

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

Volume 11 No. 12

Do Justice. Love Mercy. Walk humbly with God

December 2021

Rector's Corner: Consider well and bear in mind

Dear Friends and Companions,

Christmas is a time for nostalgia. One of my favorite music sources is Holiday Traditions on Sirius/XM, the satellite radio service. Bing Crosby, the Percy Faith Orchestra, Perry Como, Dean Martin, Ella Fitzgerald, Steve and Edie, and on and on. They all remind me of childhood days when we could not wait for the next Christmas album, sponsored by Goodyear or Firestone to arrive at our local Western Auto store. My dad would buy the album and we'd play it (and the ones before it in the series) over and over until the grooves would no longer track the needle on our stereo phonograph (Yes, I know. There are many who may read this and wonder what in the world I am talking about. Just ask your parents.)

Anyway, just hearing those classics brings memories of family traditions, Christmas tress toppled over by the cat as my mother completed decorating, gifts, and cookies – lots of cookies. After our first Family Service And, of course, Midnight Mass.



together in 2015

These memories are always welcome and can create a comforting reverie. But those daydreams seldom recall the family tensions, arguments, or disappointments that accompanied those happy memories. As humans, we tend only to remember the good parts and try to sock the uncomfortable stuff away, out of sight and out of mind. If we are honest, though, we realize that music induced reveries are not reality. The good ol' days weren't always all that "good." Perhaps there is a lesson here for us in the difficult days of our Christmas present.

The many months of the COVID-19 pandemic have been difficult and for many, deeply painful. Most of us continue to live with anxious spirits about when all this will end – when we can get back to what we account as "normal." That time of "normal" may be what has become for us in the present, the good ol' days.

But just like our nostalgic reveries, we must remember that the old normal may not have been all that "good." Our continuing response to the challenges of the pandemic are teaching many what is genuinely important. Increasingly, studies are showing us that there has been a wholesale reassessment of just what is important in our lives. Staffing difficulties, for instance, tell us that people are no longer wanting to waste their precious energies on work that doesn't pay enough or isn't rewarding enough to make it worthwhile. We, in turn, get frustrated because of long lines, long waits, and the need to ask ourselves, is our instant gratification really worth it?

Many of those "Christmas Classics" on the music services were written in times of great challenge – the unemployment and pain caused by the Great Depression of the 1930s – the shortages and rationing occasioned by the war effort in the 40s. Irving Berlin wrote the wistful lyrics and yearning melody of "White Christmas" (1941) to give soldiers a reminder of what awaited them on their return home. Of course, as the years ensued, so many did not return.

So, maybe we need to recognize that these are the good ol' days of a future generation. Just how we gather and celebrate the deeper meanings of Christmas can provide the "comfort and joy" we so eagerly desire. We can learn to live "in the moment" by recognizing just what we have and how fortunate we really are. Remembering the past does no good if we cannot learn from it. It is even less helpful is all we want is to return to it. Let's make this Christmas one to remember – forget the flash and get to the real core of what Christmas – and we – are about. Take guidance from the opening verse of the Wessex Carol:

> Good people all, this Christmas time Consider well and bear in mind What our good God for us has done In sending his beloved son

If we join our hearts and minds in this endeavor, we will remember this Christmas as fondly as any that has gone before. With you as a companion on The Way, I wish you, "Merry Christmas!"



Senior Warden Report

by Beth Yocum

and home celebrations to match the feasts and Holy Days observed by the Church.

