



DECEMBER 2022

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

ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING

Yes, Advent in its reading from Isaiah, Chapter 2, on Sunday offers us the second beginning to the book of Isaiah. Wasn't the first beginning in Isaiah Chapter 1 enough? Why offer a new beginning in the second chapter? One should be enough, and if we don't succeed in fulfilling God's desire for us to have faith in God's love, then are we simply awarded a failing grade in Advent growth? God can retreat out of our minds and hearts to heaven. We can proceed in searching humanity for answers and eat, drink, and be merry with no fear of a God who judges us.



If that experience and attitude takes over, who might fear God's judgment of the church folks? But then God says through the writer of the part of Isaiah, "Hey, they may not have understood and known my love the first time, so begin a second time."

And then we are reminded that not only Isaiah could begin his hopeful message in the midst of terrible times. And hold out for us to know God's love. And to begin doing so **two times**. Isaiah gives us hope and anticipation that we may rediscover Christ's coming into our community and personal lives. And have faith that God's faithfulness to us, allowing us a scripture that has to be said and heard again and again and again. Not because we are slow, but because God is love that does not stop even when we ignore it.

Advent season, the season of new beginnings is here again so that we can take this busy season as a time to know the story and experience of Jesus each year! We pray and hope for Jesus coming to us each year with the Advent reminder, so that Jesus is for us a daily presence.

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2022 CHRISTMAS MARKET: Culinary Classics & Crafts to Go SATURDAY DEC. 3, 10-1

Join us in Willard Hall on Saturday December 3, 10-1, for St. Luke's joyous Christmas Market – marvelous food to take home (staples and handmade chocolates), evergreen & craft decorations (including hand-decorated candles), Christmas ornaments, gifts for people and pets, treasures at Grandma's Attic (from practical items to jewelry to a spectacular supply of ribbons), and original paintings, other artwork, and lots more.

Some of the items are listed on the church website to enable people to place orders ahead and pick them up from 9:30-10, before the market opens. Go to stlukesepiscopalvt.org to discover some of the culinary offerings and contact Eileen Widger (twidger@sbcglobal.net, 802-875-4604) or Lillian Willis (lbwillisct@comcast.net, 802-875-1340) as soon as possible to make sure you reserve the tidbits you want. But don't stop there; come to the Market and browse all the items that couldn't be listed in advance.



VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The November 11 meeting was held in person and by Zoom.

Treasurer's Report. John DesLauriers reviewed the October P&L. Pledges for the current year are behind by \$12,500. Pledge Treasurer Marti Assenza is playing catch-up through November, and John asked her to send reminders to people now and then quarterly in the future. John will summarize donations for \$600 in Outreach funds and check with Sally Hoover for the next meeting. Vanguard holdings took a hit, but the Money Market account is OK. **Stewardship Campaign.** Materials were run off by NewsBank and Red House Press. Pledge envelopes sent to the Church will be put in the blue zippered pouch on the office desk and given to Marti.

Focus: St. Luke's Endowment Policy. Changes were approved to St. Luke's Endowment Policy of March 30, 2008, and to the addition to it that was approved by the Vestry, according to Vestry Minutes of 9-17-2008. The new wording for the Normal Income Policy listed below was adopted at St. Luke's Vestry Meeting of 11-8-22, and will be added to the Policy under Section 9 – Future Recommendations.

The Vestry recommendation is that the Endowment Policy allow for an annual draw on invested funds not to exceed 5% of the average market value of the endowment assets as measured over the preceding 12 quarters. In a case of dire unexpected emergency, such as the church burning down, etc., this could be extended to 7% by Vestry approval.

Budget for 2023. The first draft was discussed; second is due on 12-13-22. John sent, prior to the meeting, four documents for consideration: Vanguard balances as of 11-4-22; 10-year pledge and plate numbers; Diocese-recommended rector compensation figures for a part-time rector; and draft budget scenarios. All Vanguard funds, except Money Market, are down. Pledge units, pledge amounts, and plate receipts decrease every year. Estimated clergy costs come from recommendations from the Diocese and adjustments for 2023 project minimum expenses

for present supply and for ¼-, 1/3-, and ½-time minister with one-year experience and a base pay (including Diocesan requirements for health, pension, etc.). Although next deliberations will depend upon the new pledge commitments for 2023 that Marti has received, because of estimated income, Vanguard funds, and potential expenses, the draft budget of 11-08-22 only considered the present reality of a Supply minister and a ¼-time rector. The guesstimate is that if the 11-8-22 scenarios are correct, Supply minimum for 2023 would entail no investment draw. Supply with addition of Wednesday services would entail investment draw of \$5000. Quarter-time rector with one year's experience for 2023 and required portion of salary, housing, health, etc., would entail minimum investment draw of \$15,000.

