



THE ANGELUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LEBANON, PA

Volume 7 No. 4

April 2017

Rector's Corner: *It is love that really wins*

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you read this, we are on the cusp of celebrating the power of the Risen Christ. But before we can enter into that joy, we must walk with Jesus through the suffering and death he endured for our sakes.



The Church bids us to enter into this experience by participating in the ceremonies and devotions of Holy Week as we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem to offer His life in an ultimate act of sacrificial love. On Good Friday, we recall his betrayal, reflect on experiences of injustice and wrong, and even how self-centered criminal conspiracies can have an impact on the innocent. Finally, as Holy Week comes to an end, we enter into the joy of hearing good news about resurrection and the promise of renewed life.

The truth is that even as we walk with Christ in through Holy Week, we do so not only in the shadow of the cross but also in the shadow of those who have been killed in Syria, of those who have been wounded and maimed among our brothers and sisters in South Sudan, especially the diocese of Kejo Keji. We recognize the mounting fear experienced by them and so many others in the world, who grow increasingly unsure of just how to move forward. As we recall the events of Holy Week we are not merely reenacting a myth or a fairy tale. It is a memory of something that is as real as any event in our lives.

This week called Holy leads us through the remembrance of suffering and death into a realization of resurrection. It invites us to discover what is real about our world is rooted in this mystery. It is way too easy to dismiss this remembrance as a naïve hope. It is easy to dismiss all this "Jesus talk" as a wonderful ideal, but as not being very realistic in the modern world. Some of us may wonder that maybe the reality is that only the strong survive, that maybe might does make right, and that maybe each of us is better off "looking out for number one." I suspect we all share those feelings once in a while, especially in light of recent events.

However, if that is the way we look at the world around us, then maybe we need to ask the question, "How's that working for ya?" We could extend that question: "How's that working for the world?" The truth is, the way of the world very often does not work out very well. It is ultimately not sustainable because in the end, it is not the way to a deep and abundant life. The hope that Holy Week and Easter gives is rooted deeply in the fact that Jesus has shown us another way — a way that is contrary to the way of the world. He has shown us that the real way to "drain the swamp" is to enter into a life rooted in unselfish, sacrificial love — the love of God and the love of the other that leads to a genuinely abundant life. That kind of sacrifice is not naïve. The Church has living proof that it works — 2000 years' worth of testimony by so many who have followed The Way of Jesus — the Way of the Cross.

Here is an example of what I mean. In the last century, George McLeod fought in the First World War. Afterward, He was ordained and went on to found the Iona Community, an ecumenical Christian community of men and women from different walks of life and different traditions in the Church that engage together, and with other people of goodwill, to act, reflect, pray and work for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. McLeod did this after concluding that the "Great War" was ultimately fought *for no good reason*. He went on to say this about the faith held by true disciples of Jesus — a faith at the center of his efforts:

I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves, on the town garbage dump, at a crossroads so cosmopolitan [multi-cultural] that they had to write his title in Hebrew, Latin and Greek. It was the kind of place where cynics talk smut, thieves curse, soldiers gamble. That's where he died. And that's where we as Christians ought to be and what we as Christians ought to be about.

When Jesus died, his closest followers feared that maybe the way of the world is much stronger than they thought: maybe only the strong really do survive—maybe only might really makes right—and maybe we really are better off if we look out for number one. If that is true, then the way of the world really has won ó and we are doomed.

But here is the truth. Three days later, something happened. Unexpected. Undreamed of. Three days later the world in which Jesusødisciples moved was forever changed. What had been turned upside-down for them only days before was once more right-side up. God raised Jesus from the dead. You could almost hear Godø thundering shout as Jesus rose up: It is love that really wins! Love is the way! Trust me! Follow me! Believe in me!

So go forth into this world and do not be afraid. Never be ashamed to be people of love ó not a sentimental sort of love but the kind of self-giving, sacrificial love that we recall in this holy season. Go forth into this world and help change it from the nightmare it often is into the real dream that God intends.

