

New Visions



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

May 2020



Habits of Grace: God Hears Our Prayers

Editor's note: Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is offering *Habits of Grace*, a [weekly](#) meditation to help Episcopalians cope during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As we learn how to adjust our lives given the reality of the coronavirus and the request to do our part to slow its spread by practicing physical distancing, I invite you to join me each week to take a moment to cultivate a

'habit of grace.' A new meditation will be posted on Mondays through May. These meditations can be watched at any time by clicking [here](#)."

— Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

The late professor Walter Wink, in one of his books, says that "History belongs to the intercessors who believe and pray a new future into being." None of us know the mystery of prayer and how it works. I don't know the intricacies of

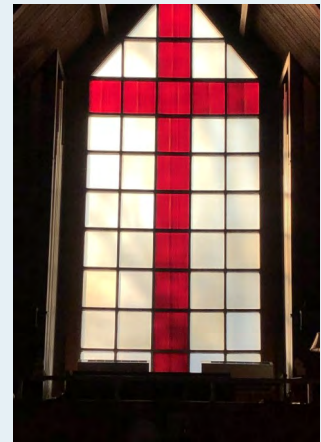
Continued on P. 2

Welcome to Our St. Luke's Newsletter

We invite you to worship with us .

The Good News is that God's love is for ALL of us.

Come and See!



Inside this issue

What a friend we have in Jesus...	2
Message from Our Bishop.....	3
Worshiping Online	3
Carrying Un	4
Gratitude & Remembrances Pt. ..	6
Outreach Continues: CFA	6
Outreach: Family Promise	7
Book Club	8
Prayer List	9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	9
Grace Happens	9
St. Luke's Symbol: The Ox	9
Thanks to Our Advertisers!	10
Calendar	13
Check It Out	13

God Hears Our Prayers, Continued from Page 1

prayer's mysteries. What I do know and believe, is that prayer makes a difference. It's not a magic foot. It's not a way to... It's not a form of wish fulfillment, but it is a way of bringing our deepest needs and concerns and our very life into our consciousness and into the very presence of God.

There's an interesting story in the eighth chapter of the Book of Revelation, just a few of the verses, where you have this swirling of events happening in history and a world in chaos and the text says, "There was silence in heaven for half an hour." Walter Wink and others looking at that say that in its highly symbolic language, the Book of Revelation may be trying to tell us that even in the midst of all the chaos of the world, the prayers of God's people actually make a difference. Because if you look at that small section of the first few chapters of chapter eight in Revelation, during that silence of heaven, it says that the prayers of the saints are mingled with the incense before the throne of God and that those prayers are taken right to God. God hears our prayers. God responds in God's way and we respond.

Prayer matters. It's not magic, but it makes a difference. There's a prayer in the prayer book that I thought you might like. It's a prayer for in times of sickness, for use by the sick person, but maybe it's a prayer that can apply to us all.

Check out the videos: <https://episcopalchurch.org/habits-of-grace>

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever shall be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. If I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words and give me the spirit of Jesus.

What a friend we have in Jesus. All our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer. God love you. God bless you and may God hold you and this whole world, the entire human family and the whole of creation in those almighty hands of love.

+ Michael Blum

— Presiding Bishop Michael Curry



Say your prayers and keep the faith.
Say your prayers and fight the fear.
Say your prayers and share God's love
wherever and whenever you can.

— The Very Reverend Randolph Marshall Hollerith,
Dean, Washington National Cathedral

What a friend
we have in
Jesus! All our
sins and griefs
to bear. What
a privilege to
carry every-
thing to God
in prayer.

— Hymn lyrics by
Joseph M. Scriven
(1855) ; setting
composed by
Charles C. Converse
(1868)



Watch for This Week @ St Luke's and other eBlasts for news of online services/gatherings during this Pandemic.

New Visions, the newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, is published 10 times per year. Submissions for the upcoming month's issue should be *snail mailed* to *New Visions*, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Massachusetts Ave. & Grant St., Haworth, NJ 07641; or *e-mailed* to claudiasmith@msn.com **by 20th of month**. **New Visions Board:** Editor: Janet Beddoe, Production: Claudia Smith. **Photography for this issue:** Claudia Smith, Siu Chan, Dreamtimes.com. **Advertising:** Jo Stephenson.



Due to the sensitive nature of parts of this message, we have abbreviated its content here. —Eds.