Junior Warden Report. Dehumidifier Repair. Precision Plumbing doesn't service Chester. David will contact Cota & Cota and Arne Jonynas for a possible solution. **Directional Microphone.** David has Bruce's information and may order a microphone through Amazon.

New Business. Altar Guild. New members are Colleen Garvey and Sean Whalen, helped by his children. **Senior Warden.** Lillian was voted in as Senior Warden through the Annual Meeting. **Nominating Committee.** Two volunteers from the Vestry are David and Belinda (Committee Chair); they will ask two parishioners. David will ask Joan Sullivan and Belinda will ask Ann Summers. The members will see if Vestry members whose terms are up (Beth, Lillian, and Belinda) wish to seek a new three-year term and will ask anyone else they think may be interested in the Vestry. They will also seek a new Finance Committee of three members. All nominees will stand for election at the Annual Meeting.

Old Business. Safety Deposit Box. David and Lillian will get maps and surveys at a future convenient time. **Directory, Review of St. Luke's Bylaws, Vestry Retreat of 7-9-22 Analysis.** Will have to be discussed in December or later.

Next Vestry: Tuesday December 13, 6:30 PM.

Lillian Willis, Clerk

ANOTHER NEW BEGINNING

(Continued from page 1)

This repetition of Advent each year helps us REMEMBER that incarnation of God in ordinary human flesh, especially through this daily reminder stimulation list.

1. Pick up a copy of *Forward Day-by-Day*. Use its daily readings posted at the top of each page as a preparation for Christmas.
2. Build an Advent wreath of four candles in a circle, with evergreen branches shaped into the circle. In the center place a white candle to be lighted on Christmas Eve and burned for the twelve days of Christmas.
3. I will be emailing a little set of prayers for each week of Advent to all for whom we have email addresses. Say the prayers as you light the candle of the week each day.
4. Take time each day for some silence in which silence God's presence can be given space in our thoughts.
5. Come prepared for Sunday Eucharist. Read the Sunday scriptures ahead of time. Sit with them and ask them questions.
6. If you find time, join us for Wednesday midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M. in Willard Hall.

So, yes, Advent has come again. A new New Beginning with God revealing more of God's self to us each year.

(Please use the prayer below every day)

A Prayer for Advent (from Liturgy for the Whole World by Susan R. Bock)

We are waiting, O God, for the day of peace.
Give us the grace to bring that day through our
own simple goodness and hope.
Fill us with patient desire that our work may be
holy,
and our holiness bright, through the Christ for
whose coming we long,
and the Spirit in whose presence we live.
Amen.

New Altar Guild Members

Colleen Garvey and Sean Whalen, with help from Sean's children, have recently joined in this important ministry and service for St. Luke's.

ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Letters and Pledge cards have been sent out, and many have responded. In order to facilitate our budget process, we ask that you return your pledge as soon as you can, so the Vestry can adjust the draft budget for 2023 to reflect reality. We are very grateful for your faithfulness and perseverance during these challenging times and appreciate the many ways you make our church welcoming and effective for our extended community and wider needs through our outreach efforts.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND POINSETTIAS

St. Luke's is being decorated inside and out for Advent and Christmas. Evergreen garlands and bows outside the church will welcome all visitors to celebrate with us at this joyous time of year. Inside the tree is up, candles and greens decorate the side stained-glass windows, and a large evergreen wreath is suspended over the steps to the chancel. If you stand at the back of the church and look through the center of the wreath, you should be able to see the face of Jesus in the stained-glass window above the altar.

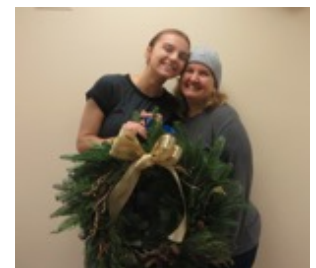
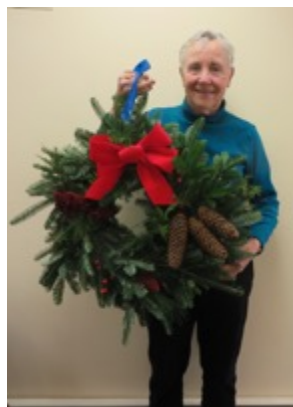
Still to come are the beautiful red poinsettias that symbolize the joy of the season and the bright hope we long to feel again. To make that glow possible the Altar Guild asks for donations to the Flower Fund. To support this lovely embellishment, simply note Poinsettias or Flower Fund in the memo line of your check. Thank you for helping to beautify our church.

WONDERFUL WREATH WORKSHOPS

In the week before thanksgiving, both long-time devotees and new participants, ages 5-80+, came to Willard Hall to enjoy one of St. Luke's traditional wreath-decorating workshops, now in their eleventh year. During November 17-19, participants chose from a wide variety of collected natural items: twigs, seeds, pods, cones, blossoms, and many more carefully-collected and widely-varied specimens with which they could decorate their one-of-a-kind double-sided evergreen wreath, which they then embellished with their choice of ribbon – with many more choices for those wreaths that would be protected from rain and snow.

