

St. Luke's Newsletter

Worshipping | Ministering | Serving

Holy Eucharist, Saturday 5:00; Sunday 10:00; Healing Eucharist, Wednesday 12:05

From Mother Barnes

We are in the midst of the season of Epiphany in which we consider the many ways that Christ is made manifest - in us, amongst us, and beyond. Come March, we will once again enter the season of Lent which many associate, rightly so, with fasting, and penitence.

Benedictine nun, Joan Chittister in her book *The Liturgical Year*, notes however that, "Lent is not a ritual. It is time given to think seriously about who Jesus is for us, to renew our faith from the inside out." We hope that as we celebrate the deep meaning of these liturgical seasons you will find St. Luke's a welcoming and affirming place where you may worship, seek, reflect, and renew your faith from the inside out.

Worship

St. Luke welcomes you and hopes that you will join us in worship, often: at Eucharist, a concert, a Wednesday healing service, a Thursday evening Centering Prayer, or our Adult Formation series just after coffee hour.

Church Office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 8:30-3:00.

Notes from St. Luke's Kitchen



The first "Welsh" cookie bake of 2019 was Saturday, January 12. It was a bitter cold morning and the kitchen also had quite the chill, so we fired up the flat top grills and the bakers' ovens and the kitchen soon warmed up. One by one the cookie people arrived, put on aprons, and the warmth of friendship and commonality really heated up the kitchen.

There were stories to tell, a little kidding around and quite a few laughs. In a little over three hours over 1500 cookies were rolled, cut, cooked and bagged, all for a good cause: fund raising for the Women of St. Luke's. The kitchen at St. Luke's has a lot of history, a huge amount of comforts with fellowship and lasting memories. – from Mark Zander * * * *Thanks to Mark, Rich and Kathy, David, Elaine, Lauren, Robin, Rick, Carol and Elsa for all your work on this first cookie bake of the year.*

Senior Warden David Wegner steps down

In accordance with the universal diocesan by-laws adopted by St. Luke's vestry in 2017, stipulating that no member of the vestry can serve more than two consecutive three-year terms, David Wegner has stepped down as Senior Warden. He served more than ten years in the position, and continuously since January 2012. We asked David to reflect on his years as Senior Warden. He writes: "I feel blessed to have served St. Luke's Church as Senior Warden under two Priests-in-Charge and for more than two years when we did not have a Rector or Priest-in-Charge. One of the biggest lessons I learned was to personally ask fellow St. Lucans to donate their time and talents when it was needed. I found that they, like me, were seeking ways to serve, deepening their shared commitment to our baptismal covenant and supporting the mission of our church."



Children's Ministry

From **Rick Ammenhauser**:

Happy Winter from all of us here at Sunday School! For the months of February, March, and April we will be alternating our studies between parables and saints. The parables we will be studying include The Good Shepherd, The Good Samaritan, and the Parable of The Sower. Out of our new lesson book this year we will be studying such saints as St. Thomas, St. Valentine and St. Patrick. Our Valentine's party will be on Sunday **February 10th**, which will include snacks and drinks and time for a valentine exchange. On **March 9th**, the children will be helping out at St. Luke's stand for the St. Patrick's parade. Stay warm all.

Service and Fellowship

We need **volunteers** at all services as **lectors, ushers, and counters**. We also need people to provide snacks for **coffee hour**. If you are interested, sign up in Israel Lounge.

Safety Net needs donations and monthly volunteers to work a four-hour shift at the door. Sign-up sheets are in Israel Lounge. Questions? Call Robin O'Hearn at 570-963-5407.

I thank you for your support during my years as Senior Warden and I hope that you will continue to love and support St. Luke's for many years to come."

Thank you, David both for all you have done for St Luke's so far and for your continued faithful service. Thanks to the new Vestry members who have stepped up to serve: Dr. Mickey Baccoli; Mr. Bernie Ott; Mrs. Kathy Selemba.

Adult Education and Formation

Sunday Adult Education: immediately after the Coffee hour (approximately 11:30-12:30). Through summer 2019, we'll study Living Discipleship - Practicing Our Faith, a 26-week course about prayer, beliefs, and practices, and the intimate relationship among all three. Grounded in The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), whose prayers both shape and reflect what we believe, the class is also amplified by our liturgies, which help articulate what we Episcopalians believe.

Centering Prayer: Thursday evenings, 5:30-7 pm. Join us in practicing and studying a receptive method of silent prayer.

Mark Your Calendar

Febr. 24, 1 pm, **Greater Scranton MLK Commission Celebration and Awards Dinner**. McIlhenny Ballroom, University of Scranton. Details at <https://www.scranton.edu/equity-diversity/mlkcommission.shtml>.

March 5th, 5-7 pm, **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, Kreidler Hall.

March 6, **Ash Wednesday**. Holy Eucharist, with Imposition of Ashes: **12:10**, no music; **7 pm**, hymns, organ, choir.

March 10, 3 pm: **Lyric Consort - Poor Wayfarin' Stranger: Music of Separation and Homecoming**.

Saturday, March 16, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., **Lenten Quiet Day** with Barbara Cawthorne Crafton - *Forgiveness: What It Is and What It Isn't*. Often forgiveness is associated with "warm fuzzy feelings" and "forgetting" past wrongs. Barbara Crafton offers a more realistic understanding of forgiveness, that it is about learning to let go of the "tumor of anger that develops its own blood supply." This is not beyond our reach if we understand that God accompanies and empowers our struggle. Fee: \$25 (scholarships available; contact Mother Barnes). A light lunch will be provided.