

THE SHEPHERD

APRIL 2018

St. Luke's Church
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An Eastertide Message from Father Charlie



The Fifth Gospel: Our Easter

There is a story of an incident that took place in Moscow shortly after the Russian Revolution. At a mass meeting of workers, the leader announced to the crowd that there would be complete freedom of speech allowed but that each person should be brief. Many got up and waxed eloquent on the glories of communism. Finally, a little, thin priest climbed the steps. The Chairman shouted "Five minutes only!" The priest turned and said that he would need much less than that. Then he began: "My friends, you have heard all the arguments that have been brought forward to prove the new world view, but, my friends, Christ has risen!" He left the podium and sat down. From 1,000 voices came back the response: "He is risen, indeed, alleluia!"

Easter has been called "The Queen of all Feasts." George Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, in his book *I Believe* notes that "the disciples of Jesus spent very little time talking about the significance of the death of Jesus or even the person of Jesus. The emphasis falls instead upon the resurrection. The reason is that the Gospel story was formed backwards. Instead of starting with the birth of Jesus and going on to his ministry, death, and resurrection, the first disciples began with the resurrection and showed how it made sense of the rest." The notes of excitement and joy pervade the pages of the Acts of the Apostles. Here we find the ring of truth. If Jesus appeared to you, what would you say to your friends? You wouldn't be talking theology or theories of death and resuscitation. You would be spilling over with excitement. You would more likely be shouting: "The Lord is risen. He's alive. He lives and all is well!"

So the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation stone of the Christian faith. Everything stands or falls on this one, single event. If the crucifixion had been the end of the story, there would be no church. Out of a less-than-impressive group of followers came a conviction and power that the world could not stop. If we were to remove references in the New Testament to the resurrection, there would be little left. Its pages radiate with the conviction that Jesus is alive. Those first Christians didn't merely believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. They didn't go out giving academic addresses saying: "Come to our workshop on the existential significance of the empty tomb." Rather, they rushed out saying: "We have seen the Lord. He is alive. We know it for ourselves. We know it personally!"

My friends, the resurrection of Jesus Christ must become our resurrection if it is to have any meaning. We must experience resurrection personally if Easter has any relevance. This is what I call the fifth Gospel. There are the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, but the fifth Gospel carries your name and mine. It must be written out of our own experiences of death and resurrection.

A Blessed Eastertide to you.

Father Charlie

Education Series: Instructed Eucharist



Father Charlie invites you to his upcoming series on the sacrament of the Eucharist beginning April 22. This series will be in 3 parts:

- April 22 An overview of this sacrament
- April 29 The first part called "The Word"
- May 6 The consecration and receiving of the elements of bread and wine.

The series will be shared at both the 8:00 and 10:00 services. You are urged to attend all!



Vestry News from Nancy H. Rose, Warden

Before Father David retired, he was the Parish Administrator and took care of the various facets of the running of St. Luke's. Now, it's up to us. Realizing the need, at their March meeting St. Luke's Vestry adopted a new structure for our Parish. Six standing committees will encompass all parish activities, and each will be chaired by at least one member of the Vestry. Members of these committees will be invited from amongst parish members, so many of you either have already received, or may be receiving an invitation to become a part of St. Luke's structure. But you don't have to be invited – volunteer. A copy of the adopted structure is below:

FINANCE

Treasurer and Wardens

- Budget
- Audit
- Insurance
- Contracts

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Bruce Treiber and Andy Baltz

- Repairs
- Maintenance
- Capital Projects
- Columbarium

COMMUNICATIONS

Vivienne Smith

- Public Relations
- Outreach
- Liaison with Diocese

COMMUNITY

Robert Franco and Linda Parsons

- Building Use
- Coffee Hours
- Social Events

FUND RAISING

Brian Anthony

- Stewardship
- Yard Sale
- Bazaar
- Mini Mart
- Pancake Supper
- Thrift Shop
- Lay Eucharist Ministers

MINISTRY & WORSHIP

Beth Wiesmann and Kristine Janusas

- Youth and Sunday School
- Acolytes
- Lay Readers
- Pastoral Care
- Christmas Pageant
- Adopt-A-Family

The next Vestry Meeting will be on April 22 immediately following the 10:00 am service

Garage Sale



St Luke's will hold a Garage Sale on June 2, as part of the annual Sea Cliff Garage Sale Day. All proceeds will benefit St Luke's.

Donations - If you have clean and functioning items to donate please bring them to St Luke's basement or contact Anne Baltz (516 302 3598) or Bruce Treiber (516 659 4113) to arrange for pick up.

