

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

NEW VISIONS

DECEMBER 2016

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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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Even if you haven't been on an airplane in a while, you probably remember these words. They're part of the standard safety announcement at the beginning of each flight. First, there is the instruction about how to fasten your seatbelt. Next, accompanied by flight attendants' grand straight-armed gestures, there is instruction about how to find the exit nearest your seat. And then...

"In case of a sudden decrease in cabin pressure," says the head flight attendant, "an overhead panel will open and an oxygen mask will drop down. Pull the mask firmly toward you to start the flow of oxygen, put the mask

over your nose and mouth and pull the strap to secure the mask. THEN assist anyone near you...."

Me first. Then you.

I know why they repeat this safety instruction over and over and over, flight after flight after flight. The reason is people like *me*. People who have been trained to put everyone else first, to think "YOU first, *then me*."

The problem, of course, is that if you don't have what you need, you're no good to anyone else. You can't help anyone else – not your child, not your spouse, not *anyone* – with their oxygen mask if you pass out from lack of oxygen yourself. Similarly, in these Advent and Christmas seasons, you can't help anyone else find joy if you're joyless from sleeplessness or overspending. You can't help anyone else find peace if you're running around like crazy. You can't help anyone else find Jesus if you haven't talked to Him lately.

Me first. Then you.

It's not a sin to think of yourself first. It's actually part of the "BIG TWO" commandments...

1. Love the Lord your God, and
2. Love your neighbor as yourself.

In other words, whatever care we

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Reflections from the Rectory, Continued from Page 1

extend to our neighbor is supposed to be patterned after the care we've extended to ourselves.

Soooo... in this hard-to-catch-our-breath season, how are you doing putting on your own oxygen mask? I am planning (if I can figure out the technology to do it) to read and share with you Martha Beckman's "Meditations to Make You Smile" and then writing a reflection each day. I hope you'll put on your oxygen mask by reading the meditation and writing a comment to share.

During these seasons of Advent and Christmas, may you experience afresh the miracle of Emmanuel, *God with us*. And in His abundance of goodness and hope and peace may you receive all that you need, and some to share.

Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Mother Joy+



ADVENT PROGRAM



During the season of Advent, we will gather on Wednesdays at the Rectory from 7 to 8:00 P.M. for Wine & Cheese and Bible Study. Please join us on **December 7, 14 and 21** as we prepare for the coming of God with Us at Christmas!

All Saints Observance Sunday, November 6



The All Saints observance during our 10:30 service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, November 6th was a beautiful celebration, full of light!



Healing Eucharist

Wednesday Mornings
Healing Service at 11:30



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The Bishop's Blog: Signs of God's Grace

Transforming: Ain't It Awful

Posted by Mark Beckwith on
November 16, 2016

The first thing I did when the Boston Red Sox won the World Series in 2004 was run out to my car and peel off the bumper sticker that said "Job was the first Red Sox fan." The visible statement provided an immediate connection with other New Englanders (where I lived at the time), because we could commiserate on 86 years of futility, heartbreak, the curse of the Bambino and God knows how many lost opportunities. "Ain't it awful" was an instant conversation starter among the faithful, which invariably led to a competition over who had the longer list of disappointment.

"Ain't it awful" is fast becoming the metaphor of the moment, regardless of whichever side emerged after last week's election. "Ain't it awful" that people are protesting in the streets; "ain't it awful" that certain minorities are being racially or religiously targeted. "Ain't it awful" that the economy will go down the tubes; "ain't it awful" that people can't see that new leadership will bring back jobs.

We have competing narratives of "ain't it awful."

"Ain't it awful" feeds on itself. It takes a person or a group or a movement down a deep and dark hole that is very hard to

climb out of. I remember a friend of mine once saying, "if I feel this good when I am miserable, think of how much better I will be when things get worse."

This coming Sunday is the last Sunday of the church year. The biblical stories that will be read give very graphic pictures of the end of time as we know it, which most people in Jesus' day thought was just around the corner. Talk about awful. Earthquakes, plagues, famines, nation rising up against nation. Hatred and betrayal.

And yet – there is the promise. The ancient promise that is God is with us. The continuing promise that God has been with us, and God will be with us, and Jesus is with us and the Holy Spirit is with us – and this mysterious Trinity wants us, no, expects us, to

join God in healing the world. To stand wherever and in whatever feels or is awful with hope and heart. God needs our witness, not our whining.

When the Red Sox won in 2004, my theology began to change. I began to give up "ain't it awful," because it wasn't anymore. My non-ending complaints about the 86-year famine fell on deaf ears, including my own.

