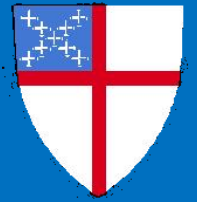




St. Luke's Episcopal Church

NEW VISIONS



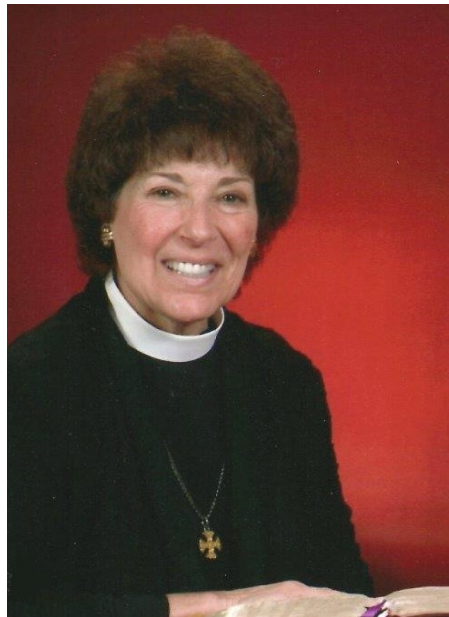
February 2017

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Massachusetts Avenue
At Grant Street
Haworth, NJ 07641

Reflections from the Rectory

By The Rev. Dr. Joy A. Rose, TSSF



The Rev. Dr. Joy A. Rose

During the darker, shorter days of winter and that "in between" murky pre-Spring season of Lent, I have a tendency to want to be indoors. I don't like chilly, grey days. So it's a time when I stay indoors and do a lot of reading of theology and good mysteries ... which are often the same thing. When Spring finally gets here, with its longer, warm days, and lots of sunshine, I put the books away and try to be outdoors all the time.

Over the past few months I have discovered the pleasure of re-reading some of my favorite theologians. I tend to choose people like Barbara Brown Taylor, Rob Bell, Yancy, Meyers, Bailey, and

Tony Campolo. Their writings are smart, edgy, and push against the walls of established doctrine and rigid faith. They ask provocative questions which open windows to new way of thinking and call all Christians to think about their faith, and wrestle with scripture. They suggest that is only by seeking and asking deep questions that we can come to own our faith.

I believe that everybody has faith. Even an atheist is a person of tremendous faith ... because he strongly believes certain things about the truth and validity of what he *doesn't* believe in. I think the real question isn't whether or not we have faith; but to ask who or what it is that we have faith in and how that impacts our lives and our actions.

For a preacher, it is often difficult to speak of God because people are suspicious of anyone trying to speak about God. And it is a problem compounded by God's own silence. If God spoke directly to people, then preachers could retire.

Every day we make decisions based on our faith and beliefs. Our faith often determines how we treat people and to what issues and ideas we give our lives. We get our beliefs from somewhere ...

Continued on Page 2

Reflections from the Rectory, Continued from Page 1

from somebody. We have been formed, you and me, by a complicated mix of people, places and things: parents and teachers, churches and homes, school and work, friends, and artists and scientists.

We can insist that we haven't been influenced by any person, religion, or faith ... and that we think for ourselves ... but it isn't true. Everybody learns from somebody and everybody has faith

in something. We are all believers even if we believe there are valid reasons for not believing.

When Jesus claimed to be "the way the truth, and the life," Jesus was not making claims about one religion being better than all other religions. Rather he was telling those who chose to follow him that his way meant living completely in connection and cooperation with others and with

God. He was saying that all of life is spiritual, all space is sacred, all ground is holy, and all encounters with others are opportunities to show love and encounter the divine. God doesn't divide the world up into the ordinary and the divine; instead he gives us eyes of faith to see the divine in the ordinary. I pray that your faith does that for you.

Blessings,

Mother Joy+

Planting the Seeds for the Future of St. Luke's

Okay, so I talk to my plants; I name them as well. I have Robert Plant (def leppard) – Al O"vera-duh-and Spike (cactus).

