

St. Luke's, Sequim



The Bellringer

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

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Gathering Names for All Saints

by The Rev. ClayOla Gitane

*Almighty God, you
have knit together
your elect in one
communion and
fellowship in the*

*mystical body of your
Son Christ our Lord:
Give us grace so to
follow your blessed
saints in all virtuous
and godly living, that
we may come to those
ineffable joys that
you have prepared
for those who truly*



*love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the
Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

We will celebrate our saints--all those who have gone before us--on Sunday, November 7 this year. Traditionally, we post the names of loved ones who have died in the Sanctuary and say the Litany of Saints in the service. Please send us the names of those whom you would like to have included by November 4. You can do this by emailing them to the office or calling us to let us know.

Ring Out for Kindness

by The Rev. ClayOla Gitane

"We used to enjoy the hourly church bells coming from, I think, the beautiful white church on 5th Ave. Does anyone know why we no longer hear them? I vote for their return. Your opinion?"

So began a conversation a few days ago on Nextdoor. Jill Palmquist alerted me to it, and as I read the different postings, I was touched to hear about the fondness our neighbors have for our bells. One person responded, *"I think the last time I heard church bells was when they malfunctioned (or were incorrectly programmed) and rang for half an hour at midnight. It was so eerie at first, and then just plain funny :) I miss hearing them, too"* and another person said, *"Hearing those bells was the best thing about living down town "* *"Especially on Sundays and Christmas"* said another. Nancy Martin, a neighbor close to St. Luke's, posted, *"The night they malfunctioned, playing hymns for at least a half an hour, I was feeling unwell and alone minutes before. I asked God for a sign She was with me. When the bells started playing, I figured that was enough of a sign! I miss them greatly and plan to donate to help with the errant part on order!"*

I was pleased, but not surprised at these postings, because I have been hearing the same thing for months. Once, when I was checking out at the grocery store, the cashier asked me about them. When I told her the story of their meltdown, she said, "I would give to that!" and another customer two carts away echoed her sentiments. This has been repeated in different times and places ever since the night that the bells malfunctioned.

In the wee hours of that morning, I received a phone call from 9-1-1. The dispatcher said, "Are you the pastor of St. Luke's?" "...Yes?" I said, wondering what I had gotten myself into. (I confess that, for just one second, I thought about telling them it was Bob Rhoads, but then I came to my senses. I later learned they called him first and he gave them my name!) The dispatcher said they were getting calls that the bells had started to ring at midnight, and they were still ringing. Could I go turn the system off?

I threw on whatever was at hand and ran out of the house. When I arrived at the church, a sheriff's deputy and several neighbors met me. "Well, we've heard That Old Rugged Cross, Amazing Grace, The Church's One Foundation, A Mighty Fortress is our God..." said the deputy, grinning. "I'm impressed you knew all those!" I responded as I opened the altar guild door and started flipping switches. Blessed silence followed.

That silence has hung over our community in the months since, after we learned that the system was just too old to repair. Bob Rhoads tells me that the original bells were a gift from Dorothea Stewart in memory of her second husband after he died. They were installed when the church was newly built, about 1992. An electrical storm struck the church and burned them out and they were replaced in 1998; they were replaced again in the early 2000's, due to another surge. (After that they were grounded to a surge protector so it wouldn't happen again.) The clock was actually a few minutes off most of the time; Bob said that he had to reset it every month or so, and by the time I came, it was every week or two.

Bob said that the very first day he was at St. Luke's, a guy came in all mad about the noise the bells made. The fuss made the paper; and, just as with this most recent conversation, a flood of people called in and said how wonderful the bells were and how much they were loved. One woman even called in tears, hoping they wouldn't be turned off.

Most recently, a neighbor called me about them and, when she heard the story, said she would be happy to donate to start a bell fund. As we talked, she said she always thought of the bells as ringing out for kindness and caring. She gave a generous donation to start us off, and the vestry approved almost \$11,000.00 for the new carillon and amplifier (we are not replacing the speakers due to cost, since they are fine). The new bells are in production, even as we speak; I just heard from Verdin, the company that is making them, and they were scheduled to ship this week. I'm hoping they'll be ringing again by Christmas. The new bell will ring just as the old one did, every quarter hour—hopefully accurately this time—with a hymn played at noon.

In the Nextdoor conversation, our own parishioners soon picked up the ball and let our neighbors know that a new bell system is on order, and that anyone who would like to help defray the cost is most welcome to do so. If you would like to give to the bells, click the button below or send a check with “Bells” clearly marked on it, to the office at St. Luke’s and we will devote it to our special bell fund. May you be blessed when you hear them!

