



THE VOICE

The Advent Season Sings

My Two Cents

As of November 24th (date I'm writing this), St. Luke's has 120 pledging units making a commitment of \$289,934 to 2022's budget. There are still 21 who pledged this year who have not yet pledged for next year. Please, please, please make a decision about this and let me know as soon as possible.

Your support is so critical and by letting me know, I can put together a 2022 budget that (hopefully) will reflect reality. To those who have already pledged (and we have 13 NEW pledging units!) thank you so very much. To those who have not yet decided, please do so immediately and let me know!

Christmas is a time for remembering our departed loved ones and our blessings with flower donations to decorate the altar with beautiful poinsettias.

I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!! **(Catherine Way)**

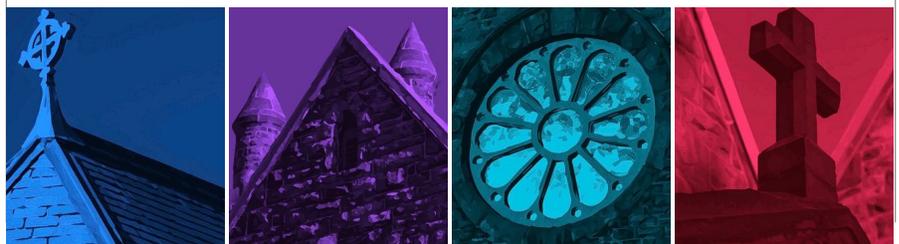
Even the most hard-hearted, cynical individual is occasionally moved by a Broadway musical production—when the lead breaks out in song to rejoice or lament the development of their life situation. Advent is the beginning of the New Year in the Church calendar. We start a year of reading Luke's Gospel each Sunday—and it starts like a Broadway musical—with song after song from the Benedictus to the Magnificat to Song of Simeon.

It is in this spirit that we'll travel through Advent—participating in this season of song by singing the entirety of the liturgy (including the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and more).

Song allows us to participate in the full emotional range of season

that prepares for the mystery of the incarnation of Christ—in the form of a helpless baby. And though we may be singing in masks, song will be the vehicle that unveils the mystery of this season.

Come join the song.



Christmas Flower Memorials and Thanksgivings

Advent is the time to submit your Christmas flower remembrances for printing in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please submit your memorials or thanksgivings by Wednesday Dec 22nd. An envelope is included in this newsletter, and they are also available in the pews. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plates at any service, or delivered to the church office anytime. Remember to include **your** name and the information for *memorial or thanksgiving*.

At the conclusion of the Christmas service, the flowers are delivered to our members in nursing homes and our shut-ins. You may also claim a poinsettia to keep or give to a friend. We would greatly appreciate your help in distributing the flowers in the days the follow the Christmas service. Please call Kim in the parish office to coordinate a pick-up.

Bishop Overs is back!

Bishop Overs Guild will enjoy a Christmas gathering on Tuesday, December 14th. Bring a dish to share, ham will be provided 5:30pm.

All are welcome, including all who are interested in learning more about who the Bishop Overs Guild is and what we do. Looking forward to a festive time! (Norma DeJoy)

Something to Sing About!



God willing and the People consenting, the Right Rev. Sean Rowe will ordain JESSICA FREDERICK to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Your prayers and presence are requested.

A Reception will follow.

Sunday, December 5 at 4 pm
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
410 N Main St. Jamestown, NY

Christmas Caroling to Keep the Party Rolling



The ministry of a deacon involves “bringing the church to the world, and the world to the church.” So, following Jessica’s ordination to the transitional diaconate on December 5th, we will take the celebration to our community!



Parishioners are invited to join the youth group to spread some Christmas cheer by caroling at Lutheran. Carolers will leave from St. Luke’s at 6 pm, and we’ll return to the church by 7pm. Help us bring cheer into the world.

Twice as Nice—St. Nicholas Day on TWO Days

- Children and families are invited to join us in the Undercroft following the 10 am service on **December 5th** to celebrate St. Nicholas – who, over the last two centuries, developed into Santa Claus. Come find out the origin story, enjoy special treats in

honor of St. Nick – and meet a very special visitor.

- St. Nicholas Day officially falls on Monday, **December 6th** – Norma and Maddie DeJoy are hosting a celebration on the feast day! Join them in their home on 310 Arlington Avenue at **6 pm...** Bring a dish to share and/or Christmas cookies. Actually, lots of cookies! We'll exchange cookies.

Special Christmas Services

If the Holidays are giving you the blues, join us at the annual **Blue Christmas Service** at 5pm on **December 18**. It is a time—approaching longest night of the year (the Winter Solstice)—when we can acknowledge, with others, the "blue" feelings we have during the holidays and offer them to God. We light a candle in the darkness as a sign of healing.