I have had them for many years and although I love them dearly, I must confess I do little for them because they require little care, and I have other things to occupy my mind. We

humans tend to focus on the here and now. In many cases if we didn't, we would be in deep trouble.

So what the heck am I trying to say? It's this: I love St. Luke's. I have been here for many years and I must confess that I may not be giving it the care I should, because I have other things to occupy my mind and some of them are very important.

i am a list person, so I think it would be a great idea to actually make a list of priorities so that I can try harder to reward the things that make my life better, without neglecting the necessities of life.

My list has outreach on it. Yours may have other things- good, we need different interests and abilities. My hope is that in the new year we will all consider that in order to take care of St. Luke's and make it alive and healthy we must be willing to give a bit more of ourselves. It can be helping assemble Snack Packs or serving at coffee hour, helping to cook or fix something. Let's look at our talents and our strengths and put them on our priority or "to do" lists.

My favorite line of the song Jacob's Ladder asks "If you love Him, why not serve Him?" It seems a simple question, but this little interruption called life has a way of making it a very complicated question. Let's all try to answer it in our hearts.

— Maureen Bownes



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Francois, Madeleine
and Gaspard Caloz

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The Episcopal Diocese of Newark

Equipping congregations... Empowering people... Engaging the world... with the hope and justice of Jesus.

From the “Out of the Ordinary” Blog by The Canon to the Ordinary, Greg Jacobs (1/17/17)

On Friday, January 20, Donald J. Trump will take the oath of office as the 45th President of the United States. Some of the President-Elect's actions and statements have admittedly raised anxiety, uncertainty and fear among several segments of our society. And many in the religious community are openly asking, “Should we pray for the President?” Indeed in our own Episcopal Church, the appropriateness of the Washington National Cathedral hosting the Inaugural Prayer Service this year has been questioned. Others are asking if church choirs should be participating at the Inaugural at all. An easy answer might be found by citing to the numerous prayers for the President and our government in the Book of Common Prayer. While acknowledging that fact, others are rightly asking, “Isn't there something more at stake here?” After all, prayer should involve something more than merely a traditional recitation of some printed form. The answer (at least in part) is understanding, as our Presiding Bishop recently pointed out, what the true nature of prayer is all about. Here is an excerpt from his recent letter to our church:

So, should we pray for the President? We can and, indeed, I believe we must pray for all who lead in our civic order, nationally and internationally. I pray for the President in part because Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord. If Jesus is my Lord and the model and guide for my life, his way must be my way, however difficult. And the way prayer for others is a part of how I follow the way of Jesus.

This practice of praying for leaders is deep in our biblical and Anglican/Episcopalian traditions. Psalm 72 prays that the ancient Israelite king might rule in the ways of God's justice, defending “the cause of the poor,” bringing “deliverance to the needy.” 1 Timothy 2:1-2 encourages followers of Jesus to pray earnestly for those in leadership, that they may lead in ways that serve the common good. Even in the most extreme case, Jesus himself said, while dying on the cross, “Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing,” was praying for Pontius Pilate, the Governor of Rome who ordered his execution, and for all who were complicit in it.

In this spirit, the Prayer Books of the Anglican/Episcopal way have always included prayer for those “who bear the authority of government,” praying in a variety of ways that they may lead in the ways of God's wisdom, justice and truth. When we pray for Donald, Barack, George, Bill, George, or Jimmy, Presidents of the United States, we pray for their well-being, for they too are children of God, but we also

pray for their leadership in our society and world. We pray that they will lead in the ways of justice and truth. We pray that their leadership will truly serve not partisan interest but the common good. When we pray for them, we are actually praying for our nation, for our world, indeed we are praying for ourselves.

Prayer is not a simplistic cheer or declaration of support. Prayers of lament cry out in pain and cry for justice. Prayer can celebrate. Prayer can also ask God to intervene and change the course of history, to change someone's mind, or his or her heart. When we pray for our enemies, we may find that we are simultaneously emboldened to stand for justice while we are also less able to demonize another human being.

