

THE PARISH CONNECTION



**Tri-County Lutheran Parish
Issued on January 20, 2021**

Third Sunday after Epiphany

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From Vicar Care

[Jesus] woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. --Mark 4:39

There is a term in literary criticism called 'pathetic fallacy'. It's a literary device used by authors to relate their characters' emotions to the weather. For example, the hot muggy weather during the play *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* signifies the simmering tension broiling between the family members.

Here, I wonder if the author of Mark is using this 'pathetic fallacy' as he wrote his Gospel. Is he recalling a historical fact, this miracle, or is he remembering a time when Jesus stilled his anxious heart? Did Jesus calm the waves of Galilee, or calm the spirits of his disciples on the boat?

I think it is both--both an outward and inward miracle. When the storms are crashing against the boat, the disciples ask Jesus, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

And the response: "Peace! Be Still!" Jesus stilled the storms frightening the disciples outside and he stilled the anxiety within their hearts. Jesus cares that we are perishing; indeed, his whole mission is to bring life in the midst of death.

Yet the disciples doubted, and sometimes we do too. At times I find it hard to believe that the Almighty God, the One who formed the heavens and the earth, would care about the life of one of billions and billions of humans who have existed on this earth.

The great mystic Julian of Norwich had a vision: "[God] showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, 'What may this be?'

And it was answered generally thus, 'It is all that is made.' I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my

understanding: 'It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.'

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it."

God has made you. God loves you. And God will keep you forever.

When the storms of your heart are raging and doubts threaten to consume you, I pray that you may feel Christ's miraculous peace, the peace that can calm any water or wind.

In Christ's Peace,
Vicar Carolyn
312-538-3044

News and Information

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam ([**whiteginger20@gmail.com**](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)) or Pastor Beth ([**chellman4557@gmail.com**](mailto:chellman4557@gmail.com)) should you have a pastoral care concern. If you would like to reach both pastors at the same time, please email clergy@tclparish.org.

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
- If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery ([**harryavery@yahoo.com**](mailto:harryavery@yahoo.com)).
- If you have a Human Resources concern, contact Phyllis Keeler at poetphyl@gmail.com or Jeannette Wilber at tam20kfw@tclparish.org.

Worship Schedule for the week of Jan. 20 to Jan. 24 (all on Zoom)

January 20: Book Study at 6 pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

January 24: Sunday Worship – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, 10 a.m.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJTm_PrA-l1qlv8PJ-g

Did you know the Tri-County Lutheran Parish is creating an Outreach Team? The purpose of this team is to share resources, brainstorm ideas and assist one another in congregations' outreach programs. Have you been interested in outreach? Curious about the different kinds of outreach? Wondering how you can help your congregation grow? Join us! Email Pastor Beth and Pastor Sam to let us know you are interested in joining the team!

The Parish Prayer Group is meeting the first and third Tuesdays at 4PM via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Sam.

Also – Pastor Sam has been hearing some thoughts around to start **an all-parish Sunday School** (likely on Zoom, due to distance/Covid). To make this happen **we need volunteers to teach and lead**. Do you have a gift for teaching and like to work with kids? Please let Pastor Sam know so we can try to get something started!

If you need food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God's hands and feet for each other!

Opportunity to Help!!! Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the

most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: mmcps@tclparish.org, which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Patty Bervy pbervy@yahoo.com (C) 518-598-7609

Karen Schubert kara3215@juno.com (H) 518-731-6751

Duane Keeler oneservantofgod@gmail.com (C) 518-610-0164

A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to the new email: parishadmin@tclparish.org. Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however by Monday, noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can, however, always leave a voice mail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to:

parishadmin@tclparish.org

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note as to when I will be back. Peace, Sharon

The TCLP Outreach Team will meet this Saturday, 1/23 at 1PM via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87898930170>) If you would like to join and you do not have Zoom capabilities, you can call Pr. Beth or Pr. Sam and we will do what we can to facilitate!

Book Study

Book study continues! We are reading and discussing "I'm Still Here" by Austin Channing Brown. We meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. If you are interested in attending, please use the following Zoom ID: 880 9165 9945.

Bible Study

The Beatitudes have much to say about our lives as disciples of Christ. Beginning in Lent we will explore the Beatitudes in depth. I will be using the book "Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship" to guide us. While it isn't necessary to have the book, some of you may like it to follow along. Please let me know if you would like me to order one for you. They are also available on Amazon, but at a higher price than direct from the publisher in a bulk order.