Help needed - we need help sorting and pricing donations prior to the sale, setting up **Friday June 1** and working the sale on **Saturday June 2**. If you can help please contact Anne Baltz or sign up during coffee hour

Search Committee Update

Our Vestry has been fully engaged in preparing for the search for our next Rector. Kristine Janusas has graciously offered to serve as the liaison between the Vestry and the Search Committee. We have assembled a diverse and committed group of St. Luke's parishioners to serve on our committee charged with leading the search for our next Rector. Please feel free to reach out to our search committee members to thank them for their service and to let them know your hopes and interest in the skills and personal qualities you want us to look for in our next rector.

St. Luke's Search Committee Members

Alison Trotta	Jonathan Waechter
Charles Golightly	Kristen Henderson
Christopher Pierce	Susan Thurman
Gerald Anders	Doug O'Dell

To date, the Vestry and I have met with the Canon Clair Woodley to gain her guidance on the search process and clarify the ways in which our Vestry, Search Committee and the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island will work together to recruit and secure the next Rector for St. Luke's. In addition, we are blessed to have our Interim Rector, the Reverend Dr. Charles Colwell, fully engaged with us all in the search process. We have developed a new Parish Profile, collected our annual Calendar of Events and the two most recent financial audits to share with the Diocese. Most importantly, we initiated a parish survey on Easter Sunday and will close out submissions of the survey on Sunday, April 15, 2018. Once all the survey responses are submitted all of our parish information will be submitted to the Diocese and we will start receiving names of candidates for the next Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

We are committed to keeping the entire Parish informed and involved in our search process.

Thank you all for your patience, support and input as we move through this important process.

Douglas O'Dell

Search Committee Chair



Sunday School News

Sunday School focuses on prayer during Lent. The children baked pretzels which is a Christian tradition that began during Lent many years ago. The children participated in holding palms and walking with the congregation during Palm Sunday. They had lots of fun coloring Easter eggs and creating Easter Posters. They also loved searching for Easter eggs and treats Easter Sunday!

A Woman's Day Apart — Upcoming Event at Sea Cliff Methodist Church

Seeds of Faith – A Woman's Day Apart... On Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Sea Cliff Methodist Church will be holding two interactive sessions with author Tessa Afshar. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch and a coffee break. Flyers are available in the Parish Hall if you are interested in attending.

New Church Bell



Many thanks to Gerald Anders and Bruce Castellano for their donation of our new church bell and bell tower which was installed in front of St. Luke's. Bruce and Gerald donated the bell in honor and memory of their parents, Gerald and Hortense Anders and Charles and Marie Castellano. The bell was presented in celebration of Bruce and Gerald's 30 years together and their tenth wedding anniversary. You can hear it ring at the beginning of the service each Sunday.



Coffee Hour

We hope you will join us for coffee hour immediately following the 10:00 am service every Sunday. Thank you to all who have done this year after year for our St. Luke's family. Several Sundays in April are still open with nobody having volunteered. If you would consider volunteering for these Sunday Coffee Hours, it would be greatly appreciated.



Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Light

Bulletin Memorials are an important way to commemorate loved ones, family and friends. Your message is posted in the weekly bulletin. These memorials help us defray the costs for altar flowers and sanctuary candles. Many dates are available – please contact the Parish Office if you would like to reserve a date for a memorial.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Jack and Debbie Pierce's Anniversary
- 7 Darlene Bunce
- 10 Kirk Kordeleski
- 13 Tiffany Baltrus
- 14 Thomas Baltrus III
- 14 Ashleigh Treiber
- 14 David Trotta
- 15 Meryl Kuti
- 18 Alexandra Milowski
- 18 Christopher Pierce
- 23 Nancy Rose
- 26 Geoffrey Kappenberg



Many thanks to all who volunteer to keep our parish running!

April Sunday Service Volunteers					
	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Acolyte	Beth Wiesmann and Aidan Janusas	Joseph Franco	Emily Jane Waechter	Bruce Treiber	Aidan Janusas
Lay Reader	Linda Parsons	Nigel Hawkins	Beth Wiesmann	Nancy H. Rose	Susan Thurman
Usher	John Nagy and Jonathan or Nina Waechter	Marianne Walter and June Scheu	Rich Salditt and Pam Mastrota	Shaun Convey and Jonathan or Nina Waechter	Jimmy and Karen Lieu
Counter	Robert Franco and Andrew Janusas	Janette Heurtley and Lanie Ganzenmuller	Jane McGrady-Sheils and Ginnie Treiber	Claudia Moyne and June Locke	Jonathan Waechter and Vivienne Smith
Altar Guild	June Scheu and Dorothy Holohan	June Scheu and Dorothy Holohan	June Scheu and Dorothy Holohan	June Scheu and Dorothy Holohan	June Scheu and Dorothy Holohan



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