

New Visions



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

January 2020



The Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it

In the first chapter of John's Gospel, sometimes referred to as the prologue to the Gospel, sometimes spoken of as the whole Gospel in miniature the Gospel writer says this. As he reflects on the coming of God into the world in the person of Jesus. As he reflects on Christmas. He says, the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

I don't think it's an accident that long

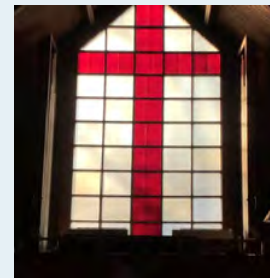
ago, followers of Jesus began to commemorate his coming into the world when the world seemed to be at its darkest.

It's probably not an accident that we observe Christmas soon after December 21, the winter solstice. The winter solstice being in the Northern Hemisphere the darkest time of the year.

Cont'd. on P. 3

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!**



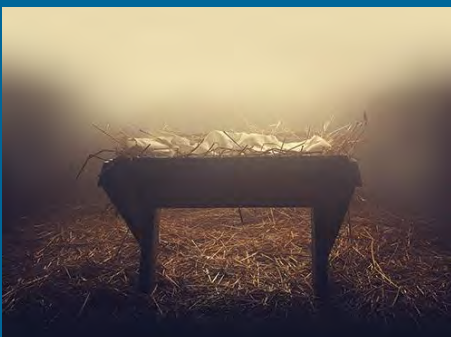
Inside this issue

Christmas Eve.....	2
Parish Wine & Cheese	3
Mail Bag	3
Bp. Carlye's Vlog	4
Annual Parish Meeting	5
Thanks, Secret Santas.....	6
Save the Dates	6
Fletcher's GreenFaith Message ...	7
Regular Events	7
Christmas at Sea.....	8
Support Our CFA Programs	6
Book Club.....	9
Stay in Touch.....	9
Sign Up for Coffee Hour	9
Prayer List	10
Birthdays & Anniversaries	10
Grace Happens.....	10
St. Luke's Symbol: The Ox	19
Thanks to Our Advertisers!.....	11
Calendar	13
Check It Out	14

Christmas Eve at St. Luke's



We are always delighted to welcome back the Rev. Fletcher Harper as our Celebrant and Preacher.



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

-- Isaiah 9:6

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, Heidi Plinio, Jo Stephenson, Dreamtimes.com. **Advertising:** Jo Stephenson.

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH PARTY Jan. 5, 2020 @ 4 PM



You're invited to the **Twelfth Night Wine and Cheese on Sunday, January 5 at 4 P.M.**

Bring your favorite Adult Beverage or soft drink(s) to share. St. Luke's will provide a variety of cheeses. It is always a wonderful occasion — and thoughtfully scheduled *after* the Holiday Madness!

The Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message, Cont'd. from P. 1

Undoubtedly, these ancient Christians who began to celebrate the coming of God into the world, they knew very well that this Jesus, his teachings, his message, his spirit, his example, his life points us to the way of life itself, a way of life, where we take care of each other. A way of life, where we care for God's world. A way of life, where we are in a loving relationship with our God, and with each other as children of the one God, who has created us all.

They also knew John's Gospel and John's Christmas story. Now there are no angels in John's Christmas story. There are no wise men coming from afar. There's no baby lying in a manger. There's no angel choir singing *Gloria in excelsis Deo* in the highest of the heavens. There are no shepherds tending their flocks by night. Matthew and Luke tell those stories. In John, it is the poetry of new possibility, born of the reality of God when God breaks into the world.

It's not an accident that long ago, followers of Jesus began to commemorate his birth, his coming into the world. When the world seemed darkest. When hope seemed to be dashed on the altar of reality. It is not an accident that we too, commemorate his coming, when things do not always look right in this world.

But there is a God. And there is Jesus. And even in the darkest night. That light once shined and will shine still. His way of love is the way of life. It is the light of the world. And the light of that love shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome it.

God love you. God bless you and may you have a Merry Christmas and may this world be blessed. Amen.

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



MAIL BAG

Many of you remember Alma O'Daniel, a long-time member of St. Luke's and a faithful singer in the choir. Her daughter sent regards from Maryland in her card this year:

"Love to all at St. Luke's. I can't tell you how important you were to Alma, Bill and me."