At the end of the week, 45 very special wreaths went to new homes and readied those houses for Christmas. The wreath artists had a wonderful time, made new friends, and left with smiles, promises to come next November, and the knowledge that one big job for the holidays was already done! It is truly amazing that so many people could choose from the same array of items and create such totally different expressions of themselves.

The photos below are just some of the 45 masterpieces that engendered a tremendous burst of Christmas spirit in mid-November. You may recognize a few familiar faces.



TRAINING FOR MORNING PRAYER LEADERS

The Diocese is offering a free 4-session Basic Morning Prayer Leadership Training Course in January for those interested in becoming Morning Prayer Leaders. The classes will take place by Zoom on January 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 6:30-8 PM. According to the offer, "The purpose of the course is to increase participation of the laity in liturgical leadership and support and encourage Morning Prayer leaders who are expected to become part of a regular worship rota in their congregations. The core tasks are to develop familiarity with the history of Morning Prayer, the Book of Common Prayer, and Enriching Our Worship; to gain understanding of the rubrics and 'how to' for planning Morning Prayer worship; to develop comfort leading worship and understand the ministry of a worship leader within a congregation."

The Diocese knows that the demand for trained and licensed Worship Leaders for Morning Prayer is growing and is responding to the need.

Course participants must be recommended by Clergy and must have access to a computer and Internet. Upon successful completion of the course, participants should be scheduled to lead a Morning Prayer service within six (6) weeks. If you are interested, please speak with Rev. Bruce MacDuffie.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**December 18, 3-4:30 PM
Lessons & Carols**

**December 24, Christmas Eve
7-7:30 PM Carols, 8-9 PM Holy Eucharist**

**December 25, Christmas Day
10 AM Holy Eucharist**

Starting on Sunday January 1, the 10 AM service and all remaining winter services will take place in Willard Hall to provide increased comfort and to save on heating costs.



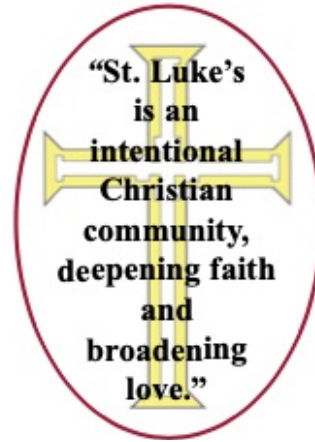
**SINCERE WISHES FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS
AND A MONTH FILLED WITH JOY, GOOD HEALTH,
FRIENDS, AND FAMILY.**

Church Services

Sunday services at 10 AM are both in person and by Zoom. All services are usually followed by coffee hour.

On Wednesdays at 5:30 PM Bruce MacDuffie leads a short Eucharistic service without music.

All are welcome. Please join us.



December Celebrations



Birthdays:

2 Andrew Pennell
5 Jessica Buchanan
5 Ellie Pennell
7 Janice Fielder
7 Bonnie Watters
14 Alison DesLauriers
17 Brad Dunbar
18 Christine Burchstead
20 Tom Widger
22 Michael Fromberger
24 Noah Jones
26 Alyce Meyer-Fielder
26 Sanford Johnson
27 Cindy Roundy-Winston

St. Luke's Financial Update

	Oct. 2022	YTD 2022	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledge & Plate Income	\$ 2,402.00	\$ 31,889.00	\$ 42,325.00	75%
Other Operating Income	\$ 74.33	\$ 24,506.61	\$ 33,950.00	72%
Restricted Income	\$ 10.00	\$ 936.92	\$ 2,790.00	34%
Total Income	\$ 2,486.33	\$ 57,332.53	\$ 79,065.00	73%
Regular Expense	\$ 3,698.08	\$ 47,377.11	\$ 79,100.71	60%
Restricted Expense	\$ - .00	\$ 828.81	\$ 2,590.00	32%
Total Expense	\$ 3,698.08	\$ 48,205.92	\$ 81,690.71	59%
Net Ordinary Income (loss)	\$ (1,211.75)	\$ 9,126.61	\$ (2,625.71)	-348%
Draw on Investments	\$ - .00	\$ - .00	\$ 6,500.00	0%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (1,211.75)	\$ 9,126.61	\$ 3,874.29	

As of the end of October our income is 10% below budget, which is more than offset by expenses 24% below budget. Pledges have been running below budget, however recent deposits indicate this may correct itself by year end. Additionally, on the income side, there is one more Raymond James dividend to be received in December. I believe we will end the year with income near budget and with expenses significantly below, all without any drawdowns on investment principal.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church



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JANUARY LITS Deadline Dec. 20

Send all articles, photos, etc.,
to Lillian Willis at
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