As a fellow disciple and companion along The Way, I remain yours faithfully,

David +

Senior Warden Report

As Father Zwifka recently announced at worship, our Senior Warden, Beth Yocum, has suffered some serious medical problems over the last few weeks. Even so, Bethø spirits are good and she is on the road to recovery. However, for a short time, she will be unable to fulfill her responsibilities as Senior Warden. At the March Vestry Meeting, Father Zwifka announced Bethø reappointment and continuation as Senior Warden. However, in light of her needs, Tom Buzby (reappointed Junior Warden by Vestry) will be responsible for any critical functions normally fulfilled by the Senior Warden. Likewise, members of Vestry voiced their support for Bethø recovery and for Tomø willingness to undertake these added responsibilities by agreeing to østep-upö as the need arises to carry out various responsibilities in the life of the parish.

Meanwhile, all are asked to remember and to support Beth in prayers for healing and recovery as she undertakes the rehabilitation necessary to return her to full health. We are all with you Beth. Get well soon!

Please pray for our Homebound:

Frances Arthofer, Joe Dowhower, Betty Gates, John øPeteö Gates, Doris Kern, Shirley Lowe, Grace Reich, Charles Wood, Sandy Wood, and Janet Zimnoch

Christian Formation: Re-Imagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century

by Father David Zwifka



A word picture of the results of our St. Luke's Day coffee

At our øBack to Churchö Super Coffee Hour in September, we discussed our experience of learning about God. Everyone was asked to describe from whom they first heard about God and what helped them form their faith in God. Through that exercise, we affirmed what most of us already knew: parents and families are *the*

most important influence on the social and religious lives of children, youth, and emerging adults. In other words, the home is the most basic environment for nurturing the virtue of faith, our faith practices, and the personal faith development of young people. This is what we refer to when we speak of Christian Formation.

From this experience, we took away an understanding that St. Lukeø needs to focus more on the lives of families and parents, rather than on simply offering individual activities in which people are invited to participate. In other words, instead of simply offering Sunday School, Adult Forum, or Bible Studies as stand alone opportunities, we need to engage, support, and educate families across every age group and every generation as they influence the values and faith of our people, especially our youth and young adults.

As part of our VISION 20/20, we set a goal “*to form a Christian Formation Task Group to explore new opportunities for Christian Formation with our initial priority being youth.*” We are calling this task group our Christian Formation Team. The Team continues to grow and has taken on the job of studying our parishø needs so that we can offer a variety of content, methods, and formats that will help us respond better to the many different circumstances, needs, and interests of our people.

At this point, we need to accumulate the kind of information that will guide us into the future. Before long, members of the parish will be asked to participate in a survey designed to gather the kind of information that has proven helpful to other communities as they undertook this same work. You will be asked to complete a survey either on-line or in paper format, whichever works best for you. Regardless of how you fill out the survey, it is very important that we hear from you because you and only you can help our Christian Formation Team guide the parish into the future.

P.S. If you are interested in playing a part in this important work as part of the Christian Formation Team (a limited commitment), please contact Father Zwifka as soon as possible.

Stewardship: *Easter Renewal*

The Easter season will soon be upon us. We will have made it through Lent and will soon again hear the Gospel message of new and everlasting life. One of course might expect to hear the claim that Easter is a call to renewed stewardship. In fact, it is!

Reason 39

The people of St. Luke's are a source of comfort and belonging to me. I want other people to experience this same comfort and peace.

L.D.

The mystery and miracle of the Easter message challenges us to live differently. Knowing the mystery and miracle of the Resurrection begs us to

answer the difficult question of how we will choose to live out our faith going forward. At its root, this is a question of stewardship: knowing what Christ did for us, how we share our time, abilities and gifts, our money and even our lives to serve the church, makes a difference in the lives of others and advance the Kingdom of God.

St. Luke's provides many opportunities to become better stewards. There are ministries where we can donate our time, contribute our talents and invest our treasures. May this Easter season help you to contemplate the gifts bestowed upon us by the passion, death and resurrection and to respond in kind to the call of our Lord to serve the Gospel in our community and in the world. Certainly there is some way that each of us can tangibly live out our faith just a little bit better by giving a little more of ourselves and our resources. Embrace stewardship this Easter season!