Join us on **Christmas Eve**, for the **4pm & 11pm services** where we celebrate the majesty and wonder in candle-light splendor. On **Christmas day at 10am** we unwrap the message of incarnation. On Sunday the 26th, we'll have a special service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

The Christmas Pageant



The Christmas pageant is an opportunity to remember the ancient, sacred story of the Incarnation in creative new ways. **All children and youth** are invited to participate: We need sheep, shepherds, angels, stars, Mary, Joseph, and more! Here's the calendar for this year's pageant rehearsals:

- +Dec. 5: **Sign up** your children for the Christmas pageant (following St. Nicholas Day celebration the 10 am service)
- +Dec. 12: Rehearsal for **all** children and youth participating in the pageant (following the 10 am service)

- + Dec. 19: Rehearsal for **all** children and youth participating in the pageant (following the 10 am service)
- + Dec. 24: Christmas pageant (arrive at 3 pm)

Parents are always welcome to participate by helping with costumes and guiding children.

4th St Cafe Christmas Celebration— Dec 16

The annual 4th St Cafe Christmas breakfast will occur on Thursday, December 16th from 9-11am at the DoubleTree Hotel.

Anyone able to help set up, stuff the stockings, and volunteer with the party would be greatly appreciated!! Donations of gifts for stockings are also requested. We are looking for basic necessities (about 25 of each).

We need about 25 each: Combs, candy, brushes, socks, mittens, headbands, crayons, pens, paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, scarfs, hats, oranges, etc. Please drop them off at the church or at the parish office before the 12th and please label them "4th St Cafe Christmas Party." If you have questions or



Wednesday Group

Join us at our next Wednesday Group on **December 8th at 11:30 am** in the Undercroft for Eucharist and lunch followed by special demonstration of the new organ and it's expanded range and depth. Ron will pull all out of the stops to show off what is now possible. Call the church office if you need a ride (or would like to offer one!)

Blue Bag Ministry

Our Blue Bag Ministry creates a monthly reminder of concrete need in our community.

In **December** St. Luke's supports the Salvation Army's Christmas Assistance Program through the "Angel Tree." Take a tag from our Christmas Tree in the Church and be "an Angel" purchasing items listed on the tag (one, or as many as you are able). UNWRAPPED, bagged gifts **WITH THE TAG ATTACHED** are **due back at the church by December 15th** for pick up by the Salvation Army.

Service of Baptism

Our next regularly scheduled service of baptism will be **January 9th**. If you would like to arrange the sacrament of baptism for yourself, your children or grandchildren, please contact the parish office. In the Episcopal Church, there is no requisite age for baptism and all are welcome.

concerns, please contact Shauna Anderson (anrsun@yahoo.com) or the parish office (483-6405). We are thankful for St. Luke's Thrift Shop for funding this outing.

(All) Saints Formation – Creating Christmas Ornaments for Feathered Friends

From farmers markets to dog biscuits, St. Luke's is all about *food*... And this December we're extending our care to feathered friends! On Sunday, December 12th at 9 am (All) Saints Formation returns! This intergenerational event takes place during the Sunday school hour, bringing together young and old alike, to foster childlike joy and wonder.



We'll be creating outdoor Christmas decorations – suet cake ornaments and fruit & nut garlands (think popcorn and cranberries) – which parishioners can take home to feed their local neighborhood birds.

Christmas in a Barn on Dec 19th at 4pm

Join our partners from Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 19 at 4 pm at 3 Springs Alpacas (548 Route 394 in Kennedy) for a "Christmas in a Barn" service – an opportunity to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of the Christmas – in a barn, with live animals!



Keeping Each Other Warm: Winter Clothes Line

It's that time of year again! St. Luke's keeps a clothesline full of winter items, free for the taking, outside the church parish house. This is part of a community-wide initiative to help keep our neighbors warm during the bitterly

cold months of the year.

St. Luke's welcomes the donations of new store-bought or handmade items, such as gloves, scarves, mittens, and hats. These items can be dropped off at the parish house throughout the week or at Church on Sundays.

December EVENTure – Christmas Cookie Decorating

On Saturday, **December 18th at 4 pm**, join us for St. Luke's newest EVENTure! This month, we'll enjoy holiday fun decorating sugar cookies – and use these sweet treats to tell the story of the first Christmas. We'll have cocoa, sugar cookies, icing, sprinkles... and everything needed to decorate creative confections! RSVP to Jessica Frederick (jessica.frederick@stlukesjamestown.org).



THANK YOU for Helping Us Get St. Luke's Goat!

This fall, St. Luke's children's offering (collected during the offertory at the 10 am service) has been on a mission to buy goats through Episcopal Relief and Development for families and communities in need around the world. Goats are hardy, reproduce quickly, and can be raised in many climates to produce staple items such as milk, cheese, and manure for farming.

Thanks to the generosity of St. Luke's community, we raised \$434 for this project – enough to purchase **five goats** (at \$80 each)! Thank you for your support! During the Advent and Christmas seasons, donations to the children's offering will go toward the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, to support the over two dozen diocesan humanitarian institutions – schools, hospitals, clinics, centers for children with disabilities, and homes for the elderly in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon.... This seemed a natural choice for our children's offering this season, as we remember a special young family in the Holy Land over two thousand years ago.

