


VITAL signs

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

Volume 20 Issue 5 May 2023 St Luke's Episcopal Church Camillus, New York



“Every good thing given
and every perfect gift is
from above, coming
down from the Father
of lights, with whom
there is no variation or
shifting shadow.” –
James 1:17



Wardens' Message

Spring abounds with renewed life as flowers and trees bloom and lawns require our attention. With Holy Week we celebrate the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Christ. Father Jon did a magnificent job of juggling Holy Week services at both parishes. We were also blessed to share "Fridays in Lent" joint dinners as well as a wonderful inter-parish dinner this past Sunday.

Around St. Luke's, many hands made light work of spring cleaning and sprucing up the grounds. Work wise, we had Advanced Mechanical Services in to replace a faulty, low-water valve on our boiler which was noted during a recent inspection. We're also waiting word from PIP, our daycare provider lessee, on their grant funding which will partially cover much needed reflooring of the parish hall and kitchen. PIP would cover the labor and installation costs while St. Luke's would be responsible for the materials.

Lastly, we've noted not only water intrusion but wall damage in the undercroft where we store the Christmas nativity figures. Basically, water coming off the roof has been building up pressure against the cinder block wall to the point that some of the blocks are being pushed inward. Complicating this is that this is the wall where the main electrical service enters the church. This could be a significant repair and we're in

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early discussion with our insurance carrier. We will update the parish as we go.

As always, thanks to everyone for all the good work you do around St. Luke's to keep it a joyous place to worship, congregate, and celebrate.

Milt and Jack



A Word...

I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

Ecclesiastes 3:10-15

Well, another year has rolled around; May 1 is my “work-a-versary” at St Luke’s and I’ve now been here for six years. If it’s true that time flies when you’re having fun, then the past six years have been a blast because the time has certainly flown by.

The work of ministry is a sometimes curious one and it can be difficult to know what the real fruits of one’s labor might be. All that we do in God’s name is like planting the seed but, as St Paul reminds us, it is God that gives the growth, and the fruits of ministry ripen only in God’s time.

If you’re like me, you may wish that God worked on a quicker timeline, and yet if we can take a moment to stop and look around, we can see all the good in the world that comes from God. God doesn’t work through grand measures or flashy spectacles, God enters quietly into our lives from the unexpected places, the work of God is the stuff of small gestures and easy-to-miss kindnesses. The kingdom of God isn’t built all at once, but one carefully laid brick at a time.

As followers of Jesus, we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus has done the hard work, freeing us from the power of Evil and opening for us the path the eternal life. Our task is merely to take up this hard-won freedom, to bask in the love of God, and to boldly and courageously bring love and determination to every corner of our daily lives.

But also to take moment each day, to look up and look around and see that God is good.

Double you Impact with Episcopal Relief and Development

St Luke’s has become a Congregational Partner with Episcopal Relief and Development, the Episcopal Church’s agency tasked with disaster response and community development around the globe. As a Congregational Partner, we are working to expand our ministry reach and to make a lasting impact in the lives of those most in need.

This year, due to the generosity of several large donors, your gift to ERD can be doubled with a matching grant to support ERD. Between now and May 25, 2023, eligible contributions for the organization’s work to alleviate hunger, up to \$250,000 will be matched. Donate online at episcopalrelief.org/spring-match, or call 1.855.312.4325. Gifts can also be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
5402 West Genesee Street, Camillus, NY 13031
April 24, 2023

Attendance

Rector: Jon White

Wardens: Milt Stevenson

Vestry Members: Rich Conley, Jim Shake, Sherry Brescia, Mary Parish, and Eileen Robertson

Treasurer: Sherry Brescia

Vestry Clerk: Alison Conley

Absent: Debbie Kaszubinski and Jack Young

Opening prayer

Jon began the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with a prayer.

Review of previous minutes

There are two corrections needed. Under Milt's warden's section, the word Episcopal was spelled wrong. Also, Jim Shake was at the last meeting yet he was recorded as being absent. Mary made a motion to accept the amended minutes, and Jim seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Reports

Treasurer- verbal report given by Sherry

Our cash balance is still holding at over \$15,000. This reflects the increased value in our investments, which was a little over \$3,000 for the past quarter. Nothing much has changed on the balance sheet. Under Revenues and Expenses: We're a few thousand dollars ahead in revenues. We're coming closer to what we anticipated for our rental income. There was a big rent check in Sunday's collection. Payroll and fringe benefits vary depending on when we get the check from St. Mark's. The boiler situation is putting us over for Maintenance. Gas and electric expenses are a little more than what we budgeted, but warmer weather is coming soon. The Net Operating Total is a surplus of about \$5800, more than we budgeted. No one had any questions for Sherry.

Eileen made a motion to accept the financial report. Rich seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mary thought money has been left in the collection plate in the past, but Jon said he didn't think that has happened before. However, someone did put money in the wrong place once in January. Rich said Jerry Wright went out and checked the plates when they counted today. Jon isn't sure how the money gets from the plate to the black box, but we'll find out. We got rid of the safe, so the money goes directly into the office now.

