In this week's Steeple >>>

Guest Column by Mother Andrea Jones On-line giving through Tithe.ly Connecting with St. Luke's on-line Food Drive for CONCERN Roof Repair with photos



April 22, 2020

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Steeple



How to Contact Father Steve

Phone: 918-330-6108 email: fathersdhood@gmail.com

Fear Itself

By Guest Columnist Mother Andrea Jones

When did we get in the habit of daily consumption of negativity? There seems to be a constant din of fear, anger and resentment pulsing in the ether. This world-wide pandemic is just another opportunity to sing a litany of woe.

Franklin Roosevelt said to our nation, "*The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.*" This was after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the fall of Europe and amid deep divisions within America: some advocating appeasing Hitler, others siding with Stalin and still more wanting to stand behind our oceans until the winds of war had done their worst. There was a lot to fear in those days. Whatever choice Roosevelt made, the consequences would be hard; for him and for the Americans who had to endure his decisions.

The great charge for us today, as it was in the past, is to find a way forward, not paralyzed by fear, but by standing together. Madeleine L'Engle wrote this in her book, <u>Sold into Egypt:</u> The time in each day is precious and precarious. No one knows when some accident will shatter time, some tornado, or heart attack, or gunshot (or pandemic).

A friend said, I just want things to be normal. And I thought: What is normal? Normal is the reality of living with precariousness, of never knowing what is around the corner, when accident or death is going to strike. Normal is cooking dinner for friends (or alone) in the midst of this precariousness, lighting candles, laughing, being together (or safely distancing to protect friends and strangers). Normal is trusting God will make meaning out of everything that happens.

In a recent TED talk Elizabeth Gilbert said, "We have the illusion we are in control. We have never been in control. When we admit to ourselves, we are not in control (sometimes out loud, so that we can hear ourselves) we can move away from fear. And, *the opposite of fear is love*. Fear is the destroyer of peace. God did not create us to be anxious, or fearful, but at peace.

Julian of Norwich wrote: [God] said not, "Thou shalt not be troubled, thou shalt not be travailed, thou shalt not be distressed, but [God] said, thou shalt not be overcome. It is God's will that we take heed to these

(*Continued on page 2*)

Fear Itself (continued)

words, that we may be ever mighty in faithful trust in weal and woe. I like that. We must be strong in faithful trust amid the weal and woe of these times. Is our world quickly changing? Yes. It is the job of the world to change; and we must change with it.

Our work in these days ahead is not to blame, or fear, but to draw together in our human suffering, even as we stay safely six feet apart. Above all thing to love, and trust God to be with us, as God was with Jesus every step of the way to the cross and beyond.

Have a blessed Easter season.

Online & Mobile Giving Now Available

Online giving application is now available to St. Luke's members through the Tithe.ly mobile application or directly online from your home device. You can utilize either method of giving by going to this <u>Tithe.ly web page</u> (https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app). Complete instructions for using this convenience are provided on the home page of the <u>St. Luke's website</u> (http://episcopalbartlesville.org) or by picking Online Giving in the right-side menu.

Regardless of whether you can manage all or some of your normal giving, please continue to support our community of faith. And if you're not comfortable with virtual giving, there's always the old-fashioned way of mailing a check to the church office: St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 E 9th St, Bartlesville, OK 74003 *or* dropping a check into our locked mail slot to left of the north church doors.

Step-by-Step Instructions for Giving through Tithe.ly

1) Get started by going to Tithe.ly (yes, there's a dot between the "e" and the "l") and download the application. <u>Click here</u> or go to: https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app

2) From the above link, you may donate directly from your home computer (vs. your phone/mobile device) by picking the Give Online option OR you may donate from your phone or other mobile device by selecting either the Apple or Android (Google Play) version.

3) Open the application and enter your name and email, and then create a personal password and PIN.

4) In the Find a Church window at the top, type in: St. Luke's Episcopal Church (several St. Luke's Episcopal Churches will pop up, so be sure to pick ours in Bartlesville)

5) Select the method of payment at the bottom: credit, debit, or bank account withdrawal.

6) Enter the amount of your gift and indicate whether you would like it to be Recurring and at what frequency.

7) Pick General Fund as the destination.