Coming together...we just came of our Bazaar in November and I want to thank all the people that came together to organize the booths, those who set up for the Bazaar, workers who were at the booths, and those who cleaned up afterwards. But we cannot just remember the parish members from church who helped out but we must also remember the community of Lebanon. People **Stewardship: GOD IS FAITHFUL! AT** came out to the Bazaar after last year when we did it on the website due to COVID. I think everyone was happy to see the people of Lebanon in person. It was a wonderful site. Leading As the year-end approaches, some of you may be interested in into the Bazaar we were not sure who would show up BUT they

A lot has happened in the last two years here at St. Luke's. After a time in isolation is it time to get out and associate with all of Lebanon. We have entered a **NEW beginning** with this awaking of that fellowship with God and the blessing of His child. We are looking to the church aside of us who has become a sanctuary for the homeless of Lebanon, POWER PAKS, helping out at rollover gift will not be included in various events, AND coming back to church and helping within in the church on committees, Vestry, bible studies, Prayer Circle, and many other involvements. BUT... remember to READ tion. the bulletin, CHECK out the website, READ your emails, and Outright Gift of an Asset. If you wish with these blessings!

Christmas Stockings

ECW is delivering Christmas Stockings on December 7 to be distributed among the nursing homes in Lebanon and outside our area. THANK YOU to all who donated supplies for the One Last Reminder. If you need to submit an outstanding contristockings.

BAZAAR THEME BASKETS

The following were winners in the Theme Basket at the Bazaar.

Money Tree Matt Haag Robesonia Redware Jane Yocum William Leinbach Runners Anita Eby Blanket by Nancy Proctor Jane Wary Dine OUT or IN Gerry Morrissey Spruce Up Your Kitchen Pat Garrett Rub a Dub Tub Sharon Zechman Children Animal Quilt Kim Hvde Children Animal Quilt Pam Weaner Holiday Cheer Betty Stager Chocolates Galore Linda Arguedas Annette Leiby Christmas Wrappers

VESTRY

I will be contacting individuals who have expressed an interest in We are in Advent and we want to focus on celebrating the com- serving on Vestry to verify that you will accept nominations at the ing of Jesus Christ. The awaking of that fellowship with God Annual Meeting. Several individuals have expressed interest but and the blessing of His child. This season symbolizes a journey were still undecided. We will need to know for sure sometime this for us, as individuals, as we affirm Christ has come and he is month so we can prepare for the meeting. We do really need your present in our daily life. Many families share traditions like an help! Because of the pandemic, Vestry members whose terms Advent/Christmas letter, a Christmas tree, the Advent wreath, were to expire at the last Annual Meeting were asked to continue serving. As a result we have more slots than usual to fill—as many as 8! Currently, we are meeting by ZOOM with a plan to meet in person once every quarter. If you haven't already been contacted and will consider service on Vestry or as a delegate to Convention (October 2022), please contact Beth or Father David as soon as possible.

YEAR'S END ... AND ALWAYS

ways you can make tax-advantaged donations to Saint Luke's. Here are some ideas. We encourage you to work with a financial planner or lawyer to make any transfers using these techniques.

IRA Charitable Rollover. Congress made permanent the law that allows people age 70½ or older who own an IRA to make cash gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is

the best tax-wise way to give. An IRA your taxable income and will qualify for your required minimum distribu-



TALK to others to see where you can participate. LISTEN to to make a gift to support our cause this year but are concerned the sermon in person or on the website and those around you! about preserving your cash resources, consider a gift of an appreci-Let us combine during this season to celebrate our thanksgiving ated asset. A gift of securities, business interests or real estate can for God's blessings. READ, LISTEN, TALK, and WALK provide you with significant income and capital gains tax savings, often exceeding the benefits of a cash gift.

> Zero-Tax Gift and Sale. If you are planning to sell an asset like securities, real estate or a business, before you sell, consider a "zero-tax" charitable gift and sale. By making a gift of part of the asset before the sale, you can use a tax-saving charitable deduction to significantly lower or eliminate the capital gains tax on the sale.

> bution against your 2021 pledge, (or you wish to employ any of the above strategies), we must receive it no later than THURS-DAY, December 30th to be counted as a contribution of the current year. And if you still need to submit your PLEDGE commitment for 2022, please send it in as soon as you can. You can make your 2022 commitment online at https:// www.journeyinfaithstlukeslebanon.org/share-stewardship.html.

