



## *St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter*

### Advent – Christmas 2018

#### A Letter from Our Rector



Advent-a time of anticipation.

When you are reading this newsletter, we will be in the season of Advent. Most people know that there are four weeks ending with Christmas Day.

A popular tradition to do with the four Sundays is the Advent Wreath. We light one in church each week before the service,

and some families have one at home. Lighting an Advent wreath is a wonderful way to focus on the real reason for Christmas Day.

To make the weekly lighting of the wreath more meaningful, here is a schedule of Scripture for each candle and what it represents.

Week 1: Read Matthew 3:1-2; light a purple candle (representing prophecy) and have family prayer time. Discuss expectations and hopes for the future.

Week 2: Read Matthew 2:1-6; light a purple candle (representing the shepherds) and have family prayer. Discuss anticipation and preparation for Christmas.

Week 3: Read Luke 2:8-12; light a rose- colored candle (representing the angels) and have family prayer. Discuss our joys in life.

Week 4: Read Matthew 2:7-11; light a purple candle (representing the Magi) and have family prayer. Discuss good gifts from God.

(rector letter continued)

Christmas Day: Read John 8:12; light the white Christ candle (in the middle of the wreath) and give thanks for Jesus, the Light of the World.

Grant, Almighty God, that looking forward in faith to the feast of our Lord's birth, we may feel all the happiness our Savior brings, and celebrate His coming with unfailing joy.

Happy Advent!

Mother Sue+

### Notes from the office

If you are new to St. Luke's, welcome! Please reach out with any questions. This time of the year, I am usually in the office Tuesday – Friday. Hours (part-time) may vary but I check email and voicemail regularly.

The roof work should be done soon. They have been working through the snow and ice. They are a good crew and have been thoughtful and steady. The yearly pellet furnace kinks have been worked out but a reminder: it takes *hours* for the temp to come up to where you need it so try to anticipate what you need it for. Please do not change the one in the church which is pre-set. The one downstairs in the undercroft may be adjusted as needed. Bathroom doors should be left open when not in use to keep pipes from freezing. The church has hired someone to work on Sunday mornings to be sure entrances are clear of snow, check on the furnace, etc. Please call the office if you have any building issues and I will try to help. We will be looking for a Jr. Warden in the coming new year. Thanks to Carolyn McLaughlin for filling this role most recently and to Brenda for her work as Sr. Warden.

As for me, I have wrapped up my work on the "Bishopquest" Discernment Committee. We had a fulfilling time at our retreat with the candidates in October and will welcome them back in January for their walkabouts in Portland, Augusta, and Bangor. The election will be in Bangor at the Cross Center on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Our delegates are Mother Sue, Ed Ferriera, and Chris Cox. *Anyone* can attend the walkabouts if you would like to meet the five candidates. Their information is also located on the diocesan website: [episcopalmaine.org](http://episcopalmaine.org).



(office notes continued)

After years of being interested, I have joined the diocesan Committee on Indian Relations which is chaired by John Dieffenbacher-Krall. This is brand new for me, so I will reserve a detailed update until the next newsletter. I attend my first meeting in Brewer this Saturday. The committee has been trying to find more representation throughout the diocese and so I hope to do my part for this region.

Thanks to all who took a tag from the angel tree to help a local family that has had a difficult year. We are also collecting money for a parishioner in need. Sometimes just knowing you are part of a community that cares can be a real boost especially at Christmas.

Hannaford gift cards are back! This is a great and easy fundraiser for St. Luke's. Thanks to Carolyn who has gotten this rolling again. I miss Tony's weekly pitch to catch him at coffee hour to renew our cards! See below for more information.

Finally, I am always looking for newsletter content. Write an article about where you find God in your life or about your volunteer work or your faith journey. Send in a poem or a photo or an announcement for the newsletter or our Facebook page.

Peace be with you.

