

WITAMAL

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THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

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Luke 2:40 "And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him."



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR WARDENS

A white Thanksgiving.....come on?!

What happened to fall? It's hard to believe the holidays are here. It seems like we just got into the swing of summer and now we're digging out the winter clothes. Very soon we'll be decorating our trees and getting ready for Christmas. With all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, let's keep in mind the meaning of Christmas and be thankful for our families and friends.

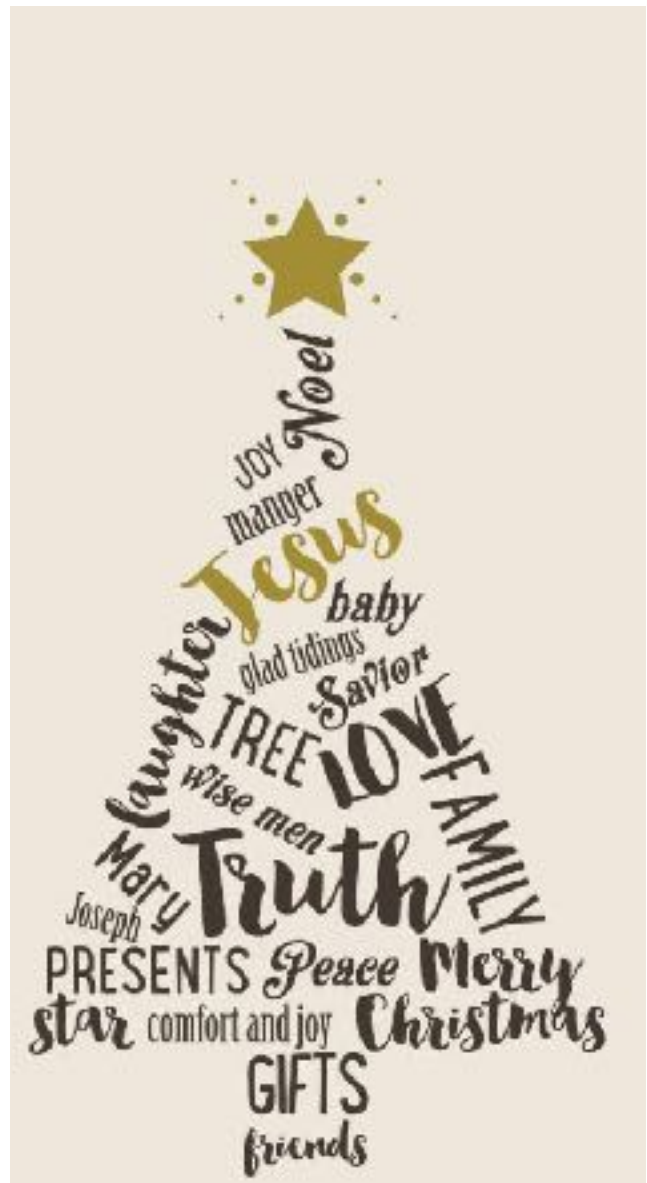
All of us here at St. Luke's are so generous to those in need throughout the year. Please remember to continue that generosity around the holidays. Also, with so many heartbreaking things going on in our country and the world, please remember to say an extra prayer for those in need and who are suffering.

We wish all of you a healthy, happy, blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!

Bambi and Bob



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A Word...

Take a deep breath... It's Advent.

Christmas will be here soon enough, but for now we wait. For most of us, waiting is hard and the speed and trajectory of the wider culture are feverishly working to eliminate waiting from our lives altogether.

In this season of Advent, though, we remember the patience (and not) of our forebears' wait for the coming of Messiah, while also reminding ourselves of our wait for Christ's return.

We sit still and await God's quiet word that enters into our lives in unexpected ways and from unexpected places and people.

Advent is an invitation to a season of sabbath; which needn't mean sitting still, but should mean connecting and reconnecting – to traditions, to God, to God's creation, and to relationships. Preparations for what is coming is important; but my prayer would be that all of us keep in mind God's invitation to use this season to renew and to deepen connections to what is most important in our lives.



OUTREACH NEWS

As many of our Christmas seasons Outreach activities have not concluded, we will not have counts for the mitten tree, the winter weather collection for In My Father's Kitchen or Episcopal Relief and Development until the January newsletter.

