

Light in the Shadows

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matt. 5: 16

God's Call To Join Christ On The Road To Lent

"Jesus said, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'" [Mark 1:14]



These past few Sundays, the St. Luke's community has been hearing a lot about God's call to us as Christ's body in our communities and world. Our passages as of late challenged us with the question of how ready and willing we are as the Church community in Chester, VT to embrace God's invitation to follow Christ. More important than our call, even, is the fact that

God knows us and loves us. This is the best news we can receive as we make our way towards Lent.

The verse you see written above is what we will be hearing in just a few short weeks on the First Sunday in Lent. It continues the story in Mark's Gospel that we heard on the First Sunday After the Epiphany that talked

"Our baptism is what prepares us for the long and dark journey of Lent.

As Jesus, Himself, the Light, was led into the darkness of the wilderness immediately after His own baptism, so, we, too, will be invited to answer God's call to join Christ on the road of Lent."

—Rev. Heidi L. Edson

about Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River. I don't think it is a coincidence that we get to hear this again.

Our baptism is what prepares us for the long and dark journey of Lent. As Jesus, Himself, the Light, was led into the darkness of the wilderness immediately after His own baptism, so, we, too, will be invited to answer God's call to join Christ on the road of Lent.

Here at St. Luke's,



LEGO Alert: 2018 LEGO Contest Is March 17; Pre-Registration Deadline Is March 9

The annual LEGO Contest will be held on **Saturday**, **March 17th** from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the NewsBank Conference Center, 352 Main Street. The event is open to the public. Early Bird pre-registration is \$15 by March 9th. After then, the entry fee goes to \$20. Entry forms are available at St. Luke's, Whiting Library, Chester/Andover Elementary School and on our website: www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org and those for Our Chester and the Chester Telegraph.

LEGOmaniacs Pre-K through Grade 8 and families are invited to display their original creations (no kits allowed). Entries should be constructed at home and brought to NewsBank from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Contest day. Entries will be judged in different grade categories from 10:00 a.m. to Noon for originality, imagination, and presentation. There is also a separate family class, plus a motorized class for original constructions. LEGO prizes will be awarded to winners and runners-up in the grade and family divisions, with awards for Best in Show and Most Vermont. The Creators' Choice Award will be what the contestants themselves vote as their favorite.

Refreshments will be on sale to encourage people to stay and view the displays. After speaking with judges,

From the Senior Warden

Looking Forward To Celebrating Our Treasures



During our Annual Meeting I invited people to note down what it is they treasure about St. Luke's and also what they might like to be different. It is no surprise to me that what we most treasure about St. Luke's is our warm sense of community, where people feel included and cared for, and not judged. Other treasures men-

tioned are our beautiful and historical church, and the prayers; Heidi's sermons, the beauty of our liturgy, the music, the spiritual focus on God's mission and that we are a church which is active in the community. What a rich list of "treasures!"

On the "wish list," many parishioners said they would like for us to bring back the monthly dinner foyer groups. (Admittedly, the high number of mentions may be because both John DesLauriers and I spoke about how much we had enjoyed the foyers.) Another top request was to receive pastoral visits and have more opportunities for personal conversations, other than just in dire circumstances.

These treasures and wishes indicate that St. Luke's parishioners value community and relationships, both personal and spiritual, as well as the opportunity to participate in the people's "work" of worship and God's work in the community.

With Heidi's time reduced from thirty to twenty hours per week, I invite you to consider what opportunities this opens up for you.

You may be called to join Marti Assenza as part of the Office Guild and to assist Heidi with administrative tasks that make St. Luke's run smoothly.

Perhaps, you could organize foyer groups. There is no reason that they could not be started up in the next month or so and continue through the summer.

Or, perhaps, you feel called to visit parishioners, either making pastoral visits, or more informal visits for "personal conversation," as one parishioner mentioned. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each of us received a visit where we had the opportunity to talk about what was on our heart?

Let us celebrate our treasures and continue to grow in building up in Love! Hallelujah!

—Belinda, Senior Warden

God's Call To Join Christ On The Road To Lent

(Continued from page 1)

there will be opportunities to engage in a meaningful Lenten experience this year. I offer these: Ash Wednesday services will be held on the 14th of February at Noon and again at 6:00 p.m. Also, in addition to each Sunday's services, our Mid-Week Adult Study will give attention to some reflection time as we continue our study of John's Gospel. My hope is that you will make one or more of these opportunities a part of your own Lenten journey this year.

