

St. Luke's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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From the Rector

By Martha Kester



I was talking to a long-term parishioner the other day and she was very concerned because of the COVID restrictions she was no longer considered a communicant in good standing at St. Luke's. I reassured her she was and I'll explain why in a moment yet I was so pleased she even thought about this and it actually concerned her.

In case you do not know what I'm writing about or have never heard the term before I want to first explain what it means to be 'a communicant in good standing' and why it's important in the life of a Christian.

The Episcopal Church's Constitutions & Canons pretty much defines most everything in regards to how things are done in The Episcopal Church. Title 1, Canon 17 deals with 'Of Regulations Respecting the Laity'. In case you do not know it, you are laity unless you have been ordained in The Episcopal Church. While I'm not much for the term membership when it refers to a specific church because most see it as certain hoops one must jump through to get their membership card. When people ask what they need to do to be members of St. Luke's my response is often to be active and to support the community. The Canon even begins by

stating "All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church, are members thereof." Even here it's not about us but what God has done and provided for us.

So how is that different from being a member in good standing or a communicant in good standing. For example, there are some names in our directory of people I have never met in the 14 years I've been a priest at St. Luke's so while technically they may be members, they are not communicants or in good standing. Going back to the Canon, first they define a communicant as "(a) All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the

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Fall Church Yard Clean Up Day November 8

We have reached the decision to go ahead and schedule a fall clean up day. It is scheduled for Sunday, November 8 following the 10am service.

Let's all pray for good weather that day so the clean up will go smoothly. We will be outside and able to wear masks and social distance from each other as much as possible. Although this year we will not be able to grill and partake in a potluck type lunch, we will be providing lunch to those in attendance for the clean up.



If you are able to help, there is a sign up sheet in the Guild Room or you can let Angela know and she can put your name on the sign up sheet. One task is to help condense the leaves, it does help to use a mower, so if you are willing and able to bring a mulching mower, that would be great.

Any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 616-669-5331. — Frank and Ronda Montgomery.

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preceding year are to be considered communicants of this Church. (b) For the purposes of statistical consistency throughout the Church, communicants sixteen years of age and over are to be considered adult communicants.” (Canon I.17.2) It then goes on to define a communicant in good standing “All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.” (Canon I.17.3)

Even the writer of Hebrews understood the need to gather in community as a group of Christians in order to remember the truth we are saved by Jesus alone and to give us the fortitude to face the real evil and sin in this fallen world. “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (ESV Hebrews 10:24-25) Also the early church understood this necessity of the need for gathered Christian community when Acts tell us “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (ESV Acts 2:42) This is part of the reason I urged the use of the Spiritual Communion prayers on the Sunday’s throughout this COVID time when a person is not able to physically be at St. Luke’s or does not

yet feel comfortable coming forward to actually receive. The Eucharist is important as it is a tangible reminder of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus which is for each one of us not because we deserve it but out of his desire for us to be back in relationship with Him.

We are living through interesting and trying times. In a way we need the Church even more in light of it. How though do we stay connected when many of us cannot physically be together? That’s part of the reason we are livestreaming the 10 o’clock service, it’s why we print the Spiritual Communion prayers in the bulletin, and it’s why we do offer the opportunity for those who feel comfortable to be in person worship to receive the sacrament. So back to the concern from the beginning. When it is beyond your control to be in person to receive physically the Eucharist, God understands and so does St. Luke’s. There is a difference between not being able to receive due to COVID concerns and just choosing not to show up because it’s more convenient to sleep in, go for a walk, watch sports, watch a livestream, etc.

So even if you are unable to currently be in person because of COVID concerns be reassured you are still loved by God and of course by St. Luke’s – there are always ways to continue to support and to be part of community even when physical presence is not possible.

