



OCTOBER 2021

# 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*

## GO WITH GOD!

*"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." [Numbers 6:24-26]*

This blessing is known as the "Aaronic Blessing." In the Book of Numbers, these words were uttered by Moses to Aaron, who was the Israelites' first high priest. Moses was instructing Aaron to pronounce this blessing over the Nazirites- Israelite men who were set apart from other Israelites because of their strict and austere lifestyle in devotion to YHWH (God).



In our own setting today, we may know of the many monasteries, convents, and other religious houses and orders that practice a disciplined life of prayer, fasting, alms giving, and other acts of piety and devotion. Indeed you may have some first-hand knowledge of folks who have chosen this path of faith for their lives. Perhaps you, yourself, have been inspired by their faith and devotion. The Aaronic Blessing offers a three-fold blessing not only for the religious today, but for each one of us who are members of Christ's Body in the Church.

As I write this, my last LITS article, this blessing entered my mind and heart. I have been praying for you and wondering how you, as the faith-community of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Vermont, are faring in these uncertain days. Like the Israelites in the desert, all of us find ourselves wandering (and wondering!). Thankfully our God will not ever leave us if we but trust in God's goodness towards us. We can be assured that we are not having to navigate the unknown paths alone. When we seek Christ with all our hearts and minds, our path will open up and become more visible.

*(Continued on next page)*

## OCTOBER CHURCH SERVICES

This is the schedule for the 10 AM church services at St. Luke's for the five Sundays in October.  
10/3 Eucharist, Rite I, The Reverend Sanford Johnson  
10/10 Morning Prayer, Rite II, Belinda Whipple Worth  
10/17 Eucharist, Rite II, The Reverend Sanford Johnson  
10/24 Morning Prayer, Rite I, John Hoover  
10/31 Eucharist, Rite II, The Reverend Anne Brewer

Many in the congregation know fellow parishioners Anne Brewer and Jim Kowalski, who were priests in Connecticut and New York before "retiring" to Vermont. A good number will also remember Sanford Johnson, who for some seven and one half years was a Priest Associate here at St. Luke's during a large part of Paul Brannock-Wanter's rectorship and then afterward through two interim priests and three weeks into Heidi's rectorship. Many of us also remember Sanford's wife, Bonnie, who was an important member of the choir (the queen of soprano descants) and also Church Treasurer. The Johnsons were marvelously involved, loyal volunteers for St. Luke's and have continued to access LITS to keep informed about this parish. Coming to our rescue when Father Paul fainted on the chancel near Easter one year, Father Sanford has continued to rescue this parish when needed, such as now.



We are very grateful to Father Sanford, The Reverend Anne Brewer, and Lay Leaders John Hoover and Belinda Whipple Worth for worship during October.

**Coffee Hour to honor Rev. Heidi  
Sunday September 26, after the 10  
AM service, Heidi's last in Vermont.  
See newsletter last page for details.**

## Go with God!

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Aaronic Blessing is three-fold. 1) The LORD bless you and keep you! \*Blessings are always to be found in Christ. 2) The LORD make his face to shine upon you! \*God graciously looks upon us! And 3) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you! \*When we see and recognize God's face, there is deep peace (Shalom!). Remember these words when tough times come.

As I bid farewell to you and to St. Luke's, please know that I will keep you in my prayers and heart. Each one of you has "grown my own faith," and I am humbled and deeply grateful. As your priest, I have been honored to have served you these past years here at St. Luke's in Chester, VT. Go with God! Keep the faith! May the LORD shine Christ's Light upon you.

Heidi+

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## REOPENING OF CHURCHES

Since my last Report regarding safety protocols for gathering together in the light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, a more recent Diocesan set of protocols was released on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. The letter from the Covid Response Team (formerly the ReStart Team) states that Vermont, though having the highest vaccination rate in the nation, has seen a steady rise in viral case counts and statewide positivity rates, particularly with its Delta variant.

In light of the rising cases, plus the season of the year when viruses can spread more easily, the Covid Response Team is urging that all churches observe the following health protocols.

- Keep social distance at all times unless you are with family members.
- Make sure there is good ventilation by opening windows and doors, and turning on fans.
- Do not hold indoor coffee-hour gatherings inside the building at this time.
- Wear masks, especially when inside the building.

Given St. Luke's modest numbers of those attending Sunday worship on a regular basis, the temptation is for us to "let down our guard." After all, we know each other, and we are like family! But as God's people who are called share Christ's compassion for all, let's keep in mind that these health protocols are observed with the "other" in mind and heart.