The Bible Study will happen at two separate times, Monday evening at 7pm on Zoom (link will be published here closer to the start date), and Tuesday mornings at 10am at St. Luke's (masked and socially distant). Hope you can join us!

GAME NIGHT !! "Are you looking for some friendship and fun this winter? Join the TCLP on January 30 at 7:00pm for our first Zoom Game Night! We will be playing games like trivia and Codenames, all from the safety and comfort of our own homes. If you never played games on Zoom, don't worry! It's easy to learn and a lot of fun! Join us Saturday, January 30 at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82652287606>."

Women's Group

We are collecting mittens, hats, and scarves for the ICC schools. Please leave all donations in the tote box outside the office entry doors. We will deliver them in January. Thanks!

Questions? Call Barb Slater at 518-392-7798.

TCLP Board for 2020

Harry Avery	President	<u>harryavery@yahoo.com</u>
Jackie Menagh	Vice Chair	<u>jamspirit@hardsdisk.net</u>
Duane Keeler	Recording Secretary	<u>oneservantofgod@gmail.com</u>
Chuck Race	Treasurer	<u>ctracejr@tclparish.org</u>

If you have additions, deletions, changes, etc. for the Parish Connection, bulletins, etc., please either call the Parish office at 518- 758-6526 or email: parishadmin@tclparish.org.

Thank you!

Congregation Announcements

For all congregations: We will be having worship on Zoom only.

Time of worship is 10 a.m.

Use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS

Contact -- Duane Keeler oneservantofgod@gmail.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

***Emanuel Lutheran Church of Stuyvesant Falls
will be holding their Annual Meeting (via Zoom)***

Feb 7, 2021 at noon.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82447215532>

Emanuel, Stuyvesant Falls 2021 Calendars have arrived. To get yours, speak to Dick Frick!

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Duane Keeler	President	
Leslie Dumont	Vice-President	
Linda Frick	Co-Treasurer	
Dick Frick	Co-Treasurer	Not on council
Chuck Albertson	Secretary	Not on council
Pr. Sam	Ex Officio member	
Pr. Beth	Ex-Officio Member	
Karen Albertson	Harry Avery	

Committees

OUTREACH	(Joint committee with St. <u>Luke's</u>)	Teresa Avery, Karen Albertson
WORSHIP	(Joint committee with St. <u>Luke's</u>)	Phyllis Keeler
PARISH SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM		Karen Albertson, Duane Keeler (Chair)

ST. LUKE'S, VALATIE

Contact -- Kara Udway Karap1969@aol.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

Council Meeting -- January 21 – 7 p.m. via ZOOM

This serves as Official Notice that the
Annual Congregational Meeting of
St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Valatie, NY
*will be conducted on **Sunday, January 31, at Noon***
This will be a Zoom meeting.

Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86842535771>

MORE ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION--

We are waiting on the ELCA Synod for more information regarding voting at this time.

Meeting information will be emailed to you prior to the meeting. If you do not have access to email, please notify Sharon (518-758-6526) by January 22 so a packet can be mailed to you. Arrangements will also be made for those without Zoom to participate in the meeting at the church, following proper social distancing.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86842535771>

Meeting ID: 868 4253 5771

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,86842535771# US (New York)

+13126266799,,86842535771# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 868 4253 5771

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86842535771>

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kara Udvary, President	518-821-0437
Barbara Slater, Corresp. Secretary	518-392-7798
Ken Schomaker, Treasurer	518-758-1246
Linda Dickson, Financial Secretary	518-610-8056
Ethan Race	518-209-7829
Tim McGlauflin	518-756-4644
Mike Schunk	518-610-8201
Janis McGlauflin	518-828-1857

Want to see how the St. Luke's Council works? Do you want to make a difference? We will have openings for Council members in January! Contact Kara Udvary at 518-821-0437 or email her at Karap1969@aol.com

St. Luke's Offering Envelopes

They're here – the 2021 offering envelopes! Stop in and get yours today!

St. Luke's 2021 Calendars

They're here, too!! Stop in and get yours when you pick up your offering envelopes!