> For more information on any of these strategies or to finalize your 2021 pledge share, please call or contact the parish office (717) 272-8251, Father Zwifka (rector@stlukeslebanon.org) or Rob Box, our Treasurer (<u>treasurer@stlukeslebanon.org</u>).

Contributions Note

by Rob Box

Any contributions that you want included on your 2021 Donation Statement for income tax purposes should be in the Parish Office by Thursday, December 30 to be recorded in a timely manner.

Offering Envelopes

by Parish Office

Offering envelopes have been ordered and will be available for pick up in mid January. Look to future publications for updates.

History Notes: St. Luke's Fourth Rector: John Mitchel Page—Part 2



by Terry Heisey

That John Mitchell Page should have impressed the people and Vestry of St. Luke's enough in a few weeks of supply preaching to win approval as permanent rector shows that he was no ordinary man or priest. Remember, he was less than a year out of strings and organ. seminary with no experience as a parish rector. Looking back after his death, long-time Rector's [Senior] Warden T. T. Lineaweaver mused that he was "merely a boy, when he came to Lebanon, twenty-eight years old, but he seemed much older to me. He undertook a difficult work and did it well." The glory days of Robert H. and Sue Ellen H. Coleman with their unlimited funds and boundless commitment to the church were over, but St. Luke's was still an outstanding parish. At Page's installation as priest the vested choir of men and boys numbered 52 singers, and other parish organizations, equally flourishing, required strong parish leadership. Services of worship drew strong congregations on feast and fast days, even weekdays, and Sunday morning and evening. Unfortunately, we know little about Page's call to the ministry or who may have influenced him beyond his saintly mother, but he came with a depth of spirituality that belied his age, and from his close association with Fr. Abel in parish work in Lebanon we can be sure that he took advantage of this predecessor's experience and wisdom.

and most companionable, liberal in his views and practical. He in his new position. took his office seriously, a little reserved perhaps. Not hail fellow, well met, and not one to invite familiarity, but nevertheless very jovial and one whom his parishioners and friends were always delighted to see." "His gentle nature and quiet dignity was, by those who judged superficially sometimes, mistaken for lack of firmness, but when aroused in a righteous cause he displayed just such aggressiveness as would be expected of the Grandson of the noted Irish Agitator John Mitchel." "Mr. Page loved association with men, and many will recall his delightful hospitality at the Rectory." He conducted services regularly at had a leadership role at Good Samaritan Hospital, and he took Home at Jonestown.

From 1903 to 1910 Fr. Page was assisted in ministry by his mother, Mary Mitchel Page, who moved from New York to live with her son in the Rectory. Mary's grandfather had been a Congregationalist minister in Ulster (Northern Ireland), and once in Lebanon she devoted herself to the church and the city, serving as head of the Altar Guild, teacher in the Sunday School, "mother" for the choir boys, and active member of St. Katherine's Guild, the senior Woman's Auxiliary, and the Woman's Club of Lebanon. She was, according to the Lebanon Daily News a "woman of culture and refinement, having unusual intellectual attainments. Her personality was most charming and her kindly character endeared her to many friends in the parish and city." She died in the Rectory on April 26, 1910, after a long illness during which she was visited by her nephew, John Purroy Mitchel, soon afterward Mayor of New York.



Music Notes: A Bach Cantata for Advent

by Terry Heisey



On Sunday, Dec. 5, the St. Luke's Festival Choir will present J. S. Bach's Cantata Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Now come, Savior of the heathens) in an Adventvesper service evoking the service in which it was originally sung. This is the first time we have done this since 2014. We will perform it, as Bach did, with