Real prayer is both contemplative and active. It involves a contemplative conversation with and listening to God, and an active following of the way of Jesus, serving and witnessing in the world in his Name. For those who follow the way of Jesus, the active side of our life of prayer seeks to live

Continued on Page 4

Andrew Spector, DMD, FAGD, FICOI
Michael Migdal, DMD, FAGD, FICOI

Associates

Jennifer Hade, DMD, Family Dentistry
Aleksander Iofin, DMD, Endodontist
Adam Brisman, DMD, Oral Surgeon

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Bishop Curry's Letter via Canon Jacobs' Blog, Continued from Page 3

out and help our society live out what it means to "love your neighbor as yourself." So we work for a good and just, humane and loving society. We participate as followers of Jesus in the life of our government and society, caring for each other and others, and working for policies and laws that reflect the values and teachings of Jesus to "love your neighbor," to "do unto others as you who have them do unto you," to fashion a civic order that reflects the goodness, the justice, the compassion that we see in the face of Jesus, that we know to reflect the very heart and dream of God for all of God's children and God's creation.

I grew up in a historically black congregation in the Episcopal Church. We prayed for leaders who were often lukewarm or even opposed to our very civil rights. We got on our knees in church and prayed for them, and then we got up off our knees and we Marched on Washington. Following the way of Jesus, we prayed and protested at the same time. We prayed for our leaders who were fighting for our civil rights, we prayed for those with whom we disagreed, and we even prayed for those who hated us. And we did so following the Jesus, whose way is the way of unselfish, sacrificial love. And that way is the way that can set us all free.

As we celebrate the birth of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we may find guidance in his words, spoken during one of the most painful and difficult struggles in the Civil Rights Movement. He asked that all participants live by a set of principles. The first principle read: "As you prepare to march, meditate on the life and teachings of Jesus."

*Should we pray for the President?
Yes!*

*The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate,
The Episcopal Church*

Q&A: Matters of Faith and The Bible

This column is for those of you who have had too many questions during a Sunday school or Bible study class... or even while listening to a sermon. Questions that you hesitated to ask but felt were important. Legitimate questions about God, your faith, Jesus and the Bible...questions that you felt you couldn't ask about in church.

Over the coming months you will read about some of the most provocative, challenging, or otherwise uncomfortable questions about the Bible that many of us have wondered about but few have actually asked.

Question #1: Can I be a Christian if I don't believe the Bible is perfect, handed down directly from God to humanity without error?

Answer: Absolutely.

Scientific principles and empirical proofs have only been applied to the

Bible for a couple hundred years. Earlier eras understood divine inspiration as a different kind of truth. Belief in the inerrancy (that there are no errors) of scripture is not a requirement for salvation. A Christian is not someone who believes in the perfection of scripture. A Christian is someone who follows Jesus Christ. That is not to say that the Bible isn't inspired or authoritative. It certainly is in that it is God's primary means of communicating with us. But the Bible is not a part of the Trinity; to exalt it above the Christ whose story it tells, and whose salvation it reveals, is a bad idea.

Martin Luther resisted the authority of the Roman Catholic Church the way he did because he believed that people should not be beholden to the church in claiming what they believed about God. Some religious leaders will say you can't be a Christian with-

out claiming the perfect, inerrant authority of scripture. The good news is that you get to decide for yourself whether you agree with them or not.

—Mother Joy+

A Prayer of St. Francis De Sales

Do not look forward to what will happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today, will care for you tomorrow and every day. He will either shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: "The Lord is my strength and my shield. "He is not only with me, but in me, and I in Him." —

Soul Food: THE BAG by Roberta Nobleman

Away despair! my gracious Lord doth heare.
Though windes and waves assault my keel,
He doth preserve it: he doth steer,
Ev'n when the boat seems most to reel.
Storms are the triumph of his art:

Well may he close his eyes, but not his heart.