Committees

Education	Ethan Race
Outreach	Kara Udvary, Linda Dickson, Janis McGlauflin
Parish Care	Janis McGlauflin
Property	Larry Eleby 518-929-1432
Safety and Security	Sharon Smith 518-929-9765 Chuck Race 518-917-3547
Stewardship & Finance	Ken Schomaker, Linda Dickson, Tim McGlauflin
TCLP	Tim McGlauflin, Jon Strodl
Worship & Music	Ted Fiebke 518-794-779 Janis McGlauflin, Kara Udvary

EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S

Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald rfatbellspond@yahoo.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Brundage	President
Dick Fitzgerald	<u>Treasurer</u> (not a Council Member)
Debra Garrison	Secretary
Linda Baker	
Kirk Dixon	Sexton

ZION, ATHENS

Contact -- Gethen Proper gethen7@gmail.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

Athens Annual Meeting is 2/7 at 10am

COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Darling	President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer	Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary,	Treasurer	845-797-6084
<u>Gethen Proper</u>	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
Carol <u>Serazio</u>		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
John <u>Wais</u>		518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg		518-945-1184

The many outreach projects of Zion are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.

Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.

Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.

Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm

ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL

Contact – Jackie Menagh jamspirit@hardsdisk.net 518-256 2496 (cell)

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie Menagh	President	518-634-2026 home -- leave a message
(TBA)	Treasurer	
Sally Lord	Secretary	

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever.

CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM

Contact – Jeanette Wilber tam20kfw@aol.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jeanette Wilber President
Kurt Hoelter Vice President
Heidi Brennan Recording and Corresponding Secretary
Cate MacPherson
Richard Mac Donald (Mac)
Henry Bartel

Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal! Please visit our website at www.chathamLutheran.org to get started!

ST. STEPHENS, E. SCHODACK

**Contact – Alice Senrick Asenrick29@gmail.com
518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504**

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alice Senrick President
Charles Senrick Treasurer (Non-Voting member)
Cathy Teeter Secretary
Brian Schell Vice President
Deborah Deerfield Diane Middleton Charles Mayrer

St. Stephens will be holding its Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday January 24th at noon, via Zoom.

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

TRINITY, CASTLETON

Contact – Nicole Gardner scullynik@yahoo.com

Zoom worship 10 a.m.

Council Members

Anne Philipp	President		
Eric Knodler	Vice President		
Rik Cosgrave	Treasurer (not on Council)		
Nicole Gardner	Secretary		
Mike Wiley	Flo Ball	Joseph Fahd	Lois Bult

Trinity will be holding its Annual Congregational meeting on Sunday January 24th at noon, via Zoom. Snow date is 2/14.

The Castleton Girl Scouts are still collecting bottles and cans and will continue to collect them until July of 2022. They can reach out to Nicole Gardner with questions or to make arrangements for pick up. She can be reached at 518-336-4077 (home) 518-312-8603 (text) or via email scullynik@yahoo.com.

Financial Secretary Needed Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. if interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at parishadmin@tclparish.org

Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: parishadmin@tclparish.org and she can help direct you to the right person!

CONTACT US:

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (*Parish*) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: whiteginger20@gmail.com

Pastor Beth George (*Parish*) Phone – 717-364-4557

Email: chellman4557@gmail.com

Pastor Dan Hahn, (*Intern Supervisor*) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail --pastordanhahn@gmail.com

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu

TCLP Website: <https://www.tclparish.org>

CHATHAM WEBSITE: <https://www.chathamlutheran.org>

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.slelc.com>

Devotions and Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany - curated by Vicar Carolyn.

A Prayer of Confession by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being,

we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.

We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ.

We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies.

We go the first mile but dare not travel the second.

We forgive but dare not forget.

And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you.

But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be.

Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will.

In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

From the Sayings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers (Abbas and Ammas)

In the beginnings of Christianity, there were some devout believers who took very seriously the call to sell all possessions and give money to the poor (Matthew 19:21). These Christians formed communities in the desert--a prelude to modern monasticism--to pray and worship and work and teach others the Way of Christ. Sayings from these men and women have been preserved and offer great wisdom for us today. We celebrated the lives of Anthony and Pachomius, two of the most revered Desert Abbas, on Sunday January 17.

Abba John the Dwarf said, 'A house is not built by beginning at the top and working down. You must begin with the foundations in order to reach the top.'

They said to him, 'What does this saying mean?'

He said, 'The foundation is our neighbor, whom we must win, and that is the place to begin. For all the commandments of Christ depend on this one.'