8) If you want to provide the full amount of your gift to the church, check Cover Fees box and the Tithe.ly service charge will not be deducted from your gift to the church. There service charge is 2.75% + 0.30 per credit/debit card transaction, which reflects a slight discount through association with The Network for Episcopal Stewardship.

9) The application will save your donation information for the next time you give. All you have to do is enter your PIN. Both the Give Online and mobile methods of Tithe.ly giving are secure. If you have questions, they will probably be answered by <u>clicking here</u> (https://get.tithe.ly/faqs).



Office Info: Roseanne McKee, office manager/assistant to rector, is in the office Monday – Thursdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The north doors will be locked, but if you need anything, please call the office at 918-336-1212.

Chapel Schedule: The chapel will be open Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, April 23:

9-11am: Jim Liehr 10:45am – 1pm: Jeff Birk, Dean Zervas Glenda Garrison, Darian Kedy, Jen Peterson, 1:00 – 2:45pm: Carol Murphy, Radomir Petrovich, Becky Olsen

Thursday, May 7:

9-11am: Jeanne Julstrom, Becky Liehr 10:45am – 1pm: Kris Bonner, Rita Childers, Becky Liehr, Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary 1:00 – 2:45pm: Peter Julstrom, Miriam Petrovich, Wendy Hall





St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Suzanne, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Melt, Belinda, Wendy, David, Tracy, Linda, Terry, Leaona, Connie, Tracy, Mark, Diana F., Jim, Bid, Ada, Lisa, Helen, Nan, Patricia, and all members of our armed forces and their families. If you have a prayer request, contact our Prayer Ministry Coordinator Thelma Blackburn 918-333-7902 or TPBGEN@aol.com or the church office at 918-336-1212 or office@episcopalbartlesville.org.

It was a wet, cold Easter Sunday, but the day before was a glorious unfurling of Spring. I was outside pruning a bush at our home in the country when this butterfly (a pipevine swallowtail I believe) landed and stayed resting on my gloved hand. In the midst of all the confusion of a world turned upside down, I'm confident it had been sent to say, "peace to you, there will always be hope, there will always be God."

Dan Droege

Habits of Grace: A new video meditation will be posted on Mondays through May. They can be found on YouTube by typing in the search bar: Habits of Grace by Bishop Curry.

Bereavement Team 1 Susie Clark, Nancy Woods, Sally Lindsey, Georgia Gates, Jeanne Julstrom.

Roof Repair Completed

As many of you know, there has been a long-standing issue of rain water infiltrating the nave along the south wall. This problem has caused the wall to be stained in several places, water damage to window sills and flaking of the wall surface in spots. Earlier this year, the Vestry decided not to let another period of spring rains to go by without correcting the situation.

Fortunately, to avoid stressing our already tight budget, a number of church members stepped forward to help fund a \$6,000 project to re-slope, recover and seal the entire area of flat roof and adjacent exterior walls over the south wall of the nave, the south entry area, and the chapel entrance. The church has been assured by the Walton Roofing that this will correct the problem, and if not, further corrective steps will be made at no cost.

The vestry thanks all those who helped financially with this much-needed improvement. Through their help, more than half of the expense was covered. If you did not have the opportunity to participate and feel you are in a position to do so, please direct your contribution check marked "Building Fund" to Dennis Mueggenborg, church treasurer, to the church office. Thank you. — Dan Droege, on behalf of the Vestry

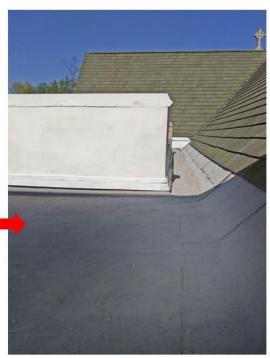


BEFORE

Standing water caused by poor roof slope plus deteriorated flashing and cracks in roofing and seals contributed to water infiltration.

AFTER

Roof re-sloped for better drainage, flashing repaired, all roofing material replaced and all exterior walls sealed.



Other thoughts...

- Be aware -- Father Steve will not request gift cards or other monetary support through email. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke's go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone or in person.
- FYI: Bishop Ed has inhibited the distribution of communion by the clergy to any parishioner (title IV violation). Additionally, Bishop Ed has prohibited public inperson gatherings of any kind including gathering in parking lots or other open spaces.
- St. Luke's is now on Instagram! Follow St. Luke's at episcopalbartlesville.

