

THE ANGELUS

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

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Rector's Corner: *Mission and Epiphany*

In a few days, we celebrate the conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas as much of the Christian world celebrates revelation, light, seeing. The arrival of the Magi to the house where the young child was, a celestial marvel attracting foreign scholar-priests to the obscure village of Bethlehem. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh, acknowledge this baby's royal and divine lineage with an hint of inevitable mortality. Camels, horses, foreigners, unsettling signs, wonders. The trigger which unleashes local paranoia, an attempted genocide, flight.



Here a very intentional stir in world events brings these mystical scholars to meet the infant Jesus and return to their diverse lands enlightened: God comes into the world in a manner that empowers people to recognize God in the flesh: the exotic caravan of foreign dignitaries enters the small village, and then the cosmic disturbance explodes in dreams of warning, angels, and a message compelling an escape to Egypt. Suddenly, the Son of God, his mother and their guardian flee to Egypt, not as dignitaries but as lowly refugees.



The word *epiphany* simply means *manifestation*. Epiphany reminds us that Jesus came to be light for the world. In the season that follows, we are reminded that we are sent to call the nations to that Light – to be salt and light wherever we find ourselves. The season seeks to remind us that *mission* is not a merely program of the church, but constitutes the very essence of who we are as the People of God, the Church. The Epiphany season, then, is a continuous call to us to be what we confess ourselves to be when we claim to believe in an “apostolic” church: a people sent on mission.

This task is no merely human activity. The church is missionary because we have been caught up in the Spirit into the mission of the Triune God. So, properly speaking, we shouldn't speak of the mission of the Church. Rather, we need to understand ourselves as the manifestation (the epiphany) of God's mission in the world.

Epiphany, then, is not only a time to remember the visit of the magi, but a time for us to recommit ourselves to the call of God to bring the good news of Jesus to the world around us here and now.

On the Sunday after our Annual Meeting, St. Luke's will host The Rev'd Charles Barabo. A deacon of the Diocese of Bethlehem, whose special work has been to sustain and strengthen our diocesan partnership with the Diocese of Kajo Keji. Deacon Charles will preach at Sunday services on **February 9th** and will give us a presentation at a special Super Coffee Hour between the services about the work that has been and continues in that relationship.

It is my hope that this event will “put a human face” on what is to many of us, an *idea* and will also inspire us to think more about our life together as we live out the continuing mission of God.

With you as a companion along The Way, I remain

David

Meet the Staff

On every bulletin and on our website there is a listing of the staff of St. Luke's Church. Even very small organizations require a staff to perform specific functions within the daily business of carrying out the organizations' mission. The size of the staff depends largely on the resources available and the responsibilities that need to be carried out. While every parish is different, it is not uncommon to find people carrying out key roles even as volunteers or to find senior staff members taking on "lower level" functions. Regardless of how large a staff is, the roles are filled with real people. It is important to know who these people are, so we will feature a series of articles about each of our current staff members over the next several months.

Lisa Layer, Parish Administrator



This month, *The Angelus* introduces our Parish Administrator, Lisa Layer. Lisa began at St. Luke's in 2017 to fill the vacancy left at the retirement of long time Parish Secretary/Administrator/Treasurer, Cindy Keesey. Lisa

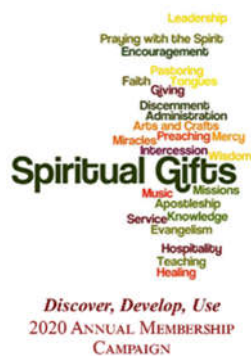
came to St. Luke's after working with our own Adam Bentz as the Administrative Assistant at the Lebanon County Historical Society. In fact, Lisa says that it was Adam who encouraged her to apply for the position at St. Luke's! Adam evidently thought it would be a good fit – and he was right.

Lisa grew up in Myerstown, where she still lives with her husband of forty-one years, Daryl, daughter Rebecca and her mother, Tessie (short for Teresina), who is going strong at age 99! She completed school in the Eastern Lebanon School District. In addition to Rebecca, Lisa and Daryl have two daughters, Victoria and Myranda, who each live in Lancaster. The Layer's take special delight in their first grandchild, Finn, who was born in July 2019. (You may have noticed all the pictures in Lisa's work area!)

