

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

Volume 13 No. 11

Do Justice. Love Mercy. Walk humbly with God

November 2023

Rector's Corner: Hospitality—To Give Thanks, Imitate God's Boundless Love *by Father David Zwifka*



Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Eucharistein — a Greek word that means simply "to give thanks." It is the obvious root for the word that is at the center of our worship practice — the Holy Eucharist. We might call it by another name — the Sacred Thanksgiving.

Suddenly, this season of Thanksgiving takes on a different perspective. It becomes less about the big meal we share on the fourth Thursday of November and a bit more about the habit of life that our weekly worship teaches — that "all things come of Thee, O God and of Thine own have we given Thee." In the spirit of the holiday, we, as a society, are reminded of the profound connection that exists between an occasion like Thanksgiving, an attitude of gratitude, and the values of Christian hospitality.

Thanksgiving, as a day on the calendar, is an opportunity for us to come together in fellowship and gratitude. It is a time when we pause to acknowledge the blessings, both seen and unseen, that grace our lives daily. But beyond this single day, Thanksgiving embodies a way of living, a perspective that sees every moment as an opportunity for gratitude. Each breath we take, every sunrise that graces the sky, and every smile shared is a reason to be thankful.

Gratitude is not merely a feeling; it is a way of life but a way to acknowledge God's presence in our lives and recognize the love that surrounds us. When we practice gratitude, we open our hearts to the beauty of life's tapestry, woven with threads of joy, sorrow, hope, and love. In cultivating gratitude, we discover the richness of our existence and the depth of our connections with one another.

Christian hospitality, a core value of our faith, amplifies our sense of gratitude. It is more than merely warmly welcoming others; it expresses love, kindness, and acceptance. Just as our Lord welcomed all, regardless of their background or circumstance, we too are called to open our arms wide. Christian hospitality is a living witness to the gratitude we feel for the love that God has poured into our lives. It is a way of saying thank you to our Creator by imitating His boundless love for the world.

So, during this season, open your hearts, let your tables be as abundant as you can, and most of all let your love be unconditional. Extend a warm



welcome to any whom you might know to be lonely, a comforting hand to those who might be hurting, and a listening ear to those who are unheard. By practicing Christian hospitality in these ways, we not only reflect the teachings of Jesus but also express a genuine sense of gratitude for God's grace and goodness to us.

To you and yours from all of us at St. Luke's Episcopal Church: "Happy Thanksgiving!"

Still walking with you as a companion on The Way,

David +

Stewardship: Thanksgiving Is about Giving Time to Thanks

by Father David Zwifka, Rector



Thanksgiving presents a perfect time to begin habits that can integrate good stewardship practices in a way that can lead to a meaningful and mindful holiday experience. Here are ten ways to combine the

spirit of gratitude with responsible stewardship:

Gratitude Journal: Encourage family members to keep a gratitude journal in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Reflecting on the things they are thankful for can cultivate a sense of appreciation for the resources they have.

Sustainable Feast: Host an eco-friendly Thanksgiving feast by using reusable dinnerware, avoiding single-use plastics, and by composting food waste. Consider sourcing locally grown, organic produce to support local farmers and reduce the carbon footprint associated with transportation.

Volunteer Together: Engage in community service as a family or group. Volunteer at local shelters, food banks, or environmental organizations. (Don't forget our needs at LCCM!) Giving your time and energy to others embodies the spirit of stewardship while expressing gratitude for the ability to help.

Donate to Causes: Instead of spending a lot on lavish dinners, allocate some of that budget to donate to charitable organizations. Encourage family and friends to contribute to a chosen cause. This not only helps those in need but also teaches the value of sharing as part of stewardship.

Nature Walks or Hikes: Organize a family nature walk or hike during Thanksgiving weekend. Spend time outdoors appreciating the beauty of nature. This can instill a sense of responsibility to preserve the environment and be good stewards of the Earth.

DIY Crafts: Create Thanksgiving decorations and crafts using recycled materials. This not only sparks creativity but also promotes the importance of recycling and reducing waste.

Gratitude Circle: Gather everyone around and have a gratitude circle where each person expresses something they are thankful for. Afterward, discuss how you can give back to the community or the environment as a way of showing gratitude.

Plant a Tree: As a symbol of giving back, consider planting a tree in your community. Trees contribute significantly to the environment by absorbing carbon dioxide and providing oxygen. It's a long-term commitment to environmental stewardship. St. Luke's must replant several trees along our 6th St. parking lot. Consider sponsoring one! (Contact the parish office for more information.)

Educational Games: Play games or organize activities that educate family members, especially children, about the importance of conservation and responsible resource usage. Knowledge fosters a sense of responsibility.