Dear Companions on the Journey of Faith,

This has been a week full of blessings, sorrows, challenges, and opportunity. Every week since the appearance of the virus COVID-19 has been full of the same. But the difference is that this week began with Easter. The holiday is over and has become a rich memory. While we have entered Eastertide, there is no escaping that our current reality involves school closure through May 15 and what looks like another month of “stay-at-home” orders. Worse, each day brings the news that another 300+ people died in our state. While there has been progress made with fewer hospitalizations, our health care professionals and first responders are still being pushed to their maximum. It is a sobering Easter Week.

In this environment we cannot help but ask how are we to be church now? What happens to worship going forward? Will we ever receive communion again?

Find out how our Bishop answers these questions in her own inimitable style — and how she tackles the very painful and, especially during this terrible pandemic, the frighteningly real subject of death and dying. Visit the Diocesan website for the complete text:

<https://dioceseofnewark.org/content/important-message-bishop-hughes-april-17-2020>

There you will find a thoughtful offer of help on how to prepare ourselves as well as others for those inevitable end of life conversations.

Worshiping Online

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Diocese of Newark has published a list of the parishes providing online worship services, both on Sundays and during the week. You may find it here:

<https://dioceseofnewark.org/content/where-can-i-find-worship-online>

Included in the listing is a link to the archive of the Diocese’s Featured Services. Each day throughout Holy Week, a service from a different church around our diocese was highlighted, culminating with a live stream of the Easter Day service celebrated by Bishop Hughes at our Cathedral. Videos and bulletins are [available here](#).

The Invitation to A Spiritual Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. *Amen.*

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Although we cannot worship together publicly during this pandemic, we can still hold each other in prayer, as well as our family and friends, and especially all those across the country and around the world affected by the spread of the Coronavirus.

Despite Coronavirus, Carrying On...

On April 23rd our family met at 4 P.M. in the Garden of Arimathea to honor the fourth anniversary of the death of my husband, Maury. There were 11 of us, more than the required “minyan” (10), so maybe we were Jewish, plus one.

We were all of us “dressed up,” as Maury would have liked. Paul wore his Beethoven sweat shirt. We stood in a circle, six feet apart. The sun shone on the budding trees and flowers. Violets had grown up around the “Jewish section” of our garden, because Maury is not alone there: his dear friend, David Solomon, and David’s mother, Aida, are also resting beside him near the rhododendrons. We told a few stories and then Danika, age 7, led us in prayer. She had it all planned, but I asked her if I could just begin. “Yes!” “Dear God, thank you”... that was all she needed ... “for Grandad, because he loved us.” Danika spoke so beautifully we were in tears.

As we left, the birds sang out, just as they had done four years ago when Father Joe led the walk after the service from the church to the Garden of Arimathea.

The story of Adam and Eve begins in a garden. The walk to our little corner of this earth, our garden, is to be honored. I am full of gratitude, even joy.

— Roberta Nobleman
April 24th

*Have your own Carry On story to share?
Let us know for the next issue! — Eds.*



The Nobleman family gathered with friends at St. Luke's for the 45th Wedding Anniversary party for Maury and Roberta. It was a wonderful affair at which even the children saluted the beloved couple.



A Prayer for Families

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who settest the solitary in families: We commend to thy continual care the homes in which thy people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech thee, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in holy wedlock, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly affectioned one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—The Book of Common Prayer, Page 828

Soul Food

GRATITUDE AND REMEMBRANCES:

Rev. Martin Lee of the Rhenish Church in Hong Kong, Part 2

By CHAN, Siu-Wai

2020 03 24 - Demarest NJ

Let me tell you a little about my mother, Mrs. CHAN-SIU Wai-Ngor:

My Mom had only two years of schooling because her grandpa did not believe women should be educated. There is this old saying from Confucius that women without education are virtuous. The saying really means without education women can be better controlled. The two years of schooling were not easy for her. Even though her family was well off, because her grandpa did not approve of her going to school he would not pay for it. Her mother encouraged her to earn money to pay for her own schooling so she raised pigs from piglets and did embroidery to earn money for the fees. She could read, write and do simple math: I still remember she loved the concept of compound interest. She thought that it was the best thing.

My mother's faith conversion started as a promise to God for Tony CHAN Hung-Kwong's miraculous recovery from a deadly tetanus infection for which he still bears the scar of a missing nail on his big toe. Afterwards my mother and everyone in the family were baptized: Paul, Monisa, Tony and my eldest brother, Hung Lin. My baptism was a little later, at Christmas 1958, when I was only 10 months old.