Lisa Lindsay

## Sunday School



We are continuing our study of the stories in the Pentateuch. We have finished with Isaac and Rebekah's twins, Esau and Jacob. The children did a short skit on Jacob leaving his family and meeting God, who wrestled with him, blessed him and changed his name to Israel. We are now learning about jealousy between Joseph and his eleven brothers. We learned about

John the Baptist's parents.

In Advent, we are discussing the Advent wreath. For the first Sunday, we colored the hope angel and talked about the hope of Jesus coming.

~Justy Nazar, Sunday School Teacher

## Acolytes



St. Luke's is blessed to have five active and willing acolytes, Keyon (head acolyte), Toby, Myles, Mason, and Nora. Mason is our new altar "gate keeper". He will lock and unlock the gate before and after communion via his wheelchair. All acolytes will serve Christmas Eve.....Toby and Myles will be torch bearers, Keyon will serve Mo Sue, Maddie has agreed to be crucifer and Nora and Mason will do their regular duties. Practice for Christmas will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9AM. When you see an acolyte let him/her know how much we value their faithful service.

~Brenda Holman

## WECO Update

Usually we meet the first Tues of the month but storms have delayed us. We skip Dec. & will meet next on Jan. 8, 2019.

Food Pantry: 93 Thanksgiving baskets were prepared with help from many hands. Two were asked to be delivered and this was done. Annual food pantry appeal was sent out & \$7,000 was collected along with a matching grant of \$5,000 from the Bjorn Family.

Dryden Baptist: Western ME. American Baptist meeting was held at their church. Pastor Zamboni was invited to a Thanksgiving service at Bean's Corner Baptist Church. Unique music and testimonies given. Money raised(\$1,000) was given to the Homeless Shelter. Pastor David gave the funeral prayer at the Donahue Family funeral for their 20 yr. old son, Patrick, who died in a car accident.

(WECO continued)

Congregational Church: Had a 200th anniversary dinner. Veteran's church service: an Abe Lincoln impersonator spoke, Shannon Smith and the Emblem club did a flag folding telling what each fold meant and Sammy Angel sang patriotic songs. Dec. 16th at 2:00 they will have a Northfield concert. Thrift store going well but due to weather might close for Jan. & Feb.



Episcopal Church: New sound system new roof work being done. Mother Sue is doing an Advent study, Because of Bethlehem. Extension group had a craft sale at the church. Santa's Workshop will be on Dec.8th at 9:00.

If any church ever needs specific clothing for free call the Methodist Church in Skowhegan and they will put it aside for you. They get nearly 100 bags of clothes a week.

~Justy Nazar

### **Alzheimer's Poem**

Do not ask me to remember  
Do not try to make me understand.  
Let me rest and know you're with me.  
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.  
I'm confused beyond your concept.  
I am sad and sick and lost.  
All I know is that I need you to be with  
me at all cost.  
Do not lose your patience with me.  
Do not scold or curse my cry.  
I can't help the way I'm acting,  
Can't be different though I try.  
Just remember that I need you,  
That the best of me is gone.  
Please don't fail to stand beside me,  
Love me till my life is done.  
*Author Unknown (submitted by Brenda Holman)*





## Santa's Workshop



Santa's Workshop is held on the second Saturday of each December and provides an opportunity for area children to learn the beauty of giving to their adult loved ones. And while we are very grateful for our many volunteers who donate cute gifts for kids to buy and who help set up and who work as elves and who work in the kitchen, Justy is the one who makes sure everything comes together each year. Here she is at the 50 cent table, but she is worth her weight in gold.