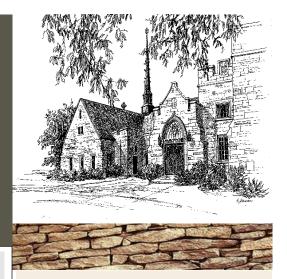
Dear Sunday School Parents,

Please check your email. I have sent out digital copies of the Godly Play lessons for Lent. I'm also going to send out prints of the plates for the story. If you don't have a printer, please let me know and I will mail you some.

It would be great if you could go through these lessons with your children the next few Sundays. If they attended Sunday School the first three weeks of Lent, a few of the lessons may be review.

I'm also going to post a video on the church website (I will email the link as well) of the lesson for you and your children to review. Please call, text or email me if you didn't receive my email or if you have any questions.

> God's Blessings, Keeli Droege Christian Formation <u>keelidroege@gmail.com</u> 918-697-8509



St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts: The Rev. Stephen Hood. Rector fathersdhood@gmail.com 918-330-6108 The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon, retired dfreebern@gmail.com 918-914-0525 In an Emergency, contact any of the clergy listed above. Roseanne McKee, Office Manager/Asst. to Rector (office@episcopalbartlesville.org) Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director (dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org) Dan Droege, Sr. Warden (dbdcomm.2@gmail.com) Doug McIver, Jr. Warden (dmciver@susandickcpa.com) Office Phone: 918-336-1212



St. Luke's Episcopal Church 210 East 9th St. Bartlesville, OK 74003

Connecting with St. Luke's

The parish staff and volunteers are working hard to keep the parish connected. Here are the resources available to you to stay connected:

- Parish phone tree—a phone tree has been set up to keep our members connected. If you have a need or concern, please let your phone tree captain know. If you aren't receiving calls from the phone tree, please let Jeff Birk know @ jpbirk54@gmail.com
- Follow St. Luke's on Instagram. You can find us @ episcopalbartlesville. Also, like our content so it will appear in your Instagram feed. Typically, the content on Instagram is also posted on Facebook, although not all of the photographs posted on Instagram will appear on Facebook.
- Follow St. Luke's on FaceBook. Search for St. Luke's Bartlesville on Facebook and like our Page. Also, once you start seeing our content in your FaceBook feed, please like it and share it. This helps others to see it, but it also keeps St. Luke's content coming into your feed. If you don't "like" our content, you won't see it. Facebook is about engagement, and you will see the things you engage.
- Friend Father Steve on FaceBook. He will friend you back and you can follow him and see his shenanigans.
- Subscribe to the St. Luke's YouTube channel <u>HERE</u>. (If the HERE link does not work, go to <u>https://bit.ly/2QIgY7c</u> in your computer's browser.) Subscribing helps us gain followers which allows the content to be seen by a wider audience. The content includes recordings of our Zoom worship services. You can also access this content on your television with streaming devices (like FireTV) that have the YouTube app included.

- Check out the St. Luke's website for updates on a regular basis. The website is found here: www.episcopalbartlesville.org. We are working hard to update it frequently, so the content is current.
- Receive *The Steeple* and other updates via Mailchimp. Please send Roseanne your current email @ <u>office@episcopalbartlesville.org</u>, and you can receive updates and the newsletter. *The Steeple* is usually published on Wednesday or Thursday and is often followed up with a weekend highlights on Fridays (not every Friday). We will also continue to mail a hardcopy of *The Steeple* to those who prefer to receive things via USPS.

Worship:

Worship services are live on the Zoom app on Sundays at 10 am. The weekly bulletins can be found at www.episcopalbartlesville.org.

Please note that there are three ways to participate in Worship:

1) Listen to the service by telephone. (This can be a home phone, or a flip phone, smartphone, etc.)