Mom was not a serious Christian. She treated the church as another temple but she did stop going to all other temples. We were none of us serious Christians. We only went to



At Top: Siu and her Mom in Manhattan's Chinatown.

At Bottom: Touring Toronto in the early 1980s.

church a few times a year but always on Christmas Day. There was no Christmas Eve service because it is considered inconvenient for families to travel at night in Hong Kong. Even today I still try to find a church to go to on Christmas Day rather than Christmas Eve. Old habit dies hard.

Let me return to the Rhenish Church and Reverend Lee:

From 1960 to 1977 we lived in North Point, an eastern part of Hong Kong Island and Bonham Road is in the Western District. It took a good hour to travel to church from our home even with the bus #23. As a teenager I went to another church in North Point which was a trip I could manage. It was not until I got into Form Six (equivalent to 12th Grade here) of

Continued on P. 5

GRATITUDE AND REMEMBRANCES, continued from P. 3 **Outreach Continues**

St Paul Boy College that I went back to service at the Rhenish Church. St Paul College is a secondary school and it is right on Bonham Road. During the academic year 1975-1976 I started to re-kindle with the church where I was baptized in 1958 and was confirmed in the same church on Christmas Day in 1976. I was even in the church chorus. And it was during these 18 months that I got to know Reverend Lee better.

Both Western District and North Point were places where people who could not speak Cantonese resided. Chaozhounese, Fujianese, and Shanghainese could be heard all over on the streets and in the markets in North Point. Hong Kong was filled with refugees from China from the mid-1940s to mid-1980s. Reverend Lee and the Rhenish Church had provided much needed spiritual guidance and solace to many Chaozhounese people in Western District. Our family is Chaozhounese.

The Rhenish Church grew from 250 members to over a thousand with four services per weekend. Reverend Lee had clearly prepared well for his retirement. At the right time and confident in his successors; he did not spend time pondering but went right ahead and relinquished his position and then went on to establish other Rhenish Churches in other underserved areas in Hong Kong.

I did not quite understand him until, on January 5th of this

year, I saw those descriptions of his life and I realized what a hard childhood he had experienced, losing both parents and being raised by an aging granny. He understood the hardship of the refugees and their families. Everyone was in an emotional state, needing urgently to get a foothold, to earn an income to support their families. With true grit these hardy people have all done well for themselves and their families. This would include my family led by my Mom.

CHAN, Siu-Wai 2020 03 24
Demarest NJ



Our last meeting with Rev. Lee in July 2018 in the fellowship hall of the Rhenish Church on Bonham Road. The woman is Lana, his nurse and domestic helper. We had a not-so-spicy Indian lunch that day.



Organizations like CFA have really felt the impact of the pandemic. We have always been a people-centric agency and have taken great care of our community through in-person advocacy. Unfortunately, with social distancing guidelines and the spread of the Coronavirus, we have had to change many of our policies. Center for Food Action is not able to accept food donations until the social distancing guidelines are lifted, as we do not have the space, or the volunteers, to sort and stock food.

During this time we are requesting that anyone who wants to help make a gift online at www.cfanj.org or by mailing a check to: Center for Food Action
192 W. Demarest Ave,
Englewood NJ, 07631.

We will use funds received to purchase food in bulk which eliminates issues of sorting and stocking. We are also accepting supermarket gift cards which can be shared with the increasing number of families and individuals requesting assistance.

Thank you so much for the care and support you have shown over the years. This is an unparalleled crisis and we could not rise to meet the need without support from the community.
—Kelly Sirimoglu
Communications Director



Ramping Up the Walk-in Dinner Program

**Save the
Date:
June 24**

Our Outreach Continues During COVID-19

Dear all,

Family Promise could not run its Walk-In Dinner Program without its dedicated and loyal volunteers. Because of you we have been able to feed the homeless and hungry for 29 consecutive years! The issue of food insecurity and hunger is not new in Bergen County but the situation appears to be worsening during the current health and economic crisis. And many of you have asked if there is more that you can do.

As many of you already know, the shelter has temporarily closed with residents being moved into hotels. All dinners are being served to go now, either at the loading dock or delivered to the hotels. Now Family Promise is exploring the possibility of expanding the dinner program to be able to serve more people in the community during this time.