Hast thou not heard, that my Lord Jesus di'd?
Then let me tell thee a strange storie.
The God of power, as he did ride
In his majestic robes of glorie,
Reserv'd to light; and so one day

He did descend, undressing all the way.

The starres his tire of light and rings obtain'd,

The cloud his bow, the fire his spear,

The sky his azure mantle gain'd.
And when they ask'd, what he would wear;
He smil'd and said as he did go,
He had new clothes a making here below.

When he was come, as travellers are wont,
He did repair unto an inne.

Both then, and after, many a brunt
He did endure to cancell sinne:

And having giv'n the rest before,
Here he gave up his life to pay our score.
But as he was returning, there came one
That ran upon him with a spear.
He, who came hither all alone,
Bringing nor man, nor arms, nor fear,
Receiv'd the blow upon his side,
And straight he turn'd, and to his brethren
cry'd,

If ye have any thing to send or write,
I have no bag, but here is room:
Unto my Fathers hands and sight,
Beleeve me, it shall safely come.
That I shall minde, what you impart;
Look, you may put it very neare my heart.

Or if hereafter any of my friends
Will use me in this kinde, the doore
Shall still be open; what he sends
I will present, and somewhat more,
Not to his hurt. Sighs will convey
Any thing to me. Harke, Despair away.

SOUL FOOD, Continues on Page 6

* Mardi Gras * Fat Tuesday * Mardi Gras * Fat Tuesday * Mardi Gras * Fat Tuesday * Mardi Gras * Fat Tuesday *

St. Luke's Annual Pancake Supper * February 28, 5-7 PM



Fluffy pancakes and all the accompaniments you've come to expect from the St. Luke's Chefs! Tickets: Adults—\$5.00
Children under 12—\$3.50. **See Tammy Lynch in advance so we know who's coming.** Tickets available at the door.

If you can help — set-up, cooking, serving, clean-up — sign up in the Parish Hall!!!

Multi-Faith/Interdenominational Activities



We are one Earth and one human family.

Recently supporters of GreenFaith received an email from its Executive Director and our former rector, the Rev. Fletcher Harper, inviting them to attend one of over 50 multi-faith climate vigils being held nationwide during the weekend of January 21, when people of faith will pray for the Earth and for a safe and secure future for our children and all people. To my surprise and delight I found that one of these was to be held at our own Cooper's Pond in Bergenfield on Monday January 23rd.

Roberta Nobleman and I planned to go but, ironically, a nasty storm caused its postponement. The new date is **Monday January 30th**. Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, Unitarian and local environmental leaders will be there. Prayers and time for silent meditation will be offered.

The rationale for these vigils was explained. This is a time of extraordinary concern for the environment but it's not just an environmental concern: climate change endangers peoples' health and safety through extreme weather and air pollution,

particularly communities of color and poor communities.

The email continued "Whether it is urban children breathing dirty air and suffering from oppressive summer heat, rural communities struggling with extended droughts, displaced workers, or coastal communities made homeless by storms and rising seas, climate change is a massive threat. By joining a vigil, we can contemplate this suffering, lift up hope and care for our Earth, and prepare ourselves for action."

If there is no local vigil then offer a prayer in a weekend service or begin a meeting with contemplation and prayer for the Earth.

Rev. Harper concluded: "There is no better way to inaugurate this new time of challenge for our common home – joined in shared prayer. And then get ready for action."

— Janet Beddoe

SOUL FOOD, Continued from Page 5

"Away despair!" wrote dearly beloved George Herbert in 1633, and finishes that same poem "Harke, despair away!"

In these despairing days of February 2017, I turn to the Rev. G.H. and his poem "The Bag" which is, indeed, about Christ having "no Bag," the only "container" being the wound in his side, received at the Crucifixion: "Look, you may put it (despair) very neare my heart."