The Episcopal Relief and Development collection will continue through December 16. If you write a check, make it out to St. Luke's with ERD(Episcopal Relief and Development) in the memo area.

This year the gift for the Meals on Wheels clients is a solar powered 6 inch candle. We will deliver these items to Meals on Wheels on Friday December 14 for distribution throughout the week before Christmas.

Sherry Brescia will coordinate with the representative from CNY Autism to make the presentation of the check for the funds raised in response to Sherry running the New York State Marathon.



Altar Guild

On Saturday, Dec 17, members of our Altar Guild gathered to prep our sanctuary and worship elements for the new church year that begins with Advent on December 2. Under the direction of our Head of Altar Guild, Sharon Hoare, the group cleaned, polished and organized.

The Altar Guild serves each week to prepare for eucharist and make sure everything on the altar is ready. It is a wonderful ministry of care and preparation centered in magnifying the beauty of God's creation through worship.

If you'd be interested in joining them, please contact Sharon Hoare or by calling our office at 315-487-1771.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

After a long hiatus, the Camillus area clergy, led by Rev. Gary E. Ferner of Fairmount Community Church, have formed a new ecumenical group. One of the first fruits of this new cooperative effort was an ecumenical Thanksgiving service on November 18 at St Michael's Lutheran Church. Most area clergy joined members of churches from all around Camillus (including a solid contingent from St. Luke's) for an evening of prayer and worship with a special collection of money and food to support St. Joseph's

Food Pantry. It is our hope that as we continue, we will have even more opportunities to worship and serve together as Christ in our local community.



Winter Weather

Chill temps and snowy blankets seem to have descended a little earlier than usual this year. Just a reminder that barring a declared snow emergency that clears the streets, we will endeavor to hold to our regular worship schedule each Sunday. However, we would ask that you take into account conditions near your home when deciding whether to come to church or not – please make the safe choice!

If we choose to cancel church, we will make an effort to provide that information to local media. We will always post closing information on our Facebook page and website. If in doubt, you can always call or text Fr. Jon at 971-227-3106



Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is Tuesday, December 18 at Kirby's Restaurant in Westvale. As usual, Bring a Gift, Get a Gift (\$1 or \$2) if you want to participate. If coming, please call Pat Marrs or Gerry Wright.

First Thursday Dinner

Bambi and Gary Carkey are hosting the December First Thursday Dinner. It will be held at the church on December 6 at 6 pm. Please sign up to help the Carkeys plan. However, last minute arrivals are always welcomed.



THANKS & PRAYERS

december

We Ask Your Thoughts & Prayers for...

Patricia Smarzo, Helen, Mark, Paul, John, Jim, Elizabeth, Carol, Fran Smith, Fred, Mary, Marilyn, Shirley, 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.)

Happy Birthday

- 5 Bill Bishop
- 6 Cathy Martin
- 8 Carolyn Woodworth
- 9 Kevin Mayer
- 9 Eva Pizarro
- 11 Francis Smith

- 16 Renay Kelley
- 18 Jill Nightingale
- 19 Lynda Gilsey
- 24 Michael Bille
- 28 Diane Goldych

Happy Anniversary

- 20 David & Elisabeth Beebe
- 28 Bill & Lori Erlenback



If you would like Christmas memorial flowers please complete one of the altar flower forms found at each entrance, or call the church office. Donation is \$15. The deadline for Christmas flowers is Wednesday, December 19.

Sympathy

Our sympathies to Milt, Mary and Hannah Stevenson on the death of Milt's mother, Ann Stevenson, and to Bill and Lori Erlenback on the death of Bill's mother, Rita Erlenback. Give rest O Christ to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.





We hope that you and your family have a blessed Christmas celebration and we hope that you will begin your 12 days of Christmas by joining in one of our festive Christmas celebrations.

Both of our Christmas Eve services will feature Christmas hymn favorites (including Silent Night with candles)

Our worship schedule for Christmas this year will be:

Christmas Eve

3:00pm - Family friendly service with Holy Communion

8:00pm – Choral Eucharist followed by a champagne reception

Christmas Day

11:00am – Simple Eucharist



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