Thankfully our Gospel story in Mark does not end in the wilderness. After Jesus forty-day ordeal in the wilderness, He begins his ministry. That's again where we hear God's call to join with Christ in sharing the good news of God's kingdom in our towns and world. Are we ready? Are we willing? May we be so!

> Blessings, Heidi+



2018 LEGO Contest Alert...

(Continued from page 1)



Above: Judges (at rear of this photo) – Andrew Pennell, Chris Meyer, Gurion Lake, and Doug Edson are shown reviewing some of the creations at the 2017 LEGO Contest.

entrants may build something at a LEGO station. They can't enter that construction or remove the loaned LEGOs, but they can have extra fun while the judges are making their decisions.

Part of the proceeds will go to the Whiting Library. Please spread the word about this event to young people you know. For additional information, contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.

Observing The Season Of Lent



Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning "spring," the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where

Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly.

In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Today Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP, p. 265).

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The Rack Card Is Ready

On Sunday, January 28th the first version of the St. Luke's rack card was handed out to families to post on the refrigerator or some conspicuous place in their home to remind them to save a date and plan ahead. More will be printed to be distributed around our communities. Thanks to Rev. Heidi, Pat, Lew and Lillian for their help in refining the content and look of this invitation for worship and events.

Annual Report Footnote

The 2017 Annual Report Booklet came together like a dream. The last report on the financials from John DesLauriers come in Thursday morning after the Vestry met, and off it went to the Newsbank Print Shop. The report was ready to handout Sunday—40 copies. We determined through phone calls that some copies were taken but names not recorded. We then mailed the remaining fifteen copies. Seven of those folks showed up with booklet in hand to a well attended and important St. Luke's Annual Meeting.

—Lew and Bonnie

Ash Wednesday Services At St. Luke's On February 14th

This year, Ash Wednesday is also Valentine's Day. The day we remember our limitations—that we are dust—is also the day we celebrate love in all its forms. St. Luke's Church will hold two worship services on February 14th with the Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist at NOON and at again at 6:00 p.m..



Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter

Sunday, marks the first day of the Liturgical Season of Lent. Its name comes from the ancient practice of placing ashes on worshippers' heads or foreheads as a sign of humility before God, a symbol of mourning and sorrow at the death that sin brings into the world. It not only prefigures the mourning at the death of Jesus, but also places the worshipper in a position to realize the consequences of sin. Ash Wednesday is a somber day of reflection on what needs to change in our lives if we are to be fully Christian.

In addition to marking the beginning of the 2018 Lenten Liturgical Season, this is an invitation to remember God's love for you, no matter who you are, or where you are on your journey of faith. We invite you to come and join us on this Lenten journey at St. Luke's.

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Meeting Our Spiritual Need For Renewed Faith

y neighbor's material needs are my spiritual needs," said 19th-century theologian Israel Salanter. In other words, when someone else suffers hunger and poverty, when people endure a natural disaster and lack shelter, when another human being is sick or injured—in all such cases, God calls us to action. And God knows that whatever we do to meet those material needs will meet our spiritual needs at the same time.

It might be our spiritual need to expand our horizons into neighborhoods, cultures or situations where we're uncomfortable. We might need to grow in love for people different from us. By serving others, we might find our own sagging spirits nurtured with a sense of well-being or even joy. And as we reach out to help, surely we'll notice others doing the same thing, and our spiritual need for renewed faith will be met. —Heidi Mann

St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting... Well Attended & Energetic



The Rev. Heidi L. Edson opens the meeting with prayer.

The 2018 Annual Parish Meeting took place in Willard Hall on Sunday, January 21 after the one, Rite II Holy Eucharist Service at 9:00 a.m. Thirty adults attended the meeting that opened at 10:30 a.m. with a prayer led by The Reverend Heidi Edson, who also moderated the meeting. Lillian Willis was appointed Recording Secretary. The following are the highlights this meeting.

- **Approvals:** The minutes from 2017 were approved. The 2017 Annual Report was discussed briefly with several minor errors noted. Lew Watters was thanked for putting the report booklet together again this year.
- Elections: Vestry Members. David Carey and Belinda Whipple Worth were elected to 3-year terms. Lillian Willis was elected for two years to fill out the 3-year term of Jean Hancock, who resigned. Diocesan Convention Representatives. Marti Assenza, Rick Hunter, and Beth Salisbury, elected as Delegates. David Carey, Georgiana Cheney and Janet Hunter, were elected as Alternates.
- Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer: These positions do not have to be a Vestry Member and are elected by the Vestry. John DesLauriers volunteered to serve as Treasurer. Daniel Loraditch volunteered to be the Assistant Treasurer.
- Recognition Of Outgoing Officers and Volunteers: Three retiring volunteers were recognized for their exceptional past work: Assistant Treasurer, Lynda Farmer; Pledge Treasurer, John Hoover; and Marcia Clinton, who has taken care of the front church gardens for seventeen years and been a most faithful acolyte at the 8:00 a.m. services, a member of the Altar Guild, and chair of the PINS Outreach program. Each was presented with a last remaining print of St. Luke's created by I. J. Nichols.
- Events and Fundraising Chairpersons:

Maple Fest Dinner: There will not be a dinner in 2018, but Marcia Clinton says donations can be designated for PINS so the work can continue.