23 April 2017 6:00 PM

Celebrating the Joyous Season of Easter

Festal Evensong

Concert by

Paula Maust

Harpsichord and Soprano Voice

NOTE: INCENSE WILL BE USED AT ALL EVENSONGS

The Angelus, St. Luke's Episcopal Church
22 S. 6th St., Lebanon, PA 17042-5338
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Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 9

8:00 AM (Simple)

Holy Eucharist

Distribution of Palms — Recitation of the Passion

10:30 AM (Choral)

Holy Eucharist

Blessing, Distribution and Procession with Palms

Recitation of the Passion

No Adult Forum or Church School on Palm Sunday

Monday of Holy Week

12:05 PM Holy Eucharist

7 PM Stations of the Cross

Tuesday of Holy Week

12:05 PM Holy Eucharist

7 PM Stations of the Cross

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 12

10 AM Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing

7 PM Tenebrae

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7:00 PM

Solemn Eucharist with Washing of Feet Procession to Chapel of Repose to follow.

Good Friday, April 14

12 Noon Seven Last Words

Service concludes with Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 15

Church remains open for prayer and meditation

Easter Schedule

THE GREAT VIGIL of EASTER

Saturday, April 15, 7:45 PM

Blessing of Easter Fire

Proclamation of Easter Joy

Readings about the history of salvation

Solemn Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 16


8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Festival Choral Eucharist

Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil Sign Up Sheet

To sign up for the Prayer Vigil please go to the Auditorium and look at the area where all sign up sheets are posted.

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Vestry Counter John Gragson						1 5:00 PM-Vigil Eucharist- oRite IIIo- Reflective, contemporary- Lady Altar
2 8:00 AM-Said Eucharist-Nave 9:15 AM-Adult Forum-Lng 10:00 AM-Church School 10:30 AM-Sung Eucharist- Nave 3:00 PM-Harmonia Music Association -New Member Concert	3 6:00 PM-Growth and Development-Lng 7:30 PM-Property Meeting- Lng	4 7:30 PM-Festival Choir	5 10:00 AM-Midweek Service -Chapel 12:00 PM-Agenda Meeting 6:00PM-Soup and Salad- Embracing Discipleship-Aud. 7:30 PM-Choir	6 2:00 PM-Power Packs Distribution-FH	7	8 8:00 AM-Menø Group-FH 5:00 PM-Vigil Eucharist- oRite IIIo- Reflective, contemporary- Lady Altar
9 Palm Sunday 8:00 AM-Said Eucharist-Nave 10:30 AM-Sung Eucharist- Nave	10 12:05 PM-Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM-Station of the Cross	11 12:05 PM-Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM-ECW-FH 7:00 PM-Station of the Cross 7:30 PM-Festival Choir	12 10:00 AM-Midweek Service -Chapel 7:00 PM-Tenebre	13 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM-Solemn Eucharist with Washing of the Feet Procession to Chapel of Re- pose to follow	14 12:00 PMó Seven Last Words, Service Concludes with Stations of the Cross (about 2:30 PM) 7:00 PM-Solemn Celebration of the Lordø Passion	15 7:45 PM-The Great Vigil of Easter
16 Easter Sunday 8:00 AM-Said Eucharist-Nave 10:30 AM-Sung Eucharist- Nave , egg hunt to follow 	17 OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED 9:00 AM-Newsletter Deadline	18 7:30 PM-Festival Choir	19 10:00 AM-Midweek Service -Chapel 7:30 PM-Choir	20 FREE NOON MEAL 2:00 PM-Power Packs Distribution-FH	21	22 5:00 PM-Vigil Eucharist- oRite IIIo- Reflective, contemporary- Lady Altar
23 8:00 AM-Said Eucharist-Nave 9:15 AM-Adult Forum-Lng 10:00 AM-Church School 10:30 AM-Sung Eucharist- 6:00 PM-Fetal Evensong- Concert by Paula Maust	24 7:00 PM-Vestry-Aud	25 8:30 AM-Mail Newsletters 7:30 PM- Festival Choir	26 10:00 AM-Midweek Service -Chapel 7:30 PM-Choir	27 2:00 PM-Power Packs Distribution-FH	28 3:00 PM-Tower Roast Coffee	29 10:00 PM-Art Class and Breakfast 5:00 PM-Vigil Eucharist- oRite IIIo- Reflective, contemporary- Lady Altar
30 8:00 AM-Said Eucharist-Nave 9:15 AM-Adult Forum-Lng 10:00 AM-Church School 10:30 AM-Sung Eucharist-						