Share Skills: Encourage family members to share their skills and talents with others. Whether it's teaching a craft, offering tutoring, or providing handyman services, these acts of kindness promote stewardship of talents, skills, and knowledge.

By integrating Thanksgiving and stewardship in these ways, you not only celebrate gratitude but also embody the principles of responsible management and care for the Earth and its inhabitants. It creates a holistic and enriching holiday experience for everyone involved.

How will you support our efforts to build a community that practices this kind of hospitality? Your support is vital. Spend some time in prayer and reflection in the days ahead to ask for God's guidance about the ways you can best assure that St. Luke's remains a sure and certain witness to God's abiding love in our community.

Cornwall Manor Residents Fellowship Opportunity

by Father David Zwifka

Beginning Tuesday, November 14 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, members of St. Luke's Church that are residents at Cornwall Manor are invited to a special monthly fellowship opportunity hosted by parishioners of St. Luke's at the Manor. This opportunity is part of our VISION 20/20 effort to gather members of the parish in small groups in areas throughout our county-wide parish.

Manor residents are encouraged to invite friends and family to join them for a time of fellowship sharing refreshment and conversation. The event will be held on the second Tuesday of every month. Anyone interested in helping with this effort is encouraged to contact the parish office at (717) 272-8251 or by email at admin@stlukeslebanon.org.

Important Dates at St. Luke's Mark Your Calendars

• NOV 5 - Daylight Savings Time ends; Requiem Mass (6 PM)

• NOV 18 - Holiday Bazaar (9 AM to 2 PM)

• NOV 28 - First Hymn Sing Workshop (5:30 PM)

• DEC 3 - Capital Campaign Kickoff Celebration (10 AM)

• DEC 9 - One A-Chord Holiday Singalong (after 5 PM service)

• DEC 10 - Lebanon County Choral Society Concert (3 PM)

• DEC 17 - Christmas Pageant (10:30 AM service); Greening of the Church (after 10:30 AM service); Advent Evensong (6 PM)

Parking Lot Update

by Steve Doster, senior warden



What is happening with the parking lot?

As Lebanon undergoes a facelift on Cumberland Street, St. Luke's is doing its part by upgrading our 6th Street parking lot. Work has begun on phase one of the project to remove and replace the curbing and sidewalk along sixth street. Phase two of the project will include removal and repaving of the parking lot surface and is slated to begin in

November. The final phase of the project will include the planting of 5 new trees along 6th Street in early spring 2024.

The 6th Street parking lot has been showing its age for some time now. Given that the federal grant project has replaced our Cumberland Street portion of curbing and sidewalk at no cost to the parish, Vestry felt it was important for us to do our part in improving the community. Vestry is utilizing a very competitive Diocesan loan program to finance this project over 10 years. We will also be soliciting memorial tributes to help fund the tree plantings — more information to follow later this winter.



INTRODUCTION TO HYMN SINGING A PARISH WORKSHOP ADVENT 2023

by Jason Yannuzzi, choirmaster

The St. Luke's Music Program invites you to participate in a 4-week education workshop designed to teach the basics of reading and singing hymns which is being offered during Advent 2023. The workshop is designed especially for beginners who may have many questions about how to sing hymns: What are notes? What do they tell us to do? How does one know when to sing faster or slower? What is rhythm? How does one know where the words go? Why do we choose the hymns that we choose? Is there an appropriate time to sing louder or softer?

During Advent, we invite you to join us on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:45 to learn the basics of reading and singing hymns. Two principal sources of music will be used to teach during the workshop: first, we will study the hymns that we will sing on the Sunday morning following each Tuesday class. Second, we will study a new set of Morning Canticles (*Kyrie Eleison, Sanctus, Agnus Dei*) that will be featured on all Sundays during Advent as well as a set of Evening Canticles (*Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*) that will be featured during the Advent Evensong. Although it is not required, attending the Sunday services associated with the classes will greatly augment the classroom lessons.

Basic concepts of music that will be taught include rhythm (note types and values, meter, tempo) and intervals as well as basic singing techniques (posture, breathing, pitch). More intermediate concepts will certainly come up and will be explained as they arise.

This is a completely beginner course and perspective participants only need to have an open mind for learning and an interest for music basics to feel successful.

Participants will be invited to sing along with examples when led by the Instructor and the piano but there is no pressure to sing unless fully comfortable.

When: Tuesdays proceeding Advent Sundays (November 28, December 5, 12, and 19) from 5:30 to 6:45 PM.

Where: St. Luke's Choir Room

Instructor: Jason Yannuzzi, CAGO, St. Luke's Choirmaster

Materials: All materials will be provided for the Workshop.

