

# VITAL

*signs*

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

Volume 21 Issue 5 May 2024 St Luke's Episcopal Church Camillus, New York



*Pentecost*



## Wardens' Message

During Norah O'Donnell's interviews surrounding her upcoming special with the Pope, she was told that the pontiff "isn't out to change the lyrics of the Catholic church but to change the tune." Much as it is for individual followers of Christ like ourselves, we look for small ways we can impact a world in upheaval. As father Jon's sermon wrapped up today, he reminds us that Christ works through each of us. Our words and our actions (as well as our inaction) are a testament of our faith. There are plenty of issues around the world today that call for our reflection be it the genocide in Gaza, the war in Ukraine, the plight of the impoverished, immigrants at our border, and on and on. We are powerless to change those lyrics, however, our everyday actions should reflect Christ's message of love and peace on earth; that's a tune we can all march to.

Jack and I participated in a Diocesan lay leader teleconference recently and heard many of the concerns of other parishes. There are many seeking new priests and many that are struggling to exist. St. Luke's has been fortunate, with father Jon's guidance and leadership, to facilitate a working partnership with St. Mark's such that we can continue to exist and count on the services of a full time priest. Had our parishes not taken this course of action, our fortunes would have been different. Jack and I, along with the wardens of St. Mark's, are finalizing updating the Covenant of Shared Ministry entered into in 2022 for ratification by both vestries so that we can continue down this path to the mutual benefit of both parishes.

Jack and I with some welcomed guidance and insight from a couple of other parishioners have been meeting with and negotiating with flooring contractors in preparation for much needed replacement of the tile floors in the kitchen and parish hall. With

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the donation of funds designated for that purpose, we plan on putting in about 3,200 square feet of luxury vinyl plank flooring and molding which should last decades and give those areas a nice upgraded, current design look. After several meetings and discussions, quotations for the project based on a well-defined and prepared specification, we're prepared to award the contract for completion in late August when PIP daycare closes for a week.

For the remainder to the year the Wardens are looking at projects which include the installation of a new section window on the Northwest side of the basement below the sanctuary and the fixing of the front basement door below the south side of the sanctuary.

On Sunday the 28th a work party spruced up the front of the church with bush trimming, weeding and the refurbishing of the beds on the front of the church with 25 bags of black mulch. As always, many hands makes light work. Thanks to everyone who helped.



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## A Word

*May once again marks another year of my being here at St Luke's. This May 1st marks the beginning of my eighth year with you. And every time I walk through the door I still remember how it felt the first time and how "at home" I felt and I still feel that way. It has been a delight to be a part of this community and I look forward to many more years together. If all goes as anticipated, by the time I retire I will be the second longest serving rector of the parish after Mr. Cooper.*



*It's interesting to see all we've been through and to think of what's changed in that short span, but I marvel at how much so many things have remained unchanged since then, even through the pandemic. We have remained steadfast in our generosity and in our willingness to adapt. This is still about the friendliest and most welcoming church community I've ever encountered and one of the most willing to step up whenever anything needs to be done.*

*I give thanks to all who came before who began, tended, and nourished this parish from an idea 70 years ago into the community of faith it is today. This amazing parish is the result of many years of devoted love and commitment and I am so thankful that you invited me to be a part of it.*

## Lent and Holy Week

Every Friday in Lent, the two parishes took turns hosting our Fridays in Lent worship and supper. The response this year was very positive and we enjoyed strong attendance and some amazing dinners.

For Holy Week, we again alternated the evening services between the two parishes, Tenebrae and Good Friday at St Mark's and Maundy Thursday and The Vigil at St Luke's. These are very moving and impactful services as we walk with Jesus to the cross and death. If you didn't have the opportunity to participate in all of these, I encourage you to do so next year.



Maundy Thursday at St Luke's



Tenebrae at St Mark's

## **Vestry Minutes**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

5402 West Genesee Street, Camillus, NY 13031 April 22, 2024

### **Attendance**

Rector: Jon White

Wardens: Jack Young and Milt Stevenson

Vestry Members: Rich Conley, Mary Parish, Jim Shake, Jerry Wright, and Eileen Robertson

Absent: Sherry Brescia (Treasurer) and Debbie Kaszubinski (vestry)

Vestry Clerk: Alison Conley

Opening prayer

Jon began the meeting at 7:06 p.m. with a prayer.

