

VITAL

signs

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

Volume 21 Issue 3 March/April 2023 St Luke's Episcopal Church Camillus, New York





Wardens Report

St. Luke's contract for "Electric Supply" is expiring in May of this year. Our contract for "Gas Supply" does not expire until June of 2025. Our present rates for the latter are well below any present market rates and we are reaping the annual benefits to the tune of approximately \$2,300 compared to the variable rate provided by National GRID for the last year.

We have solicited bids from Progressive Energy for "Electric Supply" that would commence in May for a "fixed" rate. The bids were for periods of time ranging from 12 to 48 months. NYS is now requiring 50% of the "Electric Supply" to come from "renewable" energy sources and as a result only one (1) company provided a bid to St. Luke's for a "fixed rate", they being our current supplier of Marathon Energy (now called ENERGO). At a minimum the new rates would result in anywhere between \$2,000 to \$2,400 per year for the 63,100 kwhr's consumed annually (5 year average) by the church and rectory.

If we choose to do nothing and let National GRID provide "Electric Supply" we stand to pay around \$1,000 more than our current rates not to mention the rates will be variable on a month to month basis. We do however have the ability to cancel the National GRID supply at any time.

As a result we agreed to make a recommendation that we not contract for a "fixed" rate deal at this point in time but instead keep our eyes on the market and, if an opportunity arises whereby we could guarantee a more attractive "fixed" rate, enter into a contract at that time, having the flexibility to do so.

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Holy Week

This year, we will be sharing worship opportunities with St Mark's. We will have services on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings before Easter at 7pm. There will also be a noon service on Good Friday. The service schedule is:

7pm Wednesday April 5	at St Mark's	Tenebrae: the Service of Darkness
7pm Thursday April 6	at St Mark's	Maundy Thursday
Noon Friday April 7	at St Mark's	Good Friday
7pm Friday April 7	at St Luke's	Good Friday
7pm Saturday April 8	at St Luke's	Easter Vigil



A Word

March and April in Central New York are such unpredictable months. We could have the first opportunities to work in our gardens or we could be getting another winter storm of the century (those seem to come regularly). The unknowable uncertainty of it all makes it, for me at least, a season more to be endured than welcomed. If it's going to be spring I'm ok with that by this point and if its going to be winter, that's ok too, more chance to go sledding or build a snowman with the kids. But I'd be happiest if it would just choose one or the other and not vacillate so much.



At the same time, I can't help but notice how that same theme resonates with Lent for me. Lent, similar to Advent, is a season of its own with its own richness born of sacrifice and self-reflection and it is also a time of preparation for Easter. One is constantly pulled between the somberness of Lent and the anticipation of the joys of Easter. It can't just be one or the other.

And yet, acceptance of the realities and limitations of today while also living for the hope of a better tomorrow is the primary experience of the Christian life. We are called to hold fast to and celebrate the rich brightness of God's promises while living our day-to-day lives amidst the darkness of the world.

To thrive in this season of sort-of-spring/sort-of-winter, to fully experience this time in the church's calendar, and to live fully into our baptismal covenant calls on each of us to tend carefully the hope that lives within us. Hope is God's great gift, the engine of positive change, and the well-spring of our salvation. It is confirmation of God's love for us because it reminds us of the possibilities of a faithful life.





VESTRY MINUTES

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

5402 West Genesee Street Camillus, NY 13031. February 6, 2023

Attendance

Rector: Jon White

Wardens: Milt Stevenson and Eileen Robertson

Vestry Members: Rich Conley, Sherry Brescia, Mary Parish, Jack Young, and Debbie Kaszubinski

Treasurer: Sherry Brescia

Vestry Clerk: Alison Conley

Absent: Jim Shake

Opening prayer

Jon began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer.

Review of previous minutes

Eileen made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2022 vestry meeting. Jack seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Reports

Treasurer- verbal report given by Sherry

Sherry heard from Bob Shafer that it looks like our pledge payments are going to be closer to \$125,000 instead of \$130,000 as was originally anticipated, which would mean an anticipated profit of \$7,000 versus \$12,000. There may be fewer pledges, and some parishioners have not yet responded with a pledge. Sherry will leave the figures as they are now, and we can adjust them later if necessary.