How: Register at <u>https://stlukeslebanon.org/hymn-sing/</u> or scan here:



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Christian Formation

by Mother Mary Kisner

Real People

All Saints/All Souls—November 1 & 2



All Saints' Day

Many scholars believe that the feast of All Saints was first commemorated on November first in Ireland and spread from there to England and to the continent of Europe. In the ninth century Pope Gregory IV wrote to Emperor Louis "the Pious" urging that this festival should be observed throughout the Holy Roman Empire.

Long before the Middle Ages Christians wanted to express their belief in the intercommunion of the living and the dead in the Body of Christ. They saw a need to commemorate those persons who had professed their faith in the living Christ, and had entered into the nearer presence of the Lord after death. They especially wanted to honor those who had died heroic deaths. One Christian writer of the late third century refers to a festival of all martyrs, but gives no specific date. Other writers during the next several centuries mention various observances of martyrs and saints at various times throughout the church year.

In our current Book of Common Prayer (1979), All Saints' Day is designated as a Principal Feast, and takes precedence over any other day or observance. There are seven feasts classified in this way, but All Saints' Day alone may be observed on the following Sunday, which we do here at St. Luke's, in addition to its observance on its fixed date. It is one of the four days in the church year recommended in the Prayer Book for the administration of Holy Baptism. The other three are Easter Day, Pentecost, and the Baptism of the Lord (First Sunday after Epiphany).

All Souls' Day

In the New Testament, the word "saints" is used to describe the entire membership of the Christian community, and in the Collect for All Saints' Day the word "elect" is used in a similar sense. From very early times, however, the word "saint" came to be applied primarily to persons of heroic sanctity, whose deeds were recalled with gratitude by later generations. Beginning in the tenth century, it became customary to set aside another day—as a sort of extension of All Saints—on which the Church remembered that vast body of the faithful who, though no less members of the company of the redeemed, are unknown in the wider fellowship of the Church. It was also a day for particular remembrance of family members and friends.

Though the observance of the day was abolished at the Reformation because of abuses connected with Masses for the dead, a renewed understanding of its meaning has led to a widespread acceptance of this commemoration among Anglicans, and to its inclusion as an optional observance in the calendar of the Episcopal Church.

Adapted from $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ Holy Women, Holy Men, The Church Pension Fund, 2010.

Christian Formation for Children and Families

A lot is happening this month for our younger members of St. Luke's.

Church School - Sunday, November 5 - Mother Mary and Miss Rose will be presenting a special story - The Mystery of Christmas - which will help us all get ready to present our Christmas Pageant this year.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals, 9:15 AM in the Mary Chapel - begin on Sunday, November 19 (the day after our Holiday Bazaar). We will get a good look at what this year's pageant will be, AND we can give out parts to everyone so they can study them at home. Regular rehearsals will be at the same each Sunday through December 10.

The Pageant itself will be held on Sunday, December 17 during the 10:30 AM service.

Please pray for our Confirmation Class for Spring 2024

We have four students who are studying to be confirmed when Bishop Nichols comes again in the spring. You will continue to see them offering their service in various ways around the parish during this time of study and preparation.

Please remember them in your prayers -Catherine Hackett, Adrian Ortiz, Alex and Colin Sidelnick.



St. Luke's Organists and Choirmasters, Part III

by Terry Heisey

4. ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR Jan.-Aug. 1880: ANNIE WOOLSEY MORRIS (SAYRE) (1856-1948)

After Funck's departure the church hired one of the teachers in its parochial school as organist and choir director. Annie W. Morris was born in Morris NY, but her family soon moved to Susquehanna County PA, where her father was President of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society. All we know about her time in Lebanon is in an article in the Sept. 1880 issue of the Parish Newsletter: Miss A. W. Morris has left us for her home at Friendsville Pa. Her scholars of Parish School No. 1 let her go with great lamentation, and the members of the choir parted from their organist with sincere sorrow, although she had only been with us since January last.

Annie married Samuel H. Sayre, Jr. from Montrose, Susquehanna County, in 1885. After visiting the Hampton area of Virginia on their honeymoon, they moved there in 1888 and established an iron foundry. Samuel died in 1915; Annie lived in Virginia until 1948.

SATURDAY, NOV. 11, 2023

HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING IN

Scholarship Fundraiser sponsored by the Harmonia Music Association and the Lebanon Valley College Music Department

> LVC Miller Chapel Performance time 3:00 P.M.