## ALTAR FLOWERS IN MEMORY OR THANKSGIVING

It has been the custom that the flowers on the Altar have been given by parishioners in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one. With pandemic restrictions we were either not meeting at all or meeting outdoors. As a result, the Flower Fund was depleted. During the summer, however, as the situation improved, the Altar Guild ladies provided flowers from their gardens (thank goodness they are avid gardeners!) or purchased flowers from local purveyors. Chester Hardware has a shop, at one end of the hardware store, that has been a good source of flowers, and the store will bill the Church. Therefore, we would like to continue our tradition of memorial or thanksgiving flowers on the altar.

After the service, the sponsor of the flowers takes them, if they are present, or the flowers go to a birthday person or to someone in need in the congregation. Some people have requested certain flowers be included in the bouquets. For example, one lady requested yellow roses in memory of her grandmother and says that when she sees the bouquets she is reminded of her grandmother's love and other good memories of her.

The fee for the flowers is now \$30, and it can be paid by writing a check to St. Luke's with "Flower Fund" in the memo section. The check may be placed in the collection plate or sent to St. Luke's.

To sponsor a Sunday, please email Eileen Widger ([twidger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:twidger@sbcglobal.net)) with the name(s) you would like to remember and your preferred Sunday clearly identified. For example, second Sunday of October in thanksgiving for Mary Smith. With your help, we can re-establish this ministry.



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Though we find ourselves still under this dark shadow of the pandemic, let us remember our blessings. St. Luke's is worshipping, and the family is coming together each week either in person or by Zoom. Wherever two or more are gathered, there is Church!

For more details and information about these protocols and the reasoning behind them, please refer to the Diocesan website ([www.diovermont.org](http://www.diovermont.org)).

Heidi+

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT CHESTER'S FALL FESTIVAL

**F**or Saturday September 18 – the first day of the well-organized, two-day Fall Festival – several of St. Luke's family and friends got together to provide an early-morning Pancake Breakfast. Led this year by two master chefs – our own James Salisbury, making pancakes, and my grandson, Matt Neissa, making waffles – St. Luke's provided a nutritious meal for all who asked for one from about 7:30 to 9:30. Along with pancakes and waffles (either plain or with chocolate chips or blueberries) were maple syrup and butter. To speed efficiency, Beth Salisbury very patiently filled many small cups with Vermont's famous golden nectar and other cups with orange juice. Many people find it impossible to start the morning without a cup of coffee, so Marjorie Carey and Lillian Willis kept stocking carafes with the hot brew. Meanwhile Rick Hunter had been on hand from the start helping to set up the three pop-up tents with Doug Edson and me, as well as several tables and chairs.

The most important members of the Saturday morning team, however, were Andrew Pennell, his son Luke and friend Corbin, and my granddaughter Claire Maher. Those tireless troopers worked hard for more than an hour soliciting food requests from vendors as they were setting up shop from about 7:30 AM onwards. Our Pancake Ambassadors returned time after time to the cooking area (between St. Luke's and Meditrina) to stock their trays with the requested components, and then carried each order to the appropriate booth on The Green...all the while projecting the welcoming spirit of St. Luke's to all they encountered. Of course, all this hard work by everyone was not just an attempt to “raise the flag” of St. Luke's, but also to bring in a little money; and it was Doug Edson who very helpfully manned the cash register. By clean-up time, around 10:00 AM, we had taken in just under \$200 in donations, and everyone had experienced a most enjoyable activity.

**David Carey**

### **Do You Have Extra Freezer Space?**

The Christmas Market Team is looking for freezer space where we can store soups and other food we are making now for our holiday event on Saturday December 4. If you can spare some space, please contact Lillian Willis, 802-875-1340 or [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net), as soon as possible.



Pancake Ambassadors Claire, Luke, Corbin



## Highlights of September Vestry Meeting

The September 14 Vestry Meeting was held in person at Willard Hall and also by Zoom.

**Treasurer's Report.** John DesLauriers reported that income was down for August, but ahead for the year. **Audit Report for 2020.** Committee of David Carey, Gene Garvey, and John DesLauriers gave a letter with four recommendations to the Vestry: 1) slides of church property and silverware should be updated; 2) copy of Audit Report should be sent to the Diocese; 3) Audit Committee should start work earlier – in March – in order to get its review done while waiting for information from the Diocese; 4) a form letter should be sent to non-pledge people who give \$250 or more in a year (John has the form for those TU letters and already sends them out to those qualifying). The Vestry approved the Audit Committee's 2020 Audit and the recommendations in the report, as well as the summary letter to the Diocese, which was then signed by the Vestry Clerk.