Wardens:

Jack Young: he's not here tonight since he's traveling for his work



Milt Stevenson:

Jon had a very busy month with Holy Week. We had a good turnout at the joint dinner yesterday. Eileen did a great job planning the dinner, and we got cleaned up quickly afterward. Eileen hasn't heard how much money we made at the Doug's Fish Fry fundraiser. We got Advanced Mechanical to come fix the valve on the boiler for \$1745. The grant money that PIP was getting for the flooring is not coming as quickly as expected, but it should still come in eventually.

Rector:

Holy Week and Easter look less attended than in the past but that's more due to holding some of the services at St. Mark's this year. We've had some visitors at church lately. The Holy Week services were well attended, as were the combined services. We're above 40 for attendance most Sundays so we're growing bit by bit. Jon forgot to welcome Eileen to the vestry again last meeting. The joint picnic has been reserved at Reed Webster Park on Warner's Road and there may not be any cost since Jon is a town resident. It will be held August 27th. The parish dinner seemed to be a success, with almost every table mixed with parishioners from both churches. The Steering Committee seems to feel things are going quite well. We will try to be better about sharing news about each parish with the other parish. They'll put together a report in three months about their recommendations for continuing the association or not. May 1st is Jon's six-year anniversary with St. Luke's. June is usually Pride month, so Jon would like to put out a pride flag for June. We agreed he should do this.

New Business

Sanctuary Foundation

There is a photo in the agenda for tonight to highlight the issue in the basement under the sacristy where we store the nativity statues. There has been some water damage and the wall is collapsing in the basement. The electrical boxes are on that damaged wall. Jon is concerned about a fire. He called the church insurance to let them know, and he should hear back tomorrow from them. We'll have to figure out how to get the job done, and may need to do a survey of the property near the building regarding drainage issues. Rich said his neighbor went with Midstate Basement instead of Woodford Brothers. We'll get some estimates once the church speaks with Jon about insurance coverage. Milt said the big thing will be the electrical if we have to shut it off or move it.

Steering Committee Update: covered under Rector's report

Old Business

There was no old business.

Next vestry meeting will be on 5/22/23 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn- Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. Milt seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Conley, Vestry Clerk

Circle of Prayer

Circle of Prayer began 2 years ago. Countless requests for prayer have come to our attention. 12 dedicated people with a gift of intercessory prayer, pray daily. We generally pray together from our homes Thursdays 9:30-10 AM. Members hail from Michigan, Ohio, and CNY. All prayer requests are confidential. If you have requests for prayer, please contact Betsy Shake (waterlapping@gmail.com) and she will contact the other 11 Circle of Prayer persons. If you would like to join this wonderful ministry, please contact Betsy.



Outreach News

This spring we will again host a Junk in the Trunk and Bale sale. The date is May 20, 2023. The sale runs from 9am to 2pm. Vendor spaces are \$15.00. We have space for 20 vendors. There will be a sign-up sheet for bakers and for help selling the baked goods. We collected 332 personal care and kitchen items for the Samaritan Center during Lent. They were sorted and delivered to the Samaritan Center Tuesday April 18. As always, if you have sug-

gestions for Outreach projects, please contact Eileen Robertson at susyeileenm@hotmail.com or 315-673-4324.



The combined parish dinner held at St. Luke's on April 23 was a time for great conversation and delicious food.



THANKS & PRAYERS

may

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, 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, Vlad & Kathleen Hart-Zavoli, Luke, Adam, Carolyn Woodworth, Nick and Mary Alice Zimmer

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.)

Happy Birthday

- 2 Debbie Kaszubinski
- 4 Audrey Lunson
- 8 Jennifer Downey
- 12 Cheryl Neff Lorenz
- 15 Ralph Lorenz
- 29 Vladimiro Hart-Zavoli
David Hoare,
- 30 Ronald Caldwell

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Bob & Cathy Martin
- 13 Peter & Norma Bullock



A heartfelt thank you to the many volunteers who worked spring cleanup magic at St. Lukes

Anyone having an item they would like addressed in the monthly Vital Signs is welcome to send it to Sedona at doni31344@yahoo.com. Anyone having a picture of a church event they think is applicable, please send to carolynmuratore@gmail.com.
Carolyn & Sedona (Vital Signs)

Happenings at St Mark's

Clothes Closet and Community Meal

Saturday May 13th 9am-Noon

Thursday May 25th 3-6pm

The Clothes Closet is St Mark's Thrift Store and when it is open on these days, there is also a free meal available to anyone who comes in.

Food Sense

Food Sense is program of the Food Bank of Central New York that leverages the Food Bank's ability to buy food in bulk and resale it to CNY residents at a reduced price. Each month offers a different selection. As well as participating in the savings, volunteers are welcome to help with taking orders, sorting the orders when they are delivered and handing out packages to clients on distribution day.

Delivery and Distribution Day: May 24th

Sign-Up days: April 20th 3-6pm, May 10th 3-5pm, May 13th 10-Noon



Trinity Sunday Ice Cream Social

Come and mark Trinity Sunday with the folks at St Mark's at the Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday June 4th beginning at noon. Choose up to three flavors of ice cream with all your favorite toppings. Ice Cream donated by Byrne Dairy.

Sundaes on Friday

St Mark's loves the ice cream. On the first Friday of each month, June to September, St Mark's sets up an ice cream booth and sells cones and dishes to the neighborhood. Come for an ice cream – only \$2 - or to help scoop it up.