Dr. Mark Mecham, Director Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, Organist

Soloists:

Jessica Weidman, Soprano Amy Yovanovich, Mezzo/Alto Jonathan Walker-Vankuren, Tenor Jason Widney, Bass/Baritone Christopher Campbell, Trumpet

Donations accepted for Harmonia's Scholarship Fund.

Wednesday Healing Services 10 AM in Holy Trinity Chapel

Sir Philip Ledger

by Terry Heisey



Sir Philip Ledger, CBE, FRSE (1937-2012) was an English classical musician, choirmaster and academic. He composed choral music and was an accomplished player of the organ, piano, and harpsichord. Ledger's appointment as Master of Music at

Chelmsford Cathedral in 1961 made him the youngest cathedral organist in England. He became Director of Music at the University of East Anglia in 1965, but he is best remembered as Director of the Choir of King's College, Cambridge in 1974–1982 and of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama from 1982 until he retired in 2001. He was knighted in 1999.

Requiem (A Thanksgiving for Life) is his largest work, commissioned by the choir of Christ Church (Episcopal) Christiana Hundred, near Wilmington DE. The choir sang the world premier of the work as part of a Choral Eucharist on All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 5) 2007. The first UK performance was given by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, the next Sunday (Remembrance Sunday). Both performances were conducted by the composer. It is published with three different accompaniments: organ, orchestra, and chamber ensemble with organ.

The *Requiem* combines traditional Latin texts with poems by the mystical English poet Thomas Traherne (ca.1636-1674). "The poems of Traherne are full of wonder at God's creation and the part that we play in it," said Philip Ledger "For me, his joyful imagery ideally complements the more austere, but beautiful, Latin words of the Requiem."

The work follows the life cycle beginning with Birth of the Soul and ending with its final journey to paradise. The music is conventional--direct and economical. It gets quickly to the point; nothing is overstated. Yet this Requiem displays a large emotional range. The soprano solo has moments of peaceful beauty. At the other end of the scale, there is a highly expressive passage, almost operatic at its climax, during the Pie Jesu. At the heart of the Requiem is the Thanksgiving Hymn. The purity of Sir Philip's music matches Traherne's words inspiring contemplation of God's love. As the text moves from an infant vision to a newer discovery of the soul, the instrumentation expands and the hymn is crowned with a celestial descant. Our soloists at St, Luke's will be Natalie Taylor and Eric Pope. Page 6



ECW News by Laurie Daub

Sunday, November 12 meeting

9AM, Fellowship Hall

Lebanon County Christian Women stocking stuffing followed by bazaar set up in the auditorium.

No December meeting

*sign up for Christmas cookie donations for the Saturday, December 9 holiday social. See ECW members during coffee hours to sign up

Sunday, January 14, 2024 9 AM meeting, Fellowship Hall

The ECW wish to invite parishioners and guests to a holiday social, **Saturday evening**, **December 9**, immediately following the 5PM mass. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for cookies and coffee, prior to the holiday choral entertainment by the singing group "One A Chord" at 7 PM in the auditorium. Bring a friend, and join us to share the hospitality of St. Luke's this advent season!

Holiday Bazaar Planning Meeting/Set Up

by Meghan Sidelnick

November 9 zoom meeting at 7pm is the final scheduled meeting before the bazaar. It is imperative to have all committees represented. Committee members can feel free to email Meghan with updates in the meantime as well. Meg01981@aol.com

Additionally, set-up is scheduled for November 12 starting 9 a.m. Please sign up here: <u>https://</u> <u>www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BAAA92BA4FACE9</u> <u>-45589017-bazaar</u> Thank you for all your help!"

Holiday Bazaar Sweet Shoppe

by Eileen Sidelnick

The Bazaar Sweet Shoppe needs donations of homemade candies and baked goods. Some examples are fudge, peanut butter balls, chocolate covered pretzels, cupcakes, pies, breads, cakes, cookies, brownies, bars, muffins, etc. Please bring all donations to the church auditorium on Friday, Nov. 17 and place on the Sweet Shoppe tables. Please label all candy and baked goods with any allergens, such as dairy, nuts or gluten. If you have any questions or would like to help out at the booth, contact Eileen Sidelnick, 717-926-4238. Thank you!

Holiday Bazaar Plant Stand

by Zina Rittle.

We are in need of any kind of plant or planter for the bazaar. Please leave them in the foyer at the elevator right off from the auditorium. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you so very much.

Holiday Bazaar Jewelry Booth

by Lynn Heisey

The bazaar will be accepting donations for the jewelry booth. Please leave any jewelry donations in the office marked for the bazaar. Thank you.

Holiday Bazaar Craft Sessions

by Laurie Daub

Crafting sessions for the bazaar are held every Tuesday at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall until November 14.