We can complain about polarization and different visions for our country, and about the famine in civility and respect. We have evidence of it everywhere. But we also have the gift of freedom given us in the living Christ. That can transform how we live and act in the world.

And we need to use it.



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

Associates

Jennifer Hade, DMD, Family Dentistry
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December Outreach: FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Would you like to be a Secret Santa to a needy young person? If so, Youth Consultation Services (YCS) once again asks your help in bringing joy to participants of various ages in their residential programs. Look for the Giving Tree at St. Luke's, pick one of the angels, buy **ONE ONLY** of the gifts requested, and return the gift to the church by **Sunday, December 11th**. Please note that, if it's difficult to fulfill a specific request, the young people are delighted with a gift card. The tree should be ready by Wednesday, November 30th, but, if you or your elves want a head start on your gift searches, the list is below. Please make sure that you don't buy until



Calling all Secret Santas!

you've removed one of the angels from the tree. Again, remember that although each young person is allowed 3 wishes, only *one* gift should be bought.

All gifts should be placed UNWRAPPED in a gift bag with the

name of the child clearly indicated on the tag. Again, please return your gift by **Sunday, December 11th**.

See/call/email Janet Beddoe if you have questions.



Resident	Gender	Age	Gift #1	Gift #2	Gift #3
Anita F.	F	7	Doll car	American doll	Toys R Us gift card
Benny S.	M	13	Nike sneakers- Size 9-1/2	Sweater/Jacket (kids XL or small in men)	Target gift card
Gloria L.	F	18	Ceramic flat iron	Visa gift card	MasterCard gift card
Hassan F.	M	8	Halo Mega Blocks pelican	Toys R Us gift card	Sport watch
Jaiden G.	M	8	Legos	Robo Shooter by ThinkGizmos	Toys R Us gift card
Jayson C.	M	9	Mario Kart 7 for DS	Game Stop Gift card	Crayola Color Wonder
Karyzma J.	F	17	Visa Gift Card	NYX Gift card	Sally's Beauty Supply Gift card
Kieshawn L.	M	7	Batman 2 3DS game	leapreader game	Game Stop gift card
Khalil C.	M	7	Teach Me Elmo	Elmo DVD	Squeeze a song elmo
Krishon M.	M	15	Harry Potter Book Series	Hunger Games Book Series	Game Stop gift card
Shakyrah H.	F	15	Perfume	Barnes and Noble gift card	Visa gift card
Tyteyonna F.	F	14	Roller skate Size 6	Visa gift card	Toys R Us gift card

ongoing OUTREACH



Monthly Food Ingathering
Sunday, December 11



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!

Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home!
— Hymnal 1982 #

THE NORTHERN VALLEY INTERFAITH SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

This year's service of thanksgiving hosted by St. Luke's was a wonderful experience. It was full of the magic of musical selections by Cantor Rica Timman, Temple Beth El/Closter with the Interfaith Choir. Reflections, readings, and prayers by local clergy and lay readers enriched the service. Thanks to Paul Weiner, Music Director at Church of St. Mary/Closter and Olga Stepanova, Music Director at First Congregational United Church of Christ/Haworth for their invaluable contributions.

A huge "Thank You" to the clergy and members of the congregations of The Church of St. Mary/Closter, Temple Beth El of Northern Valley/Closter, Demarest Baptist Church, United Methodist Church at Demarest and the First Congregational United Church of Christ/Haworth for joining with us for this glorious celebration!

Best of All, We Shared Our Blessings!

A collection was taken to benefit
the Center for Food Action and
Family Promise of Bergen County!



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Outreach: KIDS



Snack Packs Assembly

There will be a final 2016 Snack Pack assembly on Sunday, December 4th after the service Our usual 4th Sunday of the month was missed in November as it was challenging to purchase the necessary supplies during the Thanksgiving weekend. December 4th's assembly will be a combined November/December donation.

We can use more boxes to make it easier to transport the snack packs.

Please join us to help stuff the packs! 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.

**For all that has been.
For all that is.
For all that is yet to be.**

We give you thanks, O Lord!

— Dag Hammarskjöld

Crafts for Outreach

Making Hats & Scarves for The Seamen's Church Institute

Once again this year, St. Luke's will participate in our Diocesan effort on behalf of Christmas at Sea, The Seamen's Church Institute's year-round program to make life a little warmer for mariners who are miles from home, whether working "at sea" in international waters or those who are working on inland waterways here in the United States.

We are invited to knit —or crochet— hats and scarves.



To learn what types of garments are acceptable, what yarns to use and to download patterns, please visit The Seamen's Church Institute website at <http://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>.

Our collection will be received in **mid-January** during our Diocesan Convention. Stay tuned for more news about this project.