To this end, we are asking whether any of you have the ability to take an additional date if the need continues

to grow as we expect. If so, please just send me an email and I will add you to our list and alert you to the need (and the timing) when I know more. **This is just to explore the possibility of additional support at this time, primarily in the way of prepared (or catered) food. This does not require a commitment to volunteer onsite though anyone interested can let me know that as well.**

Thank you so much for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Stay safe!

Margo

Margo Heller
Director of Volunteers
mheller@bergenfamilypromise.org

We are investigating our options to provide the meal on our scheduled June 24 date. Stay tuned for updates! — Eds.

Just as our way of being church has been transformed by coronavirus, so has St. Luke's outreach to the community. Yes, we are still committed to providing a nutritious meal on June 24th to 125+ needy neighbors through Family Promise's Walk-In Dinner Program. How we do it is not certain but it will be different, as the instructions given to May hosts makes clear.

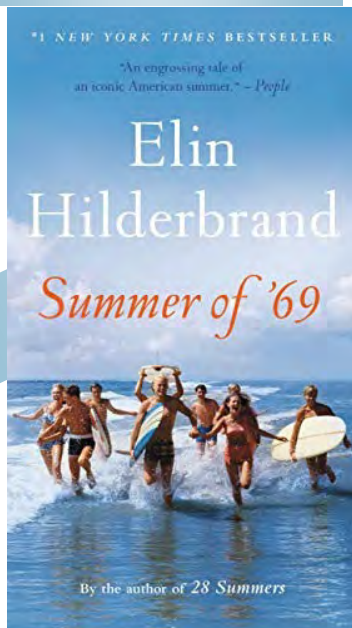
Should we make the meal at home and deliver to Hackensack or, with the multiple challenges in our lockdown world, have it catered? If the latter, can anyone recommend a local caterer who would be able to deliver to Hackensack? Perhaps we can help a local restaurant/caterer hurt by the necessary restrictions of lockdown. Suggestions are welcome. Email me at seesawdancejb@aol.com.

Please note that our friends at the Lutheran Church of the Savior, Paramus, still want to support us.

— Janet Beddoe



We are delighted to share the news that, thanks to your donations and St. Luke's matching, we are contributing a check for \$1,000 to District 9's Lenten Fundraiser for North Porch — monies that are desperately needed at this critical time for the charity.



Between the Lines Book Club

Book Club Meetings are usually held at 7:30 P.M. at the Rectory. During this time of social distancing, we invite you to check out our list of books and read on your own for now. We hope to see you all again as soon as it is safe to do so!

June 25 (pizza)
The Summer of '69
 Elin Hilderbrand

July 23 (appetizers)
The Secret Kept
 Tatiana de Rosnay

August 27 (dessert)
Still Life
 Louise Penny

September 24 (potluck)
Fall of Marigolds
 Susan Meissner

October 22 (wine/cheese)
Finding Dorothy
 Elizabeth Letts

November
 No meeting

December 3
 Dinner out—venue TBD

Looking ahead to June's Book Selection

Four siblings experience the drama, intrigue, and upheaval of the '60s summer when everything changed in Elin Hilderbrand's #1 *New York Times* bestselling historical novel.

Welcome to the most tumultuous summer of the twentieth century. It's 1969, and for the Levin family, the times they are a-changing. Every year the children have looked forward to spending the summer at their grandmother's historic home in downtown Nantucket. But like so much else in America, nothing is the same: Blair, the oldest sister, is marooned in Boston, pregnant with twins and unable to travel. Middle sister Kirby, caught up in the thrilling vortex of civil rights protests and determined to be independent,

takes a summer job on Martha's Vineyard. Only-son Tiger is an infantry soldier, recently deployed to Vietnam. And 13-year-old Jessie suddenly feels like an only child, marooned in the house with her out-of-touch grandmother and her worried mother, while each of them hides a troubling secret.

As the summer heats up, Ted Kennedy sinks a car in

Chappaquiddick, man flies to the moon, and Jessie and her family experience their own dramatic upheavals along with the rest of the country.

In her first historical novel, rich with the details of an era that shaped both a nation and an island thirty miles out to sea, Elin Hilderbrand once again earns her title as queen of the summer novel.

