



Luke's Log

Planting Seeds



March 1, 2019

"...you are dust, and to dust you shall return." – Genesis 3:19

We are coming to the close of the third season of the church's year, Epiphany and speeding towards Lent. March 6, Ash Wednesday begins Lent. During the season of Lent the church invites us to what is called "The observance of a holy Lent," by our Book of Common Prayer. On page 264-265 observing a holy Lent means that we are to prepare ourselves for a period of penitence and fasting. "It is a time when we are to examine ourselves; seeking repentance by prayer, fasting, self-denial and reading and meditating on the Word of God.

I remember when I was growing up, Lent was always a time fasting and giving up something. My father also asked us what we were going to give up for Lent. It was always something we liked and enjoyed like chocolate, our favorite television show or going to the movies. As an adult, I've come to understand that its deeper than that, it's about abstaining from or taking on things that help us to grow spiritually. For example, you can take on the Lenten practice of daily prayer or reading some spiritual text. Disconnect from everything, phone, computer, television, video games; be silent and be still. You may also want to greet people you may not normally associate with, a work mate, a family or church member. Be opened to seeing the world in a new and different way.

Self-examination and reflection are crucial components of Lent. Shakespeare said, "To thy own self be true." When you're true to yourself, you're true to who God created you to be. It is important to take an honest look at yourself from time. Who and where are you in your life and do

you play with God? Far too many of us look for reasons not to be in relationships with God, family, friends and neighbors. We often think of God as the stern unforgiving father, when God is loving, encouraging, supportive, playful and has a great sense of humor. We learn about relationships by actively participating in them; with God, family, friends and neighbors. We can't lose hope and become fearful when we have a bad experience. God never gives up on us, so we can rely on God to walk with us through the tough times. Our Lenten journey helps us to know and affirm our trust in God and others.

Examine, reflect, meditate and be fearless as we walk with God.

Blessings and peace.

Rev. Ernestein †

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Special points of interest:

- Sr. Warden's Report
- Lenten Lunches

More information Inside!

Sr. Warden's Report - by Jim Huber

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

While I cannot claim to be a great scholar of American history, I will say that I find Benjamin Franklin to be one of the most endearing and memorable figures from our past. In honor of old Ben, we have a magnet on our refrigerator that quotes him as saying: "Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." Coming from a man who also taught us that '...a penny saved is a penny earned,' I decided that his observation about beer should be taken seriously and that I should participate in a round of Brewing Theology at the Climate City Brewing Company.

I had heard of Brewing Theology a while ago but never had attended. More recently, on two separate occasions, two different acquaintances of mine from different churches mentioned it to me and recommended that I give it a try. So why not? Seeing some old friends, meeting new people and discussing theological questions while quaffing a cold one began to sound like a nice way to spend the evening.

Additionally, and on a more serious note, when I was on the Search Committee for a new rector, one of the issues we grappled with was how to grow the church. We suddenly realized that growing the church was much more complex than we originally thought. Some of us were stuck with the idea that growth meant increasing our census, that is, the size of the church in terms of number of parishioners. We soon concurred that it involved much more than that, such as how to grow spiritually as individuals, how to grow internally as a congregation, how to better support each other, how to grow our mission beyond the doors of our fine old building, and more.

I went to the Brewing Theology get-together on February 20th looking for a little growth of my own and encountered a group of more than twenty-five people, seven of whom are from our church. It was so large that we broke into two separate groups. After a brief personal introduction, which did not include revealing what faith or denomination one belonged to, we dove into the topic of treasures: should we store up worldly treasures, should we give them all away or keep some and share some, should we set up a bank account with God and build up treasures for the next life, what exactly does "treasures" mean in the first place, what do the Gospels say about this? It was an interesting, open-ended discussion that covered a lot of themes and topics, with viewpoints and perspectives I previously had not considered. Like being in some odd yoga position, I found myself stretched in new and different ways.

One more interesting side note about the evening: Climate City served a beer named after the Raptor Creek Farm and part of the proceeds from the sale of each beer is donated to efforts at eradicating hunger in our community. What a creative and innovative way for a business to help out!

In conclusion, despite the beer references, the purpose of this letter is not to encourage you to start drinking or to drink more. Rather, it is to ask us to look beyond our normal practices and seek new ways to grow, help our parish grow and to serve. Brewing Theology is one fun way to do this. There are others, however. In last week's bulletin there was a reference to the creation of three new committees named Outreach, Fundraising and Social Justice, and a request for volunteers. Also, Laurel Samson requested volunteer teachers, to be available when children attend St. Luke's.

I understand that people are busy and have multiple commitments. Nevertheless, if you have the time and inclination to try something new, dive in! You may find yourself- and our parish - growing in ways you hadn't imagined.

Sincerely,

Jim Huber, Senior Warden

Special Dates & Events

March 2 (Sat.) 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Vestry Retreat at Taprock Grill, Board Room

March 3 (Sun.) Introduction to new hymn at 10:00 a.m. service — see article

March 5 (Tues.) 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper — all are welcome to enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, orange juice and coffee

March 6 (Wed.) Ash Wednesday — Ash Wednesday services at 12:15 and 7:00 p.m. (with music, choir); public offering of Imposition of Ashes at 1:30 p.m. in front of the Josephine County Courthouse.

