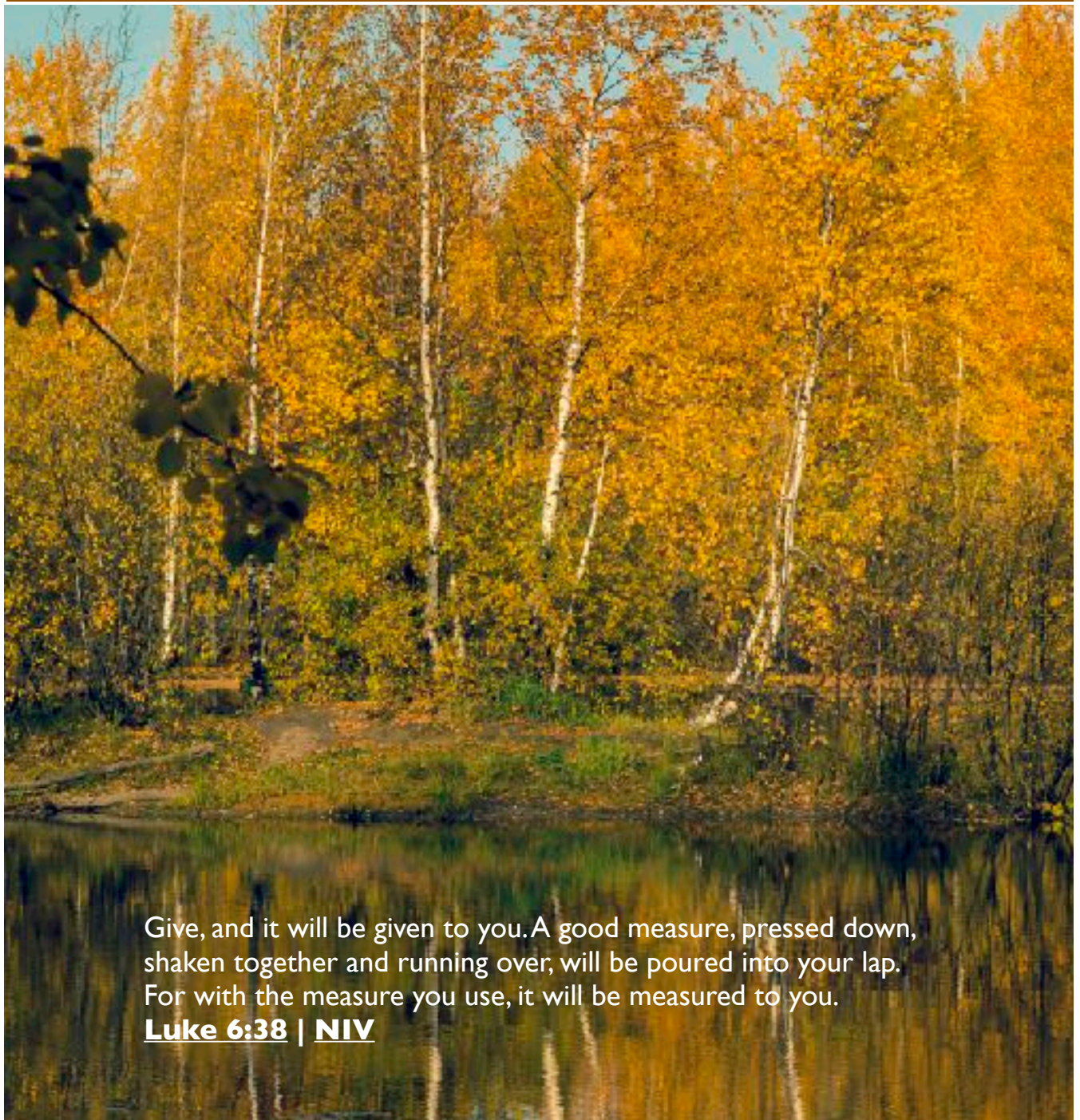


# WITAMAL

*signs*

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

Volume 17 Issue 8 September 2020 St Luke's Episcopal Church Camillus, New York



Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

**Luke 6:38 | NIV**



## Warden's Message

### Hello Everyone,

We hope everyone is well and surviving through these difficult times.

As you know **outside services** are now being offered on Sundays at 8am and 10am. If you haven't tried one you may want to consider it. A little more of a 'going to church feeling' than over Zoom and it's great to see people in person! Social distancing with face covering is practiced, if that is a concern.

Obviously, things are rather slow right now, however **financially we are still in good shape**. We are showing a \$10K profit instead of the \$6K loss that was projected. Thank you for keeping those pledge payments current!