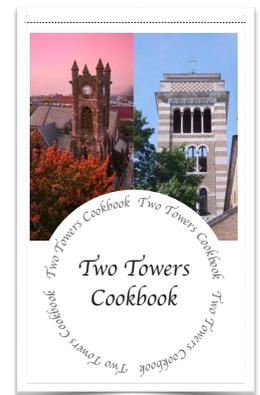


The children's offering is an opportunity to connect children and families to participate in the life and work of the church, by sharing resources (however great or small) with our neighbors – regardless of whether they happen to live near or far.

The St. Luke's Cookbook...the perfect Stocking Stuffer

'Do you have a favorite cook on your Christmas list? Did you know you can do some Christmas shopping *and* support the remarkable youth of St. Luke's? Just about the COVID hit in March 2020, St. Luke's and First Presbyterian churches began selling our newest (and delicious!) collaboration: A joint community cookbook, called "The Two Towers" (referencing the bell towers of the two churches) – it is the one cookbook to rule them all! The book contains over 250 recipes for appetizers, beverages, soups, salads, vegetables, main dishes, breads, desserts, and more.

Books are \$15 each and all proceeds go to support our joint youth group with First Presbyterian church. Funds raised will support future service learning trips and trainings to empower our youth to be leaders and agents of change in the community.



Supporting St. Luke's Youth... One Gift Box at a Time

After the 10 am service on December 12th and 19th, St. Luke's will be selling mini gift boxes, fit to trim the tree or stuff stockings! These boxes are made with recycled greeting cards, giving them the opportunity to spread some holiday cheer for a second time this Christmas. All proceeds raised will support St. Luke's youth. Many thanks to Kay Stahlman and Maddie and Norma DeJoy for crafting these boxes with love!



Giving Ourselves the Gift of Compassion: SLY PYG's December theme

No doubt about it: This has been a tough fall. Over and over in conversations with youth and families, I've heard about how stressful this semester was: With school returning to a "normal" (of sorts) after the long pandemic pause, it has been difficult to find life-giving routines as we continue to struggle with the ongoing challenges and fears of COVID. Additionally, after spending so long in isolation, it has been difficult to connect with others.



That's why, at youth group this holiday season, we'll be spending time exploring ways of giving ourselves the greatest gift of all: empathy and compassion. When so much is unknown and out of our control, learning how to be gentle with ourselves

is essential for navigating this complex and challenging world.

And, as we learn to care for ourselves, in turn we are liberated to love and care for others.

SLY PYG will be meeting at St. Luke's in the month of December, from 6-7:30 pm. (No youth group on the 26th – Merry Christmas!)

Liturgy IS Mission

Liturgy is the word that we use to refer to what happens during our Sunday services—all the words we prayer, the songs we sing and the sacraments we receive. It comes from the Greek and means "work of the people." Sometimes the Sunday service leads directly into **service!** Recently, many members of St. Luke's played a role in turning our beautiful harvest altar into food that we were able to give away to folks at the Covenant Manor looking for cheer in the holiday season. THANK you for participating in the community that transforms prayer into direct service.



Instant Church Directory in Your Pocket!

You might not know it, but St. Luke's uses a special directory app, called **Instant Church Directory**, which gives you access to names, pictures and contact info for your fellow parishioners. Struggling to remember the name of the person sitting behind you? Subtly pull out your phone and search the directory!

If you have a computer, smart phone or tablet, you can have the church directory at your fingertips. To view the directory online, go to

members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts

under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

You can also search for this app on the App Store (Apple or Google Stores), by typing "instant church directory" and looking for the icon on the left.



For those without smart phones, a print edition is available upon request.

An advertisement for the Instant Church Directory app. It features a blue background with a white hand holding a smartphone displaying the app's icon. The text reads: "VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE! FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android". Below this, it says: "Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better! Simply go to the App Store, search for Instant Church Directory and download the FREE app to begin. You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app. If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office." At the bottom, there are logos for the App Store and Google Play.

Have You Met Yet? The Baers



Tom and Sally Baer showed up at St. Luke's this summer under the urging for their kids, Wilson, Sharvan and Sophie: "Can we try the church with the Rainbow Steps?" That said, the Baers are no strangers to the life of the Church. While both Tom and Sally hail from Chautauqua County, their family is at home anywhere in the world. Having done missionary work in the counties of Ethiopia, Nepal and Kazakhstan and elsewhere, the Baer's are dedicated to a life of service. Their work has been about empowering the local communities in the basics of entrepreneurship and lending a hand where they can. They contributed to the founding of a

church in Ethiopia. They are looking forward to their next great mission opportunity—both locally and further a field. In the meantime, Sally and Tom are occupied with caring for aging parents and running their country store, Baer Essentials & 6 Baers Gift Shoppe, housed in the Ashville General Store.

Wilson recently completed his undergraduate degree and is working to complete an online certificate in computer systems. Sharvan is a college sophomore in South Carolina and Sophia is high school junior at Chautauqua Christian Academy.



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