

February 26, 2016

The Shepherd

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

253 Glen Avenue

Sea Cliff, NY 11579 (516-676-4222)

<http://www.saintlukes-seacliff.org>

stlukesseacliff@optimum.net



Around the Parish Yard:

We are now in the season of "Lent" which means 'springtime' in Middle English because of the lengthening of daylight during this time of year. It is a liturgical season in the church that incorporates forty days of reflection and repentance preceding the fifty days of Easter.

Lent is a special time of meditation, prayer, penitential preparation through music that encourages each of us to identify with God's prophetic desire to restore humanity along with Jesus' sacrifice, death and resurrection. During this time, we are asked to consider anew our baptismal vows, and re-commit to living a Christian life. The giving of alms, fasting and taking time for a retreat is common.

At St. Luke's our liturgy changes tone. There is less organ music and more acapella singing by the choir. There is the simple entrance of the choir and altar party, rather than a joyful procession. The silver chalice and altar vessels are replaced by earthenware pottery. No alleluias or Gloria's are heard in the community. The 'Prayers of the People' take an austere and blunt turn. Visual changes are marked and differing. There are no flowers only greens decorate the sanctuary.

At St. Luke's the baptismal font is removed from the chapel and put aside so individuals can pray with special intention and ask for intercession on their spiritual journey. All this is intended to lead each participant into a very personal and multidimensional time of introspection. Our prayers at this time of year should also remind that our instinctive response to God's love for us is found in trying to be more 'Christlike' within ourselves and towards others.

The love and affection of heaven be with you.

David+

Come and join us!

Lenten Quiet Day Retreat

Saturday March 19th, 2016 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Five Meditations... 'Building Up by Looking In'

All are welcome ... Lunch will be served

Hosted by:

Sea Cliff Chapter of the Daughters of the King

Retreat Leader:

The Rev. Dr. David MacDonald, CSTJ., MSM, PhD.

Please RSVP to the Parish Office: (516) 676-4222 or stlukesseacliff@optimum.net

Easter 2016

And Jesus said to Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe. Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that in believing you may have life in his name."
[John 20]

Dear Parish Family, Friends & Neighbors:

Since 1899 St. Luke's has celebrated this remarkable statement by Jesus to Thomas and to us. We are part of the unfolding drama of God's love for all mankind. The Christian story guides us on a 'journey' that has not been limited to one place and one time, to the Apostles, disciples and martyrs of another age. Rather, our story is one of faith in the life of the one who rose from death and has caused vast multitudes of those who have never seen him to exclaim "*The Lord is Risen-He is Risen Indeed-Alleluia*".

Jesus beckons everyone to claim lives that are purposeful pilgrimages. The resurrection is not the 'end of the story' but the 'beginning of a journey' that Jesus completes 'over and over again', in the life of his people in all ages. His believers form a 'never ending' series of connections to the original story, into our world and our times. For Christians today, our lives are not found on printed pages, *but through our faith, lives, and love for one another*. Our shared lives here at

St. Luke's are the 'literal extension' of the pages of God's story...**into the present**.

Here, we seek to move within the community of the saints, past, present and future. We seek to live together as 'interconnected people'...not isolated units. We believe that the Christian community is ideal in reflecting the reality of God's kingdom itself.

St. Luke's is God's friend to everyone in our communities. We are a resurrection people, a joyful people, a people sure of God's hope and call to us, regardless of the world's trials and challenges that face us. Here in this place...we will continue to affirm the great things God has done for us, and expects from us in 2015 and beyond. As we approach Easter, I am reminded, *that it is at the edges, we will see horizons denied to those who stay in the middle. It is only our worldly doubts that separate us from creation, from each other, from heaven...and from God*.

This year, our first service will be held at **8:00 a.m.** Afterwards, there will be hot coffee & beverages, warm hearts, fellowship and donuts in the parish hall. Our '**Festal Eucharist**' will be held in the church at **10:00 a.m.** & filled with music, joy and the annual 'Easter Egg Hunt & Reception' following the service. Plan to be part of one of our services at St. Luke's.

The Lord is Risen...He is Risen Indeed- Alleluia!

-A Joyful & Happy Easter to All-

David+

Welcome to St. Luke's!