Liturgy and Life

The Great Vigil of Easter

By Father David Zwifka

A large part of the liturgical revival that began in the 1950s and resulted in the 1979 revision of the *Book of Common Prayer*, was a return to some of the practices of the early church. One of these was the reintroduction of the *catechumenate* (a period of preparation for the baptism of adults). In the early church, the time for instruction and spiritual preparation could last as long as three years! In current practice, however, it almost never extends over such a long period. In any event, the very last phase of that preparation was the intense time of the Scrutinies, celebrated on the Sundays of Lent. During this last period, the elect (candidates for baptism) would be examined as to their understanding of the faith and the manner of their life. Their ultimate goal was a joyful celebration of baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter.

It is called the Great Vigil because in ancient practice, it was an all-night affair! Beginning after sun down, the community of the faithful gathered to hear the stories surrounding the saving acts of God in history from the beginning of time in the story of creation through the promise of life given in the death and resurrection of Christ. Scripture readings, psalms, sermons, and prayers filled the time. All the while, the elect were undergoing their final preparations and were suited up for baptism. Often, baptisteries were separate structures outside the church proper, so there were processions to and from for the consecration of baptismal water and the celebration of baptism itself.

The elect were baptized by being fully immersed in baptismal pools and usually naked. As they came up out of the water, they were clothed in their baptismal robe and a garment of pure white which they wore in the assembly of the faithful until the feast of Pentecost, which concluded the Great 50 Days of their *mystagoga* or final training in the life of discipleship. (You may recall an old name for Pentecost and Whitsunday – so called since it was last day before the new Christians divested themselves of their white robes and entered the assembly as just one of the gang.) Recall our *Instructed Eucharists* and how we learned the reason for the use of *albs* (white garments) by the ministers at the altar. Albs recall these baptismal garments, which we all don on the occasion of our own baptisms.

The Great Vigil is our effort to remember how God has saved us and not only at the moment of baptism but at every moment of our lives. We tell some of the stories

APRIL COFFEE GREETERS:

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Apr. 2	Open	Rose Marie Urban
Apr. 9	Sue Kilmoyer	Bernice & Randy Schies
Apr. 16	Pam Weaner	Rich & Kathy Thrapp
Apr. 23	Open	John Gragson
Apr. 30	Open	Open

again to etch that history firmly in our minds and to remind us who we are as a saved people. *Our* celebration does not go all night long – only an hour and a half or a little more. But it is a joyous and wonderful event extending from the dramatic blessing of Easter fire, the only light in a darkened church, through the re-telling of God's mighty works, to the renewal of our own baptismal vows and the solemn Eucharist that gives thanks to Almighty God for all that God has done in history and in our time. It is a celebration not to be missed – there is none like it any time or anywhere else!

Service Cancellations

by Parish Office

If services need to be cancelled for bad weather, in addition to being posted on the website, it will be announced via these outlets:

Radio stations: WLBR – 1270 AM or WQIC – 100.1 FM

Television stations: WGAL – Channel 8=WHTM
Channel 27=WLYH – Channel 15

Hospital Admissions

by Parish Office

If you or a family member or friend has been admitted to the hospital, please call the office. DO NOT expect the hospital to inform us. Please let us know when you or someone is admitted, and tell us the room number if you know it. This is especially true for those who are admitted through emergency or over the weekend.

Candy Eggs

by Laurie Daub

Order early, order OFTEN! The last day to order candy eggs is Sunday, April 2nd, for final pick up, Weds, April 5th thru Palm Sunday, April 9th. Palm Sunday is the final day of the egg sale. Remember, these delicious eggs, freeze well!

