

REGARDING Parish Activities

As you can see in this issue, we aren't publishing a calendar of events right now.

Since we do not know when things will resume we encourage everyone to stay informed via the weekly e-Bulletin and the church website:

www.stlukes-dsm.org

Once we are able to meet together again we will celebrate a belated Palm Sunday and Easter. Previously cancelled activities will be rescheduled and for those who were enjoying the 39 Articles of Religion study we will resume it in the fall.

Meanwhile, stay safe and be well; and please, if you need something contact the parish office (515-277-0875) and we will try our best to help.

THIS ISSUE

From the Senior Warden	2
Community Spotlight	3
Finance Update	4
Lay Eucharist Visitors	4
King School Pantry	5
Pictures from the Past, Faith for the Future	6

From the Rector

By Martha Kester



As I sit to write this horizon's article there is a lot of uncertainty as to what the future holds. My prayer is that by the time you read this some semblance of normalcy will have returned to our world, our country and our lives. However even if it has not we must hold fast to our faith and trust in our risen Lord.

It often seems difficult when life is uncertain, when we don't seem to have control of our everyday actions, when we are fearful or anxious of what might or might not happen in the future, to experience the peace God desires for us in our daily lives. Yet when I struggle with a sense of peace and am giving in to my own fear and anxiety, I am reminded of Paul's exhortation to the church in Philippi.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

(ESV Phil 4:4-9)

Continued on page 2

FROM THE RECTOR

continued from page 1

What is amazing about his words is that he is writing from prison facing his own mortality as he expected death to come at any moment. Most of us have never known true incarceration of this type. Being quarantined in our homes doesn't come close to what Paul was suffering. He didn't have internet, zoom, grubhub, grocery delivery or other modern conveniences. He truly was in a place of uncertainty with no control of over his future. What he did have control over was how he approached each moment and we have the same. So what are we thinking on? Focusing on? Are we taking the time to be in God's presence or do we spend more time in the presence of the news media?

I pray in this time we might come into a greater awareness of Jesus in our lives not just when we make it to a Sunday service but every day. I also pray we come to appreciate our St. Luke's family in ways which before we might have taken for granted. I truly am looking forward to finally celebrating properly the Easter joy as a gathered community.

From the Senior Warden

By Alex Jensen

Unprecedented. Uncertain. We have been hearing these terms and ones like it every day, every hour, and every minute that we feel out of control. But what is just as uncertain as what the next day will bring is that we will adapt to changes and I have been impressed by the way St. Luke's has adapted to social distancing.

Despite us not having the opportunity to celebrate Holy Week in person, the St. Luke's community stepped up in offering online resources for worship. It was wonderful to have participated in the virtual Stations of the Cross and listened to the prerecorded organ hymns Easter morning.

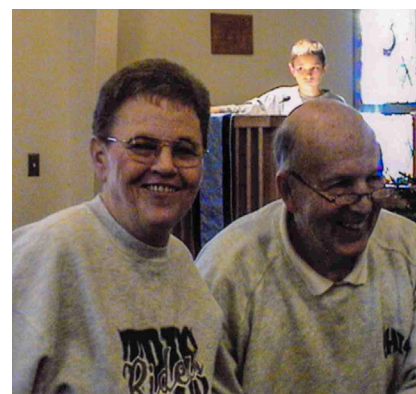
In addition to the opportunities the St. Luke's community has offered, the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa has other resources for congregations from online worship to devotional ideas:

www.iowaepiscopal.org/covid19

I would encourage you to check this out especially if you are planning or participating in online video conferencing so you can have a safe and productive meeting.

I also want members of the St. Luke's family to know they can check in by phone or email during this time. If you cannot find the directory, please request a digital copy from Angela in the church office; Angela will be in the office Monday – Thursday from 9 :00 a.m. to at least noon during social distancing period. Also, if you find yourself at home in need of groceries or other supplies we have people standing by to deliver and help as needed; simply contact Angela or Martha.