“ The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. —Dr. Seuss ”

*“For all that has been. For all that is.
 For all that is yet to be. We give you thanks, O Lord! “
 — Dag Hammarskjöld*

PRAYER LIST



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

Edith Biondi, Rachel Lynch, Doug Lynch, Roxanne Gabriel, Maryellen Pais, Quinn Rosa, Linda Stephenson, Patricia Stephenson, Michael Snyder, Diane Kansas, Kenny Calderon, Jason Edone, Tresten, Sue Pastore, Chan, Hung-Kwong & family, Carol Maxfield, Michael McCarten, Eileen LaViola, Elizabeth Secari, Donna Sisti, Muriel Brandt, Leah Ogena Collins, Thomas Chase, Jimmy Rivera, Nate Creamer, Denilson Interiano, Dr. Leonard Scalfani, Jay Rizzo, Judy Ashbrook Hoffman, GailMaureen Ferraro, Julie Salwen, the People of Hong Kong, Maureen Bownes, Sr. Alvarez., John Plinio §
Pray for Brian & Sharon Vaccaro, Philip Feldman and Gerry, all now affected with Covid-19., and all those remembered in Fr. Paul's Facebook group, Intercessors Praying... §
Please also pray for the repose of the souls of Rosemary Sullivan (sister of Al Astorga), William Roberts, David Gourevitch, Sandra Hyatt Harth and Lee Harper (mother of Janet Beddoe's son-in-law, Stewart Moore) §

We join with those around the world who pray for EVERYONE affected by the pandemic.

To add names to our Prayer List, please call: Sue Gonci, 201-220-3090
OR Email the Church office at Office@StLukesHaworth.org

MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 14 Jo & Junius Stephenson
- 18 Elizabeth Plange-Kaye
- 21 Susan Coleman
- 22 David Astorga
- 23 Maureen Bownes



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

Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: accept our prayers, and to those who seek healing [especially those named on our Parish Prayer List and all whom we name in our hearts], grant the power of your grace, that the weak may be strengthened, sickness turned to health, the dying made whole, and sorrow turned into joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



St. Luke's symbol is the ox. This may explain the fact that he is patron saint of butchers. In art, Luke is represented by a winged ox. The ox represents the sacrificial aspect of Jesus' ministry and the wings remind us that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to travel throughout the world.

Grace happens.

All the time. Grace is God's gift to us. The signs of God's grace are abundant. Some are dramatic. Many at first glance seem mundane. All are potentially life transforming.

God created us, but God was not – and is not, finished with creating. God keeps showing up. God is very much at work. Our job as God's creatures, is to pay attention to God's grace. And to join with God in God's work.

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**CLOSED
DURING
THE
PANDEMIC**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Haworth

May 2020						
◀ April					June ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 The Apostles Saint Philip and Saint James	2
3 The Fourth Sunday of Easter	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 The Fifth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day	11	12 Virtual Vestry Meeting – 7:30 P.M.	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day
17 The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)	18	19	20	21 Ascension Day	22	23
24 The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday After Ascension Day	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 Day of Pentecost						

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

St. Luke's is a church in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, N.J. We seek to be a bridge between traditions and communities.

We welcome *anyone* who wants to learn and grow in the knowledge and love of God.

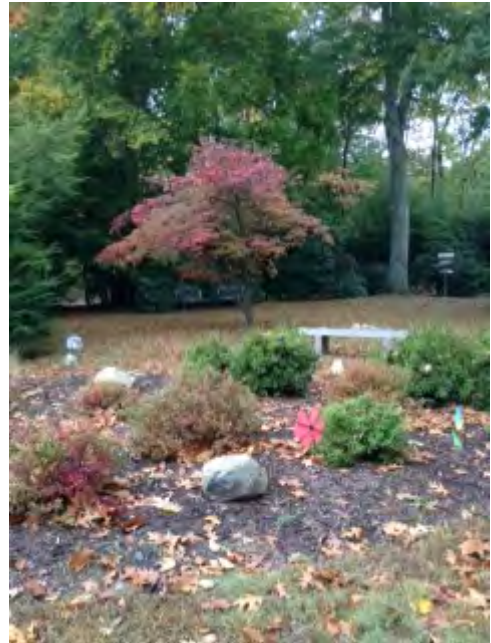
Our members come from many different traditions but are joined together through a love of Christ and our neighbors.

We are located at the cross-roads of Demarest, Haworth, Dumont, and Cresskill.

Check It Out!

A view of the Garden of Arimathea, our beautiful memorial garden in later summer 2016.

Turn to page 4 to see why we feature it this month.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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