

*St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Newsletter*

Lent – Easter 2018

 **A Letter from the Rector**

This year both Ash Wednesday and Easter fall on Secular ‘holidays’. How does this happen, you might ask yourself or others? To begin with, Easter is determined by when the full moon occurs at a specific time of year. The Book of Common Prayer explains Easter this way: “Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21. It cannot occur before March 22 or after April 25.”

In the next paragraph, it tells of how the sequence of all the Sundays in the Church year is dependent on where Easter Day is on the calendar. The easiest way to determine Easter is to look at the very convenient table on page 882 of the prayer book. I gives you the date for Easter from 1900 to 2089, enough for my life time and I am sure many others as well. Pages 884-5 have the table for the movable feasts and Holy days of the year. For example, if Easter Day if on March 22, then Ash Wednesday is February 4th, Ascension Day is April 30th, Pentecost is May 10th, and the first Sunday in Advent is November 29th.

But this article isn’t only about how and why Ash Wednesday is on February 14th and Easter Day is on April 1st this year. Just how do ashes and chocolate go together? Chocolate is one way a person can show their love for another by giving a gift of a heart shaped box of confections on the 14th. Or maybe sending flowers and going out to dinner is the way that love is expressed. Whatever the method, love is the key word of the 14th of February so it is appropriate that Ash Wednesday falls on the day when love is at the forefront of everyone’s minds. God loves us so much that he doesn’t use those human ways to express it. (Can you imagine the size of the box of chocolates or bouquet of flowers from God?)

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God lets us know that we are dust and to dust we shall return when we receive ashes on our forehead and he is preparing us for Jesus’ death and resurrection at the same time. We are human and we will die someday. It has been said that death is the great equalizer across the classes, cultures and leaders. Death comes to us all no matter how wealthy or poor we are in this life. Ash Wednesday is the reminder of our humanity. It is also the day when God lets us know that he loves us too much to leave us with no hope of being with him after we die. That hope is shown to us on Easter morning.

That is the love of God given to us on Ash Wednesday and again at Easter.

And while our lives are fleeting and love can be as well, God will always be there to love us and care for us; in this life and in the life after death.

A Blessed Lent to all,

Mother Sue+

**Senior Warden Message**

Dear St. Luke’s Family,

At the 2018 Annual Meeting it was accepted that I would be your new Senior Warden for the year. Most of you know my St. Luke’s history but here’s a short version….I have been a member of St. Luke’s since 1977 and have served with you in various ways including membership on three different search committees, Junior Warden for a period of time, Altar Guild member and Eucharistic Minister for years, as well as, served terms on the Vestry. This is my first experience as Senior Warden so my beginning will be gradual as I learn the duties, responsibilities, and spiritual direction. It is my intent to work closely with Mo Sue by Supporting and carrying out the goals and visions she has for the year ahead. This will be a team effort and your input will be most valuable. I welcome your suggestions and feedback. My email is bholman42@live.com.

Let us go forward together sharing the mission and vision of our parish.

Yours in Christ,

Brenda Holman



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**Ashes-to-Go**

We will continue to have Ashes-to-Go—our fourth year-- in front of the Wilton (9 am) and Farmington (Noon) Post Offices for one hour each. New this year will be the addition of a prayer table which will be a weekly fixture in both places (probably on Tuesday mornings) in the Spring. The prayer table is not a recruiting place but one that says that we care about everyone and will pray for them if they want prayer. Mother Sue will be part of the prayer table for a few weeks and she hopes that this will become a permanent ministry of St. Luke’s.

**What IS Ashes-to-Go?**

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God’s ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Easter.

We take ashes to the street corner because that reminder of need, humility, and healing shouldn’t be confined to a church building.  We probably need it more when we are in the middle of our daily business! The ashes we receive are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God’s call to us.

~From: ashestogo.org

**Sunday School Lenten Project**

This year our Lenten project will again raise funds for Haiti.  We plan to adopt a St. Luc’s classroom and provide funds for the teacher, school supplies and for the classroom to be painted. Folks from St. Alban’s are in Haiti now and will be choosing the classroom and bringing back information for us. Some of our children wrote letters, sent a hand print and a photo to go with them to Haiti. Our goal is a big one-let’s do it! **$700.00!!**

 ~Justy Nazar, Christian Ed Director

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**Lent and Holy Week Service Schedules**

![C:\Users\Gwen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\XAIDBD81\holy_week[1].jpg]()~Traditional Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:00 that evening, the 14th.

~On Maundy Thursday, March 29th, there will be a 6:00 pm service which will include the foot washing ceremony and stripping the altar area in anticipation of Easter.