### **Review of previous minutes**

Jerry made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2024 vestry minutes. Eileen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

### **Reports**

Treasurer- Sherry was not able to attend the meeting tonight, but she sent along the following comments about our finances.

- Our Solvay Bank investments had nearly \$9,000 in unrealized gains in the first quarter of 2024.
- Contribution revenue is right on target for year to date.
- We still have not received any rent revenue for this year.
- Our bottom line (thanks to the Solvay Bank investment gains) is a (\$4,260) deficit which is more favorable than the deficit of (\$5,900) that we had anticipated at this point in time.
- The St. Mark's receivable of \$6,500 represents two months of expenses, but we did get another check in early April, so they are relatively current on that.

Also, thanks to Jim Shake and Bob Shafer, our 2022 audit is complete and I filed the favorable report with Cathy Hobart. We will need an outside CPA audit for 2023, so we should start to do some planning on that in the next few months.

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

### **Wardens:**

Jack shared that we still need to replace a window. Jerry thinks he can replace it but wants to wait for warm weather. The door at the far end of the sanctuary won't shut so we'll also need to fix that. The drainage issue on the roof over the hallway as you approach the sanctuary needs some attention as well.

Milt reports we had a great Easter week with all of the services. He was out of town for the Easter service.

Rector:

The church insurance rep will be at St. Lukes on May 16th at 8 a.m. to do a safety inspection of the building. This is standard practice.

Jon said he feels our Lenten season went very well. The Friday night dinners were well attended. The Holy Week services were well attended, and Easter was a wonderful celebration.

The wardens have been working on the new Covenant of Shared Ministry. Our bishop is one of five candidates for Presiding Bishop. If Dede gets elected, there will be some changes in our diocese and we'd have to call a new bishop.

We need to schedule a spring cleanup in the yard. We'll put out an email to see if people can stay after church on Sunday to help out.

Jon will be on vacation from 4/29-5/3.



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## **New Business**

Payroll- We will send out Jon's paycheck electronically from the Solvay Bank account so there won't be the lag time from having it mailed by Sherry from Florida.

Spring Cleaning Day- discussed above

Sabbatical Planning- Jon is eligible to take a sabbatical this year, but he plans to take it next year instead, probably in the summer. The exact length of the sabbatical was not known offhand, but thought to last two to three months. We need to confirm what funds are in the sabbatical fund. We would need to pay for supply clergy for Sundays if we don't want to do Morning Prayer, which may run about \$150 a Sunday. We'll continue to pay Jon while he's on sabbatical. Jon has someone in mind to help during his sabbatical. Jerry said he feels we should start funding the sabbatical account now so we'll be prepared.

Updated Covenant with St. Mark's

This updated version is quite similar to the original covenant. We wanted to keep some flexibility in the covenant. We want to try to manage the partnership through meetings with the wardens. We decided that we should add a clause regarding a possible termination of the covenant, should either church want to terminate the covenant at some point. Mary asked Jon what he would suggest. Jon suggested that either church would give six months notice if they want to terminate the covenant. Jon will work on the wording for that clause with the wardens, and then they will send that addition out to the vestry for approval.

There was a discussion about what the 65/35 split will look like. Jon said he and Deb will both spend more time at St. Luke's than they did with the 50/50 split. He said the goal of St. Mark's is to move to a 50/50 split again once they improve their financial situation.

## **Old Business**

Plant Sale

The advance plant sale will take place through the end of April. The cost is \$25 per basket, Baskets will be 10 inches in diameter, with five colors to choose from. Flowers will be available for pick up at the church on Friday, 5/17 between noon and 4 p.m. or on Sunday, 5/19 after the morning service.

Parish Hall Floor Replacement-

The parish hall floor replacement will be the week of the 25th in August, with a duration of 3 - 4 days. It is expected that the furniture will be moved out after the service on the 25th and moved back before the service on the 1st of September. The moving of the appliances and cabinets in the kitchen will be the responsibility of the contractor while the community room will be done by our church members.

Fall Festival- Eileen asked if we still plan to hold a Fall Festival. Jon said yes, that he just hadn't gotten around to setting a planning meeting yet.

