



Light in the Shadows



APRIL 2022

"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

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BOAT

Lent and Easter are full of grace-filled opportunities. With the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Ukraine's resistance, we want the destruction and violence to end yesterday, but it is too late for that. Our judging minds come to the fore as we condemn Russia. Only occasionally do we look in the historical mirror and admit our own past destructive behaviors.



But built within us is the mustard seed of the Spirit, so that sadness and despair can surface and lead us to recognize that we all need God's grace to discover that seed of Goodness within. This Lent we see a world in the throes of condemning the non-violence of Christ that led to seeming utter

defeat in the crucifixion and execution of Jesus. Disciples ran away. Peter denied knowing Jesus. Judas betrayed him. But still, the seeds of resurrection were within them even before they realized it. Little and big encounters brought them together, gathered in fear only to find through closed doors the resurrected Christ in their presence. And this Christ, who was abandoned and betrayed by them, did not seek to punish and accuse, but to love and heal. Without the crucifixion, there would have been no resurrection to New Life.

This Lent we can allow ourselves to be opened to that New Life. A New Life where we do not wallow in guilt – it is not God's aim to encourage our self-condemnation, but rather to recognize the loving goodness of God within. We continue our daily occupations involved in living and caring for one another in our communities. John's Gospel tells us of Jesus followers returning to their fishing occupation not yet conscious of resurrection and finding fishing itself a failure. Fishing all night and catching nothing until Jesus, standing on the beach, called to them to try the other side of the boat.

ST. LUKE'S IS OPEN!

You are eagerly invited to return to St. Luke's Church. The Bishop's Covid restrictions are lifted (although you may wear a mask, if you wish). Spring and its warmer weather are on their way. We are experiencing wonderful mid-week late-afternoon services – simple, informal, quiet communion services – that Bruce leads from 5-5:30 PM every Wednesday during Lent.

Sunday services take place at 10 AM, and we have at long last enjoyed coffee hour. Please see what remaining services you can attend, whether in person or by Zoom, as we prepare for Easter. The service schedule is listed on the last page of this newsletter to entice you to join us again.

We long to see you in person and to begin a renewed chapter of communication, care, and joyful camaraderie in our congregation and community.



And with their nets full they recognized this one who would have them give his love, caught in their nets, to their communities. And called them to come have breakfast with Jesus cooking it for them, as happens when we make Eucharist together. As we share Eucharist this Lent we are fishing on the other side of the boat where we find love and healing. The love and healing move from our hearts to the Black Sea shores, and return to us again as Resurrection life gives the world new life. Let's look for signs of that in ourselves and each other as we live Lent and Easter together.

Bruce+

LITURGICAL LAY MINISTRIES (Part Two)

Members of our congregation share many tasks in presenting the worship service. Some of those roles are almost invisible, such as those of the Altar Guild, but all ministries are of great value to our communal worship life. The ones described below do not require a license from the Bishop; all training may be conducted by the local priest. Bruce MacDuffie has kept up with all requirements and is able to train those interested or to answer further questions. Eileen Widger, Mistress of the Altar Guild, would be happy to describe the Guild duties to anyone who wishes to learn more.

Acolyte. An acolyte serves to carry out various tasks connected with Sunday and other worship occasions at St. Luke's. Among the acolyte's tasks are these: lighting and extinguishing the candles on the altar; delivering bread and wine to the priest at the altar; holding the lavabo bowl while the presider washes his or her hands; sometimes carrying the Gospel book; assisting Altar Guild members in tasks after the service; and sometimes ringing the church bell before the service begins or serving as crucifer by carrying the cross in procession.

Altar Guild. Members who serve in the care of the altar and the sanctuary ensure that things necessary for worship are in place and that God is honored in the setting. Singly or in pairs, members prepare and care for the vessels, linens, vestments, articles, flowers, and supplies for the Eucharist, weddings, burials, and other special services.

Greeter or Usher. Greeters or Ushers minister through welcoming, greeting, and seating members and guests to the congregation. For members of a congregation, it is reassuring to see a familiar and friendly face. For newcomers and guests, a smile and a word of welcome will acknowledge the importance of their presence and may help them feel more comfortable with the service.

Intercessor. The prayer of the Body of Christ, led by an intercessor, is our response to what we have heard and received from God. The congregation offers prayer for themselves as individuals and as a community and for the world, particularly in response to what has been proclaimed in the sermon. Intercessions used in public worship should be according to a format found in the *Book of Common Prayer*, various supplemental texts, and/or

other resources. If printed intercessions are not used, extemporaneous prayers should be offered according to the pattern that includes prayers for the mission and ministry in the world, the local community, the parish, and for ourselves. As with all liturgical procedures, however, the priest is the final canonical authority in liturgical procedures appropriate to the congregation.