One day some old men came to see Abba Anthony. In the midst of them was Abba Joseph. Wanting to test them, Abba Anthony suggested a text from the Scriptures, and, beginning with the youngest, he asked them what it meant. Each gave his opinion as he was able. But to each one the old man said, 'You have not understood it.'

Last of all he said to Abba Joseph, 'How would you explain this saying?' and he replied, 'I do not know.' Then Abba Anthony said, 'Indeed, Abba Joseph has found the way, for he has said: "I do not know."'

Amma Sarah said, 'If I prayed God that all men should approve of my conduct, I should find myself a penitent at the door of each one, but I shall rather pray that my heart may be pure towards all.'

Amma Syncletica said, 'Just as a treasure that is exposed loses its value, so a virtue which is known vanishes; just as wax melts when it is near fire, so the soul is destroyed by praise and loses all the results of its labor.'

Psalm 32, NLT

Oh, what joy for those

whose disobedience is forgiven,

whose sin is put out of sight!

Yes, what joy for those

whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt,

whose lives are lived in complete honesty!

When I refused to confess my sin,

my body wasted away,

and I groaned all day long.

Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me.

My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.

Finally, I confessed all my sins to you

and stopped trying to hide my guilt.

I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord."

And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time,
that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment.

For you are my hiding place;
you protect me from trouble.

You surround me with songs of victory.

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.

I will advise you and watch over you.

Do not be like a senseless horse or mule
that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control."

Many sorrows come to the wicked,
but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him!

Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!

A Prayer by Saint Francis

Most High, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart, and give me right faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, wisdom and understanding, Lord, that I may carry out your holy and true command. Amen.

Sermon for the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany by Pastor Beth

Bruce Larson tells this story in his book, "Faith for the Journey". Once there was a successful factory that made drills. At a board meeting the owner asked his four vice presidents, "What are your goals for the company for the next five to ten years"?

One vice president replied, "Well sir, we are looking at new sizes and shapes for different drills". The owner then said, "I have news for you - there is no market for drills". Talk about tension in the air. He continued, "From now on we will not think drills. We will not sell drills. We will sell holes! People don't want to buy a drill; they want to make a hole!"

As they began to think of other ways to create holes they developed other methods for hole drilling like lasers. They were able to move from thinking about drills to a whole new world of possibilities.

In the gospel reading people are moved from thinking of Jesus as the son of a carpenter from Nazareth to something much more. They had an Epiphany moment where they moved from one way of thinking to another. They moved from a narrow view to a broader, more abstract view. John the Baptist came to call Jesus "Lamb of God" - the one who would become a sacrifice for all people, one to be cherished. Another disciple called Jesus Rabbi or teacher - someone who taught God's law, one to be respected and listened to. Another called Jesus Messiah, the anointed one, the One picked by God. Philip said Jesus was the one Moses and the prophets spoke about, that Jesus was the fulfillment of scripture. And Nathanael came to see Jesus as the King of Israel, the ruler of the nation, their leader, conqueror and protector.

And every bit of that is true. Jesus is all those things. He is the Son of Man, the link between God and humanity. All of these descriptions speak about who Jesus is to us.

What did the disciples do with their moments of recognition, their Epiphany moments? They all issued the invitation for others to see Jesus as more than just a man from Nazareth.

I know many of you will remember the Mercedes commercial from several years back that showed a Mercedes crashing into a concrete wall during a safety test. An engineer in a white lab coat walks over after the crash and kneels down to examine the damage, which is minimal. A reporter then asks the engineer about Mercedes' energy absorbing car body. After the engineer tells all about the unique design the reporter asks him why Mercedes doesn't enforce their patent on the design, as it was being copied by several other companies. The engineer replied, "Because some things in life are too important not to share." How true is this.

There are many things in life that fall into this “too important not to share” category. Advances in science, in medicine like vaccines, in technology. But as important as all those are, they pale in comparison to the importance of sharing our faith.

We are often reluctant to share our faith. Maybe it is a good thing that we are on Zoom this morning and I won’t be able to see your responses, but how many of you have shared your faith with anyone in the past week or month or year. Truth be told, we Lutherans are really bad at this. So bad that many of our children have never heard from their parents how it is they came to believe or how their faith impacts their lives. If we can’t tell our own children, how are we ever going to tell others?

Maybe we think we all need to be theological scholars to talk about faith, but Philip certainly was not. He had just learned about Jesus so he wasn’t an expert. He simply said, “Come and see”. He started out by saying why he was inviting Nathanael and then “come and see”.

