

# VITAL signs

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

Volume 15 Issue 4 March/April 2018 St Luke's Episcopal Church Camillus, New York



EASTER



## A Message From The Wardens

The Vestry voted to support the Learning Communities Initiative presented at the Diocesan Convention last fall. The following is a summary of materials presented at the convention, [cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities](http://cnyepiscopal.org/learning-communities).

### What is a Learning Community?

A learning community is a group of congregations who commit to one another in a nine-month learning experience. Through prayer, skill-building, action and reflection they address their most pressing questions about the future. The experience includes three Saturday workshops and ongoing consultation with the diocesan leaders, coaches and Dwight Zscheile (author of *The Agile Church*) and Michael Binder.

### How might St. Luke's benefit from participation in this initiative?

- Train lay leaders through workshops and coaching
- Learn to discern and respond to God's leading
- Deepen our congregation's spirituality
- Build relationships with other congregations
- Engage and inspire our membership
- Affirm our faith that God has a vital role for St. Luke's to play

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### Some questions that will be addressed include:

- How will we attain financial stability?
- What does leadership in our church need to look like?
- How can we reconnect with our changing neighborhoods?

### Focus of the three workshops

- Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> Agile Leadership: Begin by Asking Different Questions
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> Learn by Doing: Using Action Learning to Discover God's Leading
- Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Sharing Our Learning:

### Intentional Reflection on Our Actions

Thirty -five congregations throughout the diocese will participate in the Learning Communities Initiative. We are so pleased that St. Luke's is among them. Many thanks to members of the St. Luke's guiding

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## A Word from...

March is one of my favorite months. It not only marks the turning of the seasons from winter to spring, but it is also the month of my birth, so it has always seemed among the most hopeful of months to me.

Since becoming a Christian, March has also come to mean for me the season of Lent. I think for many people, Lent has at least a tinge of negativity – all that giving up and fasting and penitence and generally feeling judged (unfairly or not).

I have found though, that Lent is actually one of the most hopeful of Christian celebrations (well, not celebration exactly, but... observance, maybe?) In fasting, penitence, and prayer though we aren't affirming our own iniquity so much as marking the possibility of change. Lent is affirmation that we can grow, we can change, we can do... better. We follow Jesus into the wilderness because we know there's an oasis on the other side.

Which isn't to say that there aren't challenges ahead – we need Lent every year after all, but it is to say that, ultimately, we live in hope. We hope and trust in God's promises, in Christ's intercession and salvation, and in our own capacity to live into God's will for us and take on the mission of continuing Jesus' ministry as the Body of Christ.

So, as we move through this Lenten season, let your fasting, penitence, and prayer be filled with the hope and grace of God's everlasting love for you.



### Focus on the Prayer Book

#### PASTORAL OFFICES

It is likely that many of us will experience these rites known as the Pastoral offices at some points because they mark important transition points in our lives such as birth, marriage, and death. The Pastoral Offices are those rites performed by pastors, though in many cases lay people do these ministries as well (and better). There are eight rites defined in this section of the prayer book: Confirmation, Commitment to Christian Service, Marriage, Thanksgiving for the birth or adoption of a child, Reconciliation of a Penitent, Ministration to the Sick, Ministration at the time of death, and the Burial office.

#### Confirmation

Once upon a time (a time many reading this may remember) young children were baptized and then around age twelve they attended confirmation class in preparing for the bishop to lay on hands and only after that, were people allowed to partake of communion. This pattern (baptism, confirmation, communion) which had held up for a long time, began to come undone in the 1960's as many people began to reevaluate church traditions as compared to church teachings.

The catechism in the 1928 prayer book said this; "in baptism, wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God and an inheritor of the kingdom of God" suggesting that all *baptized* persons were fully part of Christ's body and thus welcome to participate in communion. The General Convention of 1970 resolved that "children might be admitted to

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**Wardens** continued from page

team: Norma Bullock, Cindy Dundon, Sharon Hoare, Cheryl Lorenz, Mary Stephenson, Jane Wiley, Fr. Jon White.

I am on the diocesan leadership team for this initiative. We ask your prayers and support as we engage in this process of: discovering the unique story God wants to tell through St. Luke's, get ideas, inspiration and tools for ministry, enjoy the support of interactive workshops and ongoing coaching, and pray, learn and walk together with other congregations throughout our diocese.

Blessings!

Bambi Carkey, Bob Shafer

### ***Greetings to all,***

Just a quick note to tell all of you how excited I am to be back as one of your wardens. I look forward to working with all of you, our committees, the vestry, Bambi, and father Jon to continue the Ministries of St. Luke's. We have such positive momentum now and I'm so looking forward to being part of our exciting agenda.

I want to thank Jerry Wright, our outgoing warden, for his dedicated service during his two terms as warden. His leadership was instrumental to keeping St. Luke's thriving during some difficult transitions. Thank you Jerry!

Thank you all for entrusting me to help lead our great parish, and please let me know of any suggestions or comments you may have.

Bob Shafer

**..AND GOD SAID "NO."**

I asked God to take away my pride,  
And God said "No."

He said it was not for Him to take away,  
But for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child  
whole,

And God said, "No."

He said her spirit is eternal,  
While her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience,  
And God said, "No."

He said patience is a by-product of  
tribulation.

It isn't granted - it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness,  
And God said "No."

He said He gives blessings,  
Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain,  
And God said "No."

He said, "Suffering draws you apart from  
Worldly cares and brings you close to Me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow,  
And God said "No."

He said I must grow on my own,  
But he will prune me to make it fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me,  
And God said "Yes."

