

November/December 2017

The Shepherd

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

253 Glen Avenue

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Around the Parish Yard:

First, let me wish each of you who read these words, a happy Thanksgiving which is just around the corner. This national holiday marks a time for us to appreciate the goodness of this fine country, our many blessings and the beginning of the road to Christmas and New Year's Day. It is also the time of year that our liturgical season moves toward Advent; and to ponder the wonder and breadth of love of God. God's unfolding story of the promise of redemption is the headline in Advent. The coming of the Messiah in Christ is the stage for hope, joy and peace.

We live in a world that is adverse to an advent of expectation, particularly in things of spirituality. Yet, if there is a main theme in the coming weeks, it is in the coming promise of God's salvation. Too bring the God of all things from 'outside' our daily experience, into our spirits might be something we consider with more intentionality. This can be done through reading scripture daily, taking time to reflect on what Christ means to us, and think about attending a 'quiet day' that will be offered on Saturday, November 10th here at the church.

Advent is about the hunger of men and women for God. It is about avoiding the things of life that shield us from his presence. And because it is helpful for us to have some direction as we move towards this goal; I would supply you with some words written by St. Augustine nearly sixteen centuries ago that express just this sentiment.

"How late I came to you, o beauty so ancient and so fresh, how late I came to love you! You were within me...yet I had gone outside to seek you. Unlovely myself, I rushed toward all those lovely things you had made. And always you were within me, and I was not it you.

All these beauties kept me far from you...although they would not have existed at all unless they had their being in you. You called, you cried, you shattered my deafness. You sparkled, you blazed, you drove away my blindness. You shed your fragrance, and I drew in my breath and panted for you. I tasted...

Now...I hunger and thirst. You touched me, and how I burn for your peace. I was outside...but you were always within."

We are soon to move into the season of the Advent of our Lord. It is the season for preparation. The season that takes us along the path that points us to the love of God's process to send us salvation. Too bring God from outside of us...into us. The love and affection of heaven be with you.

Fr. David+

“Rector’s Christmas Letter”

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

Sea Cliff, New York

~2017~

And the Word became flesh and lived amongst us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth...From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

[John 1:14, 16-18]

Dear Parish Family & Friends:

At the very core of our Christian Community is the most extraordinary idea; that the invisible God of all creation has acted to make his love for us known most in the life of Jesus Christ.

At St. Luke’s we have undertaken a pilgrimage to be faithful to this astonishing thing called the ‘incarnation’. To live out our lives faithfully to the premise that in Jesus, humanity and the divine have come into nature, come into time and history, and come into our hearts and minds in a way that has literally made all things new.

I’m reminded of what Philip said to Jesus at another point in John’s gospel, ‘Lord show us the Father and we shall be satisfied’. He spoke from the deep desire to know the ultimate source of meaning and reality; to know what ‘God’ is like. Jesus’ response to Philip (and to us) is direct, “Have I been with you all this time Philip and you do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” What makes Christmas a bit different at this parish, is that we look back over the year, and find that we as a ‘community’ have shared, worked for, prayed with, and helped one another to see that Jesus has crossed our lives, just like Philip’s. At St. Luke’s a new thing has occurred before our very eyes. We have found our joy in the love of God for one another because...Jesus has made God known to us

Come to this venerable parish & holy place; come to St. Luke’s expecting your hearts to be filled with wonder this Christmas. Listen to the story of how God saved and redeemed his people. Come share in our joy through music, worship, fellowship and humor. Come and see something “new” in an old place.

Christmas Eve celebration begins at **4:30 p.m.** in the church.

Come with family and friends expecting a wonderful celebration of the season. Most importantly, open your heart, soul and mind...and expect to be filled with God’s love for you. This comes with my prayers, love and deep affection.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

David+



Father David MacDonald Retirement

The Reverend Doctor David R. MacDonald is retiring as Rector of St. Luke's Church in Sea Cliff. He and his wife, Betty, are

going to their home in Florida and shall be missed. A farewell luncheon will be held on Sunday December 10th following the 10:00 am service.

Father MacDonald's last service will be on Christmas Eve, December 24th. On January 7th, 2018, The Rev. Canon Claire Woodley from the Diocese of Long Island will conduct services. Then, on January 14th, the Rev. Dr. Charles Colwell will begin serving as Interim Pastor at St. Luke's. Father Colwell is no stranger at St. Luke's, as he served as Interim for several years before Fr. MacDonald accepted the call as Rector.

As we wish a fond farewell to Fr. MacDonald, we wish a warm welcome to Fr. Colwell at St. Luke's.



