



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

Lent – Easter 2020

### A Letter from our Rector

Whose job is it to save the world?

I buy the Maine Sunday Telegram every week, mostly for the crossword puzzle that I do for relaxation. January 19<sup>th</sup>'s headline grabbed me and the article gave me the reason for this newsletter topic. "He tried to save the world, but he couldn't save himself".

As the title says, "Whose job is it to save the world?" This poor man, Dave Bakis, tried to turn his severe depression into a way to make a difference in the world. He took his own life two days before Christmas of 2019. His brother is quoted by the paper, "He felt isolated. He didn't have any type of faith, really. He didn't believe in an afterlife. He just thought that the world is chaos and then we die and that's it." So sad to not have any type of faith. That's not to say that people with faith don't have depression; far from it. But people with faith are able to lean on their beliefs as a way to push through those dark times.

An example of a person with faith and in dark times is a friend of my son, Tim. His name is Eric and his wife died almost a year ago from brain cancer. Eric is 32 years old and definitely has dark times. To survive, he has his faith in God and a good family support system. I'm sure he is also seeing a therapist who is helping him navigate life without his wife. As a friend of mine says, "Prayer and Prozac" is what we need to get through those hard times when life seems to be against you. Both are necessary when navigating this world; both globally and personally. This friend of mine has been through tough times and continues to push on with his healing ministry. Ten years ago, he was in a coma from the H1N1 flu virus. His wife was told that there was nothing the doctors could do and to prepare for the

worst. At this point in the story, please remember that why God chooses to cure some and not others is a mystery. He did recover, but has diminished lung capacity to the point of using oxygen at times and will never play the bagpipes again. (I know for some of you that is not a bad thing).

St. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians (5:18) 'give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'. Both Eric and my friend have had to give thanks to God in all circumstances, no matter how difficult those circumstances happen to be. It can't be easy to give thanks and I'm sure there were times of anger with God for death and bad lungs. The important piece to remember is that they are leaning on God to get them through life and help them with the 'new normal'. Both Eric and my friend have continued in this life by doing good works despite their 'new' circumstances.

Words (faith) and works go hand in hand when going through this life. The first letter of James talks about faith and works; as in you can't have one without the other, but the Washington Times says it best: "James writes that faith without works is dead. I also believe that work without faith is dead." (Washington Times 5/11/2016 Jimmy Kemp) It's interesting when a secular news source quotes the Bible!

Maybe Dave Bakis would still be on this earth doing good works if he had faith in a power greater than himself. I don't know.... I pray for him and his family. Pray for all with depression. And be kind to everyone.

In Christ,  
Mother Sue+

### Senior Wardens

As your new Senior Wardens Carolyn and Chris are working on the schedule for the coming year. We will be asking for people to sign up to lead or help out with the Liturgy of The Word. The idea is that most 4th Sundays we will have Liturgy of The Word, and then have a supply clergy for the 5th Sunday. This is of course subject to change. When we have a more confirmed schedule we will let everyone know. Please let us know if you have any ideas, problems or solutions. Our aim is to keep St Luke's happy and healthy for the coming year.

~Chris Cox, Carolyn McLaughlin

## Parish Administrator

If you are new to St. Luke's, welcome! We are blessed to worship with you and share coffee and conversation with you. If I can be helpful to you, please stop by the office or give me a call. Some of what I do is make and send out the weekly email newsletter, prepare and print the service bulletin, advertise special church events, keep the calendar, support Mother Sue's ministries if needed, order supplies, answer emails and phone, support people who call in for help, manage the coat closet, and otherwise try to be helpful where needed. Please get involved with volunteering as much or as little as you would like. There are plenty of opportunities for those who feel called.

A gentle reminder: Not all church secretaries worship where they work. During service times and coffee hours, I'm here to be a parishioner. I know that Sundays are a good time to catch me, but feel free to call or stop by if you have church business you need to discuss. If you ask me to do something during church, I often say, "Please put a note on the office door or I'll forget!" There is a bulletin board and paper there. During office hours, I'm theoretically here to work and not chat about *non*-church-related things too much—though a little is good because it can get lonely around here! Please help me to stay on track. I am usually at the office Tuesday through Friday mornings and my cell phone is listed in the directory if you need to track me down. Most Parish Administrators I know *do* want to be there to listen if you are in need or have a concern. And remember, too, your priest, Mother Sue, is a *great* listener and she keeps office hours faithfully.

I'm very excited about Justy's Sunday School fundraiser. We try to support a different organization each year and we have found St. Luke's parishioners to be incredibly generous to those in need. This year, we are supporting a more local charity shown below. Please stay tuned for announcements. Justy is a great motivator and always enlists help from her students to get her point across.

My kids (and the dog) are keeping me busy. Toby is close to getting his driver's license in time for lots of trips to work this summer. He is also in another high school play, "Emma!" in May and is working part time at the skating rink at the park. Nora is into lots of sports and has gotten me into cross country skiing. We are having a great, active winter. We will be taking a trip in the spring and I will be sure to let you know the dates that I will be out of the office.

