

# WITNAL

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THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

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Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad: let the sea resound, and all that is in it: let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy... PSALM 11-12



## Warden's Report

May was a busy month for the St. Luke Wardens. We attended the requisite Safe Church Training along with about 6 other parishioners at St. Mark's. To say it was exciting and inspiring would be giving it too much credit but unfortunately, it's necessary in today's world. Unrelated to this, we led a tour of the remote corners of St. Luke's with a representative from the Church Insurance Agency who carries our building insurance through the diocese. They are auditing each of the church buildings in the diocese to point out potential risk avoidance measures. Their checklist included such things as fire extinguishers, smoke and CO<sub>2</sub> detectors, crash bars on exit doors, emergency lighting, etc. When asked about any structural issues with the building we shared our battle with the collapsing wall in the undercroft and how insurance was quick to respond that due to settling or erosion, there was no coverage. She was interested in what was done so we showed her the reconstructed wall and electrical panels. In the end she had a couple of items for discussions but nothing major. One suggestion was to consider crash bars on exit doors at the rectory; think we'll ignore that one Jon!

We met with our fellow Wardens at St. Mark's on renewing our letter of agreement of mutual ministry with Father Jon. We removed any specified duration for the agreement to be renewed but added language for how the three parties could agree to terminate the agreement with sufficient notice. This should allow our two parishes to continue to explore ways to support one another's ministries as well as find ways to work closer together. We've already reviewed one another's utility costs and found substantial savings for St. Mark's

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gas costs. Parish-wise, about 10 devoted members stayed after Sunday worship recently for a Spring cleanup. It was a great start and we're thankful for those who pitched in. For anyone who missed out, the weeds continue to grow throughout the summer so feel free to drop in anytime! Lastly, a huge thank you to Debbie Kaszubinski, Eileen Robertson, and Jerry Wright for heading up flowers, "Junk in the Trunk", and lamp raffle fundraisers. These additional money makers support the outreach and operating funds of the parish and are greatly needed.

Lastly, we've awarded a contract for replacing the tile flooring in the kitchen and parish hall with LVP (luxury vinyl plank flooring). It's a big undertaking, approximately 3,500 square feet, and North Syracuse Flooring who installed our carpet in the sanctuary, entry way and library was the lowest, qualified bidder of 3 firms who submitted proposals. The work will be done the last week of August. We'll be looking for volunteers after the service on August 25<sup>th</sup> to move items from the parish hall to the sanctuary. Similarly, we'll need assistance moving everything back once the flooring project is completed.

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## A Word...

For many people, summer is a time of transitions, kids home from school, family visiting from away, or going on vacation. It can be helpful to us sometimes to rearrange our routines in order to re-open our eyes to the possibilities which surround us.

One of the most interesting aspects of the biblical witness is to see how God always enters into human life in unexpected ways and from unlooked for places. Instead of choosing a mighty and numerous people, God chooses Abraham, and his descendants. Instead of choosing a strong and powerful warrior to lead the nation of Israel, God chooses the boy David, and instead of choosing to be born into a powerful and influential family, God chooses to be born in a stable to a most unlikely couple.

I think that we can easily lose track of God sometimes because we get so used to things being the same way that we become blinkered. God continually enters into our lives, and sometimes in new and unexpected ways, and if we don't regularly train our perspective on new things we can so easily miss it.

So take some time this summer to shift things around, to mix up your schedule, incorporate new places and maybe even some new people and see where God might be entering in, somewhere or in someone where you never expected it.



### New Website coming Soon

We have been working on our new website and anticipate it will be live early in June. We will be able to get to it using the same address but we will be with a new hosting service so that should solve some of the problems we've had recently.





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## Vestry Minutes

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

May 20, 2024

### Attendance

Rector: Jon White

Wardens: Jack Young and Milt Stevenson

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

Treasure: Sherry Brescia

Vestry Clerk: Alison Conley

### Opening prayer

Jon began the meeting at 6:03 p.m. with a prayer.

Review of previous minutes

Deb made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2024 vestry minutes. Eileen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

### Reports- verbal and written report from Sherry

We had two months worth of St. Mark's receivables come in, and they are within one month of receivables now which is good. We hadn't gotten any rental income as of April from the daycare, but we just got a \$10,000 check from Karen. We're a little low with contributions (about \$4,000). The net operating total is now \$3820 as a result instead of \$13,820 as found on the January to April statement. Jack thinks the Gas and Electric is running high. We pay \$200 every quarter for the water bill. Jack said that going back to 2020 consumption is up a little now, but the rates have gone up a bit, too. Jerry asked Sherry about where she enters the proceeds from fundraising events. She said she puts revenue from all fundraising events under Fundraising Revenue. We had the raffle for the lamp, and the Doug's Fish Fry event. The money raised from Doug's Fish Fry hasn't come in yet, per Eileen. Jerry hopes to raffle off three or four more handmade objects this year.

Jon asked if anyone had any other questions for Sherry, but no one did.