Johann Sebastian Bach composed the cantata in Weimar for the first Sunday in Advent, the Sunday which begins the liturgical year, and first performed it on December 2, 1714. Bach was born in 1685 in Eisenach, capital of the small Duchy of Saxe-Eisenach, and had his first job following school in the Court of the neighboring Duchy of Saxe-Weimar. After several organist positions Bach returned to Weimar in 1708 as court organist and director of the ducal orchestra. On March 2, 1714, he was promoted to the rank of Konzertmeister with responsibility for composing new works, specifically cantatas for the Schlosskirche (palace church) on a monthly schedule. The exact chronological order of Bach's Weimar cantatas remains uncertain, but we can precisely date the first rendition of this work because Bach marked his original manuscript "am ersten Advent" (on first Advent), which was Dec. 2 that year. The First Sunday in Advent was considered a feast, unlike the rest of Advent, which was a fast time without cantata music. Later, when Bach assumed his lifetime position as *Thomaskantor*, director of music of St. Thomas Church and the other main churches of Lineaweaver remembered Page as "the ideal Parish Priest, spir- Leipzig, he showed his continued regard for this cantata by peritual, dignified, sympathetic and kindly, a cultured gentleman forming it on November 28, 1723, to begin the first liturgical year

> Bach scored the cantata for choir, three soloists (soprano, tenor, and bass), and instrumental ensemble of 2 violins, 2 violas, and basso continuo (cello, bassoon, and keyboard). The cantata text, from a collection titled Geistliche Poesien by Erdmann Neumeister, published in 1714, combines stanzas from several well-known Lutheran hymns with freely composed commentary and Biblical quotations.

The cantata begins with a fantasy on the first verse of "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," the main hymn for Advent, which Martin Trinity Chapel and Colebrook village and during the summer Luther had derived from the Latin Veni redemptor gentium. To held outdoor services at Mt. Gretna. As St. Luke's Rector he signify the opening of the church year Bach wrote this first movement in the style of a French overture (slow—fast—slow), such as that seriously. He was also Chaplain of the City Fire Department would open an opera. The first 2 lines of the chorale are combined and at the Lebanon County Jail and Warden of the Church in the first slow section, line 3 is a fast fugato, and line 4 is sung in the final slow section. The second movement is a recitative for tenor, "Der Heiland ist gekommen" (The Saviour has come), that "fleshes out" the incarnation of Christ. The third movement is a tenor aria, "Komm, Jesu, komm zu deiner Kirche" (Come, Jesus, come to your Church), written in the rhythm of a gigue. The combination of voice, unison strings and continuo gives it the texture of a trio sonata. The text asks God's blessing on pulpit and altar in the new (church) year. The fourth movement for bass soloist uses persistently "knocking" pizzicato strings to graphically present the voice of Christ in Revelation 3:20, "Siehe, ich stehe vor der Tür und klopfe an" (See, I stand before the door and knock. If anyone hearkens to my voice and opens the door, I will come in and have (Holy) Communion with him). The fifth movement responds to the invitation with an intimate prayer given to the soprano as representative of the Christian soul (the bride of Christ), "Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze" (Open, my whole heart to Jesus). The last movement ends the cantata as it began, with a fantasy on a verse of a familiar Lutheran hymn, in this case the final verse of "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern": "Amen, amen! Komm, du schöne Freudenkrone" (Amen, amen! Come, you fair crown of joy, and tarry no longer). It ends with the violin ascending 3 octaves to the starry heights (morning star) of heavenly bliss.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

by Mother Mary Kisner

Real People:

St. Nicholas of Myra

December 6

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Asia Minor, on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was



still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith and was exiled and imprisoned. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church. People who visited his grave claimed that they received healing. This fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6.

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. Without a dowry, these women were unlikely to marry, and might instead be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home-providing the needed dowries. Tossed through an open window, the bags are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

Through the centuries St. Nicholas has continued to be venerated by Christians everywhere. By his example of generosity to those in need, especially children, St. Nicholas continues to be a model for the compassionate life.

For more stories about St. Nicholas see www.stnicholascenter.org

ADVENT - A New Season of Stories Begins for Godly Play

The new Church Year has just begun with the First Sunday of Advent, so our stories this month prepare us for the birth of Jesus and the whole Mystery of Christmas. We will have four sto-



ries to prepare us for this great Feast Day, and more to help us understand what the birth of Jesus means for us.

