanent rector.

The plan was to have an "enhanced potluck" (meaning that St. Luke's provides an entrée and Hana Rubens treats us to an incredible cake) on December 17 after the 10:00 service as a "valedictory salute" to Mary and Harry Piper at the end of Mary's term as interim rector. You will recall that we had something like that of those for Charlotte and Morgan Silbaugh six months ago. Not wanting to waste a good party opportunity, we will make this one an "appreciation" of Mary and Harry's many contributions to St. Luke's and for their willingness to stay a little longer. Please sign up to bring a side dish. The sheet will be in the usual place on the kitchen door.

The pledge drive continues, marked by some terrific innovations from Laurel Samson and Scott Swindells. If you have never pledged before, please do so now. You probably contribute about the same amount every month. Please consider making that your pledge and filling out a card. Particularly as we seek a permanent rector and continue to make needed repairs to the building under the excellent and vigorous leadership of Junior Warden Dennis James and Project Manager Dave Robertson, the parish needs a basis for reliably forecasting its income in order that Treasurer Myrna Rafalovich can prepare an accurate budget for the Vestry to consider and approve. If your financial circumstances change, you can reduce your pledge. No one expects you to contribute more than you can, but a lot of what the parish does would be impossible without money. Thank you in advance for that.

May Advent be a meaningful and uplifting season of anticipation for all of us at St. Luke's.

John Barnard

Appreciation Potluck Luncheon

As John mentioned above, there will be an Appreciation Potluck Luncheon for the Rev. Mary and Harry Piper on Sunday, Dec. 17 about 11:30 a.m. The entrée and dessert will be provided, so please bring a side dish or two to share. A sign-up sheet is at the kitchen door. Thank you.

Greening of the Church

The Greening of the Church will also be on Sunday, Dec. 17 following the potluck luncheon. You are invited to help decorate St. Luke's and make it ready for Christmas.



**Saint Luke's
Episcopal Church**

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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

7:45 a.m. Morning
Prayer

WEDNESDAY

12:15 Holy Eucharist

**ST. LUKE'S MISSION
STATEMENT**

*Love. Faith. Reason.
Community.*

*We reach out in joy and
in Christ's name to one
another, our community,
and the world.*

**ST. LUKE'S
OFFICE HOURS**

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

THE REV. MARY PIPER, Interim Rector

Cell: 541-301-9985 shaggypiper1@gmail.com

THE REV. MORGAN SILBAUGH, Interim Rector

Cell: 541-482-5732 silbaughmorgan@gmail.com

ST. LUKE'S OFFICERS & VESTRY

John Barnard (2020) Senior Warden
Dennis James (2019) Jr. Warden
Myrna Rafalovich, Treasurer
Mary Wineteer, Clerk of the Vestry
David Robertson, Project Manager
Susan Lee Hall (2020)
Alison Huber (2019)
Bill McBee (2018)
Juli Mimnaugh (2018)
Hana Rubens (2019)
Scott Swindells (2020)