Before working at the Historical Society, Lisa ran her own bakeshop business (5 years) and clerked at Smith Candies (Myerstown). Daryl currently works at the Veterans Administration Medical Center here in Lebanon. He recently retired from the Armed Forces Reserves, where he served a tour of duty in each Kosovo and Iraq. He served originally in the Navy (four years - two tours of duty in Viet Nam).

When asked about her experiences here at St. Luke's, Lisa points to the deep friendliness and willing helpfulness of the parishioners. "It's really, like a family," she said. Lisa notes that she looks

Stewardship: Laying our Spiritual Gifts at the feet of the Christ Child



The Feast of the Epiphany is a rich opportunity for the Church to reflect on how the season calls us to travel "by another way" than the culture that surrounds us. The story of the visit of the Magi to the Christ child is full with imagery of the secular culture and our holy response to that culture. The idea that foreign royalty, whether kings or their priestly

magi, have come to pay homage to this poor infant king born in a backwater town a few miles outside Jerusalem shakes up our cultural understandings of wealth and power. The message of God's approachable grace presented to the world as a gift in the form of a vulnerable child speaks volumes about God's sacrificial desire to be with us.

We should not forget that at Epiphany, gentile visitors from afar brought gifts to lay at the feet of the divine Presence. These very secular gifts (gold, frankincense, myrrh) together represent a recognition of Jesus' kingship over the world. This tells us how we can live faithfully by offering our own gifts in recognition of Jesus as king of our lives. The variety of gifts brought by the Magi suggests that we have a variety of gifts to being to Jesus for the good of the Kingdom.

Among these important gifts are the ministries that spring from our spiritual gifts, which each of us can bring to the Christ child. It is no accident that the first Sunday after Epiphany is designated for celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord – a celebration that remembers the beginning of Jesus' ministry. This links Christ's baptism and his mission with our own and gives us pause to see how our spiritual gifts can be used in service of our parish family and of those in the wider community. Additionally, the Epiphany calls us to examine how we exercise our stewardship for the outcast, those pushed to the margins of our society. It reminds us that faithful stewardship requires us to welcome all into our community of faith in light of our baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being.

So . . . during the weeks of Epiphanytide, what rich gifts do you possess that you can bring to the Christ child?

(Continued on page 3)

Liturgy and Life: Celebrating Epiphany

In western Christian tradition, January 6 is celebrated as The Feast of the Epiphany. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Latinx culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as Three Kings' Day (*el Dia de los Tres Reyes, la Fiesta de Reyes, or el Dia de los Reyes Magos; Driekoningendag*). As the Twelfth Day of Christmas, Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season. In following an old custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the Twelfth Night. This is an occasion for feasting in many places, including the baking of a special King's Cake as part of the festivities of Epiphany (a King's Cake is part of the observance of Mardi Gras in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some Central and South American countries, Epiphany, or the night before – Epiphany Eve – is the time for opening presents.

The colors of Epiphany are usually the colors of Christmas, white and gold, the colors of celebration, newness, and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year. In traditions that only observe a single day for Epiphany, the colors are often changed after Epiphany to green, until Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. The colors for Transfiguration Sunday are usually the colors of Holy Days, white and gold.

The traditional liturgical symbols of Epiphany are usually associated with the Magi. The symbols include either three crowns or a single crown, various portrayals of the Magi or Wise Men, three gifts, a five-pointed star, or a combination of a star and crown. A more modern symbol of Epiphany is a globe or a stylized portrayal of the world.

Around January 6, the symbol +C+M+B+ with two numbers before and two numbers after (for example, 20+C+M+B+20) is sometimes seen written in chalk above the doorway of Christian homes. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Three Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The beginning and ending numbers are the year, 2020 in the example above. The crosses represent Christ.

Marking the lintels of doorways is an old European practice that may have originated in the marking of the Hebrews' doorways in the story of the Passover in Egypt and is meant as a sign of seeking God's protection for the house. However, the symbols are now used throughout the world and usually represent a traditional Epiphany prayer and blessing. It is a great way to bring Church into our homes in a way that constantly reminds us of our mission to bring Christ the world.