In my mind, this is what St. Luke’s represents to the Sequim community. We represent “ringing out for kindness.” We’ll let everyone know when the new bells arrive, and we’ll bless them as they ring again for the first time; and may they call us to greater joy and connection this holiday season!

[Click here to donate to the St. Luke's Bell Fund](#)

For Everything there is a season...

by Br. Joe Nuber, cfc

“And a time for every matter under heaven...a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted.”
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)

This has always been a favorite scripture of mine. The Spirit has led me to transplant myself many times in my life. When I was planted at St. Luke’s I found a warm and welcoming



community. In the years that I have been here I have grown close to all of you, not only as a member of the parish but also as a vestry member and senior warden. This parish is like a well cared for garden with much spirituality in bloom.

However, as the scripture above states there is also a time to pluck up. And so it is time for me to be transplanted again. In the past seven years I have lost four of my siblings. I have two younger sisters left and I feel the need to be near them now. So I will be relocating to Erie, PA. I don't have an exact departure date yet as I am still looking for a home there. But I wanted you to know before I leave. You will continue to thrive as a loving community and you will still have many Franciscans to be with you. And you have one of the best priests that I have had the pleasure of serving. I will keep St. Luke's in my prayers. This parish community means a lot to me. I will visit on occasion and, of course, in this day and age we are only so far away as our computers and our phones. May God give you peace. - Br. Joe

Fall Pledge Event



You're invited!

We will have an online Fall Stewardship party on **Saturday, November 6 at 3:30 pm** with bowties, dessert and bingo. Special bags for the party are available in the parish hall from Oct 31 to Nov 5. Please come by and get a bag for each member of your household so you can celebrate with us!

[Find a Pledge Form Here](#)

Spotlight On...Prayer Quilt Ministry

by Vanessa Gunther

The prayer quilt ministry is part of an interfaith organization known as *Prayers and Squares* that seeks to promote prayer through the use of quilts. Each quilt is blessed, and people are



encouraged to tie a knot as a manifestation of a prayer said on the behalf of the recipient. The first chapter of *Prayers and Squares* formed in San Diego, California in 1992 and the ministry now has chapters worldwide – including St. Luke's, which joined the organization in 2004. Our chapter has given over 1400 quilts since then. Virginia Reker directs the project and leads a devoted group of individuals who embody the organization's

motto: "It's not about the quilt; it's all about the prayers." If you would like to become involved in *Prayers and Squares*, or to receive or sponsor a quilt – contact the St. Luke's office.

If you are sponsoring a prayer quilt, please let us know as many details about the recipient as you are allowed to (without compromising privacy) so that we can pray even more effectively. Also, if you are the sponsor of a quilt, it will be laying on the altar rail for pick-up after being blessed, unless Virginia gives it to you during coffee hour.

Staying Connected

Staying connected with each other and with God is so important during this stressful time. Members of St. Luke's meet in various groups, where they have made new friends and discovered a world of topics to engage. See below for a list of groups and ministries and their status regarding in-person or Zoom.

If you would like more information about one of these, please contact the church office. We hope you'll join us!

- **Prayer Quilt Workshop**, Mondays 9-12 followed by lunch--leader: Virginia Reker
- **Bazaar Guild**, Mondays 9-12 followed by lunch--leader: Ginny Majewski
- **Men's Spirituality Group**, 1st Mondays at 9 am, in person--leader: Steve Cole
- **Men's Cursillo Group**, Tuesdays at 9:00 am, in person--leader: Bob Brownbridge
- **Daughters of the King**, 1st Tuesday at 1:30 pm, in person--leader: Barbara Heckard

- **Morning Prayer**, Wednesdays at 8 am, by Zoom--leader: Br. Steve Penning, CFC
- **Don Freeman Study Group**, Wednesdays at 10:00 am, by Zoom--leaders: Mary Jo and Alan Camagna
- **Wednesday Eucharist**, Wednesdays at 11:15, in person
- **Soup's On**, Wednesdays at 12 noon--leader: Br. Steve Penning, CFC
- **Chancel Choir**, Wednesdays at 1:30 pm and Sundays at 9 am, in person--leader: Susan Kaiser
- **Interactive Bible Study**, Thursdays at 10:15 am, by Zoom--leader: Art Moore
- **Centering Prayer**, Thursdays at 12:00 pm, by Zoom--leader: Judith Parker
- **Photo Club**, 4th Thursdays at 1:00 pm, by Zoom--leader: Sherry Niermann
- **Grief Support Group**, 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 am, by Zoom--leaders: Janet Popelka and The Rev. Sue Thompson
- **Caregivers Support Group**, 2nd and 4th Fridays at 1 pm, by Zoom--leaders: Janet Popelka and The Rev. Sue Thompson
- **Altar Guild**, Saturday and Sunday mornings (rotating teams), in person--leader: Pat Rublaitus
- **Flower Ministry**, Sunday afternoon and/or Monday mornings (rotating teams), in person--leader: Stacie Koochek
- **Com Com** (Communications Team), next meeting Nov. 11 at 10 am, in person--team led
- **Hospitality Team**, meets as needed--leader: Stacie Koochek
- **SWAT Team** (Social media, Web, and Technology), meets as needed--team led