You can find these and many other family resources on the St. Luke website or "Friend" us on Facebook at St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Lebanon, PA.



ZOOM Feast will be held again on Sunday, December 12 at 9 am.

Once again we will hold a ZOOM Feast which is open to all our children and their families. We start the meeting by lighting a candle which reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World, then we have a brief check-in from

everyone. We then take turns praying, out loud or in our hearts. Then we set out our napkins, drink, and a small treat and eat it together.

Before each Feast, families (who have joined us in the past) will be contacted by email so they can reply and let us know if you can join us. Others who want to join in will need to let Mother Mary know by calling the parish office or by emailing her youth@stlukeslebanon.org We must have an email address for you, so Mother Mary can send out the link for our Zoom Feast. Then

Mary can send out the link for our Zoom Feast. Then, on the Friday before, one of our teachers will personally deliver a Feast Package that will contain the items each child will need to participate in our Zoom Feast.

Special Note from Mother Mary - I am

hoping and praying that sometime in February or March we might be able to open our classrooms again for Church School on Sunday mornings. Since a COVID vaccine has become available locally for children from the age of 5 on up, I look forward to being able to offer a healthy environment in which to gather again. I will be contacting parents to discuss this possibility soon to get your thoughts on this.

As always, if you wish to contact me regarding this or any other matter, please contact me via email youth@stlukeslebanon.org or leave a message through the parish office, and I will return your call.

Christian Formation Website

www.journeyinfaith-stlukeslebanon.org

We continue to post new resources and information for our spiritual growth on our website, dedicated to Christian formation. Especially helpful is the page For Children and their Parents. There are also resources For Adults: access links to podcasts weekly bible study and more!

Bible Study

10 AM Thursdays in our ZOOM room at https://zoom.us/j/190727051

Find the readings for each Sunday at http://www.journeyinfaith-stlukeslebanon.org/lectionary-texts-for-this-sunday.html

International Human Rights Day— December 10

by Parish Office

The purpose of International Human Rights Day is to promote, celebrate, and observe the basic rights all humans are endowed with upon their birth, with no distinction to gender, ethnicity, nationality, language, culture, or religion. The first time this day was observed was in 1948 when the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The General Assembly passed resolution 423 (V) two years later in 1950 and extended an invitation to all States and interested organizations to adopt Human Rights Day on December 10. Even though the Declaration of Human Rights was just that, a declaration, it inspired over 60 human rights instruments backed by the law to be crafted within the world.

Three of the United States presidents believed strongly in this and it can be seen through their actions: President Truman issued Presidential Proclamation 2866 for this holiday on December 10, 1949; President Eisenhower issued the first Presidential Proclamation for Human Rights Week (December 10 to December 17) in November of 1958; and President George W. Bush issued a Presidential Proclamation making Human Rights Day the beginning of Human Rights Week on December 10, 2008.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is considered a milestone in the history of human rights. It was drafted by a diverse group of individuals all with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all around the world. The declaration is fundamental to the universal human rights of all. It has been translated into over 500 languages and has inspired and paved the way for the adoption of over 70 human rights treaties on a permanent basis both globally and regionally. The illustrated version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) can be found at the following link https://www.un.org/en/udhrbook/#14 (United Nations).

Some interesting facts about Human Rights that you may not know (taken directly off of the holiday calendar webpage about International Human Rights Day.

- The United Nations declared that Internet access is a basic human right in 2011.
- Over 120-million children have never had the chance to go to school or were forced to leave school.
- In 2015, the death penalty in four countries was abolished.
- There are over 300,000+ child soldiers fighting in wars and armed conflicts all over the world.
- Approximately 82% of all countries tortured or treated people badly.
- At least 18-countries around the world committed war crimes in 2018.
- Approximately 28 countries have laws that ban abortion, even in cases of rape or when the woman's health or life is in danger.
- Almost 80 countries in the world have laws used to criminalize consensual sex between adults of the same

sex.