### Advent Study

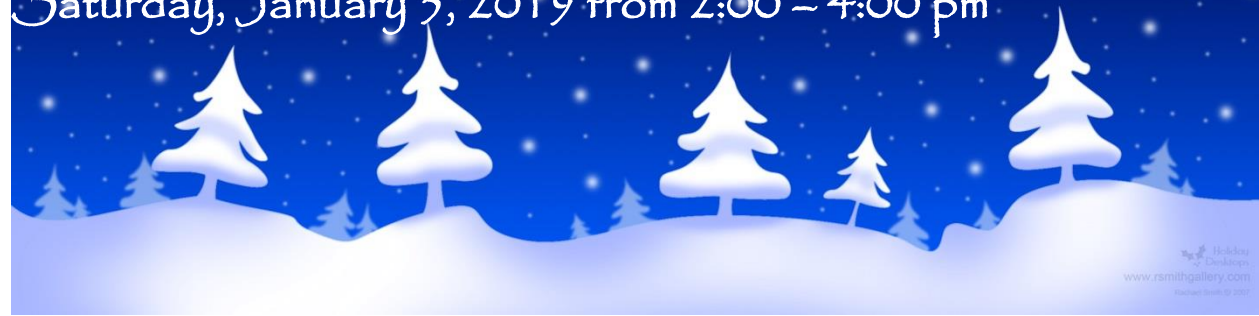
We began watching and discussing a four part study by Max Lucado called, "Because of Bethlehem". Max tells us how God who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world. Jesus' birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us. This study runs on Tuesdays at 10:15 am through December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Christmas Eve Nativity Play



St. Luke's children: I would like to have rehearsal on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>, and again at 5:30 on Friday, the 14<sup>th</sup>. We will practice on the 16<sup>th</sup> with a dress rehearsal on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. This play has speaking parts so we need to rehearse. Thank you and God bless!

Parish Open House at the home of Jack and Sue Cole.  
16 Belmont Drive in Jay  
Saturday, January 5, 2019 from 2:00 ~ 4:00 pm



### **HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**



***Do you know someone who could use convenient gift certificates for the holidays?  
Would you like to gift a student with groceries or other staples/supplies this semester?***

Hannaford Gift Cards are a simple solution! *Using the card for regular purchases and gifts benefits the church, as St. Luke's receives 5% of every \$1000 purchased, an easy way to support valued programs at St. Luke's.*



***Because we are starting over from scratch, you will not be able to use your old card. Please see Carolyn McLaughlin for a new one.***

Thanks to all who were able to attend the special coffee hour to introduce you to this new program that the PB Curry is encouraging. There is a lot of information on [episcopalchurch.org](http://episcopalchurch.org) and you can also find materials on the undercroft table at St. Luke's. There is a leader guide if anyone(s) would be interested in leading a study on how to use this practice in your life.



**THE WAY OF LOVE**  
*Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*





*A Poem by Emily Dickinson*

*It sifts from leaden sieves,  
It powders all the wood,  
It fills with alabaster wool  
The wrinkles of the road.*

*It makes an even face  
Of mountain and of plain, —  
Unbroken forehead from the east  
Unto the east again.*

*It reaches to the fence,  
It wraps it, rail by rail,  
Till it is lost in fleeces;  
It flings a crystal veil*

*On stump and stack and stem, —  
The summer's empty room,  
Acres of seams where harvests were,  
Recordless, but for them.*

*It ruffles wrists of posts,  
As ankles of a queen, —  
Then stills its artisans like ghosts,  
Denying they have been.*

**Closing Prayer**

God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives  
always, and particularly this Advent time.

*(from faithandworship.com)*

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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**Web Address:** www.stlukeswilton.org

## St. Luke's Who to Contact

<b>Rector</b>	Mother Sue Cole	897-5621
<b>Sr. Warden:</b>	Brenda Holman	778-3397
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	Carolyn McLaughlin	645-2312
<b>Clerk:</b>	Jeannine LeVigne	860-8487
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dick Condon	778-4425

## ***Other Vestry Members:***

Ed Ferreira, Michelle Ouellette, Mary Kael, Chris Cox

<b>Parish Administrator:</b>	Lisa Lindsay	645-4899
<b>Altar Guild Director:</b>	Chris Cox	645-2829
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Mother Sue Cole	897-5621
<b>Church School:</b>	Justy Nazar	645-2783
<b>Acolyte Mentor:</b>	Brenda Holman	778-3397
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
<b>Episcopal Church Women:</b>	Carolyn McLaughlin	645-2312
<b>Lectors/Lay Readers:</b>	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639