Nathan Williams told of two men who had been business partners for over 20 years. They met one Sunday morning as they were leaving a restaurant. One of them asked, “Where are you going this morning”? The second man said he was off to play golf and invited his partner to join him. The first man said he was heading to church. The second man replied, “We have been partners for 20 years. We have worked together, attended board meetings, and had lunch together. In all of these years you have never asked me about going to church. You have never invited me to go with you. Obviously, it doesn’t mean that much to you. Let’s go play golf”.

We invite people into all aspects of our lives. Come see my new house, meet my life partner, and don’t even get me started on what we share on social media. Why is inviting someone to meet the one who sets us free from sin so hard? It doesn’t take much, just an invitation to come and see. And these days all we need to do is send a zoom link, or your parish connection packet with the sermon from last week in it! Couldn’t get much easier.

Those who do join us may have their own epiphany moment. They may see Jesus as more than a man in history. They may recognize Jesus as the One who was the sacrificial Lamb, who died on a cross to rise again and give us all life.

If you have forgotten the joy of Christmas already, here is your invitation. Open your heart to God's abundant love. Take a few moments to remember why God is so important to you and then, invite someone to share in God's love with you.

Tri-County Lutheran Parish
January 24, 2021 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Based on the ELW, Setting 1. Worship Leader: Vicar Carolyn Lawrence
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Announcements

Call to worship

L: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

L: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **C: Amen.**

Refrain

Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.

1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all

mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

Refrain

walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across.

⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

Apostles Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

Prayers of Intercession

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, for musicians and servers; for our Bishops, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, Pastors, Vicars, Seminarians, Church Musicians, Lay Leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth. We

pray for our military personnel, especially for John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief, especially Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, Kate Ackerman, David and Family, Justin and Kim; Lew Hotaling, Logan, Darren Rybka, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Gloria LaCrosse, Bethany and family, Dolores Heilmann, Paul & family; Karen Lasher, Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefine Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Burma Cavanagh, Carmel Micalizzi , Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Vickie Achenbach, Sheri Patterson, Bill S., Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Christi Wright, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary-Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Robert Millius, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the those who meet at their churches or on Zoom during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ.

We pray for the family and friends of Kay Victorson, Carolyn Wheeler, Judith Sano, MaryAnn Prince, John Rybka, Jr., Bob Lord, Linda Mack, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick. let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud on our lips, or in the silence of our hearts. [Pause for prayers.] let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

L: I will give you all a moment to unmute yourselves... The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Offering

L: We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings sent electronically or by mail for the mission of the church including the care of those in need.

Offertory

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

C: unite them with the prayers we offer.

L: Grace our table with your presence,

C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Dialogue

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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, forever and ever. Amen.

*** Distribution of Communion**

Post Communion Blessing

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

*** Prayer After Communion**

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

*** Blessing**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our
 hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
 prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. *End*

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
 2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
Repeat stanza, then sing refrain

I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
 strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Dismissal

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
 hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor
 all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy
 Spirit.

L: Please unmute yourselves... And all God's people say:

C: Thanks be to God. Amen and ALLELUIA!

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, Vicar Carolyn Lawrence, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders.

For the families and friends of... Kay Victorson, Carolyn Wheeler, Judith Sano, MaryAnn Prince, John Rybka, Jr., Rob Lord, Linda Mack.

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and especially for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing: Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, Kate Ackerman, David and Family, Justin and Kim; Lew Hotaling, Logan, Darren Rybka, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Gloria LaCrosse, Bethany and family, Dolores Heilmann, Paul & family; Karen Lasher, Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefina Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Burma Cavanagh, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Lucinda & Sharon DeFlumer, Roberta Wormuth, Lincoln Page, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Sheri Patterson, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Vickie Achenbach, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Arlene Taylor, Joan Crow, Billy Crow, Robin Crow, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Sasha Shultis, Robert Millius, Shirley Bryan, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Tom Sanford, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake, Robert and family, Etta Shultis, Doris Smith, Barbara Slater, Vivian Becker, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Kirk Dixon, Ed Schomaker, Dave, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Joyce, Frank Johnson, Bill Duke, Patty Bervy, Carol Voeks, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Adeline Carr, Mary-Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Debbie Hammond, Tonya, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Richard Fitzgerald, their caregivers, and our parish members who due to COVID19 are unable to attend In-Person worship.