**Food Pantry drops have started up again.** They are extremely grateful for our continued support. They are in need of paper products along with food items and they also like gift cards to local grocery stores. Donations can be made during Sunday service hours or Thursday mornings.

**Volunteers needed!** The front entry way is desperate for some weeding. Also, looking for volunteers to help paint the hallway. We can do as a group, socially distancing, or can assign sections and do on your own. We are flexible! Please let Bob know if you're able to help out.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and participation. If you need assistance with anything, please reach out to your St. Luke's family.

Stay Safe and Blessings to all,  
Bob and Eileen

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### United Thank Offering

In September we will be distributing the small blue **UTO** collection boxes to everyone in the parish. This is a great opportunity to set aside time on a regular basis to reflect on the things in each of our lives that we can give thanks for. The money collected funds the Episcopal Church's United Thank Offering grants which are awarded throughout the United States and around the world for projects and ministries that lift up women and girls. 100% of the monies collected goes out in grants each year.







## A Word

*As I returned to working at my church office one day each week recently; I began by clearing up; putting things away that needed to be kept, disposing of things that didn't, and rearranging some things to better suit a new way of work. By and large, things had been left as they were back in March; bulletins for Lent lying about, announcements for our last Sunday in the sanctuary; calendars still turned to March, clocks without working batteries... you get the idea. For those who are curious, I bought an automatic fish feeder, so all the fish are doing well.*



*Though I have been doing the online worship from the church; I've really only been passing through; I haven't been "occupying" any of it. Returning then; felt a little like visiting a place from a different time; like visiting your old school or an office where you don't work anymore. It felt familiar, but it was also like discovering something new.*

*The hardest part for me, over the past months, has been dealing with the uncertainty; feeling frustratingly unable to make any kind of certain plan for any future beyond a couple of days or a week at most. This was especially so early on, when so much was unknown and it was unclear how best to stay safe or even know how one might catch the virus. So for the most part, I've tried to focus on just doing whatever I could each day; which made me think of this psalm;*

*Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my meditation.  
Hearken to my cry for help, my King and my God, for I  
make my prayer to you.*

*In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; early in the  
morning I make my appeal and watch for you.*

*Psalm 5 verses 1-3*

*Each day I make my prayer and watch for God and God's invitation for that day. In some ways it's actually been kind of liberating and refreshing to be reminded of my profound inability to shape reality. It has been a healthy reminder that whatever safety I might find can only rest in God.*



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## Updates on our Covid Response

First let me offer my profound thanks for the faithfulness and commitment of this parish. I remember on our last Sunday saying that I hoped we might return if not for Easter, then at least by Pentecost. I'm not sure I've ever been so wrong about anything before. We are months past Pentecost and our "temporary" arrangements feel more and more like a kind of "normal." And in a sense, it is; our life as a community of Jesus followers remains even if how we live that out looks and feels very different. And yet, I know that we continue to stand on shifting grounds and that new and unexpected changes are likely to push into and shape our parish life. So, given my record of predicting the future back in March; I hesitate to do so now.

Given where we are right now with the pandemic though I have some hopes for the near future that I have some expectation of bearing fruit. I do not believe that a Sunday service anything like what we used to know is on the near horizon. I am not hearing any word of impending changes to the diocesan guidelines, nor do I see any prospect of major changes in our susceptibility to the virus. Vigilance and caution must remain our guiding values for the foreseeable future.

We have been successfully holding services outdoors for more than a month

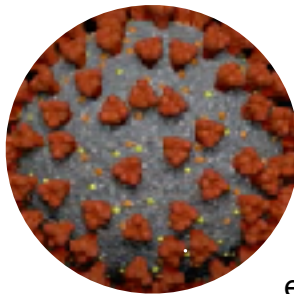
### Office Hours

Fr Jon will begin having office hours on Thursday mornings between 10 and noon. If there is any reason you'd like to meet with him, please feel free to make an appointment. If that is not a convenient time for you, please let him know and he will be happy to make another time available that will work for you. Thursday office hours will begin on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. You can email him at [jon.white@stlukescamillus.com](mailto:jon.white@stlukescamillus.com) or call at 971-227-3106.

and I anticipate that continuing through September. As the weather turns though, that will become less tenable. We have already prepared our covenant with the diocese to allow us to have services in the sanctuary so I am hopeful we may be able to do that in the Fall, assuming the relative health of the wider community continues.