~Good Friday, March 30th, will be an ecumenical service with details to be announced in the next couple of weeks.

~Easter sunrise service is on April 1st at 6:25 am. Irene Berry is on the

 ecumenical committee for this Christian tradition.

~Easter morning service at St. Luke’s is at 9:30 where we begin the celebration of

 Jesus’ resurrection! Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children

~We may have a few surprises Easter morning, but they are still in the works as

 of this writing. More will be revealed soon!

**Also in Lent…**

**“That The World May Know”**

During the five Sundays of Lent, there will be an opportunity to view the series by Ray VanDerlaan before the 9:30 service. There is no homework and each week stands alone, so come for all five or one week! We will begin at 8:45 on the 18th of February.

~Mother Sue

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**EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS**

**![C:\Users\Gwen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\KWEFXLXV\MC900436381[1].png]()**As in years past, we will decorate the altar for Easter. If you would like to remember a loved one, please include their name(s) on this form and return to the church office. Please also include your name and phone number or email in case we have questions.

*Donations and listings should be sent to the church office (or place in the collection plate) no later than* ***Sunday, March 27th*** *for inclusion in the bulletin, thank you.*

Honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email/phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Notes from the office**

Dear fellow parishioners of St. Luke’s,

First off, I want to dedicate this newsletter to Joy Warren, who was a Bible study member when I first came to this church. She was attentive to my family, doting on Nora with hand knit hat and socks. She often gave her a quarter to put in the collection plate. And as was pointed out at her memorial service, she was a faithful and active member of St. Luke’s. I admired her faithfulness and will miss seeing her across the aisle.

As you know, I was asked to serve on the Discernment Committee for the next bishop of Maine. I think for many of us out here in Franklin County, we don’t feel very connected to the diocese which is run out of Portland. What does the bishop even DO? Why should I care? I don’t want to answer that for you. If you are on email, you should have received a link to the Survey Monkey survey created by our committee. You will also have an opportunity to discuss as a congregation (see below). I have learned about the diocese and bishop through my job here, attending convention, spring training, and other events like the adult retreat. Very soon, our committee will also send out a “What is a Bishop?” pamphlet.

We meet for a full day each month and are in frequent contact via a web program. We also use video conferencing. We are now trying to decide on a retreat location which will take up three days in October. We will welcome candidates and their spouses/partners for a long weekend and then make a final recommendation of candidates to the Transition Committee. At that point, our committee is basically finished. In the meantime, we will gather all of the responses from the Survey Monkey, congregational discussions, and clergy listening sessions to create a profile. Once that is posted to the diocesan website, candidates have a few weeks to get in their application materials. Then we will review, interview, and select those who will join us at retreat. The “official” prayer is all around the church, but we will take any prayers you offer!

Finally, please subscribe to the DioLog for the bi-weekly newsletter from the diocese. There is a whole lot going on in support of your faith journey. Go to the website at: [www.episcopalmaine.org](http://www.episcopalmaine.org)

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**Congregational Meeting for Bishop Transition**

There will be a meeting of the entire congregation on February 25th after the 9:30 service to discuss the questions concerning the next bishop of Maine. The questions are listed below so you can be thinking about them before the meeting. We will also have a pot lunch brunch/lunch during the meeting. Please let Mary Kalel know what you will be bringing so there is a variety of food.

Open Ended Questions for Parish Congregations:

1. Who are you as a parish?

 What do you value and how do you demonstrate that?

 What stories/foundational events have shaped you?

 What do you want the new bishop to know about you?

2. Where do you want to go as a parish?

 How close are you to getting there?

 What gifts do you have that will help you get there?

 What challenges lie in your path?

3. How would you describe your parish’s relationship with the diocese?

 What would you like your relationship to be in the future?

 What qualities in a bishop would facilitate this relationship?

**Speaking of the Bishop….**

The Bishop is coming! And Confirmation class.

Well, not until June 10th, so there is no need to panic. I would like to plan ahead for this event in the life of St. Luke’s by starting a confirmation class at the end of February. If you haven’t been confirmed in the Episcopal Church, then this class is for you. Some of us have been confirmed in either the Lutheran or Roman Catholic Church and they can be received. (Class is optional for you).

The first class will be February 18th at 6:30pm, which is also the first Sunday in Lent. It will only be about an hour or so and there will be workbooks for each of us. If you wish to be confirmed on June 10th, please let me know ASAP so we can begin a class and order enough books.

~Mother Sue

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Plans are in the works for a church service/picnic at Kineowatha Park on July 8th. We will gather for service at 9:30 and have a picnic lunch after our worship. This will be pot luck and coolers will be available to keep cold items cold.

Drinks and dessert will be provided by Mother Sue and Jack. Please bring a lawn chair that morning!