A Blessing for the Marking of Doorways

Leader: Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

Response (All): And peace be with all who enter here.

Leader: During these days of the Christmas season, we keep this Feast of Epiphany, celebrating the manifestation of Christ to the Magi, and thereby to the whole world. Today, Christ is manifest to us! Today this home is a holy place because of the presence of Christ here.

Leader: Listen to the Gospel according to Matthew. (Matthew 2:1-12 is read).

Response (All): Thanks be to God!

Leader: O God, Lord of all that exists, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who live here. Fill each of us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Response (All): Amen.



(Continued from page 2)

forward to her work at St. Luke's, "Every day is different. No two days are alike. Sometimes it can be a challenge, but then, I like a challenge." In addition to the friendly and cooperative environment, Lisa appreciates the flexibility that is part of the job. "Especially with a mom who is 'up in years,'" she notes, "I find it reassuring that if I need to tend to her needs, I have the understanding of the staff and the parishioners."

Animal lover would not adequately describe Lisa's love for God's creatures. Cats and dogs are her passion, but then, so are squirrels!

Christian Formation!

by Mother Mary

Real People *Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe* January 25

The commemoration of these three devout women follows directly on the observance of three of Paul's male co-workers in the Lord. It is a reminder that though the first century was a patriarchal time from which we have very few women's voices, the apostles and indeed the whole early church depended on women for sustenance, protection and support.



Lydia was Paul's first European convert. She was a Gentile woman in Philippi who, like many others, was attracted to Judaism. As what the Jewish community called a "God-fearer" she was undoubtedly accorded respect by the Jewish community, but still would have been marginalized. Paul encountered her on a riverbank where she and a group of women had gathered for Sabbath prayers. Undoubtedly Paul preached his gospel of inclusiveness to them and Lydia "opened her heart" and, together with the whole household of which she was head, was baptized. Lydia was a prosperous cloth-merchant and a person of means. She was able to lodge Paul, Timothy, and other of his companions in her house, which Paul used as a local base of operations (Acts 16: 11-40). Phoebe was the apparent patroness of the Christian community in Cenchreae near Corinth. She is the first person mentioned in the long list of Paul's beloved associates in Chapter 16 of Romans. Paul refers to her as a "sister", as a "deacon" and as a "patroness" or "helper" of many. In other words, Paul includes her as part of his family in Christ and infers that she has housed and provided legal cover for the local church. Paul's use of the word "deacon" should be used with caution since the diaconate as an order had not yet developed in the church, but it does suggest the kind of ministry out of which the notion of ordained deacons developed. It would not be too much to call her a "proto-deacon". Dorcas (Tabitha in Aramaic), was a revered disciple in Joppa who devoted herself to "good works and acts of charity." When she fell ill and died, the community sent for Peter who came and after prayer, revived her (Acts 9:36-42).

Though we have no record of the words of these three women, the apostolic testimony to their faith and their importance to the mission of the early church speaks for itself.



St. Luke's Lending Library

Books on prayer and spiritual reading are available in the auditorium. Selections for children and adults are available.

If you are interested in other topics, let Mother Mary know and she will search out some resources for you.

Everyone is invited to join our Church School classes for these special topics on January 19 and 26:

January 19 - *Colors of the Church Year* - what are they and why to we use them. We will also include a presentation on the vessels, altar hangings and vestments we wear during our services.

January 26 - *Holy Baptism* - its meaning and practice in the Episcopal Church. We will also talk about many of the symbols and art work found around our sanctuary.

Children's Music Chapel

by Jason Yannuzzi

Talking From the Piano: Leading Music in Different Traditions

As many of you know, we have been exclusively using Spirituals from the Episcopal Hymnal Supplement 'Lift Every Voice and Sing' this year for the hymns being sung at the Children's Chapel. Consequently, each Sunday we are using the Spiritual that we learn during the Chapel as the second communion hymn at the 10:30 Eucharist. As we have discussed in previous articles, one of the many reasons we have chosen to use this music genre with the Children is because most of the hymns are strophic, meaning they are comprised of a series of very similar verses. This characteristic makes these hymns often able to be learned and sung without needing music.