The bishop's guidelines for indoor services are quite limiting though. Right now, I am planning on integrating in-person worship with our online service. So, we will have a single service at 9:00 that will include those in the sanctuary in our interactive online service. Our guidelines strictly limit the number of people allowed in-person, so we will need to re-institute the pre-registration to ensure we don't exceed those limits. I am opting for a single service at this time because the cleaning requirements between services make multiple services prohibitive as there's just not enough time.

So, that's where we are and hopefully that will be the next step on the journey. I'm not sure what comes after or when the state and diocesan guidelines might change. Jesus urges us to be fully present in each moment of our lives and that seems like especially good advice right now while we are struggling to peer ahead and make sense of what lies ahead.



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**Lord our God**, You who are rich in mercy, and with careful wisdom direct our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, bring an end to this new infectious disease, this new epidemic, just as you averted the punishment of your people in the time of David the King. You who are the Physician of our souls and bodies, grant restored health to those who have been seized by this illness, raising them from their bed of suffering, so that they might glorify You, O merciful Savior, and preserve in health those who have not been infected. By your grace, Lord, bless,

strengthen, and preserve, all those who out of love and sacrifice care for the sick, either in their homes or in the hospitals. Remove all sickness and suffering from your people, and teach us to value life and health as gifts from You. Give us Your peace, O God, and fill our hearts with unflinching faith in Your protection, hope in Your help, and love for You and our neighbor. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and save us, O our God, and to You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Diocesan Youth Zoom:** Tory & Kristen Blum, our Diocesan Youth coordinators will be hosting a Youth gathering every Thursday between 8:00-9:30pm. [In Zoom, go to meeting 922 5912 8532; the password is DioYouth.](#)



**Circle of Prayer:** Circle of Prayer continues every Thursday morning at 10:00. We pray wherever we are, knowing we're together in the Spirit! Contact Cheryl Neff Lorenz or Betsy Shake with any questions or concerns.

## Spring Forest Qigong

During this time of COVID-19, would you like another way to strengthen your immune system and reduce stress? Online Zoom classes in Spring Forest Qigong have started up last week, Thursday evenings (7-8pm). Qigong is a system of simple breathing and movement exercises. Practice sessions are led by Ralph Lorenz; if interested, send an email to [rlorenzmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:rlorenzmusic@yahoo.com) or call/text 330-283-5290.







Join Us!





# THANKS & PRAYERS

## September

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

Jan and Chuck Konkus, Mary Kate, Tish, Doug Law, Rocky, Audrey Kerswell, Adrian, Joanne and Denise Hart, Diane Synakowski, Inez Robertson, Claudia Sennet Mack, Linden Maxine, Fran Smith, and Adeline Faden.

*(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.)*

### **Those helping in Covid-19 efforts**

Sara Fullerton, Kelley Fullerton, Keleigh Thomas Fullerton, Erin Kohan, and Megan Fullerton.

### **Happy Birthday**

- 13 Jim Shake
- 15 Erika Kelley
- 16 Marilyn Farrell
- 27 Jack Young
- 30 Alexandra Goldych

### **Food Bank**

St Charles Food Pantry still needs support. They are asking if folks could make financial donations since donations of food items is challenging right now. Checks made out to St Charles Food Pantry can be mailed to 404 Parsons Drive, Syracuse, NY 13219

St Charles Food Pantry is also in need of paper products; toilet paper and paper towels. If you would like to bring paper products to the outside service Bob Shafer will put them in his car and deliver to the food pantry.

### **Happy Anniversary**

- 2 Dave and Sharon Hoare
- 3 Jack and Cheryl Young
- 4 Jim and Jill Nightingale
- 5 Chip and Sandy Vitagliano
- 12 Mike and Debbie Bille
- 24 Martin and Debbie Kaszubinski

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

Ryan Sorotkin and Justin Stevenson

*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.)*

### **Church Prayer List**

Anyone can put forth a name for our Sunday prayer list for the sick -- even your own name. The name stays on the list for a month. At that time you should call the church office if you want the name added for the next month. That way our list stays current.



## Still, Small Voice of Calm A message from the choir director

What does a choir director do when the choir isn't meeting? What can a congregation do when we can't gather and sing together? We still have the gift of hymns.

Like the Psalms, hymns praise, rejoice, thank, comfort, grieve, soothe, and teach. We're in a hard place right now, surrounded by so much uncertainty, so much fear, so much anger. I'd like to share a few verses of a favorite hymn of mine when I need calm. The text is taken from a longer poem written in 1872 by American Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier.

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.*



*In simple trust like theirs who heard  
Beside the Syrian sea  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow Thee.*

*O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
The silence of eternity  
Interpreted by love!*

*Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and  
fire, O still, small voice of calm.*

Blessings and peace—Cheryl