Finally, I am hopeful to become a Eucharistic Visitor (someone who takes Communion to those who cannot make it to church) and just need to finish up some additional Safe Church Training. I'll keep you posted.

~Lisa Lindsay

## Sunday School Lenten Project



Need a gift idea?  
Looking for a fun community service project?

### THE SPONSOR A MEAL PROJECT!

Choose your date and receive an invitation to come serve your meal, a report on the number of plates served and the menu for your meal, and a certificate of appreciation!

We have been searching for a local need to support with our annual Lenten Fundraiser which is run by Justy Nazar and her Sunday School kids. We landed on The Trinity Jubilee Center in Lewiston. **Our goal is to raise \$600** which will provide meals for a week! We have not yet discussed the opportunity to send St. Luke's volunteers to help serve meals on those dates, but that is a possibility if there is interest. More info to come in Lent when the fundraiser starts.

~Lisa Lindsay



*Upcoming dates to put on your calendar:*

*\* Wednesday, March 18th at 1:00 at Salt 'n Pepper.*

*\* Monday, April 27th at 1:00*

*\* Wednesday, June 10th-- restaurant TBD.*

*Please see Mary with any questions.*

## Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday Plans



**On Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a FREE pancake supper at 6:00 PM. All from the community are welcome. We will need donations of food items and kitchen help. Please sign up if you are able.

The Ash Wednesday schedule is as follows:

Ashes-to-Go (*Mother Sue takes the imposition of ashes to the streets to anyone wishing to receive.*)

Downtown Wilton: 9 to 10 am

Downtown Farmington: Noon to 1 pm

Ash Wednesday Service at St. Luke's: 5:30pm



**Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Service

**Maundy Thursday, April 9**

5:00 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Service

**Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Ecumenical service (Time and place TBD)

**Easter, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

6:44 am Sunrise Service on Voter Hill

9:30 am Service



## Spring Training



### SAVE THE DATE:

**March 21, 2020**

**9:30 am to 3:30 pm at**

**South Parish Congregational  
Church in Augusta**

The Rev. Jay Sidebotham,  
director and founder

of RenewalWorks, will be the keynote speaker offering a presentation for everyone who attends. RenewalWorks is a growing movement in the Episcopal Church equipping congregations and individuals to assess and grow their spiritual health. Jay will talk about his own experience as a parish priest, and how RenewalWorks can shift the focus of parishes and in dioceses so that we center our common life on discipleship with Jesus Christ and our desire for spiritual growth. There will be time following the presentation for discussion in break-out groups. After lunch (a fundraiser for Youth Ministry Mission Exchange), everyone will have their choice of one smaller workshop. The day will close with Eucharist. Go to: [episcopalmaine.org/spring-training](http://episcopalmaine.org/spring-training) to register now!

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## *EASTER LILIES*



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. Brenda Holman will announce the price.

*Donations and listings should be sent to the church office (or place in the collection plate) no later than **Sunday, April 5th** for inclusion in the bulletin, thank you.*

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

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

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_ Email/phone: \_\_\_\_\_



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 12th will be at 6:44 am. Of course, get there a little early to gather in silence. The service lasts about 30 minutes. Dress warmly!



***Would you like a simple way to support the church?*** 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. Please see Carolyn McLaughlin for yours!*



### **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!



## POETRY CORNER

I HAVE THIS WAY OF BEING  
*BY JAMAAL MAY*

I have this, and this isn't a mouth  
full of the names of odd flowers

I've grown in secret.  
I know none of these by name

but have this garden now,  
and pastel somethings bloom

near the others and others.  
I have this trowel, these overalls,

this ridiculous hat now.  
This isn't a lung full of air.

Not a fist full of weeds that rise  
yellow then white then windswept.

This is little more than a way  
to kneel and fill gloves with sweat,  
so that the trowel in my hand  
will have something to push against,

rather, something to push  
against that it knows will bend

and give and return as sprout  
and petal and sepal and bloom.





# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

**59 High Street in Wilton, Maine  
P. O. Box 249, Farmington, ME 04938**

**207-645-2639**

**E-mail:** [stlukes@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stlukes@myfairpoint.net)  
**Web Address:** [www.stlukeswilton.org](http://www.stlukeswilton.org)

## St. Luke's Who to Contact

<b>Priest-In-Charge</b>	The Rev. Suzanne Cole	897-5621
<b>Sr. Wardens:</b>	Chris Cox	645-2829
	Carolyn McLaughlin	645-2312
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	John Sytsma	778-9825
<b>Clerk:</b>	TBD	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dick Condon	

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

Emily Scribner, Jeannine LeVigne, Brenda Holman

<b>Secretary:</b>	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
<b>Altar Guild Director:</b>	Chris Cox	645-2829
<b>Church School:</b>	Justy Nazar	645-2783
<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