Lector or Reader. Lectors are those who volunteer and/or are assigned to read the assigned scripture lessons in any week. At St. Luke's, lectors also lead the prayers of the people and lead the psalm recitation.

A more complete list of lay-leadership opportunities (both licensed and not) is posted on the church website.

WELCOME, MEREDITH WAGNER

With the great Covid hiatus of in-person services, many may not have met Meredith Wagner, a new member of the Vestry and a marvelous addition to the Altar Guild and team for last December's Christmas Market. Asked for a photo and some biographical information to share with St. Lukers who may not have had the pleasure of working yet with Meredith, she responded modestly.

I am originally from New England, although I spent the past 15 years in North Carolina. I recently moved to Vermont to be closer to my daughter and grandchildren. Throughout my travels I've always found solace and friendships in the local Episcopal community. I'm happy to now be a part of yours.



STANDING UP FOR UKRAINE

On the cold, bright afternoon of Sunday March 13, a small, but dedicated, group of people assembled on Chester's Village Green to show support for Ukraine and to raise money for the work of World Central Kitchen (WCK), started by chef José Andrés, to feed people in crisis, such as the scores of Ukrainian refugees fleeing Russia's military invasion of that separate, democratic nation. About 20 of us waved the Ukrainian colors (blue above and bright yellow below) while whistling and waving as cars drove past. Boards painted in the colors of Ukraine dotted the edge of the Green, and all of us did our best to wear those colors ourselves.

The response from the many passers-by was terrific with horns blaring, thumbs raised, some stopping to donate to WCK. Many thanks to Rick and Janet Hunter for ringing the bell of St. Luke's for several minutes at midday to signal the start of the rally to show support for the people of Ukraine. Thanks also go to the Chester Police Department and Town Hall for helpful advice beforehand, and to Chester Hardware for the donation of paint and brushes to decorate the signs.

After about an hour of vigorous activity we slowly began to disperse, well pleased with the attention we had drawn to the situation in Ukraine. The *Chester Telegraph* kindly sent a photographer to cover the event, which appeared in the next day's edition of the online newspaper. We collected a total of \$300, which was on its way to WCK the next morning.

Please pray for the people of Ukraine and help them in any way you are able. St. Luke's will continue to accept contributions to WCK that are sent by check made out to St. Luke's with WCK in the memo line.

David Carey

SPRING CLEAN-UP

To prepare for Palm Sunday and Holy Week, St. Luke's is scheduling its annual outdoor workday for Saturday April 9 from 9-noon. Please come when you can and bring tools and work gloves to enable us to rake the lawn, cut down garden vegetation, and make the church attractive and welcoming for all who visit. For questions, contact David Carey at 802-875-4235.

Thank You to the People of St. Luke's

Please accept my belated thanks for your generous Christmas gift. It's deeply appreciated. Now the snow is melting, and we're already looking forward to Easter and what music will be coming.

Sincerely, Anne Goodreau



STATE ANTHEM OF UKRAINE

(First of three verses and refrain)

Never perished is Ukraine,
Nor her glory and freedom!
Still upon us, young brethren,
Fate shall smile!
Our enemies shall vanish
Like dew in the sun;
We too shall rule
In our beloved country.

(Refrain)

Soul and body shall we lay down
For our freedom
And show that we are brethren
Of the Cossack nation.
Hey, hey, dearest brothers,
Onward, take to battle.
Hey, hey, time to rise,
Time to gain freedom!

There are many translations on the Internet. These words are by Pavlo Chubynsky.

HIGHLIGHTS MARCH VESTRY MEETING

The March 8 Vestry Meeting [before Diocesan Covid restrictions were lifted on March 16] was held in person and by Zoom. The February minutes were approved, and there were no corrections to the draft Annual Meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report. John DesLauriers received no questions about the February P&L. **Rector's Fund.** Belinda Whipple Worth is now a signatory, along with David Carey. **Pledge Reminders.** Marti Assenza will email pledge reminders to parishioners for both 2021 and quarterly for 2022.