So, who holds "The Bag"? St. Teresa of Avila said: "Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today." Do we hold "The Bag"? Yes. The despair we feel does *need* a "bag," otherwise it floats around, damaging

all of our lives, in sleeplessness and anxiety, in obsessions. It sets up sickness and confuses us with too many words and recriminations and worry.

I ask myself, as February begins and I face another month in my empty "staged" house, can I make it into a kind of monastery instead of a place of despair? Use the silence for deeper prayer? And what of my "Bag"? I used to think it needed to be all those suitcases full of props and costumes I hauled all over the world doing my shows. Last year, after Maury's death and an invitation to perform again out in Long Island, I began to feel a familiar excitement. At our Diocesan

Convention there seemed again that possibility. When I return to the poem and my need to sigh to Jesus (as in the end of the poem), I lay down that old "Bag" and wonder if it isn't better to leave my February "bag" empty. The ordinary tasks that await me now, with my family, with St. Luke's, and even with my country, do not require *anything*. Can I imitate Christ, who divested Himself of all "his majestic robes of glorie" and, having left the "inne" endured "any a brunt to cancel sinne" and "gave up his life!"?

I do have "something to write" Mr. Herbert, and it *did* do away with

Continued on Page 6

Despair! Thank you." Away despair!"

Save the Dates

Healing Eucharist

11:30 A.M. Wednesdays

Bible Study

Meets 1st & 3rd
Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM

Next: Feb. 7 & 21



Choir Rehearsal

Sat., Feb. 11 & 25

Now **twice a month, from 10 to Noon**, we're rehearsing for seasons leading up to Easter. Sunday warmups for service start at 10 AM

CFA Food Drive

2nd Sundays Next: Feb. 12

Vestry Meeting

Next: Feb. 14 @ 7:30 P.M.

Parish Fun Night

3rd Sunday of the month at **6 P.M.**
Fun and games and fabulous pot-luck food. Join us! **Next: Feb. 19**

Visiting Ministry

Bringing Eucharist to assisted living residents. **Next: On Feb. 16 @ 2:30 Brookdale/Emerson, leave church at 2:00. On Feb. 21 @ 2:15 Sunrise/Old Tappan, leave church at 1:45.**

Book Club

See Page 10 for Our Schedule!

Shrove Tuesday- 2/28

Annual Pancake Supper from 5 to 7 P.M. See Tammy Lynch for advance tickets or buy at door. Ticket prices TK.
Sign up to HELP in the Parish Hall!

St. Luke's 95th Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 29, the 95th Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Haworth was opened with a prayer by our priest in charge, the Rev. Joy A. Rose.

Mother Joy began the meeting with a review of her report to the parish in which she shared her observations of where we are and her vision of how we move forward together as the Body of Christ.

In addition to enjoying the always-delicious potluck luncheon prepared by our St. Luke's chefs, parishioners were able to review and discuss the annual reports from the organizational heads.

The slate from the Nominating Committee, chaired by Jr. Warden Tammy Lynch, was presented and voted upon with the following results:

ELECTIONS

Warden (2-year term): Tamera Lynch

Vestry Members (3-year term): Helen Shaw, Roberta Nobleman

Convention Delegates 2018 (Annual Term):

Delegates: Paul Nobleman, Susan Gonci

Alternates: Richard Gonci, Maureen Bownes, 1 Vacancy

District Delegates (Annual Term):

Delegate: Paul Nobleman **Alternate:** Tamera Lynch

Trustee Appointments 2017: Vestry appointed Junius Stephenson and David Emerson to two-year terms as trustees.

Proceeds from the 2016 Trust Fund (established for outreach) were \$10,872.41. The Vestry had voted unanimously to use \$7,872.41 toward operating expenses. A 2/3 vote from the congregation was required to ratify the Vestry's decision and the vote passed. The remainder went to outreach.



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A Sunday School Epiphany Pageant: The Story of the Three Kings



February Outreach: FEEDING PEOPLE

ongoing



Monthly Food Ingathering
Sunday, February 12



Support our monthly food drives for Center for Food Action in Englewood.

