

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sequim



The Bellringer - February 2021

A monthly update from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sequim

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Holy Space at Home

by The Rev. Sue Thompson

Among the things I miss during this time of extraordinary caution and necessary separation is the chance to simply be at church. Yes, I miss the camaraderie, and I miss worshipping together, and boy, do I miss receiving communion! But underneath all of that, I miss holy space, just sitting in the chapel or the nave of the church and knowing I'm sitting with God in a holy place.

Even as I write those words, I know that there are lots of other places that are just as holy as the chapel and nave at St Luke's. I know the same sense of

being in God's presence when I'm out in the woods, walking along the strait or admiring art in a museum.

So what makes space holy? Is it possible to create holy space? Yes, it is.

Is it even possible to create holy space in my home? Yes, it is!

How would I do that? Where would it be? What would it look like? What would happen there?

You are invited and encouraged to join us for a Lenten study on this very topic. Beginning Tuesday, February 23, at 2pm, we will gather via zoom to learn about *Holy Space at Home*. We will meet each Tuesday afternoon in Lent from 2 to 3:30pm.

During these gatherings, we will have the opportunity to discuss holy space (what constitutes holy space? what belongs in holy space? what happens in holy space?) and we will have the opportunity to develop holy space in our own homes (how do I create holy space? where it should be? what goes in there? what doesn't belong there?). We'll move on to discuss using our holy spaces on a regular basis, and some ways to do that. Finally, we will celebrate the spaces we have created and bless them for our on-going use.

Mark your calendars now: Tuesday afternoons in Lent (Feb 23 through March 23), 2 to 3:30pm, then watch for further information in the coming weeks.

Be in touch with Sue Thompson (revweaver@gmail.com) if you need further information.

Chalking our Doors at Epiphany

by Stacie Koochek

During Epiphany, St. Luke's celebrated a centuries old practice of "chalking the doors." The formula for this is to take a white piece of chalk, and write the following above your door or any entrance to your home: 20 + C + M + B + 20. The letters represent the initials of The Magi-- Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar. The + signs represent the cross, and the 20 at the beginning and end mark the year. May

Christ bless the homes marked, and may he stay with those throughout the year.





Lenten Activities

by Stacie Koochek

Lent, a season of 40 days, begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and ends the day before Easter on April 3rd. It is a time of repentance, reflection, and typically giving up something or abstinence. In addition, we are preparing for the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

During Lent, St. Luke's has many ways for us to stay connected during this season of reflection and taking stock.

Ash Wednesday

Between Feb. 12-16, the Hospitality team will be delivering Ziplock bags of ashes to each household. Please hold onto your ashes. They will be imposed, in your own home, at the appropriate time during our Zoom Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 17th at 7:00pm. For those who do not Zoom and want to do a service of imposition at home, the service is in the Book of Common Prayer on pg. 264, and a service bulletin will be included in the packet. (Please note that during this service we will not have Communion, nor breakout rooms after the service.)

Walk the Labyrinth

We invite you to walk our Labyrinth as a spiritual exercise during Lent. While walking, one can pray, sing, repeat a phrase that holds a special meaning to you or be silent. The times I've walked, I have repeated, "Be still and know that I am God." It is indeed, a spiritual practice and a form of personal meditation.

A Lenten class, "Making Holy Spaces in Your Home"

This class will include sessions on "What makes a space holy?", "Where is holy space in my home?", "What do I put in it to make it holy for me?", and building a habit of holiness. Also, participants can post pictures of their holy spaces, if so desired. This class will be offered on Tuesdays at 2:00pm throughout Lent; it is coordinated by The Rev. Sue Thompson, and will be led by Mtr. ClayOla.

Chapel Prayer

During Lent, the Chapel will be open, in person and on Zoom, from 8:00 to 10:00 am, Monday - Friday. Someone will begin the meeting with a short time of prayer, followed by individual prayer while looking at the silent Chapel. You may also come by the Chapel to pray one by one during that time.

Stations of the Cross

Stations will be held every Friday, during Lent, from 12:00 - 12:30 pm. It will be led by Sherry Niermann and Diane Moore, via Zoom, with pictures of the Stations.

Maundy Thursday

This year, our Maundy Thursday service will be on April 1st, at 7:00pm, via Zoom. A Maundy Thursday watch will occur immediately following the service, and will be held throughout the night, until 8 am on Good Friday.

Good Friday

This service will be on April 2nd, at 7:00pm, via Zoom.

Online resources for Lent

There are many online resources that will help you to have a spiritually meaningful Lent. Here is a list of a few of them. Click on the title to go to the website referenced.

- [Forward Movement](#)
- [Episcopal Diocese of Washington](#)
- [Episcopal Diocese of Olympia](#)
- [The Society of St. John the Evangelist](#)
- [Episcopal Relief & Development](#)
- [Godspace blog](#)
- [The Episcopal Journal](#)
- [Episcopal News Service- resources for The Way of Love in Lent and Easter](#)
- [Nadia Bolz-Webber](#)

Our New Altar Guild Director...

by Mtr. ClayOla Gitane



I am so happy to announce that Pat Rublaitus has agreed to serve as the new Director of the Altar Guild. Pat has been a faithful member of the Altar Guild and is very knowledgeable about it , so we are very happy that she will serve. Welcome, Pat!