Welcome to St. Luke's parish - a progressive, diverse, historic and Celtic oriented congregation of the Episcopal Church within the Diocese of Long Island and a wonderful place for families, children, and individuals of all ages. Much of our parish life is found in service to others within our village. We practice 'radical hospitality' welcoming all people searching for spiritual wholeness. In the sacraments we find strength to turn towards a world that is hungry for peace, reconciliation, compassion and grace. Each Sunday we gather at God's table with one another, and invite you to join us as we deepen our knowledge of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

Through our liturgy, music, retreats and community-life, we share many opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship with our neighbors. St. Luke's is a place that makes Christ visible to others by service, humor and action.

Whether you are an Episcopalian, Anglican, from another denomination, faith tradition or simply a spiritual traveler; come and rest with us in the Lord. St. Luke's is a place that can prepare and challenge you to find your way to a deeper intimacy with God. Come...find what we can be together in this 'thin place' between heaven and earth. The love and affection of heaven be with you!

David R. MacDonald+Rector of St. Luke's Parish

Birthdays

"Happy, happy birthday from all of us to you!"

February

2nd Tyler Convey
3rd Charles Tastensen
8th Andrew Janusas
10th Andrew Mackney
15th Robert Leich
15th Jack Pierce
16th Vincent Mastrota
18th Marjorie Ryan
19th Jackson Rieger
27th Phillip Treiber



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Easter Holy Week Services:

March 20th	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rt. II
Palm Sunday	10:00 am	Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist Rt. II
March 24	7:30 pm	Holy Eucharist Rt. II
Maundy Thursday		w/ Stripping of the Altar
March 25	7:30 pm	Good Friday Liturgy
Good Friday		
March 27	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rt. II
Easter	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rt. II w/ Easter Egg Hunt & Reception to follow service

Donation envelopes for Easter flowers and music are available in the Sunday service bulletins. Additional envelopes are available in the Parish Office.



March

2nd Zachary Kordeleski
6th Fiona Irvine
12th Emma Spina
14th Faith Kappenberg
15th David MacDonald
15th Lance Thoet
16th Peter Rose
18th Brian Bunce
18th Claudia Moyne
22nd Peter Truesdell
25th Elizabeth Bonham
25th Nessa O'Dell
25th Meghan Tastensen
25th Ginie Treiber
27th Beth Wiesmann
30th Christopher Leich

Daughters of the King... The next meeting of the Daughters of the King will be **Monday, March 7 at 7:00 pm** in the Rector's Office.



Altar Flowers/Sanctuary Light 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.



Lenten Retreat...Saturday, March 19th from 10 am to 2 pm. The theme for our five meditations will be "Building Up by Looking In". We will begin in the church, with breaks after our reflections. A lovely lunch will be provided by the Daughters of the King who are our hosts. The retreat ends with Compline. There is no cost. Please set aside these four hours for spiritual centering by attending the retreat. To facilitate our meal planning, please call the parish office 676-4222 to let us know you plan on coming.

Palm Cross Making...Saturday, March 19th at 10 AM in the Parish Hall. All welcome - instructions given!



Vestry Meeting...The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 20 immediately following the 10:00 service.



Coffee Hour...follows the 10:00 am service every Sunday. During coffee hour you will enjoy light snacks and refreshments while catching up with family, friends and neighbors. All are welcome. Volunteers are needed – there is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Please consider a Sunday!



Reminder...Please help the Fall Bazaar Committee by recycling the jam and jelly jars. Clean jars can be washed and returned to the Parish Kitchen to be used again next year!

Prayer Books and Hymnal Donations

We are in the process of ordering new Prayer Books and Hymnals. The books will include an inscription inside the front cover. Donation forms are located in the Parish Office. The fee is \$30 per book.



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Do you own a business? We encourage you to consider advertising in our Shepherd Newsletter, which is distributed monthly to our parishioners and others beyond the parish. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office at 676-4222.

The next issue of the Shepherd will publish April 1. If you have something you would like to have published, please contact the Parish Office at 676-4222 or stlukesseacliff@optimum.net.
Please note: If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please contact the Parish Office so we can update our records.



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