- About 75% of all governments in the world restricted freedom of expression including freedom of the press.
- In 1946, human rights organizations such as the Commission of Human Rights, and the International Criminal Court were established.
- The United Nations General Assembly established the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights in 1993.
- According to a report issued by the International Labor Organization in 2019, over 150+ million children in the world are working in labor. 70% of those jobs are in agriculture.

After reading the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) please take a moment and appreciate all the rights you have at this time and think about those whose rights are still being taken away in this country and in other countries even today. Do you see anyone's rights being abused or denied? If so, what small part can you play in giving them back their most basic rights as a human and as a child under God?

December is the month of gifts and one of the most desired gifts is for peace on Earth. Peace on Earth starts with recognizing that each human is a gift and deserves respect, mercy, generosity, happiness, life, equality, fairness, and love. Help bring the gift of Peace on Earth by doing small acts to ensure all are given their human rights as you have yours.



Altar Flowers and Candles

by Parish Office

The altar flowers and candles that beautify our worship every Sunday are given to the glory of God by St. Luke's parishioners. You may give flowers in memory or honor of loved ones on a Sunday of your choice, with an acknowledgment printed in the weekly announcements. (Flower donation is unavailable during the season of Lent, and Palm Sunday.) To give all parishioners the opportunity to choose dates that are meaningful for them, multiple acknowledgments may appear in the bulletins on any given Sunday.

Each year there is a new sign-up sheet to sponsor flowers and candles. Your name will not automatically be carried over to the next year, you must contact the Parish Office every year to be added to the list. To sign up for altar flowers or candles please contact Lisa at the Parish Office, 717.272.8251 or admin@stlukeslebanon.org

The suggested donation for flowers is \$35 per Sunday and candles is \$20 for one month.

Feed the hungry Give drink to the thirst Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeles Visit the sick Visit the impris Grieve the dead

Outreach Ministries at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Fresh Start

by Jen Hackett

Nine years ago St. Luke's partnered with Lebanon County Christian Ministries and other area churches to launch the HOPES (Helping Others by Providing Emergency Shelter) project. Later renamed "Fresh Start," this program has provided help to hundreds of our neighbors over the years. In addition to offering a warm, safe place to sleep in our churches, Fresh Start helps with job applications, provides laundry and shower facilities, and gives people a leg up in regaining their independence.

Hosting Fresh Start at St. Luke's has been a life-changing experience for many of us. Scripture is full of directives to care for the poor, the homeless, the immigrant, the stranger. In our daily lives, we may not often get the opportunity to fulfill this ministry. Fresh Start has given us this opportunity. The act of opening the doors of our church has allowed us to get to know both our community members and our fellow parishioners in a powerfully intimate way.

That said, it has long been a dream of many of us to have a permanent shelter site. Our church building, while beautiful and beloved, is not ideal for hosting large groups overnight--the restroom challenges alone are substantial. It is hard for the guests, especially the children, to move to a new shelter location every couple of weeks. (If you've ever gone on vacation with children or hosted a sleepover, you know how difficult it is to get kids to sleep in a new place.) COVID further complicated the hosting issues, and for the past twenty months the guests have been put up in hotels at great expense and inconvenience.

Lebanon County Christian Ministries

by Bryan Smith, Executive Director, LCCM



Our Mission

Lebanon County Christian Ministries shares the love of Jesus by emergency providing food, toward personal sustainability.