— Ann



“ *Being a Christian is not essentially about joining a church or being a nice person, but about following in the footsteps of Jesus, taking his teachings seriously, letting his Spirit take the lead in our lives, and in so doing helping to change the world from our nightmare into God's dream.* — Bp. Curry ”

The good news the angels shared is true for us, too. Christ's presence transforms, heals, comforts,...



The gift of the incarnation

POSTED BY CARLYE J. HUGHES ON DECEMBER 17, 2019
BISHOP CARLYE'S VLOG

"The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Gerard von Honthorst, 1622

"The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10

Dear Companions on the Journey,

Every Sunday we return to the good news of Christ's presence among us. While we look forward to celebrating Christ's entry into the world all through Advent, the story of Christ's presence does not end with Christmas. Instead, it begins. It also begins in our individual lives as faithful people and in our common life as the family of faith.

What a relief to know that through, in, and with Christ we have a fresh start. Nothing, including the complexity of our circumstances, the humiliation of our failures, the brokenness of our spirits, the limits of our faith, nor any other obstacle can alter the life-changing impact of Christ's presence among us. Forever and for always we are blessed with a new, growing, and ever-present relationship with God.

Shopping lists of presents will come and go. Resolutions and plans for a new year will come and go. The seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany will come and go. And though all manner of things may come and go, one thing will not change:

Christ's presence remains with us to this very day.

The good news the angels shared is true for us, too. Christ's presence transforms, heals, comforts, and compels us to live a life that is expansive, hopeful, compassionate and generous.

In these seasons of waiting, gifts, and light, can you imagine Christ's loving presence with you? Amidst navigating celebrations and gatherings, could you embrace the transformation Christ's presence brings? Would you be willing to hear, see, know this good news in every area of your life?

Christ's incarnation is more than an offer of peace and comfort. It is a boundless invitation to the life God has planned for us. When we step into that life, then we also live as the people God created us to be. This more than a Christmas gift. It is a gift that resonates beyond our homes, families, and Christmas plans. A gift that can change households, congregations, communities, cities, states, nations, and the whole, wide world. This is the gift of life in Christ, offered to us, ours for the taking.

Listen for this, the good news. Rejoice and be glad, and then let the gift of Christ's presence continue to transform your life and the world around you.

Grace and peace,
Bishop Hughes

St. Luke's Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 26

What YOU Need to Know — and DO

Following our 10:00 A.M. service on Sun., Jan. 26, St. Luke's will hold its Annual Parish Meeting and Potluck Luncheon. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall so that we know what people plan to bring.

As is our custom, we need to elect two members of the Parish to replace outgoing vestrypersons Helen Shaw and Roberta Nobleman. The slate will also include those standing as delegates and alternates to the 2021 Diocesan Convention and representatives for the District 9 Council of 10 churches in our area. We will review reports from the various organizations that keep our parish running and vibrant; receive the Treasurer's report; and approve (or disapprove) recommendations on the annual budget for the parish. Parishioners are invited to actively participate and ask questions about anything that is presented.

Given the number of parishes now without permanent clergy right in our own area, it is extremely difficult for our wardens to find supply coverage for each of our Sunday worship services. *Without a priest in charge, our lay leadership is more important than ever.*

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make Your Voice Heard

If you have suggestions on who might make a good Vestryperson — or YOU feel called to stand for the election yourself — please contact one of our Wardens ASAP ahead of the Annual Meeting.

WHAT BP. CARLYE HAS SAID ABOUT VESTRIES (Vlog—Oct. 2019)

I want to talk with you about Vestries. And most importantly about their special role as elders of a congregation.

It's funny, I don't hear people refer to Vestries as elders - we tend to lean on them for those practical ways of being church together. The Vestry makes sure that the roof is solid and not leaking. The Vestry makes sure that we have rooms for all the classes that we're trying to teach on a Sunday morning. And if we're running short on people to serve as ushers or people to be on Altar Guild or to serve on Buildings & Grounds, we turn to the Vestry and we ask them for help with all of those things. All of that is stated in the duties of people who are on Vestry,

The unstated thing is that they are the elders of our church. They are the wise people. They are baptized, they are confirmed, they have spent time in the church. They know how the church works - and even more importantly, they know how God works. And that's the piece that I want us all to hold onto with Vestries.

In the letter from James to the church, James writes to churches that if there's someone who's suffering, we should pray. If there's someone who is full of good cheer, then we should celebrate with that person. And, if there are those in the church who are sick, we should turn to the elders of the church and ask the elders of the church to pray for them.