Donations Needed

by Bernice Schies

Donations for EASTER CANDY Needed for St Luke's Annual Egg Hunt. Donations may be dropped off in the Kitchen (please mark for egg hunt) No later than Friday April 14th.

NO FLOWERS for APRIL 2—16 (Lent & Easter)

April 23 – Judy Binkley, Janet Zimnoch, Eden & Ernest Suguitan

April 30 – Stanley & Florence Asbury, Mr. & Mrs. John Gates

Cost of Flowers—\$30.00 (due to rising prices)

CANDLES for APRIL

Sanctuary Candles—Mr. & Mrs. William Sullivan

Eucharistic Candles—Mrs. Cheryl Green

Cost of candles—\$10.00

Worship and Music: *Six Chapters – Six Weeks*

There was almost total unanimity about the priority of our worship life as a fundamental aspect of our life as a parish. To help us õget on the same page,õ the parish will spend the Easter Season undertaking an exciting new venture. *Six Chapters-Six Weeks* is a parish-wide read of *Opening the Prayer Book* by Jeffrey Lee.

What is a parish-wide read? You may have heard about similar programs under the title of õone book ó one communityõ where an entire community reads the same book and comes together to discuss it in a variety of settings. Usually sponsored by libraries and other educational institutions, it is a powerful way to bring a community together on topics of interest and importance.

There is no question that our common worship is one of those topics in our community of faith.

The book, *Opening the Prayer Book*, was chosen in part because of the responses given at our St. Luke's Day event when we discussed areas of interest for Christian Formation. Many individuals showed strong interest for Liturgy and Worship, the Prayer Book, and Prayer and Spirituality. This parish-wide read hopes to touch each of these areas in a way that will be personally edifying and help us as a community to move toward our long term goal of becoming a Center of Excellence in Worship and Music.

Six Chapters-Six Weeks will include several events. First, a brief talk at a kick-off super coffee hour between services on Low Sunday, April 23rd. Then, during most of Eastertide, we encourage individuals to form discussion groups that meet either in homes or at the parish. Discussion questions are included in the book itself and a discussion guide will be provided by Father Zwifka to help get the conversation started. Just before Pentecost, on May 31st, we will gather for a pot-luck supper and a Rector's Forum to discover what we have learned and what we may want to do further enhance our experience of worship at St. Luke's.

Opening the Prayer Book is available through most on-line book services (including e-book formats) as well as The Episcopal Book Store (www.episcopalbookstore.com) and Cokesbury (www.cokesbury.com). There will be a sign-up sheet for individuals who would like the parish to order a copy for them (cost: \$15). Everyone is asked to secure a copy before the program begins on Easter Monday. Individuals wishing to host discussion groups should speak with Father Zwifka or Lisa Layser (parish administrator) to find help in sign-up activities that may be necessary.

PHILLIES BUS TRIP

by David Dowhower

A bus trip is being organized for July 8, 2017 where the Phillies go against the SD Padres at 4 PM . For more information please contact David Dowhower at 717-273-6532.

Pastoral Care Thoughts

by Soon Ballantine Slayman

Years ago, a friend approached me about working with her to create a group of people who would help give rides to parishioners unable to attend services and events at church. At the time, she was doing just that with one of our members. I knew it was an important idea but sadly I never followed through and it did not happen.

As I become more involved with Pastoral Care, I am finding that at St. Luke's there is a wonderful network of people who look out for others in many ways. Transportation is not always possible but inclusion is. My goal is to strengthen this network so that each of us looks out for friends and acquaintances we know or have known in the past of all ages and needs.

My experience is that I receive far more joy and satisfaction than I can give.

ECW News

by Eileen Sidelnick

The Episcopal Church Women will meet on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sue Dreibelbis will lead us in a Game Night followed by refreshments and a business meeting. All women of the church are invited to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!

Art Class

Instructor: Mrs. Jean Bragg

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Description: Water colour medium, all supplies covered by ticket price, as well as complimentary continental breakfast.