**Junior Warden's Report. Zoom Services.** David Carey is focusing on this weekly task – trying to smooth operations by typing up information from Organist Anne Goodreau. He doesn't show Zoomers the homily or readings; since they can listen or download the material from Heidi's email. He will continue to facilitate during October. **Maintenance.** David found an electrician to repair the breaker for the Internet (at no charge to the church), but still needs one to solve the outside lights since days are getting shorter.

**Rector's Report. Diocesan Meeting.** Because of her resignation, September 15 will be Heidi's last Diocesan meeting. Our Mission District #5 is down two representatives from the three normally allowed. **Burial.** Heidi officiated at a burial at Brookside Cemetery, and relatives and friends of Pat Ballou gave a generous donation to the church.

**Old Business. Pancake Breakfast.** On Saturday September 18 at Chester's Fall Festival. David Carey detailed plans for set-up on Friday and for helpers then and on Saturday to make food available from about 7:30 AM to 9:30-10 AM. (See story on the event elsewhere in this newsletter.)

**Transition Comments by Heidi. Office.** Files need culling and organization. **Forward Day by Day.** The list of people to whom Heidi mails the booklets is on her office computer, and the booklets are located under the

computer desk. **Communion Kits.** Heidi has ordered them from the Concordia website. The kits need to be kept fresh in the refrigerator.

*(At this point Heidi left the meeting so the Vestry could discuss details of her compensation and other organizational matters to keep the church going while awaiting communication from the Diocese.)*

### TRANSITION DISCUSSION WITHOUT HEIDI

**Resignation.** The Vestry formally accepted Heidi's letter of resignation with her last day as Rector stated as September 30 – sent in her 8/5/21 email to the Vestry.

**Remuneration.** John said there were no protocols, no formula for resignations and remuneration. After discussion and consideration of her approximately four weeks of vacation time that was not taken, the Vestry voted to offer Heidi six weeks of salary (or three pay periods, less dental that would be paid to the Diocese) to take her through October and the first pay period in November. Lillian was authorized to send Heidi a letter stating the offer and asking her to acknowledge receipt and acceptance by signing the letter where indicated and sending it to the church for its records. (Subsequent to the meeting, Lillian sent Heidi the letter, and by return email Heidi indicated acceptance and said she had placed the signed letter in Lillian's folder at church.)

**Bank Signature on Rector's Discretionary Fund.** The Vestry voted the Junior Warden, David Carey, to be the Congregation's Almoner and a signatory on the Rector's Discretionary Fund. David will go to the bank with Heidi to arrange the change before she leaves VT.

**Organization.** Lillian read a list of 32 jobs and matters that needed to be swiftly resolved for planning purposes and a more orderly transition while we are awaiting the return of Canon Auburn from medical leave, since she is supposed to be our Diocesan contact regarding St. Luke's future. The Vestry then approved dates for the Wreath Workshops and Christmas Market; assignments for contacts, routine chores, financial matters, and PR; Janet Hunter as contact for Pastoral Care; Beth Salisbury as an Alternate Diocesan Delegate to replace those who will have moved by the November Convention. Sunday service duties were clarified, as was coverage of Sunday services in October. Lillian was authorized to continue to contact Supply Priests and Lay Ministers as needed beyond October for continued coverage.

Next Vestry Meeting: Tuesday October 12, 2021.

Lillian Willis, Clerk

## Prayer of St. Anselm

O Lord my God,  
Teach my heart this day  
where and how to find you.

You have made me and re-made me,  
and you have bestowed on me  
all the good things I possess,  
and still I do not know you.  
I have not yet done  
that for which I was made.

Teach me to seek you,  
for I cannot seek you  
unless you teach me,  
or find you  
unless you show yourself to me.

Let me seek you in my desire;  
let me desire you in my seeking.  
Let me find you by loving you;  
let me love you when I find you.

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

If you need prayers for yourself or someone else, someone to talk to, transportation to a doctor or appointment, or other kinds of help in this time of transition, please let us know. We will try to answer your need or find someone else who can be of service.