Every Sunday, I have the blessing of meeting with Vestries. And the first

thing that we talk about is their spiritual lives. We actually don't talk first about the needs of the church and the practical matters of being Vestry - we talk about their individual spiritual lives. I find it to be the most inspiring part of the day, the most inspiring part of the week for me, week in and week out. Hearing Vestry members talk about the way that they see God in their church, the way they see God in their lives, and the way they see God in the world.

I'm convinced in this time that we're in, whether we are sick in body or sick in spirit, that we can turn to our Vestries not only for help in running the church, but that we can turn to our Vestries for help with our own spiritual life.

If you need some inspiration, talk to a member of your Vestry. If you need someone to pray, talk to a member of your Vestry. If you're feeling that there's not enough hope in the world, talk to a member of your Vestry. Because these are people who are committed not only to running a church, but who are deeply committed to God.

There's one person in all of these meetings who has stayed with me when they talked about the way that they see God. And I remember him so clearly saying, "One of the things that has helped me so much in coming to church is I've become a better husband, I am a better father, I'm a better man for the people of faith that I walk in faith with."

That's who serves us in Vestry. We have much to learn from them.

Outreach: Thanks, Secret Santas!



Last month *New Visions* included Bishop Carlye Hughes' reflection on Generosity, telling of a young boy who didn't know why he felt "so warm inside" after serving in a soup kitchen.

Well, members of St. Luke's must have felt that inner warmth this Christmas when they gave so generously to the children in the care of Youth Consultation Services, to our food insecure neighbors helped by Center for Food Action, to Father Paul's Toy Drive for inner city children and to our animal friends in need supported by Animal Aid USA.

We looked for the angels on our Giving Tree and continued St. Luke's Christmas tradition of being Secret Santas to YCS's children. These children don't know our names and all we know of them are their first names, the first initial of their last names, their age and gender, but we

know they are in need, many of them separated from family, and we give them our unconditional love by fulfilling their requests.

This year the requests came from adolescents who asked for hats and scarves, pjs and slippers, sweat pants and hoodies, art supplies, a bean bag chair, and, a very popular item, gift cards, which enable a child to exercise a little control over their troubled lives. With little time, but understanding the urgency, we responded.

A big "thank you" to all who contributed in any way to our Christmas drives, and a big "thank you" to those who help throughout the year with the food drives, the Walk-In Dinners and our weekend Snack Packs program, whether by purchasing, packing, transporting, cooking or serving. You are *all* serving and know that warm feeling inside.

SAVE THE DATES

—January 10— FIRM DEADLINE

All organizational heads to submit reports to Sue Gonci for the printing and assembly of the booklet ahead of the Annual Parish Meeting on January 26. If you can spare some time, please contact Sue to find out if you can help her by collating and stapling the pages.

—January 12— The Episcopal Church Women will hold a planning meeting after the service.

—Fri. January 31- Sat. February 1— The 146th Annual Diocesan Convention will be held at the Hilton/ Meadowlands in East Rutherford.



Wishing you peaceful holidays

Many of you have heard the Rev. Fletcher Harper speak passionately over the years about his concern for the environment, the crisis that climate control has now become, and his "Day Job" with the team at GreenFaith, where he serves as Executive Director. The organization's mission is clearly stated on the Home Page of their website and in this heartfelt message from Fletcher to GreenFaith's supporters:

I am grateful. I am grateful for the beautiful earth, and for the blessing of life, friends, and family. I'm grateful for the opportunity to pray, sing, and celebrate in the congregation where I worship. And I am grateful for GreenFaith as we are building a bold and courageous climate movement of people of all faiths.

I am also worried about how climate change is affecting our communities and our world. It is clear: this world is out of balance. The most vulnerable among us are especially hurt. I am thinking of our sisters and brothers displaced by ever more powerful storms and droughts, and then turned away at the borders, and it breaks my heart. As a human family, we need to be better than this.

My faith strengthens me to face these existential challenges head-on. 2020 is a pivotal year for the future of our planet. GreenFaith is going all in to build a global community of people of all faiths that comes together with joy and power. We, people of faith and spirit, are responding to climate change with compassion, love, and justice.

I hope you will come with us in 2020. Thank you for all of your support and love.

Wishing you peaceful holidays, in solidarity and spirit,

Rev. Fletcher Harper
Executive Director

To learn more about GreenFaith's vital work and their plans to take moral action for climate justice in 2020, click here:

<https://greenfaith.org/>



REGULAR EVENTS



CFA Monthly Food Drive

2nd Sundays @ Service
Next: January 12

Vestry Meeting

2nd Tuesdays in the Parish Hall @ 7:30 P.M.