Christmas Stockings

by Beth Yocum

Return all baggies by Sunday, November 4. This will give us an accurate count of what other items we need. THANK YOU to all St. Luke's members who are helping with this project.

Gift Card and Coupon Sale

by Laurie Daub

The ECW are currently selling **DiNunzio's** \$12. sub coupons and **Fox Meadows** \$10 ice cream vouchers. They will be available during Sunday coffee hours or by contacting Laurie Daub at 717-413-1821 or any ECW member. There is no expiration date on either cards. Consider these for holiday gift giving, stocking stuffers, birthday card enclosures! Proceeds are for ECW Mercy Works.







Happy Birthday to ...

110	v
Jeffery Yocum	11/2
Carole Renaud	11/3
Kathy Redinger	11/4
Michael Cook	11/5
Becky Box	11/5
Sandra Kohr	11/6
Bethanne Strauss	11/6
Bryan Rittle	11/7
Jennifer Hackett	11/8
Stephen Doster	11/8
Suzanne Gates	11/9
Warren Hoopes	11/11
Patricia Walter	11/11
Cindy Keesey	11/11
John Feather	11/12
Audrie Gragson	11/13
John Shultz	11/15
David Weisman	11/15
Laurie Daub	11/16
Brian Wenger	11/16
Jean Henry	11/18
Ashleah Tylwalk	11/19
Anne Shemeta	11/21
Douglas Hogue	11/21
Emily Sitzai	11/22
Gregory Taylor	11/25
Amber Hevel	11/25
Lori D'Amour	11/26
Terry Heisey	11/27
Scott Dechert	11/27
Timothy Tylwalk	11/28

Happy Anniversary to...

Mike and Debra	11/2
Fieldon and Sara Daubert	11/3
Lucas and Rebecca Gilbert	11/6
Kendra and Scott Dechert	11/12
Brian and Sharon Weaver	11/16
Tom and Isabel Buzby	11/18
Scott and Lisa Daubert	11/20
Bryan and Erin Bowser	11/26

Bible Study

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

Find the readings for each Sunday on the homepage of our website under "This Week at St. Luke's," "Online Bible Study." http://stlukeslebanon.org/

Schedule of Responsibilities

November 2023

	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
5-Nov		
LECTOR	Diana Hynson	John Feather, Jr
CRUCIFER (10:30)		Ryan Schies
TORCH/ACOLYTE	Bryan Bowser	David Dowhower
TORCH/ACOLYTE		William W. Claxton
12-Nov		
LECTOR	Beth Yocum	Katherine Hoopes
CRUCIFER (10:30)		David Dowhower
TORCH/ACOLYTE	Wiley Parker	Ryan Schies
TORCH/ACOLYTE		Bryan Bowser
		Samuel Bowser
19-Nov		
LECTOR	Sue LeBaron-Tonini	Rob Box
CRUCIFER (10:30)		Bryan Bowser
TORCH/ACOLYTE	Wiley Parker	David Dowhower
TORCH/ACOLYTE		Ryan Schies
26-Nov		
LECTOR	Pamela Weaner	Stephen Doster
CRUCIFER (10:30)		David Dowhower
TORCH/ACOLYTE	Bryan Bowser	Ryan Schies
TORCH/ACOLYTE		William W. Claxton
	Daylight Savings Time Ends November 5th.	
	Be sure to turn your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday Nove	ember 4th



Plan to join us for the greening of the church! We will need plenty of volunteers to decorate the Nave for our Christmas services the following week. If decorating is a bit too much, please come anyway to enjoy the Christmas music and fellowship.

Daylight Savings Time ends November 5

Hospitality begins the moment someone enters St. Luke's.

Our Greeters and Ushers are the face of our parish family for anyone entering our historic church for a visit or to join us for worship.

Now that we have emerged from our COVID isolation, it is more important than ever that all are greeted warmly and know that they are truly welcome.

Please consider joining St. Luke's renewed Usher and Greeter Team.

Welcome

Ushers and Greeters are the frontline representatives of our parish. These volunteers open the Narthex doors, invite, and greet incoming worshipers as they enter the House of the Lord. Their friendly faces are the first impression people receive of our parish community.

Among other duties, our team distributes service bulletins, counts attendance, passes the offering plates, assists with communion, and directs people to services they may need like restrooms and fellowship opportunities after worship.

Teams typically serve once or twice each month depending on need.

If you would like to help our community grow by sharing your gift of hospitality in this important ministry, please let Rob Box (treasurer@stlukeslebanon.org) or Steve Doster (dostersl1@gmail.com) know. You can also contact the

parish office at admin@stlukeslebanon.org or (717) 272-8251.