Meet Parishioner Mary Kalel

When I moved back to Maine, after living in MA for 30 years, one of the pieces of my life that I put on hold was my faith journey. I had attended an Episcopal church the entire time I lived in MA but wasn’t sure if there was one near my home in Dixfield. I was pleased to find St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and went to your web site and did a little research. At the time you were in the process of looking for a new rector, so I made the decision to wait until you had a new rector in place before I came to visit for the first time.

Until June, I worked as a breakfast hostess at Comfort Inn and had the pleasure of meeting Jack and Suzanne Cole, who were staying at the Comfort Inn. During breakfast one morning, I asked them what brought them back to the area and Jack told me that Suzanne was a pastor and was interviewing for a new position. I asked what denomination and was told she wasn’t at liberty to say at that time, because no decisions had been finalized. A couple of visits later, I asked how things were progressing and was told she got the job, but no formal announcements had been made yet. During their visits, we talked about life, our families and pretty much everything but the weather! The Lord does work when and where we least expect Him; I’m researching St. Luke’s while I’m developing what I consider to be a friendship with this couple at work and then they tell me Suzanne was going to be the new rector at St. Luke’s! She told me that her first Sunday was going to be August 13th so I said, “Ok Lord, I hear you and I will be in church on August 13th!”

As a new retiree and one of the newest additions to St. Luke’s family, I came in ready and willing to help out whenever and wherever I was able to help. I was made to feel welcome the first day I walked through the doors and it was soon discovered that I love working in the kitchen and feeding people. It only took six

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months to find my “purpose” at St. Luke’s as the Chair of the Hospitality Committee when Brenda stepped up to take on the role of Senior Warden. Because of her organizational skills, Brenda left me with easy shoes to step into. I’d like to thank her for her service as Hospitality Chair and for her willingness to step into a new role at St. Luke’s. For all of you who have been at St. Luke’s for longer than 6 months, please don’t underestimate your role in God’s world and the important part you all play in welcoming new faces into the St. Luke’s family.

It is my belief that kitchens are the heart of every building they’re in and provide the opportunity for: fellowship during coffee hour, the opportunity to provide comfort meals after funeral services and kitchen related fundraisers to name a few. At different points in our lives we have different “gifts” to offer to our church community. If you have little time to give beyond church services, there are other ways to contribute to life at St. Luke’s. Everyone has to shop on a regular basis and an easy way to contribute to church life, without a large time or monetary commitment is to pick up an extra package of paper plates, napkins, paper cups, bottle of dish detergent, box of tea, bag of flour or sugar for pie fundraiser time, etc. now and then while you’re already shopping. I often take advantage of buy one get one offers or as we called it at my last church, buy one, donate one.

I would like to hold up the entire St. Luke family to the Lord for His continued guidance in doing His good work. Thank you to all of you for welcoming me into “your family”! God’s blessings to one and all.

~Mary Kalel



 Since 1977, people from the Farmington area have gathered for a simple Easter Sunrise Service on Voter Hill.

Join others in this peaceful service accompanied by an ecumenical ensemble and singing group. A program is provided. If you would like to participate by reading or playing music, you can speak with Irene Berry who is on the committee. Sunrise on April 1st will be at 6:25. Of course, get there a little early to gather in silence. The service lasts about 30 minutes. Dress warmly!

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**A Prayer in Spring by Robert Frost**

**Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.**

**Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.**

**And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.**

**For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.**

**![C:\Users\Gwen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\WZYWFKVO\MC900304933[1].wmf]()Easter Egg Hunt at St. Luke’s!**

Children enjoy an egg hunt inside the church immediately following the 9:30 am service on Easter Sunday. Bring the family and enjoy Easter day at St. Luke’s!

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St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

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**St. Luke’s Who to Contact**

**Priest-In-Charge** The Rev. Suzanne Cole

**Sr. Warden:** Brenda Holman

**Jr. Warden:** Carolyn McLaughlin 645-2312

**Clerk:** Jeannine LeVigne

**Treasurer:** Dick Condon

***Other Vestry Members:***
Tony McLaughlin, Carolyn McLaughlin, Ed Ferreira,

 Michelle Ouellette, Chris Cox, Janet Morris

**Secretary:** Lisa Lindsay 645-2639

**Altar Guild Director:** Chris Cox 645-2829

**Church School:**  Justy Nazar 645-2783

**Acolyte Mentor:** Brenda Holman 778-3397

**Newsletter:**  Lisa Lindsay 645-2639

**Episcopal Church Women:** Carolyn McLaughlin 645-2312

**Lectors/Lay Readers:**  Lisa Lindsay 645-2639

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