Focus. Parochial Report for 2021. Vestry completed the form, which will be mailed 3-11-22, and responded to questions about what changes St. Luke's would like to see in 2022 and what the Diocese could do to help. St. Luke's desires more younger congregants; to open the church to the community with more social events; to recruit more lay leaders; and to receive continued financial support from parishioners. Requested Diocesan help centered around eliminating Covid restrictions, establishing more lay-leader training opportunities, and providing a more relevant Diocesan website with up-to-date staff and Covid information (past last web posting of 1-19-22). **Telephone Conversation with Canon Walter Brownridge.** Lillian Willis called Canon Walter on 2-22-22 and then sent an email on 2-23-22 about what, on behalf of St. Luke's Vestry, needed to be discussed. Canon Walter called her back until they were cut off in the middle of discussion about air purification. Information revealed that proper Diocesan contacts were Canon Walter or Canon Susan Ohlidal, who is new; that lay-leadership training was not likely until fall; and that as long as Supply Priest Bruce MacDuffie had been approved by the Bishop, he could continue at St. Luke's. Canon Susan Ohlidal (or someone she will determine) is working with parishes that do not have regular clergy by using the Diocese's *Manual for Congregations in Discernment*. The Bishop's goal is to move churches beyond a maintenance model to encourage greater sustainability through the formation of constellations – where churches share a minister and are more likely to attract a priest with a family because of a full-time offer with health benefits. Canon Walter knows that St. Luke's will discuss the discernment manual at a future retreat, but that any rector change is unlikely at the moment. St. Luke's wants a year to recover from Covid restrictions, assess the health of the parish and community response once the church has opened up again. Canon Walter knows we are very happy

at the moment with Bruce MacDuffie as Supply and the ability to call upon other priests and local lay leaders, although we want to train more parishioners to help lead. **Transitional Ministry.** Bruce has agreed to stay past Easter, and we will work out an arrangement that clarifies responsibilities. He has kept up with training and, as local clergy, could conduct much of the necessary lay-leader training.

Junior Warden Report. Keys to the Church. David will get keys to Meredith and Belinda, the remaining Vestry members who want them. **Remote Access by Marti Assenza to Church Telephone and Email.** That is now in place.

Old Business. Church WIX Website. Vestry approved hiring Morgan Willis (a senior at Hobart-William Smith and long-time St. Luke's parishioner, who does website work for her college and also for Gould Academy) at \$15 per hour to try to resolve the WIX change that makes it impossible for Marti to post PDFs on the website or to archive newsletters past October 2020. **Vestry Retreat.** Vestry agreed all members need to be present and are asking Janet Hunter to find another date or place for the retreat. **Thank-You to Dan Cote for 2-1-22 Pruning.** Lillian sent him a TU on 2-21-22.

New Business. Piano Tuning. Anne Goodreau will arrange for the pre-Easter tuning, which is in the budget. **Proposed Chester Village Green Zone.** St. Luke's seeks more information on the changes proposed and details about the parking lot we have used for years and paid for upkeep. Who owns the land? Who else pays for upkeep? Does St. Luke's have legal, specified access to the lot and parking by the path to church? Lillian will follow through with Sue Ash of the Quilt Shop and Town Hall to get more info. Off-street parking will be required for St. Luke's, but a proposed pedestrian access to Main Street from the ballfield cannot impact St. Luke's property, which is owned by the VT Diocese. Lillian will create a draft statement for approval by the Vestry and present it at the Planning public hearing on 3-21-22. **Pig Roast Event.** To be discussed at another Vestry Meeting. **Stand Up for Ukraine.** David wants area-wide residents, wearing blue and yellow, to show solidarity for Ukraine by meeting on Town Green around noon on Sunday March 13. He will check with Police/Town to make sure there is no objection, send out publicity, and contact other churches and likely supporters. Donations collected will go to World Central Kitchen, which is feeding refugees.

Next Vestry Meeting: Tuesday April 12.

Lillian Willis, Clerk



2022 PLANT SALE

Chester's annual Plant Sale at St. Luke's is scheduled for Friday May 27 and Saturday May 28, 9-3 both days; and on Sunday May 29, noon-3 PM. The Plant Sale is a marvelous opportunity for the public to purchase an impressive selection of proven, large, healthy, hardy plants at bargain prices. Well-groomed plants with helpful labels will make garden additions easy, and experienced gardeners will be on hand to give advice about planting and garden design.

The later timing of the event allows for larger and more attractive plants – all organized by kind and growing needs on the side lawn of the church. If you have perennials on your property that you would like to contribute or if you have plants to suggest, need more information, or want to volunteer, please contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net.