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

### Wardens:

Milt reports we had 7 or 8 people at the Safe Church Training. Those who could not attend will do an online version of the training. We also had a risk assessment done at the church with Jack and Milt present. They identified eight items. If some grant money comes in, they can prioritize needs among the parishes based on the risk assessments. Milt will summarize the findings of the risk assessment and email them to us. We've had three great fundraisers: Junk in the Trunk Sale, raffle, and the flower sale. We did a clean up day after the service last month so the church grounds are looking good.

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Eileen stated that we made \$517 at the Junk in the Trunk Sale. We did not charge someone who rented two spaces but could not use them because she was in the hospital.

We made a total profit for the church of \$442 from the flower sale. We sold 44 hanging baskets but only 9 potted geraniums.

Milt said we awarded the flooring contract to the lowest qualified bidder. He installed our carpet for us previously at the church.

**Rector:**

Jon thanked Deb and Eileen for their efforts with the Junk in the Trunk and flower sales. Our church website is not functioning well so we're going to re-do that in-house. We've had several sound issues but we seem to have solved the problems at the moment. We need more volunteers to help with the streaming of the service to help out Toby and Mary. We're talking about having a vestry meeting with both parishes, and Jon would like to do that in June (probably the third Monday). We're doing ok with attendance; it feels like there are more people in church recently. We need to come up with some convention delegates by the end of May. Jon asked if anyone wanted to be a convention delegate. Jerry asked if it will be zoom or live this year. Jerry will do it if needed, he said, so Jon said he'd take that as a volunteering! The convention will be held on Friday, October 18th and Saturday, October 19th. Jon will try to get in touch with some people this week to start planning

**New Business**

Insurance Inspection Update- covered earlier in meeting

Fundraisers Update- covered earlier in meeting

Dinner with St. Mark's- We'll hold a spaghetti dinner on June 30th at St. Mark's, where the folks from St. Mark's would make the dinner and we would bring either the salads or desserts. We'll do the picnic together again at the beginning of September as well.

**Old Business**

Plant Sale Results- covered earlier in meeting

Parish Hall Floor Replacement Update- covered earlier in meeting

Adjourn- Eileen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:27p.m. Jim seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The next vestry meeting will be in June, date to be determined after we consult St. Mark's vestry

*Respectfully submitted by Alison Conley, Vestry Clerk*

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# OUTREACH

The May 18 Junk in the Trunk sale was a big success. Despite predictions of an 80% chance of rain it turned out to be overcast with a minor sprinkle or two. We had 19 vendors sign-up and most of them came to the sale, some did not trust the weather and stayed home. We were very busy all day and believe all the vendors did well. Choosing a date that coincides with the Village of Camillus garage sale helped to entice buyers. We will choose the date of the Camillus sale as our next Junk in the Trunk date. The bake sale is always popular, and we sold many delicious items. The grand total of the bake sale and vendor payments \$517.00.



I just want to thank everyone for helping make the geranium fundraiser a success. We were able to make \$442 for the church. Hope everyone is enjoying their geraniums!  
Thanks Deb Kaszubinski

The next Outreach event will be the summer food drive geared to items that children can safely make if their school does not have a summer food program. Suggested items are: Peanut butter, jelly, fruit cups, juices, microwave ready foods, crackers, soups, and cereal. This food drive runs from June 23 through August 18.

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





## Happy Father's Day June 16



### Prayer For Protection and Peace

Oh Lord, I pray for Your protective hand over my family, friends, and neighborhood this June. As we enjoy the beauty of summer, keep us safe in our travels and activities.

Shield us from harm and steer us clear of danger. Provide a haven of peace in our homes and hearts, and let us find rest in Your presence.

In a world that can often feel tumultuous, let Your peace reign in our lives, calming anxieties and soothing worries, reminding us that we are under Your watchful care.

# THANKS & PRAYERS

## June

### 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, Luke, Maryjane, Sherry, Mariano, Deb True, LaShawn Dunn, Norma Bullock, Diana Toth, Roger, Justin, Jim & Kathy Fitzgerald, Andrew, Fr. Fritz, Baby Emma, Justin, Alex and Maddie Mitchell.

*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

- 1 Heather Woodworth
- 7 Shirley Chrisfield
- 18 Nora Kelley
- 22 Charles Vitagliano
- 24 Gerry Wright
- 30 Phyllis Schwartz

### Happy Anniversary

- 30 Rich & Alison Conley



*For our partner parish:*

## St. Mark's awarded grant for Food Pantry

St. Mark's was the recent recipient of a \$2,800 grant from the Lewis-Trinity Fund of the Central New York Community Foundation! The money will be used to purchase a freezer and refrigerator for the updated Food Pantry when it opens downstairs.

A big thank-you to Nancy Tucker for the recommendation and assistance in applying for the grant through CNYCF.

Another sincere thank-you goes out to Eric Hovater for all of his hard work getting the new Food Pantry room ready by painting the walls and floor.

More information will be coming about the progress of the Food Pantry as it develops a relationship with the Food Bank of CNY.