It is with this in mind that I would like to elaborate a little on two contrasting methods of hymn leading. As I'm sure you can imagine, leading a large group of people in song is an immense undertaking. In our wonderful Anglican tradition, Terry and

(Continued on page 7)

Christian Formation 2020

Children's Classes



Sunday Mornings



9:00 - 9:15 AM - Chapel/Music at the piano in the auditorium

An *enrichment* segment during which our children will learn music which they can recognize and sing with the congregation during parish liturgies. This is offered as an addition to the regular classes. No need to sign up for this specifically, just come when you are able.

9:15 - 10:15 AM - Regular Church School



Godly Play I - pre K to 2nd grade

Godly Play II - 3rd - 5th grade

Middle School/High School

All these groups will meet in the classrooms off the auditorium in the education wing. You will note that we are dividing up the Godly Play sessions according to ages to better serve the needs of our children.

Our schedule

January 5 - NO CLASSES - instead Epiphany Party - after the 10:30 service



The children will sing and have presentations for us. Sign up to bring your own "FFFF" Favorite Festive Finger Food! This will be a joyful conclusion to our Christmas festivities.

January 12 - 9 AM Music Chapel in the auditorium 9:15 AM - Godly Play and Living the Good News Classes

January 19 and 26 - 9 AM Music Chapel in Church 9:15 am - ALL classes in church - gather in choir pews

February 2 - NO CLASSES Annual Meeting



Adult Forum (9:15 AM)

January 5, 12, 19, 26

Coming in January Pizza Party and Meeting for Middle School/High School Youth Groups



Mark your calendar - Sunday afternoon January 19 - 4 PM

Students in Middle School and High School are invited to come; parents and other interested adults are also invited.

We will be talking about starting a youth group here at St. Luke's for parishioners and their friends. Bring your thoughts and ideas. The group can meet for fun, learning, and service projects. Contact Mother Mary for more details - youth@stlukeslebanon.org or on Facebook - Mary Kisner.

Happening - a retreat experience for High School Students- Feb. 14-16

Happening is open to grades 9 – 12. You will have the opportunity to talk about God, in your daily life, with your peers, the people who will be experiencing the same event with you. Happening is truly an event designed with you and your faith in mind! No matter who you are, where you come from, or what your favorite cereal happens to be, you are welcome with open arms.

This weekend is sponsored through the Diocese of Central PA. It will be held at Camp Mt. St. Luther in Mifflinburg. See Mother Mary for more details.

Youth Retreat for 7th and 8th graders - in March

This will also be held at Camp Mt. St. Luther in Mifflinburg. Explore your faith with like-minded kids. Talk about your experiences, join in on a service project. Talk to Mother Mary if you are interested.

Parents Meeting - Sunday, January 12, 9:15 AM - auditorium

This is the first of , what I hope will be, regular meetings. Bring your coffee or drink and let's talk about what's important to you as you go about raising your children. Are there topics you'd like to discuss about the various stages of growth and development your children are going through? Possible topics might be - celebrating faith in the home, children's use of screen time (video games, programs, social media, etc.) What would you like to discuss with other parents? How can we support your efforts? How can you help one another? Grandparents and guardians are welcome, too.

Mercy Works/Pastoral Care

by Soon Slayman

Food for Thought

I am a person who does not understand abstract ideas easily. I can see the idea better when the issue is illustrated by real people with whom I interact - a case in point is the Power Packs program.

There are two families who come for groceries whom I happen to know from other activities in which I am involved. One is a Muslim family fleeing from a Mediterranean country with civil strife and the other includes a mother from a war torn South American country. Both families have been here for more than 4 years, have two sons and have a car. One wife now has part time work at a retail company sorting clothing and the husband has had sporadic employment as a forklift operator in a warehouse and other work. Three years ago he traveled to Lancaster to enroll in English classes at a higher technical level than he could get here at HACC in still unfulfilled hopes of finding IT work. The other father works as a custodian and has asked me if there is some way in which he could learn to become an electrician. In their native countries each father had a job using their higher education skills but they could not see a future for their families there. I trust and respect these people as much as anyone in my own family. I know they are too proud to take this food except that it makes a difference to their home life.