Continue reading at top of page

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: held on February 13. Bonnie Watters will coordinate this year with John Des-Lauriers overseeing the pancakes. (ERD) Episcopal Relief & Development is the beneficiary of the free will offering. **Seder Supper:** A committee of Bonnie Watters, Belinda Whipple Worth, and possibly Janet Hunter will manage that event. August Supper: The committee that includes Anita Wright, Marjorie Carey, Bonnie Watters, and possibly Janet Hunter and Eileen Widger needs a Chairman. Silent **Auction:** Lew Watters will ask Sean Buchanan to team up again. LEGO Contest on March 17: Lillian Willis. Plant Sale on June 2: Lillian Willis and Jane Davis. Fall Foliage Sale on the Screen: John DesLauriers will chair, with Lew Watters. Pancake Breakfasts on Saturday September 15 and October 13: Janet Hunter and Lillian Willis will co-chair. Christmas Tea & Sale on December 1: Adelaide Johnson and Pat Fromberger will co-chair. Wreath Workshops: Lillian Willis.

- Celebration of St. Luke's in 2018: Since 2018 marks the 150th Anniversary of when St. Luke's was established, a committee is needed to decide how we will celebrate this event. Daniel Loraditch volunteered to chair, and members so far include Pat Fromberger and Lew Watters. Lew Watters suggested that the celebration could be extended over 3 years to March 2021 as the church was organized on March 3, 1868 (with the first Eucharist celebrated on April 12 of that same year in the Chester Academy Building), but it took three years to complete the building of the church 1871.
- Suggestion Sheets. Belinda Whipple Worth asked parishioners to indicate on sheets of paper the things that meant most to them about St. Luke's and things that people wish St. Luke's could provide for them—items or services big or small. While we are always hoping for young

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Lynda Farmer, outgoing Assistant Treasurer accepts a gift from the parish as John DesLauriers looks on.

people to come to the church, it is most important to answer the needs of those who regularly attend.

• Presentation of The 2018 Budget by John DesLauriers: John gave a brief history of recent budgets from 2008 on, which had been Faith Budgets that proposed varying deficits. Those deficits did not always materialize or amount to the projections—depending upon whether there were interim ministers or major gifts for heat or other special purposes—but in 2017 we had to withdraw twice from Vanguard Fund principal to meet expected expenses. Under present conditions with a Faith Budget, that withdrawal policy would have to continue, and the church would eliminate its endowment in a matter of years.



Rev. Heidi expresses appreciation to Marcia Clinton, on behalf of the parish, for her many volunteer ministries at St. Luke's.

Therefore changes had to be made. Moreover there were not many areas where expenses could be altered because electricity, insurance, phone, etc., would continue. Thus the middle-ground 2018 budget, which had been prepared by the Budget Committee (John DesLauriers, Doug Edson, & Andrew Pennell) and which was approved by the Vestry on January 10, 2018, once again proposed a deficit—this time about \$11,000—but it was a budget, as presented in the Annual Report, which managed to keep most of the critical elements we now have, rather than the extreme Balanced budget, which would have eliminated Music. Excel spreadsheets highlighting the differences between the three budgets considered were available to those interested in comparing the financial details and seeing where cuts were possible.

Major necessary changes in the proposed budget are these. The Rector's hours will go from 30 to 20 hours per week (3/4 time to 1/2 time, and Heidi is okay with that). Church services will be held in Willard Hall during the months of January-March to save on heat. Summer lawn maintenance will be done by volunteers. Outreach donations will be decreased as in 2017 when we could no longer

tithe (although three new fundraisers in 2018, if successful, may allow some additional outreach donations). The Diocesan Assessment for St. Luke's may increase retroactively for 2017 because the Diocese's 2017 assessment formula left it in the red; therefore the additional amounts due for 2017 and 2018 may increase.