...and A New Accompanist--or Two!

by Mtr. ClayOla Gitane

I am also delighted to announce that Sr. Karen Williamson has agreed to help us with accompaniment on Sundays. Sr. Karen was the accompanist for the Taizé service for a long time. Now that Sr. Karen has had her COVID-19 vaccinations, she is able to help us on Sundays. And



we are so delighted that her sweet dog, Luna accompanies Sr. Karen while Sr. Karen accompanies us! Thank you both!

"I will, with God's help"

by The Rev. Sue Thompson

What a month January was! An insurrection, an impeachment, an inauguration . . . I was raging one day, and found myself weeping the next. And there were days when I experienced the whole gamut of emotions within a couple of hours.

I learned in January that I have some strongly held opinions. I would like to say they are all based on accurate information and faith-based reflection, but I would lying if I said that. Initially, at least, some of them were little more than an emotional and judgmental reaction to new and disturbing information.

It was a long, and in some ways, exhausting month.

One of the bumps in the road for me during January was the discovery that a relative of mine is (still) a supporter of the former President. The surprise was that it was this particular relative. She is a medical professional, a reasonably intelligent woman with whom I agree on many things. I simply cannot wrap my head around what seems to me to be a huge contradiction in those two descriptions of her.

Just about the time I learned about my relative's political perspective, our Sunday morning worship included the renewal of our Baptismal vows. (Can you see where this is headed?)

"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as

yourself?"

"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" I answered both of those questions, by saying, "I will, with God's help."

I am left with a quandary. What do I do now? It isn't enough, I think, to simply say, "Okay I love my relative" or "Yes, I respect my relative" and let it go at that. I am challenged to find ways to enact that love, to demonstrate my respect. Anything less is merely reciting words. I am called to find a way to engage with my relative, to participate in a respectful conversation, an effort to understand why that political stance was chosen, and to respectfully share why I have chosen mine.

As we head into February, I am hoping for a little more calm and a lot less excitement. I am clear that we are not "getting back to normal." We aren't getting *back* to anything; we are moving forward on our individual journeys and as part of the collective journey that is St Luke's, Sequim. A portion of that journey for me will be a conversation about political choices. I am keenly aware that I will only be able to do that with God's help.

What Ever Happened to Our Bells?

by Mtr. ClayOla Gitane

You may remember that, some time ago, the Verdin carillon system had a "meltdown" and began playing all of its hymns straight through at midnight. The neighbors were really nice about it. Since that night, the system has been turned off. Recently we consulted with the Verdin company about repairing it, and learned that the system is too old to work on. We will have to get a new carillon. Since a new system will cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000, we will need to figure out how to fund it. So, for the time being, the carillon will remain silent, as sad as that is.

Soup's On Closet Revamped!

by Mtr. ClayOla Gitane

A very generous anonymous donor has made it possible to revamp the Soup's On closet. Ken Forsdal, our sexton, removed the old shelves and painted the closet before the installation of new shelving by Elfa. It's quite something to see! Thank you to the person who made this possible, for your generosity. It will benefit St. Luke's parish and those who participate in our Soup's On event

for years to come.

We need you...

During this time when we are closed, we still have costs related to keeping the church running. Please remember to continue your giving to help us continue the work of God that we do at St. Luke's. You can mail your pledge, drop it by, or go to the "Donate Here" button at the top of this email. You can also give at the Diocesan website ([click here](#)); indicate that it is for St. Luke's and they will route the gift to us. And please remember to utilize Amazon Smile when you shop through Amazon. For help making St. Luke's the beneficiary of those donations, please contact the office at officestlukes@gmail.com, Thank you for your support.

The Fields of Our Hearts

by The Rev. Deborah Vaughn, BCC



Take fields of our hearts, Lord,
The tired, the worn, the fertile and well-used,
The tested and tried ones.
The fields of our hearts need rest, Lord.
They are weary.
As we begin the Lenten season,
Prepare us.

Cultivate our hearts to listen.
Help us turn over the old barren places.
Soften the hard and rocky edges.
Show us the promise of spring, of new growth,
Of fields where we dream to see the fullness of your
harvest.
For now, we rest in the stillness.
We pray... hear our hearts...
We look to you and to the work you will do
We watch for your Spirit at work
In this season of Lent.
And in due season.
Amen.

Rev. Deborah Vaughn, BCC is a chaplain endorsed by the Alliance of Baptists. She lives with her family in Maryland and presently serves as a hospice chaplain and in pulpit supply. She is a herder of cats, and remains a die-hard Ohio State fan. You can find more of her writing at [An Unfinished Symphony](#). This poem is found at the RevGalBlogPals page at <https://revgalblogpals.org/2021/02/13/saturday-prayer-the-fields-of-our-hearts/>

[Click here to view St. Luke's photos](#)

Come join us as we stay connected

During the pandemic, we are gathering via Zoom. Online gatherings at St. Luke's include:

- Men's Spirituality Group, 1st Mondays at 9 am
- Men's Cursillo Group, Tuesdays at 9:00 am
- Morning Prayer, Wednesdays at 8 am
- Don Freeman Study Group, Wednesdays at 10:00 am
- Photo Club, 4th Wednesday at 1:00 pm
- Interactive Bible Study, Thursdays at 10:15 am
- Centering Prayer, Thursdays at 12:00 pm
- Grief Support Group, 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 am
- Caregivers Support Group, 2nd and 4th Fridays at 1 pm

If you would like information about joining any of these meetings, contact the office at officeatstlukes@gmail.com.

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