March 7 (Thurs.) 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting (*note new day*)

March 9 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Daughters of the King Quiet Day at St. Luke's — all women of the church are welcome; "Spring Forward:" turn clocks ahead one hour tonight.

March 10 (Sun.) First Sunday in Lent — Daylight Saving Time Begins; 11:30 a.m. Early Spring Potluck Lunch to benefit Ft. Vannoy Elementary School; please bring a dish according to last name: A-I side/salad, J-R dessert, S-Z entrée; see sign-up sheet at kitchen door.

March 14 (Thurs.) 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch at St. Luke's — Soup & Bread lunch followed by a Bible study of Colossians. Please bring a soup to share; the church will provide bread.

March 16 (Sat.) 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Daughters of the King Diocesan Assembly at St. Luke's

March 17 (Sun.) 2nd Sunday in Lent — Introduction to new hymn; St. Patrick's Day

March 21 (Thurs.) 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch at Newman UMC

March 25 (Mon.) The Annunciation

March 26 (Tues.) St. Joseph; Rev. Ernestein in online conference 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March 28 (Thurs.) 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch at Bethany Presbyterian Church

Reminder: Torah Study is on Thursday at 1:00 p.m. at Newman UMC

Confirmation Class continues on Thursday at 2:00 p.m.

Brewing Theology is first and third Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at Climate City

Cursillo is each second and fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Potluck Lunch is every second Sunday of the month.

Adult Forum is at 5:00 p.m. Tues. and 1:30 p.m. Wed. unless otherwise noted.

Treasurer's Report - by Myrna Rafalovich



As of February 28, 2019

Pledged Amount	\$15,332.00
Pledge Payments	<u>\$11,012.00</u>
Shortfall	<\$4,320.00>

Photography Session

Lifetouch Studios photography session for St. Luke's Parish Directory; family photo package also offered for purchase.

Photography session will be Tuesday, April 30th – 12 noon to 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall.

Sign-up schedule available during coffee hour after the 8:00 a.m. service and after the 10:00 a.m. service; please see Juli Mimnaugh, Concetta Buckner or Merle Berry to sign up. Information packets are available when you sign up. Also, an online sign-up link on the webpage can be accessed to sign up at your convenience. Please follow the instructions when you access the link.

Lenten Lunches -- 11:30-1:00 p.m. Soup & Bread Lunch following by a Bible study on Colossians. When St. Luke's hosts, we ask for volunteers to bring soup, and the church will provide the bread. This ecumenical offering will begin **Thursday, March 14** at St. Luke's, so mark your calendar for these dates:

Mar. 14	St. Luke's
Mar. 21	Newman UMC
Mar. 28	Bethany Presbyterian Church
Apr. 4	St. Luke's
Apr. 11	Newman UMC



1	Peace
3	Laurel Samson
4	Dan McVay, Simon Calvert
7	Tatiana Kelly
17	John Kirschner
18	Helen Vanard
19	Juli Mimnaugh
20	Annalise Kelly
21	Patty Hayes

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

Jr. Warden's Report - by Dennis James

The main doors to the church are now painted and the hardware (locks and push cars) will be replaced for installation.

Pristine Window Tinting Company has been consulted for the new windows to the chancel.

The heater to the chapel is in the process of replacement.

Holy Week

April — 14-20, 2019 — St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Tuesday, April 16th	Stations of the Cross	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 17th	Seder Meal	5:30-7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 18th	Maundy Thursday with footwashing & Stripping of the Altar	7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 19th	Good Friday Community Worship — St. Anne Catholic Church	12-1:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 20th	Lay-led Holy Saturday Morning Prayer service —	11:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday	8:00-9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast; all are welcome	
	Flowering of the Cross	
	10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Festal service with incense, music & choir	

New Committees

Join a committee: Outreach, Fundraising or Social Justice. These are new committees being formed at St. Luke's. Your help is needed! See sheets at the back of the kitchen door.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

On Tuesday, March 5 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. St. Luke's will have the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and all are welcome. John Kirschner and crew will offer: pancakes and syrup, bacon, eggs, sausage, orange juice and coffee. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship at this last chance to indulge before Lent begins. Traditionally, all fats in the home were used up and consumed in preparation for the beginning of Lent, hence the name "Fat Tuesday." So, join us and bring your appetite!

**Saint Luke's
Episcopal Church**

224 NW D Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526-2042

Phone: 541-476-2493

Fax: 541-476-9942

Email:

stlukesgrantspass@gmail.com



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

WEDNESDAY

12:15 p.m. Mid-week
Eucharist

MONDAY—THURSDAY

7:45 a.m. Morning
Prayer

FRIDAY — 7:15 a.m.

**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**

M, T, Th 9 am-1 pm

Wed. 9 am-5 pm

Closed Friday

541-476-2493

THE REV. ERNESTEIN C. FLEMISTER, RECTOR
(614) 599-0098

rectorstlukesgp@gmail.com

ST. LUKE'S OFFICERS & VESTRY

Jim Huber, Sr. Warden (2020)
Dennis James (2020) Jr. Warden
Myrna Rafalovich, Treasurer
Laurel Samson, Clerk of the Vestry
Concetta Buckner (2022)
Bridget Garvin (2021)
Susan Lee Hall (2020)
Juli Mimnaugh (2021)
Michael Riding (2021)
Hana Rubens (2020)
Lee Smith (2022)
Scott Swindells (2020)