A decrease in the Rector's time will result in additional duties for volunteers. For instance, a replacement Office Guild volunteer is needed for Thursday mornings now to pick up and stuff the bulletins for Sundays. A review of Heidi's contract is necessary to determine what tasks can be eliminated and how they might be performed by others.

- Pastoral Care. This essential service to parishioners was discussed. Marti Assenza and Janet Hunter (both nurses) were trained in 2017 to make home visits, and Marti asked for volunteers who might be interested in helping. Lynda Farmer and Kathryn Wright had taken training a few years ago to take communion to parishioners; Lynda wondered if she is still licensed. Marjorie Carey is licensed as a LEM (Lay Eucharistic Minister) in Massachusetts and wondered what needs to be done to transfer that certification to Vermont. Heidi will work with those interested to make sure necessary background checks or other requirements are completed so they can help in these special services.
- **Property and Liability Insurance.** The reduction in the 2018 budget was queried. John DesLauriers will check on whether that was from a reduction in worker's comp or something else.

An expected gift of \$20,000 from the will of Norman Wright will not come in until after the estate is settled. Gratitude was expressed to John DesLauriers and Andrew Pennell for their excellent work in organizing the financial records and preparing the budget choices.

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. after a closing prayer led by Heidi. The Vestry then adjourned to a side room for a brief meeting while church members reconfigured the main room so we could all enjoy a potluck brunch and additional fellowship together.

Special Vestry Meeting Following The Annual Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting, the following were officers were elected: Treasurer: John DesLauriers; Assistant Treasurer: Daniel Loraditch; Pledge Treasurer: Marti Assenza; Clerk/Recording Secretary: Lillian Willis; and Junior Warden: Andrew Pennell. Vestry Meetings will continue at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month with the exception of conflicts, such as the need for the February meeting to be held on February 7th, rather than the 14th, which is Ash Wednesday. [Note: Belinda Whipple Worth will remain as Senior Warden.]

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Is A St. Luke's Tradition



Pancake Master, John DesLauriers



Lew Watters digging in at last year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

reatherlight pancakes Γ created from the "Joy of Cooking" recipe have been a mainstay of this festive evening as we march into Lent. This year's event will take place on Tuesday, February 13th, 5:30 p.m. in Willard Hall. John DesLauriers is the flip master of all time. Add to that menu ground sausage patties provided by the Watters and Lisai's and your contributions for the fruit bowl (fresh or canned) delivered the Sunday before to be cut and chilled. It's a meal to remember. Fat Tuesday also offers maple syrup and handmade jellies to enhance one's guilt. Great night for families to enjoy St. Luke's warm hospitality.

The dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. in Willard Hall. Baskets on the

tables welcome freewill contributions to benefit Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD.) Please sign up that you plan to come so we don't run out of food! —*Bonnie Watters*

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St. Luke's Does Care - About You

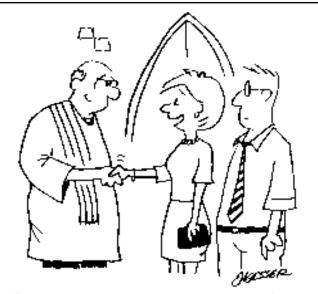
Igot the idea to bring the St. Luke's drivers' list up to date. Lo and behold, in one hour there were eight people offering their services from driving, firewood, meals, and cleaning. Now there are over a dozen on the team.

The "St. Luke's Cares List" was sent to everyone on email as a pdf. A copy is posted in Willard Hall and there are copies available there to take home. If you wish to add your name to assist, just let me know. I am overwhelmed by the caring of the folks at St. Luke's. Know that those in need have expressed joy and thanks. —Lew Watters

"Let love live long; let hate live short." —Burmese proverb

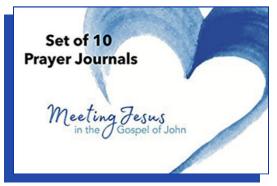
10 Biblical Ways To Love

- 1. Listen without interrupting. "To answer before listening—that is folly and shame" (Proverbs 18:13).
- 2. Speak without accusing. "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (lames 1:19).
- 3. Give without selfishness. "The righteous give without sparing" (Proverbs 21:26).
- 4. Pray without ceasing. "We have not stopped praying for you" (Colossians 1:9).
- 5. Answer without arguing. "Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife" (Proverbs 17:1).
- 6. Share without pretending. "Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).
- 7. Enjoy without complaining. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing" (Philippians 2:14).
- 8. Trust without wavering. "[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7).
- 9. Forgive without punishing. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13).
- 10. Promise without forgetting. "A longing fulfilled is a tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12).
 - -From various websites; all Scriptures NIV



"The heart-shaped communion wafers were a nice touch for Valentine's Day."