The grocery cart is filled and blessed for the CFA food pantry on the second Sunday of the month and packs of healthy snacks, which are distributed discreetly to underprivileged school children, are assembled on the fourth Sunday of the month.

It is a wonderful ministry and a huge help to our neighbors in need!

Sign up for Altar
Flowers
for 2017
in the
Parish
Hall



snack pack assembly outreach: for KIDS



Our next Snack Pack assembly is on **Sunday, January 22nd** after the 10:30 service .

Thanks to this Center for Food Action program! The ingredients are often the only nutritious foods some needy children will receive on the weekends when they cannot take advantage of school lunch programs.

Please have coffee and then come join us to help stuff the packs!

We can always use more boxes to make it easier to transport the snack packs. For a creative note from Janet Beddoe about this particular need., **see Page 8 .**



Easy Potluck Chicken Pie with Biscuit Topping

Serves 8

Ingredients

1 to 1-1/2 lbs. chicken, cut into cubes
4 tbsp. olive oil
1 cup each diced celery, carrots, onion peas and potatoes
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 tsp each salt and black pepper
1 tbsp. thyme
1 bay leaf
2 15-oz. jars of chicken gravy
Pillsbury Grands biscuits (or use your own)

Directions: Pre-heat oven to 375° F.

Season chicken chunks with salt and

pepper. In a large skillet, heat 2 tbsp. olive oil. Saute garlic about 1 minute, add chicken and cook about 5 minutes; stir occasionally. Transfer chicken and juices to a big bowl.

In same pan, add 2 more tbsp. olive oil and saute celery, onion and carrots until soft, about 5 minutes. Add to bowl with peas. Boil potatoes for 15 minutes until softened but not mushy. Add to bowl. Add gravy, thyme and bay leaf; mix gently.

Pour contents of bowl into a 9x13 pan, . Open Grands biscuits and lay dough rounds in two rows on top of chicken mixture. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until biscuits are cooked through. Serve.

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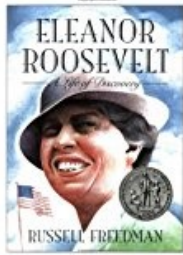
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Between the Lines Book Club Meets on Last Wednesdays of the Month

The Book Club will meet in 2017 at **Tri-Valley Restaurant** on the last Wednesday of the month to take advantage of the restaurant's generous donation to St. Luke's (see the notice below). Join us for dinner or dessert & coffee @ 7:30 P.M. — and whether you have read the book or not. Check out our schedule!

February's Read: The intriguing story of Eleanor Roosevelt traces the life of the former First Lady from her early childhood through the tumultuous years in the White House to her active role in the founding of the United Nations after World War II. A Newberry Honor Book. **CHANGE to THURS, Feb. 23**



February 23	<u>Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery-</u> Russell Freedman
March 29	<u>Me Before You</u> - JoJo Moyers
April 26	<u>Cutting for Stone</u> - Abraham Verghese
May 31	<u>Whistling Past the Graveyard</u> - Susan Crandall
June 28	<u>On Gold Mountain</u> - Lisa See
July 26	<u>The Fall of Marigolds</u> - Susan Meissner
August 30	<u>The Day We Met</u> - Rowan Coleman
September 27	<u>The Husband's Secret</u> - Liane Moriarty
October 25	<u>The Man Called Ove</u> - Fredrik Backman
November	No meeting
December 6	<u>The Gift</u> - Peter Hamill

Once upon a time there were three little foxes
Who didn't wear stockings and they didn't wear socks
But they all had handkerchiefs to blow their noses,
And they kept their handkerchiefs in cardboard boxes. (A.A. Milne)

BOXES!