St. Luke's will again participate in the American Heart Association's program "Little Hats, Big Hearts." Volunteers around the country are celebrating American Heart Month by knitting red hats for all babies born in February at participating hospitals.

The program helps raise awareness of heart disease, the number one killer of Americans, and congenital

heart defects, the most common type of birth defect in the country.

Patterns are available online. Hats may be created from any pattern as long as they are red.

Our deadline for finished work is **January 1**, since Heidi Plinio, who is coordinating our involvement in the program, will need to ship them to the intake center in Connecticut.



Sign Up for Coffee Hour!

We all love our coffee. Or tea. Or whatever beverage. The fellowship is great. So sign up in the Parish Hall to host. Don't want to do it alone? Ask another parishioner to help!



St. Luke's Annual Holiday Fair

Men, women and children, young, old(er) and in between. St. Luke's parishioners turned out in force again this year to staff booths at the Annual Holiday Fair. From beautiful homemade wreaths and other lovely craft items to baked goods and deli delights, from gift items to jewelry and books, there was something for everyone! And the kitchen served up its traditional fare, even filling one big takeout order placed at *last year's* Fair! It was lots of hard work, but a good time was had by all.

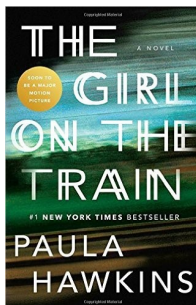


Between the Lines Book Club

For January's Read

The debut psychological thriller that will forever change the way you look at other people's lives.

The #1 *New York Times* Bestseller, *USA Today* Book of the Year, now a major motion picture starring Emily Blunt.



Starting in 2017, the Book Club will meet the last Wednesday of the month @ 7:30 P.M. Next: **Jan. 25**

Join us for dinner or dessert & coffee — and whether you have read the book or not.

Check out the reading schedule for the New Year in the January issue of *New Visions*!



ECW Luncheon

Griffin's

Dec. 4, 1 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Sat., Dec. 10

10 A.M.-Noon

If you like to sing, come out and help us out. At our once-a-month long-session rehearsal this time, we will work on the music for Christmas. This year, we are returning to an old tradition and singing Carols at the beginning of our services on Christmas Eve. We KNOW you can help with those! So come out and sing with us! We warm up before Sunday services beginning at 9:30 A.M.

Vestry Meeting
7:30 PM Dec. 13

Altar Guild PolishFest & Greening of the Church

As we get closer to Christmas, it's time to get our house ready for guests. Please join the members of the Altar Guild on **Saturday, Dec. 17 at 9:30 A.M.** to help with the annual PolishFest — cleaning the brass and silver and dusting. Then, on **Sunday, Dec. 18 after the 10:30 service**, the family will gather to decorate the pews with the candles and greenery and bows, and get it all together for Christmas Eve!

Parish Fun Night

3rd Sunday of the month at **6 P.M.** Fun and games and fabulous potluck food. Join us! **Next: Dec. 18**

How We Got Our Advent Wreath

I recently went to Acme in Bergenfield to get a few things and saw there is a guy already selling Christmas trees in their parking lot. One stop shopping, I thought I'd get a naked wreath for our Advent Candle Wreath there instead of having to go elsewhere. Speaking with the man, I discovered he'd been in business some 35 years, having started it as a young man with a friend to raise funds for the local sports teams. He kept it up over the years.

When he learned the wreath was for the church (from me babbling as usual), he gave it to me for more than half off his price. I asked him for a business card, which he didn't have, but I told him I was going to put this story about his generosity into our church newsletter. If you choose to buy your tree there (Frasier firs from Vermont) or a fresh wreath, be sure to tell him you're from St. Luke's and thank him for our Advent wreath. By the way, his name is Eddie.

— Claudia Smith



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Tri-Valley: Parish Fundraiser

Have breakfast, lunch or dinner at **Tri-Valley Restaurant** on Monday and Wednesday at 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!



Christmastide At St. Luke's

Plan to be with our family for Christmas this year.
Here are our scheduled services:

December 24 — Christmas Eve

5:30 P.M. — Carols & Holy Eucharist

11:00 P.M. — Festival Choral Eucharist

December 25 — Christmas Day

10:30 A.M. — Holy Eucharist

January 1, 2017 — First Sunday After Christmas

10:30 A.M. — Holy Eucharist



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December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Jackson Coleman
- 4 Louise Kaller
- 6 Barbara de Mare
- 7 Anne & Tom Caloz
- 14 Cathy O'Donnell
- 17 Greta Pallatta
- 23 Shannan Coleman