Music Notes

By Stephanie Dana Ely

Well, the time is here. As strange as it is to write, it is true. This will be my last newsletter contribution as organist and choir director. For those of you who may not have yet heard, I shared with Martha recently my intention to step down from my position and we determined that my last Sunday on the organ bench will be November 22. As the Liturgical Year closes out, so will my tenure as music director. While I have greatly enjoyed my work and ministry at St. Luke’s, it is time for me to focus my time on other goals. This includes most immediately completing a Master’s of Teaching at Drake in spring 2021 and transitioning into a career as K-12 teacher. I hope to find a job as a high school German teacher.

It seems like such a short time has passed since I first started in this role in June 2017, which, as I noted in my first newsletter contribution, has been my first ever position as a (semi-) professional musician! When I took this position, I am not quite sure I understood how much I would be challenged and rewarded through this work. I will admit that I have had many moments of imposter’s syndrome and questioned whether my skills and abilities were up to muster for the job. But as I look back on those moments, I can now see how beneficial they were for me to build confidence in myself and to learn how to smile through the mistakes. Doing so has led to many moments of glory not only

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we move into the season of Advent and Christmas we are making plans which are tentative due to the possibility of changing restrictions.

We encourage everyone to **subscribe to our weekly e-Bulletin** for the most up to date information. If you are not already subscribed you may email Angela in the parish office at stlukesdsm@netins.net and ask to be added.



Find our Livestream at 10a.m. Sunday Mornings or watch past services on YouTube by searching for **St. Luke's Episcopal Church Des Moines, IA**

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

STREAMED ON DEMAND
Saturday, December 19
4p.m.

Join us for a fun afternoon of holiday rock music as we stream Trans-Siberian Orchestra’s winter concert “Christmas Eve and Other Stories!” We will be spread out in Orvis Hall so there will be plenty of space for people to distance.



Lay Eucharist Visitors (LEV)

It is sad that the current situation has kept us away from those who were unable to attend St. Luke’s prior to the pandemic. We continue to telephone to talk, to listen, and to pray. A familiar voice is a wonderful gift.

Please include Charlotte, Chris, Darlene, Jeanne, Laura, Mary, Nancy, and Shannon in your prayers.

upcoming events

November 29

St. Andrew’s Day

Wear your kilts and tartan mask—the pipers will be playing at the 10a.m. service!

November 28

Thanksgiving Day Service at 9a.m.

December 12

Social Distanced Altar Guild Meeting at 10a.m.

For members who feel comfortable attending we will be meeting upstairs in Orvis Hall to make plans for Christmas and the year ahead.

December 24

Christmas Eve Services at 5:30p.m. & 10p.m.

December 25

Christmas Day Service at 10a.m.

January 31

Annual Parish Meeting

At this point we are still determining how the Annual Meeting will take place. Please watch the weekly e-Bulletin and website for details as the date gets closer.



ECW Silent Auction

Start: Sunday, November 1

End: Sunday, November 15 | 11:30 a.m.

To Bid: **IF YOU ARE AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY,** items will be in the Guild Room and you may enter your bid on the bidding sheet.

ATTENDING VIRTUALLY? Contact Sue Frambach:

EMAIL: frambach79@q.com | **TEXT:** 515-779-5676 | **PHONE:** 515-280-6589

I will let you know if you have been outbid, to give you a chance for the winning bid.

MINIMUM BID:

\$50.00

Money must be received before or at the time of receipt of the item.



1



3



4



8



6



7

1. A Cozy Christmas: DVD: Christmas Time in South Park; 2 Christmas Music CDs; single serve Christmas all-in-one teapot and cup; gingerbread scented candle; Holiday spice reed diffuser; 4 star candle holders; angel tea light; 1 loaf homemade pumpkin bread in crocheted Christmas tree bag.