I have no doubt that we will continue to adapt until we can once again break bread together. This too shall pass.



upcoming events

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Pictures from the Past, Faith for the Future

By Kristine Crisman

I struggled with writing this article. Should I talk about Covid 19 and what it's taking away from us (especially being able to go to church), or just concentrate on our history? So I did what I always do when I'm at a crossroad: rely on my faith and believe in the path it takes me.

There is a wooden plaque I have in my room which reads

Worry ends where faith begins

And that is my compass because it's so true and so simple. If you give yourself and your worries to God, and truly believe that he is in charge, then suddenly those burdens don't seem so big.

Enjoy these pictures from the past: couples smiling, kids laughing, baptisms, people together. Have faith that we will all be able to do this again. I look forward to the day when I see you all at church again.

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.

(1 John 5:4)



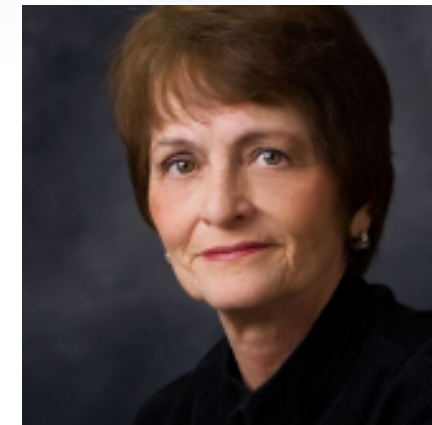
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Dody Christy

By Vince Carter

I have always found it fascinating that no matter how obnoxious or harsh St. Paul was around groups of non-believers or those who failed to carry out his instructions, there was still a number of female Christian followers who would hide him, feed him, employee him, risk their lives to keep him safe and when necessary repeat the process without so much as a sigh of ambivalence. I suspect they felt if they could help him carry out his mission his victories would also be their victories. I have no doubt they were right in that observance. I'm sure Christ remembered their sacrifices when the time came.

There are quite a few women at Saint Luke's who maintain Christ's victories in many diverse ways. The Rector, of course, is one. She is devoted to all of us. Sue Frambach is another. If for no other reason than her baking pastries for the Guild Room on Sundays. I was recently made aware of another gifted woman who is retiring from her successful church work. Work that has left this congregation in much better financial prosperity than when she found it. Dody Christy is retiring as the Treasurer of Saint Luke's Church. I am saddened by this announcement but I also realize she has deserved this retirement many times over. I remember when the finance committee first asked her to take over the position of Treasurer. I would compare her reaction to Jonah when he was told to bring God's word to Nineveh. She was hesitant for a variety of reasons. Budgets and expenses were unmatched and the paperwork was overwhelming. After an inordinate amount of pleading by the finance committee she wavered and agreed to "try it out for awhile." Fortunately for the church, she "tried it out" for a number of fruitful years. I will never know what it



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DODY CHRISTY

was that kept her at the Treasurer's helm. I wonder if it had anything to do with Christian victories?

She was always completely forthright in her reports. Her accuracy was questioned by the Vestry, as is every Treasurer, and was always proven right. She was not fearful of telling the Vestry when their ideas didn't meet the legal criteria they desired. What was most important about her term of office was the trust and integrity felt by the church community towards her handling of church funds. While on the Vestry, there were a number of times when I struggled with a financial problem at the church for which I could see no resolution. The answer would always be resolved by talking with Dody, who would find a way to carry on the church's mission.

There are a great many people, including myself, who are thankful and proud to have worked with Dody. I am also proud to know her as a friend. Writing about her now brings a quote to mind from Mark Twain:

"After all these years, I see that I was mistaken about Eve in the beginning; it is better to live outside the Garden with her than inside it without her." — "Adam's Diary"

Update from the Finance Committee

By George Wilson and Jim Fleming for the Finance Committee

1st Quarter Financials

St. Luke's 1st Quarter Financials were stable. The quarter ended with a net income of \$15,255.09, slightly less than what was budgeted (\$16,387.13). Small variances are expected early in the year so there is no cause for concern.