Price: \$20.00

Deadline: Saturday, April 22, 2017

Limited Number of Tickets ó Only 24 spots to fill, so call the office to see if there are any tickets left.



2 April 2017

3:00 PM

Harmonia Music Association

Presents

New Member Concert

St. Luke's Auditorium

Tim Erdman, Trumpet=Carolyn Erdman, Accordion

Deb Joyner, Voice=Wayne Fox, Piano

NOTE: FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Outreach: Mercy Works

When we were introduced to VISION 20/20 at the Annual Meeting, Father Zwifka indicated that the parish would begin an organizational transformation of our Outreach ministries under the banner of Mercy Works.

The choice of Mercy Works for this effort was deliberate. Depending on how you read the words, you can interpret the phrase as meaning, "The works of mercy" or as the things we do to show mercy

or because of the mercy we have shown OR we can interpret the phrase as meaning that mercy has power to accomplish great things. Of course, we want to use BOTH interpretations!! In other words, we want to communicate to others and to ourselves that when we are engaged in the things we do to show mercy or compassion for others, we are using the gifts of God to accomplish great things for those whom we serve!

But just what does the "works of mercy" to which we were referred to during the meeting mean?

The word mercy often has a negative sense to it. For example, a convicted criminal may cast himself "on the mercy of the court" or essentially beg for leniency. There is a more positive understanding though that is very important for us. The word "mercy" has an origin and a use similar to the word "compassion" or to "suffer with." In this case, it has more of the meaning contained in the phrase "to walk a mile in another's shoes." When we use the word this way, we begin to see that the motivation for our work is not to alleviate a need because we "feel sorry" for someone's plight, but rather because we understand the need from the point of view of the person's own experience. Taking care of another's need from this perspective changes how we approach our work and how we treat the person we seek to help. Also, from this perspective, we begin to realize that what we are doing is not "charity"

as popularly conceived but is actually motivated by God's view of justice in the world and becomes a dimension of our stewardship of the gifts with which we are blessed by God.

Lists of specific "works of mercy" go back to the middle ages and have since that time been the traditional responsibility of the Church. Many religious orders were founded specifically to focus on meeting of the specific needs by performing these works.

Among what are known as the "corporal" or "physical" works of mercy are: feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty= clothing the naked=giving shelter to the homeless. It almost goes without saying that these efforts seek to deal with the most basic needs of everyday life. These are among the more traditional outreach ministries. The traditional lists go on to include: visiting the sick=ransoming the captive and visiting the imprisoned=and burying the dead. In most contemporary understandings these latter needs have been addressed by "pastoral care." As such, they have often been taken care of by "the pastors" (the clergy). Seeing them as true works of mercy, however, shows us that they are not the responsibility of the clergy only but of all the members of the Christian community. This is the reason that in the re-organization called for by VISION 20/20, the arena of pastoral care rest upon the pillar we call "Outreach."

It all starts to make sense if we realize that these activities must flow from our sense of compassion. Each and every one of them begins with the recognition of the humanity of the person in need and how our own identity as a human being is affected by how we respond to those needs. In future articles, we will explore each of the works of mercy so that we all can have clear vision about how *Mercy Works* and how we may be able best to respond.

Lebanon County Christian Ministries Donations

The item from the LCCM wish list for April is Canned Meals (Beef Stew, Chili, etc.)

Easter Flowers

If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar at Easter, fill out below and return to the Parish Office. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. Please make checks payable to St. Luke's Altar Guild. The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, April 2.**

Your Name _____

Amount enclosed _____

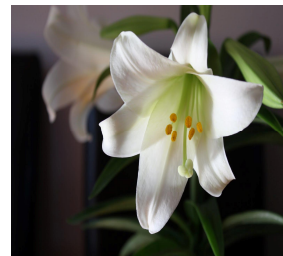
In memory of _____

or in thanksgiving for _____

Check one:

I will take the Easter flower ____.

I will leave the flower to be delivered to a homebound ____.



st. luke's church

22 South 6th Street
LEBANON, PA.
17042-5338



DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested

Some items in this issue:
APRIL 2017

Holy Week Schedule
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