Parishioners are welcome to attend any time.

Next: January 14

Parish Fun Night

3rd Sundays @ 6:00 P.M.

Everyone is invited to bring a potluck dish to share. Be prepared to have fun in spite of yourself. Board games are played and silliness abounds. If you've never tried it, check it out!

Next: Jan. 19

Snack Pack Assembly

Usually 4th Sundays @ Noon
NOTE CHANGE: Next: Jan. 19

Book Club

Fourth Thursdays @ 7:30 P.M. in The Rectory or Venue as Announced
Next: Jan. 23



Christmas At Sea Service Project 2019

Many of you know that we have supported The Seaman's Institute by making scarves for the men and women who patrol our waterways around New York.

This year we request that all those who knit or crochet make two (2) scarves by January 6, 2019, so they may be presented at the annual Diocesan Convention.

For those who don't knit or crochet, please consider making a donation of yarn or a cash contribution.



NOTE: Specific patterns are only available online at <https://seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea> or see Heidi for a copy



MOST WANTED List

- Supermarket Gift Cards
- Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc),
- Canned Hearty Soups
- Canned Vegetables
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Tomato Sauce
- Cold Low-sugar Cereal and Oatmeal
- Powdered Milk and/or Boxed Milk such as Parmalat
- Canned Fruits
- Instant Potatoes
- 100% Juice
- Baby Formula & Diapers sizes 4, 5, 6
- Bar or Bottled Soap
- Toothpaste, Toothbrush & Dental Floss

Outreach: Support Our Monthly CFA Programs

Help fill our grocery cart on the **second Sunday of every month!** Foodstuffs are blessed during the service and taken to the **Center for Food Action in Englewood**. To learn more about the vital work the CFA does to help feed our neighbors, click **here**:

<http://cfanj.org/who-we-are/>



Pick up a few extra items to donate and make a less fortunate family's week!

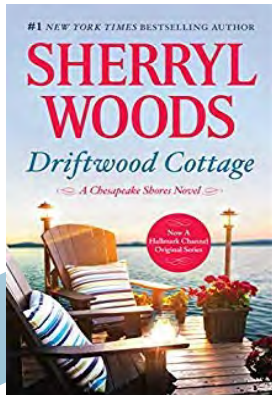
Consider joining the **Snack Pack Assembly Angels—usually working on 4th Sundays**. Snack packs help less fortunate kids who may not have a decent meal over a weekend when they can't eat at school. This year-round CFA program ensures that the teachers are able to place snack packs filled with nutritious meals very *discreetly* into the children's



St. Luke's angels assemble snack packs after church.

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

Action
BEYOND THE BAG



February's Book Selection

Return to the beloved town of Chesapeake Shores in this tale by #1 New York Times bestselling author.

Single mom Heather Donovan's dreams of home and family are tantalizingly within reach when she settles in Chesapeake Shores. The loving O'Brien clan embrace her and her son. But her son's father, Connor, alienated by his parents' divorce and his career as a high-powered divorce attorney have left him jaded about marriage.

Then everything changes. Read the book to find out how and why some dreams are worth fighting for. ...

Between the Lines Book Club

Book Club Meetings are held at 7:30 P.M. at the Rectory unless otherwise noted.

January 23 (wine/cheese)
The Housekeeper and The Professor
Yoko Ogawa

February 27 (appetizers)
Driftwood Cottage
Sheryl Woods

March 26 (dessert)
The Punishment She Deserves
Elizabeth George

April 23 (potluck)
The Dream Daughter
Diane Chamberlain

May 28 (wine/cheese)
Where the Crawdads Sing
Delia Owens

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

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

Stay in Touch, Stay in the Know!

Please keep us posted if you change your postal address, home telephone number, cell phone number or email address. We now send This Week @ St Luke's eBlast reminders as well as our *New Visions* newsletter by email. If you're on Facebook, like our page and check in often! Make sure that we have your family's birthday and anniversary dates so that we can share your celebrations with the rest of the parish (and NO, we do not need to know how old you are!). Heidi Plinio, our Card Angel, sends greeting cards plus she makes sure you have a Name Tag for Sundays so everyone knows who you are!