Adjourn- Eileen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Jim seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The next vestry meeting will be on May 20, 2024 at 6 p.m. Please note that it is the third Monday in May (rather than our usual fourth Monday) and the time has changed from 7:00 to 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Conley, Vestry Clerk

## Outreach News

Outreach collected 152 personal care items for the Samaritan Center. This spring the Junk in the Trunk sale will be on Saturday May 18. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for bakers and bake sale table helpers.

As a general fund raiser for the Church, we will be offering hanging baskets for preorder. The baskets are 10”in diameter with 4 to 5 colors (one color per pot) of geraniums. We will accept orders through April. All Payments are due no later than April 29. The baskets will be delivered to the church on Friday, May 17. Pickup dates are Friday, May 17 and Sunday May 19.

As always, if you have ideas for Outreach projects, please contact Eileen Robertson at 315-243-2579.



## Bishop DeDe

Some of you may have heard the news that our own bishop DeDe, has been nominated as one of the candidates to replace Bishop Michael Curry as the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. She is one of five candidates, the others being Nebraska Bishop J. Scott Barker, Pennsylvania Bishop Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez, Atlanta Bishop Robert Wright and Northwestern Pennsylvania Bishop Sean Rowe, who also serves as bishop provisional of the Diocese of Western New York.

They will be presented for election at the 81st General Convention, which convenes June 23-28 in Louisville, Kentucky. The nominees' names will be formally submitted June 25 during a joint session of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies. On June 26, the bishops will elect, and deputies will be asked to confirm, the church's 28th presiding bishop.



*Kudos to the Altar Guild for sprucing up the church in preparing for Easter.*



# THANKS & PRAYERS

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

Tish, Diane Synakowski, Shirley Chrisfield, Michael, Stephen, Jennifer Brady, Mary Lynch, Carol Greis, Andy, Lynn, Sue Fullerton, Joe Marshall, Mark Miller, Kristen O'Hara, Anna, Ken & Barb Guy, Carol Andrews, Audrey Kerswell, George Hoare, Nick & Mary Alice Zimmer, Carolyn Woodworth, Marilyn Farrell, Dawn Noble, Jacki, Ann Klackzo, Kathleen Hart-Zavoli, Luke, Maryjane, Sherry, Mariano, Deb True, LaShawn Dunn, Norma Bullock, Diana Toth, Roger, Justin, Jim & Kathy Fitzgerald, Bernadette, Andrew, Fr. Fritz, Andrew Lowe, Baby Emma and Justin.

*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

Congratulations to **Vladimiro Hart-Zavoli** having the winning raffle ticket for the beautiful Craftsman style lamp! Thank you to Geryl Wright for creating and donating it.

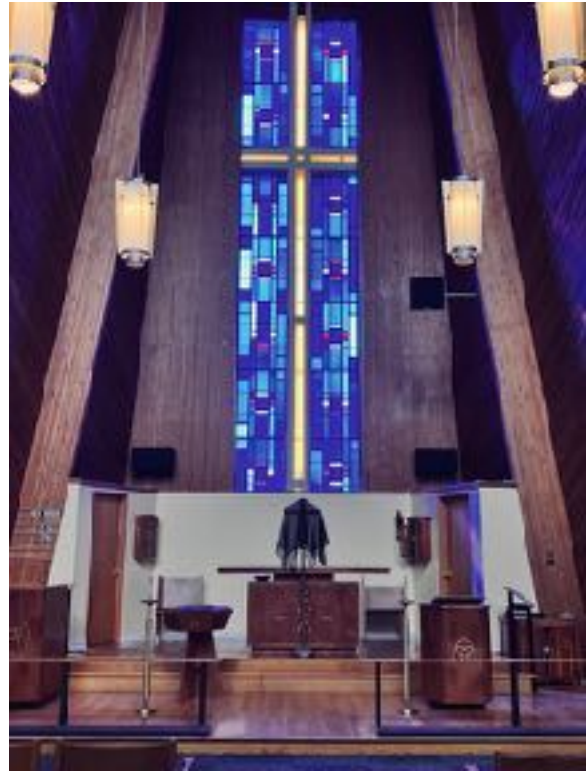
### **Website Issues**

We have been having difficulties with our parish website. Our hosting service has not been able to address these and so we are looking at finding alternatives to address it. Our website has been unchanged for a number of years and is in need of a refresh, so we will be working on and launching a refreshed site soon.

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



Altar of Repose after stripping the altar at St Luke's



Good Friday Noon Service at St Luke's