LCCM WISH LIS T

- Food Needs-Canned Pasta, Canned Meats, Soups-Chicken Noodle, Tomato, and Vegetable, Instant Hot Cereal, Applesauce, Canned Sliced Potatoes
- Personal Care Item Needs—deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, shampoo, toothbrushes, combs/brushes, tissues, etc.
- Specific Needs—Sneakers (men's, women's, boys, and girls, all sizes); Men's Boxers (small, medium, and large); Men's Briefs (Size 2x and 3x only) Bras (Size 32, 34, 36, and 38); Infant and Toddler Socks (Size 0 to 4T); Women's Socks (Size 9 to 11 only); No Men's or Women's Sock Except those Requested Above; Girls' Pants (sizes 2 and 4); Boys' Winter Shirts (Size 5 and larger); Women's Sweatpants (sizes small, T Your help will be greatly appreciated in greening the large, XL, 2X and 3X); Women's Sweatshirts (sizes 2X and 7 church on Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 PM. This is a 3X); Women's Winter Pajamas (sizes 2X and 3X); Men's regreat way for you to help prepare the church for the sweatpants and Sweatshirts (sizes 2X and 3X); Men's T- Christmas services, we could use some extra help! Call a Shirts (sizes small, 2X and 3X); Men's Shorts (Size 2x and Brian or Sharon Weaver with any questions. Their number 3x); and Blankets (sizes full, queen, and king) (Note: at this time there is an overwhelming supply of winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves).

Please pray for our Homebound

Barbara Bross, Joe Dowhower, and Joan Miller

Harding News

by Katherine Hoopes

This year we have not distributed Power Packs to Harding School. This is not St. Lukes' decision. It is Harding's because they do not have the staff (paid or volunteer) to oversee the program for their building.

In 2016, St. Lukes played a vital part in making Harding the pilot school for Power Packs in Lebanon County. While we do not distribute, we continue to support this program. Every other Tuesday, St. Lukes' volunteers gather at the Power Packs Warehouse to pack 200-250 food boxes for Lebanon County's participating schools. We recently learned that qualifying Harding families can electronically do the necessary paper work and arrange to get food at a convenient site.

Through Kid Link, a conversation with Harding School's nurse made us award of the need for winter coats and underclothing. These items were recently purchased from money given to St. Lukes' Power Packs Fund. Over the past five years, this money has accumulated from our generous congregation. Because there is not a present

need for food, it seemed that children's clothing is a wise alternative.

Thank you for making this possible!

The Angel Tree

by Sue Kilmoyer

The ANGEL TREE has returned! It is located in clothing, shelter, and guidance the Sanctuary. This program provides Christmas gifts for students who attend Harding Elementary



School. If you would like to provide a gift, please take a name tag from the Tree. Green tags are for a toy gift and red tags are for a clothing gift. Be sure to sign your name on the appropriate clipboard after the child's name. All gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, December 12.

Since the number of children is less this year, please only take one tag so that more people have the opportunity to participate.

Greening of the Church

by Sharon Weaver

is 717.273.3224.



Virtual Death Café

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hosted by the Aging Inspired Advance Care Planning Coalition of Lebanon County

Join us for an open, constructive and life-affirming conversation about death and end-of-life thoughts and concerns in a comfortable, accessible, friendly and non-judgmental environment.

A Death Café is a group-directed conversation in which people, often strangers, gather to talk about the topic of death. There is no set agenda, objective or theme. Death Cafes are FREE, open and respectful of people of all communities and belief systems.

Please register at https://www.wellspan.org/events/details/Death-Cafe-for-Aging-Inspired-Advance-Care-Planning-Coalition---Virtual/3562. A Zoom link will be sent after registration is completed. Questions? Roberta Geidner at 717-812-6065 or Eve Gardner at 717-812-2989.



The Aging Inspired ACP Coalition promotes the conversation and completion of documents needed for Advance Care Planning at all ages. Advance Care Planning provides a way to communicate your wishes for end-of-life treatment based on your goals and values.



an Adventvesper service

J. S. Bach's Cantata Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

St. Luke's Festival Choir with string and organ accompaniment

December 5, 2021 6 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church 22 South 6th Street (corner of Chestnut St.) Lebanon, PA 17042

ECW News

by Rose Brown

Women of St. Luke's you are cordially invited to our third in-house meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, December



14th at 6:30 PM. The theme will be a 'We Need A Little Christmas', there will be singers and a covered dish. Come and join us for a night of fun and Christmas joy. This meeting will be conducted a little differently, we will have our business portion first starting at 6:30 PM, followed by our program at 7:00 PM and then everyone who wants can join in the covered dish dinner at 7:30 PM.