Meeting Jesus In The Gospel Of John Adult Lenten Study



Lent is soon upon us and our Mid-Week Study Group is still engaged in the study of John's Gospel using both bible and a companion book entitled, "Conversations With Scripture: The Gospel of John." (*See the 2018 January LITS for more information). We will continue this study until the end of February.

Beginning on Wednesday, the 21st of this month, the Study Group will also be engaging in a Lenten Study entitled, "Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John." Each participant will receive a prayer journal compiled by the Brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) monastic order based in Cambridge, MA. This Series is devotional in nature, offering each participant a daily verse from either John's Gospel or the First Letter of John upon which to meditate and enter thoughts in the journal which can then be shared, if desired. In using both sets of materials, the hope is that each set complements the other thus strengthening our understanding and appreciation of John's rich text.

Come join us and make this Study a part of your Lenten discipline this year. Be sure to invite your friends, too. We meet in Willard Hall at 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday (except for Ash Wednesday). If you are longing for more worship, then join us for Morning Prayer on Wednesdays beginning at 9:40 a.m.

-Heidi+

Congratulations Baby Announcement

regory Daniel Adamovich, Jr. Jarrived at 7:12 p.m. on Christmas Eve, 2017. Weighing in at 7 lb 9 oz, he was a delightful Christmas gift. He is at home in Chester along with proud parents Greg and Betsy (Stretton) Adamovich and uncle Matthew Stretton. Grand parents are Gregg and Brenda Adamovich of Ascutney and Martha Stretton of Springfield. Paternal great-grandparents are Barbara Tenney of Claremont and Lorraine Foisy, also of Claremont. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to the new parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. (The photo shows Gregory at 1 week old.)







WEEKLY

Lunch Bunch Book Study:

Mondays, **Noon-1:15PM** in Willard Hall for bag lunch/sharing/discussion/prayer. We are currently reading, "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World," by His Holiness the Dalai Lama & Archbishop Desmond Tutu. All are welcomed to join us.

Mid-Week Morning Prayer and Adult Advent Study:

Wednesdays: Morning Prayer: 9:40AM; and Adult Study 10:30AM in Willard Hall. We are studying the Gospel of John using the book: "Conversations With Scripture: The Gospel of John," written by Cynthia Kittredge as our guide along with the Bible. This study continues through the end of month. On February 21st, we will also begin the prayer journals "Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John," – tying into the on-going study. Read the article on this page for details or speak to Rev. Heidi if you are interested in learning more.

• St. Luke's Choir Rehearsal:

Saturdays: 10:00AM in Willard Hall. We invite you to come sing with the choir at any time. We are learning new music for the Lenten season and Easter. Please contact Anne Goodreau at annegoodreau@gmail.com, if you are interested or just show up at the rehearsal. All are welcomed to join us.

LESS THAN WEEKLY

Monthly Vestry Meeting:

Wednesday, **February 7th** in Willard Hall at **6:00PM** for supper followed by the Vestry Meeting at **7:00PM**. All church members are welcomed to attend these meetings.

• Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Tuesday, February 13th, 5:30PM in Willard

Hall. Donations of fresh or canned fruit are needed. Invite your friends & Neighbors. See page 6 for more information.

Ash Wednesday Services:

Wednesday, February 14th, at Noon and again at 6:00PM in the church nave for the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist, Rite II.



Birthdays:

- 4 Pat Fromberger
- 6 Harold (Red) Johnson
- 10 Mary Anderson
- 10 Field Willis
- 12 Leigh Dakin

Anniversaries:

12 Brad & Bev Dunbar

MARCH LITS Deadline:

FEBRUARY 23rd

Send all articles, announcements, photos, etc. to:

Pat Fromberger, 180 Gates Rd., Andover, VT 05143

Email: panjoe@vermontel.net

15 Leah Goodreau

17 Marjorie DesLauriers

23 Fred Fielder

23 Bill Reed

"St. Luke's
is an
intentional
Christian
community,
deepening faith
and
broadening
love."

† Worship SchedulE †

Feb. 4 V EPIPHANY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II Feb. 11 LAST EPIPHANY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Feb. 14 ASH WEDNESDAY

NOON Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist

Feb. 18 I LENT

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Feb. 25 II LENT

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

☞ CHURCH SCHOOL: Sundays at 10:00 a.m. following reading of The Collect. All children are welcomed.

*Note: Sunday worship services are being held in Willard Hall during the winter months. Please call the office if you have a question.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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