The taxes are paid in the month of January so that skews the numbers for a few months.

Sherry is working on a five-year projection, which she will have for the next meeting.

Debbie made a motion to accept the financial report. Mary seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Wardens

Jack Young shared this information at the meeting:

1. Marathon Energy, our supplier for electric and natural gas is now ENERY.
2. The change is in name only and contracts will not be changed.
3. The PSC (Public Service Commission) is "resetting" the ability for residential and small commercial customers to go to market and purchase energy supply that does not include a "green" makeup or component. We were told that the minimum would be 50% of the energy would require a renewable (green sourced) component.
4. We have received one (1) quote from SFE for \$.09780/kWhr. This is 76% higher than our present rate of \$.05549/kWhr.
5. I am having a conversation tomorrow with ENERGO in an effort to see if we can get a more attractive rate.
6. For the last 12 months we have saved (on paper) \$2,913 versus the present rates being charged for energy supply from National GRID (please see the Excel document which quantifies the savings on a month-by-month basis).

Acct # 640935004					
12-Month Electric Cost Comparison					
Bill Date	Service	Supplier Name	Total Escrow Bill	Total Comparable MGR Bill	Difference
1/11/23	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$582.22	\$652.71	-\$72.49
12/12/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$521.55	\$515.44	+\$6.11
11/9/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$462.03	\$402.03	+\$59.95
10/11/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$570.57	\$744.74	-\$174.21
9/12/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$671.26	\$606.87	+\$64.39
8/10/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$870.83	\$1,065.89	-\$195.06
7/13/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$704.90	\$755.38	-\$50.48
6/10/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$326.06	\$338.28	-\$12.22
5/12/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$452.70	\$429.29	+\$23.41
4/12/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$570.35	\$530.22	+\$40.13
3/10/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$641.42	\$610.97	+\$30.45
2/3/22	Electric	MARATHON ENERGY	\$554.94	\$579.82	-\$24.88
Total			\$7,026.84	\$7,721.83	-\$694.99

12-Month Gas Cost Comparison					
Bill Date	Service	Supplier Name	Total Escrow Bill	Total Comparable MGR Bill	Difference
1/11/23	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$875.69	\$1,411.94	-\$536.25
12/12/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$960.00	\$1,076.87	-\$116.87
11/9/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$809.50	\$415.25	+\$394.25
10/11/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$218.21	\$370.80	-\$152.59
9/12/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$69.86	\$155.75	-\$85.89
8/10/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$75.54	\$108.91	-\$33.37
7/13/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$113.64	\$119.02	-\$5.38
6/10/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$128.89	\$164.30	-\$35.41
5/12/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$353.41	\$465.69	-\$112.28
4/12/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$610.90	\$708.02	-\$97.12
3/10/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$829.88	\$1,076.53	-\$246.65
2/3/22	Gas	MARATHON ENERGY	\$481.24	\$1,180.24	-\$699.00
Total			\$5,288.54	\$7,146.81	-\$1,858.27

Milt Stevenson:

Milt welcomed new and returning members to the vestry. Milt feels we got off to a good start yesterday at the annual meeting and gave Jon credit for doing a great job putting it together. We had a delicious brunch to eat as we had the meeting.

Rector-

Jon will be away from 2/14-2/21 for his mother's funeral. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent will be covering the service in his absence.

Attendance is being pulled down this year because we had low attendance on Sunday, January 1st. In-person attendance hovering in the thirties. Zoom engagement is still good. Jon feels the annual meeting went pretty well. Jon appreciates Sherry participating in the meeting on Zoom from Florida. We've picked up a few new people. Jon hopes to do a community dinner later this year.

We're working on the Parochial Report. There's a lot of new information needed to complete it, so it will be more work. We may need to do an email approval of the Parochial Report because we won't have a vestry meeting again until 3/27.

New Business

Annual Meeting review- Jon asked if anyone else wanted to add any thoughts about the annual meeting, but there were no more comments.

Fundraising in 2023-

- April 8th Doug's Fish Fry for outreach
- Another Junk in the Trunk Sale this spring for outreach
- Doug's Fish Fry in the fall, too - possibly to support St. Luke's general fund
- Jerry will come up with a new raffle



-Jon asked if we wanted to do a spaghetti dinner in the fall, and there was strong interest from the vestry for this.