No, I don't think we have any foxes at St. Luke's unless they are running through the nearby woods on their little bare tootsies and playing "touch last with a family of mice." However we do need cardboard boxes to transport our

snack packs to the CFA. So, please, if you're visiting a store where they are throwing out boxes (a liquor store or BJs perhaps) think of St. Luke's outreach efforts and pick up boxes suitable to hold at least 6 snack packs

and bring it in any Sunday and we'll store it for use until monthly assembly time. David Biesel has generously been bringing in boxes from home but they are only big enough to hold 3 and we don't want to use up his supply

— Janet Beddoe

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Tri-Valley: Parish Fundraiser

Have breakfast, lunch or dinner at **Tri-Valley Restaurant** on Monday and Wednesday an St. Luke's will receive 10% of your bill. Tri-Valley is located on the corner of Knickerbocker Rd. and DeLong Ave. in Dumont. Be sure to tell the cashier that you are a member of St. Luke's so we get credit for your visit!

St. Luke's 2nd Annual Hockey Outing (Ouch. They Lost...)



#ONE
JERSEY



It was a fun night
nonetheless!

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 Jack Pallatta,
Junius Stephenson
- 6 Eleanor Abrahamsen
- 14 Sivert Hagen
- 15 Greg Paller
Diane Biesel
- 25 Jeffrey Coleman

If you don't see your special day in our monthly listings, please e-mail the editors and we'll gladly add it!



The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud.

— Exodus 24:16



Parish Prayer List

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers these members of our parish and extended family:



Shannan Coleman, The Gonci Family, Michael, The Klie Family, Rachel Lynch, Roxanne Gabriel, Scott Lewis, Edythe Davis, Sheri and Tyler, Maryellen Pais, Anne Betterley, Kenneth Calderon, Debbie Booth, The Price Family, Gloria Jonassen, Keith, Sue Pastore, Marie Romano, Eleanor Abrahamsen, Linda Stephenson, Patricia Stephenson, Eleanor Belisle-Holden, Lisa, Jose Delgado, Elizabeth Sicari, Ralph, Lisa & Doug, Cheryl; Rosemarie; Coby, Hank, Alycia & Julia, Leroy, The Nobleman Family, Bill & Grace Repp, Michael Kelley, Sheila Seigman, The Pitruzzello Family, Stephanie Cash, Angela Stabler, Michael de Mare, Mary Lynn Davis, Polly & Jessica, Terrence Pellegrin, Deborah Holden-Holloway,

To add names to our prayer list, please call: Sue Gonci., 201-220-3090
OR Email the Church office at

Office@StLukesHaworth.org

You may also write names in the book on the Chapel Altar. Loved ones are remembered in prayer during the mid-week service of Healing and Eucharist on Wednesdays at 11:30 A.M.

Update: Rally for Ryu

Note: This appeal was suggested to New Visions by Heidi Plinio. Her daughter Cheryl's 4-year-old son is a classmate of Ryu, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2015. Heidi is even willing to pay postage if necessary. Just write to Ryu and she will gladly mail your card.—Ed.

"Ryu Okumura-Haas was diagnosed with retinoblastoma in 2015. It is the most common malignant cancer of the eye in children. The tumor metastasized from the retina of one of his eyes, which had to be removed, and he recently underwent chemotherapy. His treatments kept him in the hospital on Christmas and New Year's Day. He also missed his birthday, said his mother, Agatha Okumura, a Dumont native." — from the *Arizona Republic* His story has traveled! Read the full article here: <http://bit.ly/2kFljs6>

You can help by sending him a green heart with some words of encouragement or a just a simple card to let him know how many people are cheering him on. His family has a GoFundMe page here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/z2v99>

Ryu Okumura-Haas
PO Box 108, Dumont, NJ 07628

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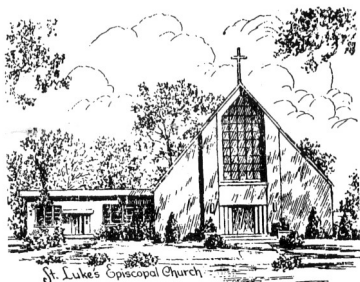
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**Check It
Out!**

**Mother Joy
preaches at
service ahead of
the 95th
Annual Meeting**

**For the Rondup,
See inside, P. 7**