*Transportation:* David Carey

*Pastoral Care:* Janet Hunter

*Prayer Chain:* Marti Assenza, Marjorie and David Carey, Lynda Farmer, Janice Fielder, Janet and Rick Hunter, Beth Salisbury, Belinda Whipple Worth, Lillian and David Willis



## NAMES OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

On Sunday November 7, we will celebrate All Saints' Day by reading aloud the names of those of our families and friends who have died and parishioners want St. Luke's to acknowledge and remember. To help create a printed insert for that Sunday service, please send your desired names to Lillian Willis at [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net), 802-875-1340 by October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## SUMMER CAMPERS SEND THANKS

Every year the Chester Conservation Committee [CCC] hopes to give a partial scholarship to one or two students toward a week at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp run by VT Fish & Wildlife. The one-week sessions for girls and boys 12-14 costs \$250 and "offers hands-on learning experiences about fish, wildlife, ecology, botany, forestry, hunter firearm safety, outdoor first aid," and much more. For many years St. Luke's made a donation from funds received from the Wreath-Decorating Workshops to help make that experience possible. Last year the Outreach Committee also decided to donate, and the combined contributions enabled two students to have substantial partial scholarships. Partial scholarships mean more to the students and parents as they try to earn their share, so they view the camp as a serious reward.

CCC picks the recipients and lets them know St. Luke's was involved. The CCC teacher who organizes the scholarships said he spoke with both young men who were the 2021 campers, and "their smiles were from ear to ear." Their thank-you notes below are direct quotes.

*I wanted to thank you for the scholarship to Conservation camp this past summer. Some things I did at camp were swimming, hiking, and fishing. I also passed bow hunter safety on my last day at camp. My favorite part of camp was doing the woods walk because it was really fun to walk around properly carrying a firearm. I was very excited to be able to go with my friend Evan too. I hope to be able to go back for advanced week in the future. Thank you.*

*I had so much fun at conservation camp it was a blast I got to do so much fun things, like shooting shot guns 22. Calibers and I even past my hunter safety test so now I get to go bow hunting. I also got to go into the woods and build a camp to sleep in, caught some fish, got to go in a canoe for the second time in my life, got to meet some game wardens and other really cool conservationists.*

## SAVE THE DATES



### Wreath-Decorating Workshops

Multiple sessions on Thursday November 18 through Saturday November 20, with set-up on Wednesday November 17 in Willard Hall.

### Christmas Market (formerly the Christmas Tea)

One day only: Saturday December 4, with set-up on Friday December 3 in Willard Hall.

## WREATH WORKSHOPS NOV. 18-20

Conquer Covid separation and bring on some joyous holiday spirit by decorating a premade evergreen wreath. The number of participants in each session is limited to allow for safe social distancing. As of this moment, masks will be required.

At the workshops, participants may choose from an array of especially collected greens, berries, nuts, and other natural materials, bows, and different embellishments that they can add to their premade evergreen wreath. Wire, glue guns, and other supplied equipment make the decorating easy and successful. Open to the public, the workshops will take place on November 18-20 in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main Street (Route 11 West) in Chester, VT, and will again benefit both the church and Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

Participants must preregister early to be assured of a wreath and their preferred session. There are seven different workshops:

Thursday November 18, 1-2:30 PM or 6:30-8 PM;  
Friday November 19, 9-10:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM or 6:30-8 PM; and  
Saturday November 20, 9-10:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM.

Each session will offer all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group, and participants are encouraged to bring clippers and glue guns if they have them.

A \$5 early-bird discount on the tentative fee of \$50 per wreath will apply to those who preregister and pay by Friday November 5. Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated in the memo line for the Wreath Workshop, and mailed to Lillian Willis at PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. For additional information and registration, please contact Lillian Willis, 802-875-1340, lbwillisct@comcast.net.

This is a great opportunity to support two good causes, start getting ready for the holidays, and have fun doing it safely! Please spread the word and invite your family and friends.



## CHRISTMAS MARKET DEC. 4

The leaves have just started to think about changing color, and we are starting to think seriously about a wonderful event to kick off the Advent season: St. Luke's Christmas Market. Last year during Covid, before vaccinations were available and in the midst of severe health threats and restrictions, we had to hold the event under a cluster of tents by the sidewalk during perfectly miserable, cold, wet, rainy weather. That was a challenge that actually taught our stalwart team a number of lessons. Among them was the benefit of good preparation and advance publicity that allowed pre-ordering of soups, preserves, bakery goods, evergreen decorations, and handmade items that people love to purchase. Therefore, we're starting to plan ahead and inviting you to be part of the project.