2. Movie Mania: 25 DVDs, some Oscar and Golden Globe winners; microwave popcorn and 3 boxes theater candy

3. Flower Power: large watering can; sturdy garden tote; garden hat; plant food; gardening book; large Isobel Bloom planter and \$35.00 Earl May gift certificate

4. Martha's Magic #1: A stained glass mosaic stepping stone of the St. Luke's logo

5. Tower of Treats (all homemade): 2 mini-loaves of sweet bread; 1 dozen gingerbread people; bag of pretzel rolo buttons; vanilla or chocolate shortbread; 1 dozen wheat dinner rolls; 1 dozen carrot cake cupcakes with cream cheese frosting; 1 pie, either pumpkin or apple - your choice

6. Framed Art: Oriental scene, painting on silk, professionally matted and framed

7. P. Buckley Moss print: Soccer Girl

8. Martha's Magic #2: A pair of stained glass angel sun catchers

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

from the organ bench, but also from the piano bench where I would lead the choir. I can distinctly recall basking in the beautiful sounds of multiple voices finally finding the right chord during rehearsal or finding the right emotion to shape the phrase.

But overcoming these challenges was, of course, not accomplished alone. I want to thank Martha, for first of all, taking a chance on a young organist with no experience and for knowing that I had the ability to do the job well before I actually believed it. I want to thank Angela for patiently reminding me on Thursdays that I still hadn't provided the hymns for the Saturday bulletin printing and for always helping me with anything and everything I asked for. Thank you, also, to the choir for not only their time and effort of singing each week, but also for their openness to trying new things and for always smiling with me even when challenged with difficult music or a director who was still learning by doing. And last but not least, of course thank you to the congregation of St. Luke's for embracing me in this role, for sharing with me words of encouragement and support, and for following my lead even when it required learning new service music or chanting the Psalms. For all of this and much more, I will be forever grateful.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Stephanie Dana Ely

By Vince Carter

In 1945 Saint Luke's Church bought a Baldwin Organ. The congregation was apparently desiring a better sound coming from the old organ. I'm not sure there even was an older organ; Jim Cocks would know. In 1984, the congregation again felt the need to improve the sound of the hymnal tunes by a newer organ. This amazing engine of pipes and pedals is the current organ now sitting in front of the altar. Jim Cocks and I both were present at its installation. The first sounds out of its pipes were like being in a thunder storm that rattled your windows and raised your senses and focus to the music that surrounded you. I began to realize that maybe the church leaders of 1945 were seeking something other than just making a joyful noise. They may have been seeking a feeling of spiritual togetherness that was felt as well as heard.

Over the years, we have employed a number of organist who were able to bring out that spiritual stirring of the soul into a prayerful worship. We are about to lose one. Stephanie Dana Ely is stepping away from her position as organist. She is going to be devoting a large majority of her time to a teaching career and playing the organ is not part of that endeavor.

I tried to make her feel guilty about leaving. It didn't work. She is much too intelligent and independent minded to be talked out of her goals and ambitions. So I told her the truth.

I explained she brings a youthfulness and vitality to the organ like she does to everyone in the church. Talking with Stephanie is much like her playing. It is clear and on cue like her knowledge of the instrument. She carries around a spiritual concern for people and passes it on to everyone she meets. She is fascinated by new thoughts and serious about her journey to find God. Her creative nature surprises me some times. On one of our church yard clean up days, instead of brandishing a rake, I found her drawing with colored chalk on the sidewalk. She takes her career and life responsibilities honestly and with a caring heart.

I realize her career goal to teach is a noble and admirable profession. I believe whoever employees her will quickly learn the value of her talents and students will benefit from her care. I also believe I and many others at Saint Luke's will sadly miss her organ virtuosity. What would be even worse would be her and her husband's absence from the pews. We all hope they will stay and travel with us down this road of faith and loving your neighbor as yourself.

We will undoubtedly find a new organist. God has blessed us with a number of them and I'm sure he is partial to good organ music. I know he is a bit one sided about Stephanie's presence during worship services. So are we all.