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



Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

— Collect for First Sunday of Advent,
Book of Common Prayer



Parish Prayer List

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



Shannan Coleman, Lou Fifer, The Gonci family, Michael, The Klie family, Rachel Lynch, Roxanne Gabriel, Carol Finstad, Edythe Davis, Cathy O'Donnell, Sheri and Tyler, Scott Lewis, Maryellen Pais, Anne Betterley, Kenneth Calderon, Debbie Booth, Shirley Price, Edo Barzelatto, Gloria Jonassen, The Plinio family, Sue Pastore, Eleanor Abrahamsen, Linda Stephenson, Patricia Stephenson, Eleanor Belisle-Holden, Lisa, Jose Delgado, Elizabeth Sicari, Ralph, Lisa & Doug, Rosemarie; Cheryl; Coby, Hank, Alycia & Julia, Leroy, the Nobleman Family, Bill & Grace Repp, Michael Kelley, Sheila Seigman, The Abouzeid Family, Stephanie Cash, The Pitruzzello Family, Angela Stabler

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.

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 last year. Heidi is even willing to pay postage if necessary. Just write to Ryu and she will gladly mail your card.—Ed.



This precious boy in Dumont is in need of our prayers. Perhaps your family could send him a card to let him know that he is loved!

When you are doing your Christmas cards this year, please keep little Ryu in mind. He will be in the hospital for two months receiving aggressive cancer treatments throughout the holiday season. He will miss both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We want to make this time of year as magical as we can for Little Ryu. 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...

Ryu Okumura-Haas
Po Box 108,
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December 2016						
◀ November						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
LOOKING AHEAD: Book Club – Wed. , Jan. 25 @ Tri Valley				1 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 9:30-12:30 Mother Joy @ Church Office 6 PM Diocesan Listening Tables St. Matthew's/Paramus	2 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 7-10 PM Jesus Dream Church	3 7 PM – AA Open Meeting
4 Advent 2 9:30 Choir 10:30 Holy Eucharist, Sunday School & Coffee Noon – Snack Pack Assembly 1 PM ECW Luncheon 1-5 JDChurch	5 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	6 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 9:30-12:30 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office 10-Noon, Bishop/Clergy Mtg.,Annunciation Oradell	7 11:30 Healing & Eucharist 4-8 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office 7 PM Advent Bible Study @ Rectory	8 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 9:30-12:30 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office	9 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 7-10 PM Jesus Dream Church	10 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 10 A./M.-Noon Choir Rehearsal 7 PM – AA Open Meeting
11 Advent 3 9:30 Choir 10:30 Holy Eucharist, Sunday School & Coffee; YCS Secret Santa gifts & Poinsettia orders deadlines 1-5 JD Church	12 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	13 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 9:30-12:30 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office 7:30 PM Vestry	14 11:30 Healing & Eucharist 4-8 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office 7 PM Advent Bible Study @ Rectory	15 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 9:30-12:30 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office 9-3 Clergy Fresh Start	16 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 7-10 PM Jesus Dream Church	17 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 9:30-12:30 Altar Guild PolishFest 7 PM – AA Open Meeting
18 Advent 4 9:30 Choir 10:30 Holy Eucharist, Sunday School & Coffee Noon –Greening of the Church 1-5 JD Church 6 PM Parish Fun Night	19 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	20 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 9:30-12:30 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office 2 PM Sunrise – Ministry Group Visit	21 Winter Solstice 11:30 Healing & Eucharist 4-8 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office 7 PM Advent Bible Study @ Rectory	22 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 9:30-12:30 Mother Joy @ Rectory Office	23 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 7-10 PM Jesus Dream Church	24 Christmas Eve 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church 5:30 PM Christmas Carols & Holy Eucharist 11 PM Festive Choral Eucharist
25 Christmas 10:30 Holy Eucharist	26 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	27 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church NO Mother Joy Office Hours	28 11:30 Healing & Eucharist NO Mother Joy Office Hours	29 5-7:30AM Jesus Dream Church NO Mother Joy Office Hours	30	31

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

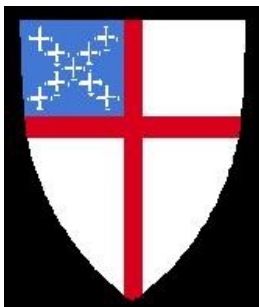
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We offer a service of Holy

Eucharist on Sundays at

10:30 A.M.

Fellowship & Coffee & Sunday

School Follow

Child Care Available

Healing & Eucharist on

Wednesdays at

11:30 A.M. * Bagged Lunch &

Bible Study at 12:15 P.M.

Church Office

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Please

call or message

with your need.



**Check It
Out!**

Advent is Here!

See inside, P. 2