I like to think that the atmosphere that has been created at Power Packs, similar to Free Noon Meal, and Fresh Start (HOPES) is one of welcome, dignity and trust. Over and over, I write that I am the one who is fed the most by being part of these programs.

cereals, graham crackers, goldfish crackers, and bottled water are all appreciated. As you do your holiday shopping, please consider picking up some snacks for our Fresh Start guests. During the weeks we are hosting Fresh Start, our volunteers will purchase milk, juice, and fresh fruit as needed. Food donations should be marked "Fresh Start" and left in the church kitchen, while monetary donations should be sent to the parish office, with "Fresh Start" in the check's subject line. Thank you!

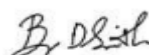
Lebanon County Christian Ministries

by Bryan Smith

As the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is behind us we can take some time to refocus on ourselves, our loved ones, and the new year ahead of us. I am always reminded this time of year of the true meaning of Christmas and how blessed I am to have shared this time with fellow Christians celebrating our God in the flesh. I am always reminded to be thankful that Mary followed the angels direction and was obedient. In Luke 1:28 Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said come true." Today, we are the benefactors of everything the angel Gabriel said.

Applying this to our lives in 2020, we are still expected to follow God's direction and be obedient to his word. LCCM is a benefactor of our community being obedient and sharing their tithes. Our mission continues to provide for those in our community who are presented with a need and provide this without judgement. We stand with our guests and walk alongside of them. Your tithe is presented to Jesus as our high priest. Our tithe is honoring God and if he leads your heart to provide financially to LCCM, we want you to know we are good stewards of your tithe and will provide those who are in need of being provided for.

God bless you all in 2020!



LCCM Wish List

- **Food Needs**—Canned Vegetables or Canned Meals
- **Personal Care Item Needs**—deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, shampoo etc.

Fresh Start

by Jennifer Hackett

Our Fresh Start (formerly HOPES) dates are fast approaching--just a few more weeks! Our online sign-up is ready to go; just go to the parish website and click on "Outreach," "Fresh Start Shelter," "Sign Up." We need evening and overnight volunteers for the entire two-week period from January 13-27. Filling all our shifts is always a challenge, but somehow our parishioners always manage to find the time to give to this worthy ministry. If you would like assistance signing up for a shift, or have any questions about the program or volunteer duties, please call Jen Hackett at 717-838-1028. In addition to volunteers, we need food and monetary donations so that we can offer an evening snack and a light breakfast to our guests. Granola bars, healthy

ECW

by Eileen Sidelnick

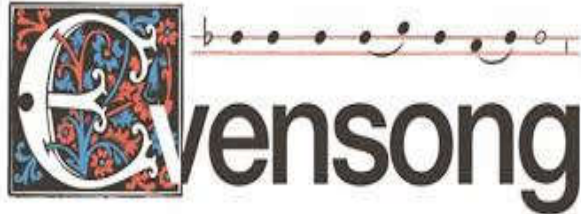
The Episcopal Church Women will meet on Sunday, January 12 at 9:30 AM. in the Auditorium. We will be making plans for the Annual Meeting Luncheon on Sunday, February 2. All women of the church are invited to attend. Please join us!

(Continued from page 4)

I have an arsenal of resources that we use in each hymn to signal the singers to begin, stay, and end together. These include things about the hymn such as our statement of the tempo (speed), and our pausing the sound at text punctuation to subliminally encourage singers to breathe. Have you ever noticed that the sound of the organ drops out during a hymn when the singer comes to a comma or period in the text? This is a method by which the musician keeps the congregation together. Another tool that we frequently use is the assortment of sounds in the organ. We have certain sounds that we are able to use at appropriate times to corral the Congregation (think of Christmas Eve when the Chemade Trumpet led 'Sing Choirs of Angels').