Helping to meet the need for food assistance in our community

COVID-19 has slowed many of our regular activities however it has increased the need for food assistance in our community. With some adjustments, masks, social distancing and care St. Luke’s continues to help meet these needs in a variety of ways. Take a look at what we’ve been up to:

King Pantry Outreach

It is hectic. It is chaotic. It is fun. It is another week at the King School Pantry. Except we are not at King School anymore, we are now at the Friendship Center, 1526 Martin Luther King Jr Pkwy, DSM. Why? The schools need every inch of space for social distancing once students return. All school pantries moved to churches, a remarkable transition in a difficult year.

The King transition was successful. The first week at the Friendship Center we provided food to 19 families, the 4th week we provided food to 44 families, a highwater mark. The Pantry is now a resource for three schools and the neighborhood.

We need volunteers. If you can handle a bit of confusion, and if you like helping those with less, please stop by the Friendship Center between 11 AM and 2 PM on Fridays. You are welcome any Friday. We will be there trying to Teach the Truth of Christ through our actions.



The Friendship Center is a church supported community resource. You can find out more about the Friendship Center at www.friendshipcenterdsm.org

- Lee Anderson**
laander11143@aol.com
515 480 3174
- Jim Fleming**
jwf2552@gmail.com
515 279 5781
- George Wilson**
geo@gwiii.com
515 201 9703

PS It really isn't that hectic, or chaotic, just busy for the two hours of distribution. It is a good busy.

Homeless Shelter Meal Update

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the shelter is not using volunteer servers at the shelter and is using local restaurants and caterers to prepare meals—so that cash donations to the shelter provide both food for shelter residents and support for food-service workers, while keeping everyone as safe as possible.

During the pandemic we have been providing the dates we signed up for by making a \$250 donation to cover the evening meal. This was done in June, July, August and October so far this year. Plans for the next meal, on December 3, will be announced by early November. Thank you to everyone who has given to the shelter meal to make this possible.



United Upper Nile Food Pantry

As many of you know St. Luke’s offers space to the Collo Community to worship on Sunday afternoons as well as a classroom in the basement that they have transformed into a DMARC Food Pantry to specifically assist Sudanese in our area. The pantry is run by Omujwok Nyikango—Omujwok also answers to the name Peter. If you come to the church on a Friday you may see him distributing food. Take the time to say hello and receive one of his wonderful smiles!

Above: Omujwok Nyikango, Director of the United Upper Nile Food Pantry housed at St. Luke’s distributes food on Friday, Sept. 25.

St. Luke’s DMARC Representative Needed



St. Luke’s has partnered with DMARC Food Pantry for decades. In recent years John Thompson and Paul Johnson helped this effort by keeping the need before the parish and delivering donated items to the pantry. They have both stepped down from these responsibilities so we are looking for someone who might like to be involved in this area. In the past, donated items were taken from the church collection box to the pantry once a month at the transporter’s convenience (currently the pantry prefers cash donations due to COVID so no deliveries are taking place). DMARC also holds occasional campaigns that could be brought to the attention of the parish, such as Souper Bowl Sunday and matching grants. St. Luke’s has even come up with their own collection challenges like the Army-Navy Game cereal challenge. This can be done by someone who likes to be out front making the announcements or by organizing in the background once or twice a year. A heart for the hungry in our community is all that is needed.

For more information talk to Angela in the parish office (277-0875).

Shelter Lunch Sack Program

Under the leadership of Jim McLallen, St. Luke’s continues to provide pre-sacked shelf-stable lunch items to Central Iowa Shelter Services on an as needed basis. The shelter adds a fresh sandwich to these sacks and makes them available for people who are going out to work or job search during the day.



Students Brooke Pederson, Erin Steffenson, Hannah Heiss, Katie Lajoie, Grace Noack, Sarah Hennessey, Emily Hanna, Elizabeth James, Maddie Willey, Shahmaz Basha from the APO fraternity at Drake helped our members pack sack lunches for the shelter on Sunday, September 27th.