Our Taizé service and the Outreach Team are currently on hiatus. We will publish their meetings when they restart.

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

Where I Find God

by Trudy Wegehaupt

The ministry of Jesus teaches that all creation is an expression of God's love and that nothing is beyond his reach. While Genesis places God's dwelling place in heaven and generations of Christians have looked upward in prayer, the contemplative tradition encourages us to open ourselves to the presence of God and to recognize His presence in all things. So – where do you see God?

Please feel free to share your own reflections on where you see God for publication in the Bellringer. Submissions can be sent to the office. This month's reflection is by Trudy Wegehaupt.

My life has been blessed with witnessing many miracles and wonders that have taken my breath away or moved me to tears. In my travels to all 7 continents I have seen killer whales



swim past our Zodiac in Antarctica, hippos in the river next to our campsite in Africa, the Gettysburg battlefield and all the headstones, a mother Gray Whale push her baby up to our panga in Mexico, cherry blossom petals fall in Washington DC at the Jefferson memorial, the sunset from the top of the Eiffel Tower, the Great Barrier Reef while diving in Australia, the crossing of the equator in the Galapagos, Ecuador, the busy and beautiful Hong Kong harbor at night, the David by Michelangelo in Florence, the botanic gardens in Singapore, the manta rays while snorkeling in Hawaii, the Canadian Rockies, the fall colors in New England and our beautiful Olympics from high vistas; but the place I see God most is in the faces of my friends.

Some friends are new, some I've had my entire life. Some were only there when I needed them or they needed me. Some friends caused pain and hurt and some broke my heart, but they all taught me something, made me feel something, or showed me the way I needed to go. I

treasure my dearest friends and sometimes feel I couldn't live without them. They bring joy and share sorrow. One is my generous friend, one my most faithful, one brings great joy, one great adventure, another shows tremendous kindness, and one great love. They all enrich my life and show me God in their own way. One doesn't even believe in God, but God is in her and I see that.

As I think about all my friends throughout my entire life I see how God smiles on me, loves me and gives me great gifts. Places I've been and things I have would mean nothing without them. Friends are my treasure and blessing, and of course Mark is my greatest friend of all. Most of my greatest adventures have been with him and beside him. I need no more proof of God than that!



THANK YOU, Liz Wolf-Troberg!!

The coffee makers are fixed! We now have two new coffee makers that are fully operational in the kitchen, thanks to Liz Wolf-Troberg. She worked many long hours with multiple companies and staff to bring this about. Let's all raise a cup to Liz!



We're Still on Zoom...

We are worshipping in person, but you can also join us on Zoom. The Sunday 10 am service via Zoom begins at 10:00am – but virtual participants are encouraged to sign in early beginning at 9:00am to enjoy coffee and conversation, and to stay after services are over to participate in small groups. Information on how to access the Zoom service is sent to parishioners weekly or can be requested by contacting the church office.

Franciscan Corner



We rejoice that we have Franciscans among us here at St. Luke's. In 1209 St Francis of Assisi founded a mendicant religious order known widely as the Franciscans. Over the centuries new orders have formed that adhere to the same basic tenants established by St Francis, including the Community of Francis and Clare, which is a religious community in communion with the See of Canterbury.

Members voluntarily commit themselves to the Rule and Constitution of the order which focuses on Chastity, Obedience, and Poverty. Members of the order can be found world-wide and are actively engaged in ministries in their communities. For more information visit www.cfcfranciscans.org.