- To do this:
- Dial 1-346-248-7799
- When asked to enter the Zoom Meeting ID, enter 9365095026#
- When asked to enter a Participant ID, just enter the # sign
- When asked to enter the Meeting Password, enter 251445#
- That's it. You should now be in the meeting, by phone.
- 2) Use Zoom on a computer or smartphone.
- Click <u>HERE</u> to go to the Zoom website. (If the HERE link does not work, go to <u>https://zoom.us/j/9365095026</u> in your computer's browser.)
- When asked to enter the Meeting Password, enter 251445
- Please mute your device during the worship service.

3) Service will be uploaded to the St. Luke's YouTube channel on Sunday afternoons. Audio recording of the sermon will be found on St. Luke's website.

CONCERN Food Drive at St. Luke's:

To ensure these items are available to those in need of food, St. Luke's will have a food drive through May 15. The following items may be dropped off in the chapel during office hours: sugar, flour, cornbread mix, pancake mix (that just needs water added) and dry milk. Items may be left on the back chapel pews.

This is not an emergency call for help, so there is no need to make a special trip to the store for this. Instead, just get one or more of these items during your regular shopping trips as your budget allows.

Father Steve can also pick up these grocery items from your porches. Just call the office and let Roseanne know where and when to pick up the items. Office phone is 918-336-1212.

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BCP 82

BCP 759

Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two

Opening Hymn

The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these sentences of Scripture beginning on page 77 of **The Book of Common Prayer (BCP)**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:57*

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

You shall receive power when the Holy Ghost has come upon you; and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1::8*

The Invitatory and Psalter BCP 80

All stand

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia! Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, * because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: * "O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

10 How shall I repay the Lord * for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation * and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord * in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord * is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; * I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord * in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord's house, * in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:14, 36-41)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Reader says Here ends the the Lesson.

Canticle 11 The Third Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19) BCP 87

Arise, shine, for your light has come, * and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; * deep gloom enshrouds the peoples. But over you the Lord will rise, * and his glory will appear upon you. Nations will stream to your light, * and kings to the brightness of your dawning. Your gates will always be open; * by day or night they will never be shut. They will call you, The City of the Lord, * The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Violence will no more be heard in your land, * ruin or destruction within your borders. You will call your walls, Salvation, * and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day; * by night you will not need the brightness of the moon. The Lord will be your everlasting light, * and your God will be your glory.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke (24:13-35)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth,* who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some

women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us* while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Reader says Here ends the the Lesson.

Canticle 13 A Song of Praise (Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34)

BCP 90

Glory to you, Lord God of our ancestors; * you are worthy of praise; glory to you. Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; * on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

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Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; * we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; * in the high vault of heaven, glory to you. Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; * we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Homily The Reverend Steve Hood

Officiant and People together, all standing

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

The Prayers

The People stand or kneel

 Officiant
 The Lord be with you.

 People
 And also with you.

 Officiant
 Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

BCP 96

BCP 97

Then follows the following Suffrages:

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

BCP 97

- R. And grant us your salvation.
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
- R. Let your people sing with joy.
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
- R. For only in you can we live in safety.
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
- R. Your saving health among all nations.
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
- R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
- R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have ourbeing: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then, this prayers for mission is added

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers of intercession and thanksgiving are offered here and silence is observed

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for all churches in our diocese, for their mission and ministry, and for their proclamation of the Good News in cities and towns across the state; in our parish, we pray for those requesting prayer including Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Suzanne, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Glenn, Marsha, Jer- ry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Melt, Belinda, Wendy, David, Tracy, Linda, Terry, Leaona, Connie, Tracy, Mark, Diana F., Jim, Bid, Lisa, and Ada. We also remember those who have died, especially Richard Manning Coan. Let let perpetual shine upon Richard and all your Saints who we remember this morning.

We also pray for doctors, nurses, aides, and all other health care professionals and service employees entrusted with the health and wellness of our community; and for our elected officials and those given the public's trust to make prudent decisions for the care of this city, state, and nation. We also pray for the men and women of the armed services, for those serving in other areas of national service, for those who are traveling or homebound or recovering from illness, surgery, or some other affliction. For all of these and for prayers spoken and for prayers left un- spoken, let us pray to the Lord.

The General Thanksgiving

BCP 101

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen*.

Then may be said

Let us bless the Lord. *Thanks be to God*.

The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians* 13:14

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans* 15:13

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

Closing Hymn

St. Luke's Episcopal Church