Note: All necessary precautions associated with the continuing pandemic are being taken, so please do not let fear keep you away from an enjoyable evening with friends and family.

Bazaar Thanks

by Rose Brown

To all those who participated in the hybrid bazaar's coming together and fulfillment, a great big thank you for all you have done. These things include, donating your time, your talents, your purchases, and your support. A special thank you to the parish office staff for their hard work and dedication to making the hybrid bazaar a possibility.

Sweet Shoppe

by Eileen Sidelnick

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the Bazaar Sweet Shoppe Booth, especially our bakers, candy makers and volunteers who helped to price, package and sell our goods. And thank you to our parishioners, friends and family who came out and supported our booth. Many thanks to all.

Grace's Gems

by Rose Brown

Thank you to all who donated their jewelry treasures, they have been loved by you and now are being loved by new owners

Wiley's Café

by Wiley Parker

Thanks to everyone who made Wiley's Cafe a success this year: Laurie Daub, whose Italian Wedding Soup always beats my soups for pre-order; Pam Weaner & her cousin, Amy; as well as Saturday volunteers, Maggie Gross & Brian Weaver. I approached this year's format with a bit of anxiety, but with great workers & a spirit of willingness to give it our best shot, we were able to make our contribution to a successful Bazaar. Wiley

Extraordinary Crafts

by Laurie Daub

Thank you to all those St. Luke's crafting friends who, once again, had the finest hand made offerings in all of Lebanon county right in our own auditorium! Well done! Our booth is always spectacular, and the quality of our crafts is admired by many. Thank you to the Wednesday helpers, and also to those who crafted at home and donated to our bazaar! Your work is much appreciated!



Sean & Jennifer Hackett December 18
Bryan & Zina Rittle December 19
Bryan & Jennifer Houser December 28
James & Karen Allen December 31

The Christmas Season at St. Luke's

(So that all can begin to make their holiday plans, St. Luke's will *tentatively* observe the following schedule)

The Fourth Sunday in Advent (Sunday, December 19th)

- The usual Sunday Schedule
- Blue Christmas—6:00 PM

Christmas Eve (Friday, December 24th)

- 5:00 PM Family Service (Webcast live on YouTube)
- 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Eucharist (Webcast live on YouTube)
- 11:00 PM "Midnight Mass" (Webcast live on YouTube)

Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25th)

• 10:00 AM Mass During the Day

First Sunday of Christmas

8:00 AM The Holy Eucharist
 10:30 AM Service of Lessons and Carols (Webcast live on YouTube)

We stress that this schedule is tentative and will be adjusted as necessary because of circumstances.





To Our Parishioners

Youth

Conner Box December 09
Dominick Cook December 23
Olivia Sidelnick December 30

Adults

111111111	
Rodney Kalbach	December 01
Robert Nemcheck	December 01
Rosemary Dowhower	December 04
Matt Haag	December 08
James Keller	December 09
Carlos Centeno	December 11
Brent Sullivan	December 11
David Zwifka	December 11
Steve Harris	December 13
Ed Henry	December 13
Dan Massad	December 13
Alycia Koerner	December 14
Elizabeth Baker	December 15
Michael Bross	December 15
Shirley Baum	December 16
Catherine Claxton	December 16
Daniel Harpel	December 18
Jeremy Weaver	December 18
Jennifer Houser	December 20
David Curtier Jr.	December 21
Jaylianne Ortiz-Lillo	December 21
Barry Wenger	December 23
Carol McDonald	December 26
Lauralee Gebhard	December 27
Marivel Gonzalez	December 29
Wendy Kalbach	December 30
Kyle Lesher	December 31
Gabriel Weaver	December 31

Note from Parish Office: If you do not find the name of a individual listed above in the directory that just means they prefer to keep this information confidential. Out of respect for their wishes, St. Luke's will not divulge their