Pledges and Open Plate are the two biggest income items in the budget. Both are behind a little however neither is of concern given the adverse January weather and the loss of services. Many members continued giving during the March hiatus which helped greatly. Thank you!

Both staff and expenses were, and are, being paid in full and on time. Staff is adapting to the hiatus by providing aids for home worship, by making music to fill the air, and by preparing for the return of community worship. In addition staff is calling to ensure that members have food and medications. If you need help please call the office, 277-0875.

Since operational costs continue during the hiatus maintaining your pledge will help keep the budget stable. Please help to the extent you can.

The 2nd Priest effort, Onward, is paused due to current disruptions. The campaign will restart once community services resume. \$200,000 has already been committed towards the Onward goal of \$300,000. Isn't that wonderful?

The end of the 1st Quarter marks the retirement of Dody Christy as Treasurer. Dody organized the finances, provided timely and accurate reports, and brought stability to the budgeting process, all with her winning smile. She has been magnificent in her service to St. Luke's!

Please pray for the health of the world and for the day we can return to worship the Lord together at St. Luke's.

King School Pantry Update

By George Wilson and Jim Fleming

In early 2020 the King School Pantry distributed over 7 tons of food donated by FoodBank of Iowa and about 600 lbs for fruits/vegetables donated by HyVee. The King Pantry was humming.

The Pantry closed on March 13. On that date a record number of families were served. Every family was sent home with as much food as they could carry and use. All the families were extremely grateful. They were also nervous: My children must eat, where can we get food when the Pantry is closed? Information on other resources was provided to help cover the anticipated two-week closure.

Unfortunately King Pantry has not reopened yet. We are working to establish a weekly drive-thru pickup by the end of April.

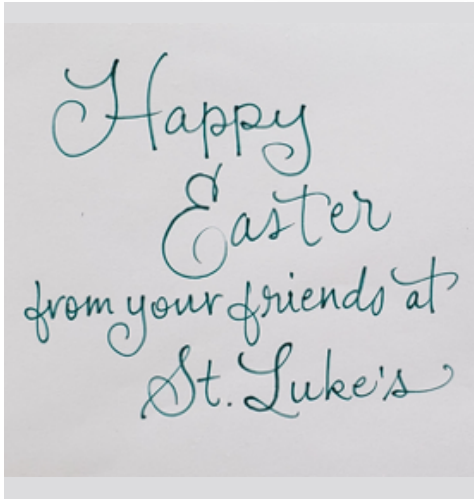
Fortunately FoodBank and Des Moines Area Religious Council (and many others) are doing their best to provide food to those in need.

If you would like to help, the most urgent need of FoodBank and DMARC is cash.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

FoodBank of Iowa
www.foodbankiowa.org
(515) 564-0330

DMARC
www.dmarcunited.org/donate/donate-online
(515) 277-6969



Lay Eucharist Visitors (LEV)

Now is a quiet time for LEV due to the restrictions imposed by the Diocese of Iowa, by Care Centers, and by common sense.

Despite the quiet we telephone to pray and to listen. A familiar voice and a willingness to listen is a wonderful gift.

We also provided an Easter greeting from St. Luke's to those we serve. Everyone loves receiving a brightly decorated card.



During March we lost two long-time parish members, **Nancy Turner** and **Carol Vavra**. Memorial services are pending at this time. Both of these women will indeed be missed.

Parish death notices and service announcements are sent out via email. If you are not receiving the weekly parish e-Bulletin you may miss important announcements like this.

Weekly parish e-Bulletin
To sign up just email Angela in the parish office at stlukesdsm@netins.net and ask to be added to the e-Bulletin.