He gave me His only Son, who died for me,  
And I will be in heaven someday  
Because I believe.

I asked God to help me love others  
As much as He loves me,

And God said,

"Ah, finally you have the idea."

....by Claudia Minden Welsz

Remember, Saturday, March 10 – 6pm is our yummy **Annual Lasagna Dinner**. Our meal includes lasagna, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. You can also bring your own beverage! Cost is \$10 per person, children under 10 years \$5 each. The support of everyone will make this a successful fund-raiser. Please buy your tickets in advance so we can get an idea of how many will attend. Our dinner is open to the public so tickets will be available that night. You can take out or eat in.



Handmade Arts & Crafts Mantel Clock



Handturned 13 1/2" Decorative Bowl

### Take A Chance!

A special drawing will be held at the Lasagna Dinner for two prizes.  
Prize Tickets - \$5 a ticket or 5 for \$20  
*Need not be present to win.*



Bob Shafer and Gary Carkey cooking on **Shrove Tuesday**



### First Thursday Suppers

On February First a lively group met for our monthly first Thursday supper. Our host this month was our Rector, Jon White. Hope to see you next month!



# Outreach News

The first Outreach initiative of the new year is our collection of sample size personal care items for the Samaritan Center. This collection began on Ash Wednesday and will last through Easter. Last year we collected 580 items; hopefully we can do the same or better this year.

36 new client kits for Meals on Wheels have been delivered. The Welcome kits include shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, lotion, deodorant and a brush and comb.

On Friday, February 9, we delivered a check for \$500.00 to In My Father's

Kitchen. We got a tour of their facility at 501 Hawley Ave in Syracuse. In My Father's Kitchen makes food for, and visits many homeless individuals in the Syracuse area; they also do giveaways to needy individuals several times a year and work with some immigrant populations.

The date for our annual Bake and Treasure sale is Saturday, July 14, 2018. Sign-up sheets will be posted in May and additional information will appear in future Outreach news articles.

As always, if anyone has new ideas for Outreach opportunities contact Eileen Robertson at 315-673-4324.

*Easter flowers can be given in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for a special occasion. If you would like Easter flowers please call the church office 487-1771 or fill out an altar flower form found at both entrances. Deadline for Easter flowers is March 28. Donation is \$15.00.*

**Focus** *continued from page 3*

communion before confirmation." In 1971, the House of Bishops stated, "Confirmation should not be regarded as a procedure of admission to the Holy Communion." For many, this relegated confirmation to a lesser status and many since have described it as a ritual in search of a meaning.

So where did this rite, Confirmation, come from anyway? In the very ancient church, those seeking baptism were primarily adults and they went through a process of initiation (called the catechumenate) for several years where they were not even allowed to witness Holy Communion. Then, during the Vigil of Easter, they were baptized *and* confirmed by the bishop in a single ceremony. It was only as the church grew after Constantine gave it a favored status in the Roman Empire, that the bishop could no longer personally preside at all baptisms that baptism and confirmation became separate rites.

So, if Confirmation no longer serves as gateway into Eucharistic participation, what does it mean?

Confirmation symbolizes our connection to the wider church beyond our local congregation. In our tradition, we understand the bishop to be an inheritor of the ministry of the Apostles - we call this the Apostolic Succession - and by laying hands on us at confirmation, each believer is linked by a chain of hands reaching back to Christ's own hands. Our membership and ministry take place in the context of a single faith community - but we are also part of a much bigger movement of Christ's followers across the world and through time.

*To be continued in a later issue.*

# THANKS & PRAYERS

## march/april

### **We Ask Your Thoughts & Prayers for...**

Adrian Amaya, Catherine, Patricia Smarzo, Helen, Mark, Paul, Janice Greene, John, Elizabeth, Carol Petroff, Bob Shields, and Eileen Mitchell.

*(Note: Call the church office to add anyone to our Sunday prayer list. However, the name will stay on for only one month. You must call each month to have the name put back on the list.)*

### **Also Members of the Armed Forces:**

*(Note: We will continue to pray for our loved ones serving in the military, but only for those who are deployed in harm's way. Please call the church office to submit a name.)*

### **March Birthdays**

- 3 Jon White
- 5 Mary Weatherup

- 7 Jeryl Wright  
Rich Conley
- 9 Sheila Lange
- 13 Sedona Brown
- 14 Nicholas Gilsey
- 15 Alison Conley
- 23 Madison Mitchell
- 26 Bob Shafer
- 29 Kara & Sean Conley

### **March Anniversary**

- 17 Jeryl & Gerry Wright

### **April Birthdays**

- 5 Helen Preston
- 10 Nathaniel Woodworth
- 18 Tanner Woodworth
- 24 William Erlenback II
- 26 Anna Snyder

### **April Anniversary**

- 16 Vladmiro & Kathleen Hart Zavoli



## *Sympathy*

Our heartfelt sympathy to **Bill Bishop** on the death of his wife, Lena. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.



## **An Irish Blessing**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
 May the wind be always at your back.  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
 the rains fall soft upon your fields  
 and until we meet again,  
 may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

In Lent, join us for Weekly Eucharist  
Wednesday Evenings at 7 pm  
March 7, 14, 21

Services during Holy Week  
HOLY THURSDAY

Community Meal - 6 pm  
Healing Eucharist - 7pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday Liturgy - 7pm  
All Night Prayer Vigil - 8pm

HOLY SATURDAY

Stations of the Cross and Holy Saturday Liturgy - 3pm  
Great Vigil of Easter - 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Holy Eucharist - 8am  
Choral Eucharist - 10:30am



*A vibrant community bringing all to God's healing embrace.*