The music we are learning and using in the Children's Chapel comes from a very contrasting tradition, and therefore we are using some contrasting methods to lead these hymns. Perhaps the most evident difference is that we are using the piano instead of the organ for these hymns. Since the piano is in many ways a percussive instrument (it makes its sound by hitting a string), we play the pieces differently and often improvise more notes in the hymns in order to sustain the sound. While leading the singing, you may sometimes hear me speaking to the Children and to the Congregation from the piano. Although this may seem unprofessional or out of place in our formal setting, I wish for you to know that this is a very established way of leading the singing in Gospel churches. I am often feeding the words for the next verse at the very end of the existing verse so everyone is comfortable with what is coming next. Feeding the words is not always as easy as it sounds, as in this tradition, leaders often feed entire complicated verses to the choirs and do it between breaths. It very much is part of the art (I invite you to YouTube the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir singing 'My Life is in Your Hands' for an example of this). Since our Children have not yet started to learn to read music, this seems like an effective way to encourage their singing while being respectful to the genre.

As always, the entire Parish is invited to join us for the Children's Chapel which is held each Sunday morning at 9 AM before Church School. Also, we will be singing several of the Spirituals we have learned at the Epiphany Party after the 10:30 Eucharist on January 5th.



The Eve of The Epiphany Festal Evensong

5. October 2020

6:00 PM

The St. Luke's Festival Choir

7:00 PM

Organ recital by

Adam Koch

*Minister of Music, Zion Evangelical Church
Hummelstown, PA*

Please pray for our Homebound

Barbara Bross, Marion Donnachie, Joe Dowhower,
and Joan Miller

To My St. Luke's Church Family,

Words cannot express my sincere gratitude for all the love and support shown to my family and me during this sad time of Bruce's passing. Thank you for the sympathy cards and many kinds words, the funny stories that you shared, and for attending his service. All I can say is Thank You for being there when we needed you.

Fondly,
Sue Kilmoyer



A Capital Campaign for St. Luke's

In our planning document VISION 20/20, we set this goal:

By the year 2020, the parish will have completed a full, professional assessment of its buildings including condition, accessibility, needed maintenance routines, and a community based valuation.

Since then, the Vestry's Property Committee has been hard at work looking at our buildings and grounds and assessing what work may need to be done to overcome the legacy of a great deal of "deferred maintenance." In the process, we have noted not only areas that need repair and upgrading but also areas that could be improved to better support the mission and ministry of the parish.

We also established another goal:

By the year 2020, the parish will assess the feasibility of a multi-year capital campaign focused on long-range plans for physical assets and future mission and ministry needs.

During 2019, Vestry discussed what we might need to establish a capital campaign in the very near future. As a result of that discussion, Vestry empowered Father Zwifka to appoint a Steering Committee to consider the matter carefully. At the same time, Vestry engaged The Episcopal Church Foundation to provide advisory and other services to St. Luke's as we move forward with in this endeavor.

The Steering Committee has met several times since late summer and has discussed at length how best to begin this process. All are agreed that for our effort to be successful, we need to hear from as many parishioners as possible. Father Jerry Keucher (our consultant from ECF) affirmed that our success

depends on that level of participation.

To solicit your ideas about what we may need for a fitting environment to support St. Luke's mission and ministry, the Steering Committee will conduct a **survey** of the parish during the early part of **January**. Once the results of that survey have been compiled, we will use the information to help plan a **parish-wide consultation** during our **Annual Meeting** on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd**. Current plans are to use a system of facilitated discussions like the process we used in our visioning process and which resulted in our VISION 20/20. Once all this information is gathered, the Steering Committee will begin the hard work necessary to begin, with the assistance of ECF, a feasibility study to determine just what we will be able to accomplish.

Without a doubt, the success of a parish capital campaign will require prayer, a clear vision, and the support and involvement of all our parishioners.

Vestry has confidence in the work of the Episcopal Church Foundation, which has more than 25 years of experience in these campaigns. Over that time, 92% of their clients met or exceeded campaign goals. Through this process, parish leadership hopes not only to achieve a financial goal, but also to strengthen relationships and heighten a sense of common purpose among our parishioners. As we continue, we may be able to identify new leaders among us, create more opportunities for service, and focus us all on how we can better tell our story to the community in which we live.

Watch for announcements about the upcoming survey, which will be administered in church, online, and in whatever way necessary to reach the most parishioners.