Thank you to all who volunteered and donated to the raffle for our Annual Bazaar!

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it would not be possible without all your help. Thank you!



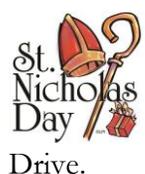
Choir Practice

The choir meets every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. New members are always welcome!

Every Member Canvass

You should have received our letter and pledge card for our 2018 Canvass. If you have not, please let us know and we will have one sent to you. Please mail your pledge cards back as soon as possible. Thank you!

Saint Nicholas Day



December 3 is Saint Nicholas Sunday. Children are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the St. John's Episcopal Hospital's Holiday Toy Drive.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School follows the North Shore Schools calendar and will be closed on December 24 and December 31. Classes will resume January 7.



December Services and Activities

- Dec 3 Saint Nicholas Day, 10:00 am
Adopt-a-Family Gifts due
- Dec 9 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- Dec 10 Retirement Luncheon for Father David following 10:00 am service
- Dec 16 Greening of the Church, 9:30 am
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Christmas Pageant Set-up
- Dec 17 Children's Christmas Pageant
11:30 am
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service, 4:30 pm
- Dec 25 No Service
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Service, 8:00 am

Adopt a Family

Signups for our annual Adopt a Family project are underway! Instructions and profiles for the families are available in the Parish Hall. The wrapped gifts should be brought to the Parish Hall on or before **Sunday, December 3**. If you have any questions, please contact Ginnie Treiber at 671-9209 or Debbie Pierce 759-9342.



Children's Christmas Pageant

One of the highlights of our year is our **Christmas Pageant**, which will be held on **Sunday, December 17th** in our Parish Hall immediately following our 10:00 am service. Set up will be on **Saturday, December 16** and rehearsals will be held on **Saturday, December 9 and 16**. If you are interested in having your child participate, please contact Allison Trotta at 646-505-8197.



Retirement Luncheon

We hope you will join us on **Sunday, December 10** immediately following the 10:00 service for a luncheon in honor of Father David's retirement. Help is needed for setting up and preparing food. Contact Janette Heurtley to see how you can help.

Greening of the Church



Join us in the Church on **Saturday, December 17 at 9:30 am**. Volunteers are needed, especially able bodied men to prepare the church for Christmas!

Christmas Flowers and Music



Envelopes for commemorating flowers and music for Christmas will be in the bulletin starting next week. Your Christmas memorial request will be printed on a special insert in the Christmas

Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Please use these envelopes for your gift and return to the Parish Office **before Tuesday, December 19**. Flower/Music requests received after that date cannot be printed.

Coffee Hour



Join us at Coffee Hour every Sunday immediately following the 10:00 am service. All are welcome! Volunteers are needed to host this special gathering. Speak with Betty MacDonald or call her (676-4211) for more info.

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.

St. Luke's Thrift Shop



Good quality clothing is needed. Donations may be dropped off at the Thrift Shop, Tuesdays between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm

or placed outside the Thrift Shop door anytime. Please no books, cassettes or video tapes!

Church Calendars

The Episcopal Church Year Calendars will be available in the Parish Hall beginning Nov. 26 during coffee hour. Please take only one per household. Any contributions for the calendars would be appreciated.



King Kullen Receipts

If you shop at King Kullen, please drop your receipts at our Parish Office. We receive a 1% refund of the net total of fall receipts we collect and return to the Glen Cove Store. Every little bit helps!

Parish Birthdays

November

- 7TH Lisa Spina
- 8th Kathleen Mackney
- 8th Igor Webb
- 13th Katherine Spina
- 14th Janette Heurtley
- 15th Luke Salditt
- 15th Matthew Salditt
- 17th Jason Tastensen
- 18th Benjamin Webb
- 21st Lucinda Hurley
- 22nd Rebecca Webb
- 27th Marianne Walters-Webb
- 30th Vivienne Treiber



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December

- 17th Katie Regan
- 13th Dale Kordeleski
- 19th Christopher Schuessler
- 20th Douglas O'Dell
- 24th Andrew Siegel

Parish Anniversaries

November

- 4th Dee and Ed Doxey
- 9th Ginnie and Bruce Treiber
- 11th Nancy and Peter Rose



December

No anniversaries are listed in December. Please contact the office if you have one and would like it acknowledged.

Advertisers Needed for The Shepherd

We are looking for advertisers for this Shepherd Newsletter. If you own a business, please consider advertising with us next year. The Shepherd is published 10 times each year and reaches over 100 families. Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help. We appreciate your support!



We thank the following advertisers for their financial support. Please support them and let them know you saw them here!

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