We're having a working/planning lunch on Tuesday October 12 at noon to brainstorm ideas for possible products and food, new avenues for publicity, and people you think might want to come buy or volunteer. All ideas are welcome and might inspire additional ones. Please contact Lillian Willis, lbwillisct@comcast.net or 802-875-1340, to respond and consider how you can help.



### God's Design

Philosophers may reason why  
But I won't take the time.  
I only know I'm here on earth  
Because of God's design.  
So I will just continue on  
And do the best I can,  
And know that God will do the rest  
Because He made the Plan.

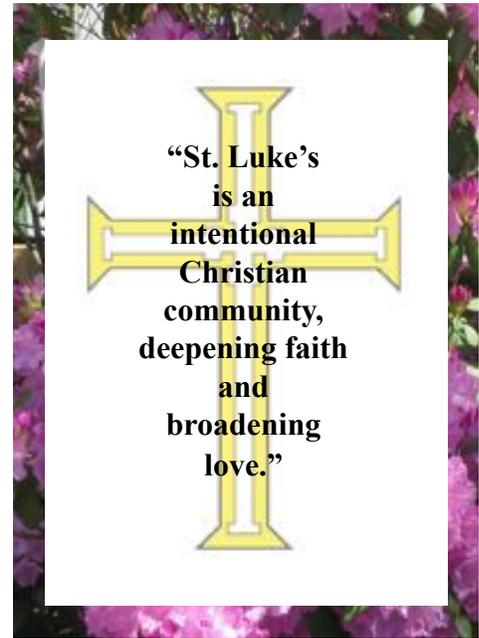
By Ed Kane, *Life's Cameos*, Selesian Missions

**PLEASE JOIN US AT A FAREWELL  
COFFEE HOUR FOR HEIDI & DOUG  
AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE  
ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26**

The reception will be simple, brief, and held outdoors – in accordance with Heidi’s wishes and increased Covid health precautions because of the Delta variant. This will be the last opportunity for parishioners and friends to thank Heidi for her more than six years of service as St. Luke’s Rector and to wish both Heidi and Doug good luck on their next adventures in Colorado. All are encouraged to come.

Those who cannot or prefer not to attend may send their well wishes by Zoom directly after the service, whose invitation will be sent 15-20 minutes before 10 AM by Junior Warden David Carey.

Thank you and good luck to you both, Heidi and Doug!



**OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS**

**Birthdays:**

- 1 Kat Meyer
- 11 Sally Hoover
- 18 Daniel Loraditch
- 19 Moser Worth
- 20 Brian Anderson
- 21 Cyrena Goodrich
- 30 Amy Jones

**Anniversaries:**

- 2 Doc & Annemarie Sexton
- 3 Brian & Ashley Paine
- 7 Malcolm & Ann Summers
- 28 Tom & Eileen Widger
- 24 Walter & Sandra Rich

St. Luke's Financial Update				
	Aug. 2021	YTD 2021	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledge & Plate Income	\$ 1,410.00	\$ 43,515.00	\$ 54,206.00	80.28%
Other Operating Income	\$ 46.89	\$ 17,049.35	\$ 35,200.00	48.44%
Restricted Income	\$ 510.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 2,540.00	57.87%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,966.89</b>	<b>\$ 62,034.35</b>	<b>\$ 91,946.00</b>	<b>67.47%</b>
Regular Expense	\$ 6,213.45	\$ 63,470.10	\$ 102,238.81	62.08%
Restricted Expense	\$ 369.62	\$ 1,210.16	\$ 2,340.00	51.72%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 6,583.07</b>	<b>\$ 64,680.26</b>	<b>\$ 104,578.81</b>	<b>61.85%</b>
Net Ordinary Income (loss)	\$ (4,616.18)	\$ (2,645.91)	\$ (12,632.81)	20.94%
Draw on Investments	\$ - .00	\$ - .00	\$ 14,750.00	0.00%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (4,616.18)</b>	<b>\$ (2,645.91)</b>	<b>\$ 2,117.19</b>	

As in July, the month on its own looks bleak. However, Year To Date income is ahead of schedule, with no funds having been drawn from investments. September will bring increased Other Operating Income with a dividend payment from the rectory investment fund. Restricted income is largely PINs donations, which were used to fund the back to school backpacks loaded with school supplies.

Reminder: please mail in your pledge contributions. Thank you!




**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
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**NOVEMBER LITS**  
👉 **DEADLINE** 👈  
**October 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Send articles and photos to  
lbwilllist@comcast.net