-Mary would like to organize a walk that would provide donations to St. Luke's general fund. She asked anyone who wants to be involved on the walk to contact her.

Old Business

Mary asked if we are going to try to increase the rent for the daycare, as was previously discussed. Bob and Milt are going to meet soon with the daycare to talk about raising the rent. Mary also inquired if we sent our check to Episcopal Relief and Development. Sherry said that we did.

Eileen asked that Debbie present the check to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. She will do so.

Next vestry meeting will be on 3/27/22 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn- Sherry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Rich seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Conley, Vestry Clerk

OUTREACH

This year for Lent, we will again collect items for the Samaritan Center. We will collect sample size personal care items as well as other items that the Samaritan Center indicates they need, to fulfill their mission to serve those in need. A list of items will be posted on the bulletin board and a collection box will be provided for your donations.

In addition St. Luke's and St. Mark's will have a combined dinner similar to the dinner last fall at St. Mark's. This meal will be held at our church on April 23 at 3 pm. St. Luke's will provide the meat and side dishes. St. Mark's will provide desserts and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board the first week of April. If you plan on attending, please sign up so we will have an accurate count of attendees for purposes of supplying meat for our meal. The sign-up sheet will also have an area to indicate the side dish you wish to bring if you choose to supply a side dish. The meal at St. Mark's was a lot of fun and a good way to get to know our St. Mark's neighbors, so

let's extend our hospitality to St. Mark's at our spring diner.

Outreach will have our first fundraiser of the season on Saturday, April 8, 2023. The Doug's to Go Fish Fry truck will be in our Parking lot from 11:00am to 6:00pm. This has been a successful fundraiser for us so we will attempt to secure a second date in late September or early October.

This spring we will again host a Junk in the Trunk and Bake Sale. The date is to be decided.

As always, if you have suggestions for Outreach projects, Please contact Eileen Robertson at susyeeileenm@hotmail.com or 315-673-4324





THANKS & PRAYERS

march/april

We Ask Your Thoughts & Prayers for...

Tish, Doug and Carol Law, Diane Synakowski, Fran Smith, Dick and Shirley Chrisfield, Michael, Carolyn, Jennifer Brady, Steve, Mary Lynch, Carol Greis, Joan Conley, Jen Downey, Andy, Lynn, Jane Brescia, Kevin and Sue Fullerton, Joe Marshall, Mark Miller, Kristen O'Hara, Lisa, Elizabeth, Anna, Ken and Barb Guy, Donna Sweeney, Beth Abbott, Carol Andrews, Silas, Audrey Kerswell, George Hoare, Peter Henderson, Patty Gordon, and Roger, Kathleen Hart-Zavoli, Luke, Adam.

(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.)

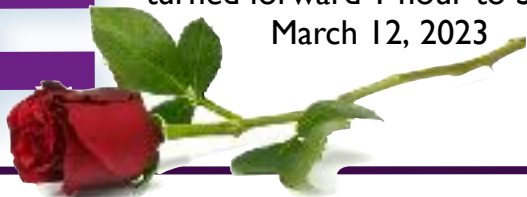
March Birthdays

- 3 Jon White
- 7 Rich Conley
Jeryl Wright

Sacred Ground

Our next Sacred Ground gatherings will be Monday Mar 20th at 10am here at St Luke's and on Tuesday Mar 21st at 6pm, also here at St Luke's.

Mar 12, 2023 - Daylight Saving Time Starts When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 12, 2023, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned forward 1 hour to Sunday, March 12, 2023



- 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

- 2 Luke Wiley
- 10 Nathaniel Woodworth
- 18 Tanner Woodworth
- 24 William Erlenback II

April Anniversaries

- 4 Jim & Betsy Shake
- 16 Vladmiro & Kathleen Hart Zavoli



Once again Jeryl Wright has handcrafted
Another gorgeous donation for raffle

March/April Raffle

15 inch diameter hard maple
party platter, dyed red.

Tickets available March 5 through May 7.

Tickets are \$5, or 5 for \$20.