Our Patron Saint

by Vanessa Gunther



Icons speak to the heart of a Christian as a manifestation of God and prayer. While the tradition of using art to capture what words cannot has been embraced by humankind since the caveman – by tradition – the first icons were painted by St Luke. While this tradition has been widely discredited – he is unique among the Gospel writers for his ability to incorporate all of Jesus' early followers in his narrative. He is also widely accepted as the author of more than 25% of the *New Testament* (the *Gospel of Luke* and

the *Acts of the Apostles*). Yet despite his importance in the development of early Christianity – much of his life remains a mystery. Unlike many of the early apostles – Luke was likely an educated man who may have been a Hellenistic Jew, or one who combined Judaism with elements of Greek culture. He may have lived in the shadow of the ruins of the ancient city of Troy in what was then known as Troas, a province in Northwestern Anatolia. Paul identifies him as a physician (Colossians 4:14) and so one studied in the human condition – and also a gentile. All of these possibilities point to an individual who is not easy to definitively identify – but it is this uncertainty that makes it easy for many to identify with him. His educated prose makes the *Gospel of Luke* and the *Acts of the Apostles* two of the most personal and accessible books in the *New Testament* – and thus they have had great impact on the preservation of the events that led to the development of Christianity – even though he (like all the gospel writers) excluded himself from being a direct witness to Jesus' ministry. In many ways, Luke reflects the idea of being the vessel and not the message. This idea is supported by his message in *Acts* 1:7-8. What can be known with some certainty – is that St Luke was witness to the foundational ideas that led to Christianity – ideas that have often been forgotten over the centuries. He emphasized Christ's compassion toward those who suffered and His affinity with the poor and oppressed. His gospel also enthusiastically includes women as fundamental to Christ's ministry and the dissemination of His message after the Resurrection. It is only in his gospel that we experience

the Virgin Birth from the perspective of Mary. This, and his incorporation of women into his writing, has led to speculation that he met, and befriended, Mary after Christ's crucifixion. While some traditions insist Luke was executed after Paul was martyred in Rome in 66AD – there is also evidence to suggest that he left Rome after Paul's death to live out the rest of his life in Boeotia. It was there he died at the age of 84 on the 18th of October – the day now reserved as the Feast Day of St. Luke.

We Pray for the Gift of God's Creation

submitted by The Rev. Gail Wheatley

“An arresting quality in modern man is his attitude toward his natural surroundings, a quality likely to get him in trouble and even shorten his stay on earth. He commonly thinks of himself as having been here since the beginning - older than the crab - and he also likes to think he's



destined to stay to the bitter end. Actually, he is a late comer, and there are moments when he shows every sign of being an early leaver - a patron who bows out after a few gaudy and memorable scenes.”

E.B. White, Rainmakers, 1953

Volunteers are needed...

We need volunteers to be readers, ushers, and acolytes during Church services, and Soup's On needs volunteers to shop, cook, serve, clean up, check vaccination cards at the door, and put up tables after lunch ends. Please contact the office if you would be able to help with any of these roles. And thank you to everyone who helps out—it's how we are able to do what we do together.

Christmas Services

Advent and Christmas are coming! Our Christmas services this year will be:

December 21st, 7 pm – Blue Christmas

This is the longest night of the year and we will have a candlelight service for those who are experiencing loss and who find the holidays difficult

December 23rd, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm - “Greening” of the Church

We’ll decorate the church for Christmas services. Decoration will start at 10; when we are finished, we will have a potluck lunch. Come help us make the church beautiful for the Christmas season and celebrate together

December 24th, 7 pm – Christmas Eve Service

This will be a service of light, celebrating the Nativity of the Lord with a hymn sing before the service and special coffee hour afterwards

December 25th, 10 am – Christmas Day Service

On Christmas Day, we will have one service at 10 am.

A reminder...



As the holidays approach, don't forget to use Amazon Smile when you order from Amazon. Each purchase creates a donation for St. Luke's, and every little bit adds up. After signing up, simply shop at www.smile.amazon.com (instead of the plain Amazon site) and donations automatically come to St. Luke's. For help signing up, contact the office and we'll find someone to walk you through it.

Donating Stock to St. Luke's

submitted by Jerry Oden, Treasurer

Here is one more way to support the work of St. Luke's. When donating an appreciated security directly to charity instead of giving cash, under current 2021 tax law you can bypass paying taxes on the capital gain, while also providing an additional benefit of a tax deduction for charitable contributions.

So, if your financial advisor suggests that you reduce your taxable gain on the sale of stock by donating it to a charitable organization, **we can help you with that**. Talk to Jerry Oden, our Treasurer (his phone number is (360) 808-3816) for details on making a transfer of stock directly to a brokerage account St. Luke's has at Fidelity Investments. You receive full credit, as a donation, 100% of the stock's value at the time of transfer. You owe no tax on the transaction and St. Luke's records your donation at the full value of the stock when it is received.

Donations to St Luke's can be made in person during services, mailed, dropped off during the week, or on Breeze or PayPal. You can also give at the Diocesan website; indicate that it is for St. Luke's and they will route the gift to us. Thank you for your support.

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