Penance

Child, the best way you can repent today
is to stop spurning God's love.
Stop ignoring the Beloved calling your name.
Stop declining the deep blessings meant for you,
the mysterious love that flows beneath gravity itself,
the kindness the Spirit has for you
even when the world is mean.
Stop pretending it's not for you,
that you yourself are not a cell in the Body of Love.
Let the earth hold you, as it will forever.
Let the sun and rain fall on you
like a lover falling on their beloved.
Repent of ignoring yourself, belittling yourself,
acting as if you're not worth it.
Forgive yourself. Soften your heart, and forgive.
Indulge yourself in sacred time
simply to marvel at the gift, the miracle that is you.
Repent of how hard you are on yourself,
your judgment, your despair. Have mercy. Have faith.
Your sin is denying your belovedness.
You are Beloved. Your penance is to live like it,
as God would have you do.

By Steve Garnaas-Holmes of *Unfolding Light*



APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays:

April

- 5 Marcia Leader
- 9 Kate Watters
- 12 Gloria Deming
- 13 Rudy Winston III
- 16 Sharon Haumann
- 12 Jane Davis
- 25 David Willis, Sr.
- 30 Dick Farmer

Anniversaries:

April

- 2 Rudy & Cindy Roundy-Winston
- 9 John & Alison DesLauriers
- 12 Dick & Lynda Farmer
- 22 David & Lillian Willis, Sr.
- 27 David & Kathleen Willis, Jr.

THANK OFFERING

Those little cardboard boxes, which many of us knew as “mite boxes” that held our small thank-you offerings during Lent and that were turned in at Easter, are available at the back of the church for contributions all year long and collection near Thanksgiving.

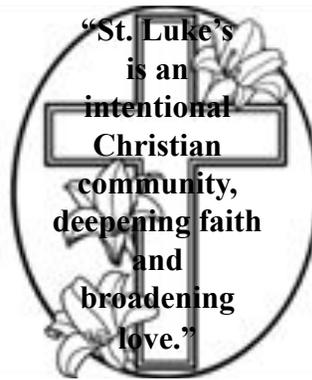


Holy Week and Easter Worship



While we start to plan for coffee hour on Sundays, the following services will take place both in person at the church and also, when possible, by Zoom.

- Wednesday, April 6, 5-5:30 PM, Holy Eucharist
- Palm Sunday Service, April 10 at 10 AM, with procession of palms inside the sanctuary, Holy Eucharist
- Holy Wednesday, April 13, 5-5:30 PM, Holy Eucharist
- Maundy Thursday, April 14, 5-6 PM, Holy Eucharist with washing of the feet. Vigil between 6 PM and midnight. (Sign up for a shift by contacting David Carey.)
- Good Friday, April 15, 5-6 PM. Good Friday Liturgy. At 6 PM-midnight, informal Stations of the Cross in the church*
- Holy Saturday, April 16, the wait between Jesus’ crucifixion and burial and the Resurrection celebration on Easter. 9-9:20 AM, quiet Morning Prayer. At 5-5:30 PM, short service for lighting of the Paschal Candle
- Easter Sunday Service, April 17, 10-11:15 AM, Holy Eucharist



St. Luke’s Financial Information

	Feb. 2022	YTD 2021	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledge & Plate Income	\$ 1,870.00	\$ 5,465.00	\$ 42,325.00	13%
Other Operating Income	\$ 46.63	\$ 325.79	\$ 33,950.00	1%
Restricted Income	\$ - .00	\$ 29.00	\$ 2,790.00	1%
Total Income	\$ 1,916.63	\$ 5,819.79	\$ 79,065.00	7%
Regular Expense	\$ 2,609.89	\$ 7,426.55	\$ 79,101.70	9%
Restricted Expense	\$ - .00	\$ - .00	\$ 2,580.00	0%
Total Expense	\$ 2,609.89	\$ 7,426.55	\$ 81,691.70	9%
Net Ordinary Income (loss)	\$ (693.26)	\$ (1,606.76)	\$ (2,626.70)	61%
Draw on Investments	\$ - .00	\$ - .00	\$ 14,750.00	0%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (693.26)	\$ (1,606.76)	\$ 12,123.30	

There is nothing too earth shattering to report on the February financials. Income YTD is 4% below average; however, this was more than offset by expenses coming in 8% below budget for the same period. Early year figures are skewed, as neither income nor expenses are equal month to month. The monthly budgets do take into account when certain income or expenses are expected; however, there are always variances.

*Stations of the Cross. Booklets to guide you to each Station will be on the table in the back of the Church. Individuals or family members may come in during Good Friday from 6 PM-midnight for prayer and walking the Stations of the Cross. Flashlight suggested.



St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

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MAY LITS Deadline

👉 APRIL 21st 👈

Send all articles, photos, etc., to
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