Sign Up to Host on Sunday

Everyone loves Coffee & Fellowship Hour on Sundays, but someone has to make the coffee. Please sign up in the Parish Hall. Invite someone else to help!



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, Lee Harper, Michael McCarten, Arnie O'Callaghan, Eileen LaViola, Elizabeth Secari, Donna Sisti, Muriel Brandt, Leah Ogena Collins, Thomas Chase, Jimmy Rivera, Nate Creamer, Denilson Interiano, Dr. Leonard Scalfani, Ja y Rizzo, Judy Ashbrook Hoffman, Gail-Maureen Ferraro, Julie Salwen, the People of Hong Kong, Maureen Bownes and for the repose of the soul of Rosemary Sullivan (sister of Al Astorga)

To add names to our prayer list, please call: Sue Gonci, 201-220-3090

OR Email the Church office at Office@StLukesHaworth.org

We review our Prayer List is monthly to keep it current and manageable for those who pray regularly. Please contact Sue if you wish to keep people on the list. You may also write names in the book on the Chapel Altar. Loved ones who are sick or suffering in any way may also be remembered in prayer during the **service of Healing, held on the 3rd Sunday right after our service of Holy Eucharist.**

JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4 Jack Klie
- 5 Bob Plinio
- 8 Heidi Plinio
- 9 Claudia Smith
- 10 Christopher Plunkett
- 12 Tom Caloz, Sr.
- 18 Jeffrey & Susan Coleman
- 20 Rich & Sue Gonci



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

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that their weakness may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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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St. Luke's Episcopal Church/Haworth

<div> <div>◀ December</div> <div>January 2020</div> <div>February ▶</div> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Thanks to our Gues Clergy this month: Rev. Fletcher Harper 1/5, Fr. Paul Gulya 1/12-1/26	Note the changes in service times		1 New Year's Day The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ 7-10 PM Dream Church	2 5-7:30AM Dream Church 8:30 AM – AA Early Morning Women's Mtg 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	3 7-10 PM Dream Church	4 5-7:30AM Dream Church 9:30 AM Altar Guild 7-9 PM AA Open Meeting
5 The First Sunday After Christmas 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist Noon - Coffee Hour/ Fellowship 4 P.M. – Twelfth Night Wine & Cheese @ Rectory 1-5 Dream Church	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	7 5-7:30AM Dream Church	8 7-10 PM Dream Church	9 5-7:30AM Dream Church 8:30 AM – AA Early Morning Women's Mtg 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	10 DEADLINE: Annual Parish Meeting Reports 7-10 PM Dream Church	11 5-7:30AM Dream Church 9:30 AM Altar Guild 7-9 PM AA Open Meeting
12 The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with CFA Food Drive Noon – ECW Planning Meeting Coffee Hour/ Fellowship 1-5 Dream Church	13 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	14 5-7:30AM Dream Church 7:30 PM Vestry	15 7-10 PM Dream Church	16 5-7:30AM Dream Church 8:30 AM – AA Early Morning Women's Mtg 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	17 7-10 PM Dream Church	18 The Confession of St. Peter the Apostle 5-7:30AM Dream Church 9:30 AM Altar Guild 7-9 PM AA Open Meeting
19 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany 10: 00 AM Holy Eucharist Noon - Coffee Hour/ Fellowship Snack Pack Assembly 1-5 Dream Church 6 PM Parish Fun Night & Potluck	20 Martin Luther King Jr. 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	21 5-7:30AM Dream Church	22 7-10 PM Dream Church	23 5-7:30AM Dream Church 8:30 AM – AA Early Morning Women's Mtg 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg 7:30 P.M. Book Club @ Rectory	24 7-10 PM Dream Church	25 The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle 5-7:30AM Dream Church 9:30 AM Altar Guild 7-9 PM AA Open Meeting
26 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany 10: 00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM – Annual Parish Meeting with Potluck Lunch 1-5 Dream Church	27 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	28 5-7:30AM Dream Church	29 7-10 PM Dream Church	30 5-7:30AM Dream Church 8:30 AM – AA Early Morning Women's Mtg 10 AM – AA Women's Mtg	31 Diocwesan Convention/Hilton Meadowlands 7-10 PM Dream Church	Feb. 1 Diocwesan Convention/Hilton Meadowlands

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!



Acolytes at the Ready;
Silent Night at St. Luke's
A beautiful, peaceful service
for Christmas Eve.

Look inside on Page 2.



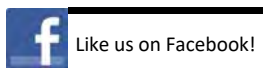
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