

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE REV'D MICHAEL GREENE, RECTOR ✚ DIXON, ILLINOIS



LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2010

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

A new year is upon us, full of new life and promise, and also with new opportunities for growth and service. As we enter into this new year, I'd like to bring your attention to one aspect of our life and ministry together that will be taking on a ***slightly*** new face: our fellowship time after the Sunday Mass. One of the greatest treasures we share is the chance to gather after our worship services to continue our celebration with some conversation and fellowship. It is a time when we connect with each other socially, and strengthen the bonds of affection and joy that make us into a parish family. It is also a time when we practice Christian hospitality, by opening ourselves to newcomers and visitors, and showing the world a glimpse of the Divine Love that dwells in our midst. It is also a time of generosity, when each of us is called on to give of our time and our resources to help create this opportunity. All of these things are important aspects of our fellowship, and they are an essential part of our common life. It's important, every once in a while, to look at the parts of our life together and to try to bring them into better balance with each other.

Some of the feedback that I've gotten over the past year has been that hosting our fellowship time is perhaps a little too time-consuming or costly. Others have indicated a certain reservation about hosting because they are unclear on expectations and protocol. These, I hope, are places where we can work together to bring a somewhat better balance to an essential part of our life together as a parish family. In the new year, we would like to SIMPLIFY our fellowship offerings, to make it possible for everyone to participate in them, and to state clearly what it means to host our fellowship.

Rather than scheduling a team to work for a month at a time, we will be asking two people to volunteer for each Sunday, and for everyone to participate. Please sign up on the sheets provided. Each person should bring **ONE** item to share: fruit, coffee cake, breads, pastries, cheese & crackers, **OR** the like. There should be sufficient food so that everyone can have a snack, but the intention is not to provide a meal. These people should arrive at church a few minutes early to set up what they have to offer, as well as to prepare coffee and juice. This means that each Sunday, there should be two kinds of simple food provided by the hosts, plus juice and coffee provided by the church. The food that you bring may be given as a donation, but you may also request reimbursement for it from the coffee fund, if you are not in a position to be able to donate it. The coffee fund is made up of the donations that people leave at the counter during fellowship time. We hope that this will make it possible for more people to offer their time and service as coffee hour hosts, as well as making the process easier without diminishing our fellowship at all.

As is the case with every family, there will be times when extra celebration is called for, and if you wish to offer something above and beyond the norm for a special occasion, just let me know and we'll make arrangements. We'll keep the second Sunday of every month as a celebration of all the birthdays and anniversaries in that month. There are also plenty of opportunities in our regular schedule to mark feasts and festivals with special fellowship time. This upcoming month will have several. We'll be taking a 'Parish Night Out' on the Feast of the Holy Name, January 1; the Feast of the Epiphany is on January 6, and we'll have a festival mass followed by a 12th night party with a covered dish supper, and our Annual Parish Meeting on the 31st will include a potluck luncheon following the Sunday Mass.

Our fellowship is a celebration of the joy and love that we share in Christ Jesus. Come celebrate! Come join the fellowship!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Michael

Homecoming

A Message for Christmas and Epiphany from the Bishop of Chicago



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ in this Christmas and Epiphany season in the Church. In many parts of Latin America and this country, Christians celebrate Las Posadas, which is a way of observing the days leading up to the Christmas feast from December 16 to December 24.

The custom is for families to travel between homes. Different roles — the part of Joseph, the part of Mary, the part of the innkeeper — taken up by different members of the community. Joseph and Mary go from house to house looking for a place, looking for the inn as Luke's gospel tells us, where the baby Jesus might be born. Until at last they

find the designated house where the party is to be held and where the birth of Jesus can be celebrated fully.

That homecoming is the theme I want to hold out to you in this Christmas and Epiphany season. Christ finding a home in our hearts. We look for Christ where Christ has made his home, in the hearts of our sisters and brothers across our communities and across the globe. At our recent Diocesan Convention, three new congregations found a home here in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, and we rejoice and welcome them completely into the family. We recognize the presence of Christ in one another, in them. And we celebrate the many ways that Jesus Christ has come among us.

This Christmas season I invite you to find a home for Jesus in all those places in the world, perhaps particularly the places where you might be inclined least likely to look for him, in the homeless, the hungry, in those who are lonely, those who find themselves on the margins of this world. Find Jesus Christ there. Look for him. Knock on the door. And when you find him, serve him, and welcome him, and thank him for his great love.

Merry Christmas and happy Epiphany in this season of the church's year.

Jeffrey D. Lee Bishop of Chicago

Illustration: "God's Heart" by Friedrich Peter. From the *Salt of the Earth—A Christian Seasons Calendar 2009-2010*

What the Mystery of the Incarnation Teaches Us About Our Stewardship of the Environment

Dr Rowan Williams, The Archbishop of Canterbury, offered this Christmas message to listeners of BBC Radio 2:

I'll be off on my travels this weekend to the summit in Copenhagen, to talk about the Church's attitude to climate change and all those issues. I know there are all sorts of technical arguments about the science of it all and people still disagree about aspects of it. But a couple of weeks ago, I had a visitor from the Pacific, who told me about how his island and some of its neighbours were actually going to be uninhabitable in a few years time because of rising water levels – almost certainly connected with climate change.

That brings it home all right. It's not quite good enough to say it's all too difficult – or that it's nothing to do with religion anyway. We're getting ready for Christmas; and it's worth remembering that one of the things we celebrate at Christmas is God taking an interest in the real material stuff of this earth, the flesh and blood, and all the things that keep flesh and blood secure – food and shelter and so on. It would be pretty peculiar if we took the world less seriously than God does. And I suppose that's why Christians and other religious people are so concerned about the Copenhagen agenda.

There are plenty of things we can do to scale down our extravagant use of energy and the amount of waste we produce (that's certainly a challenge at Christmas!). But one thing I'll be saying this weekend is that these things will only happen if we learn to *love* the world we're in. And Christmas is a good time for rediscovering that. I hope everyone listening has a wonderful celebration – and a chance to rediscover something about love, for the world and for each other.

*Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes,*

You are his body.

—St. Teresa of Avila

CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU

If you have not yet returned a pledge of your support
for the Mission of the Church at St. Luke's

Please do so as soon as possible!

Financial Update

Our Goal for the Pledge amount for November was **\$5,250.00** which is 1/12 of the budgeted pledge amount.

The pledge amount **received** in November was **\$5,654.00**.

Thank you for your support of St. Luke's.

Vestry Notes

The Vestry of Saint Luke's met on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 in the Eells Room. Father Michael called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with a study about the Advent Wreath and prayer from the First Sunday of Advent.

Father Michael reported December has been a busy month. Our pledge campaign has been going well and most pledge cards have been returned. We hosted a service and dinner to mark World Aids Day, which showed an increase in attendance and giving. Father Michael reported the highlight of the past weeks was Aaron's ordination and first mass. Weather was dreadful both nights and kept many away, but we still carried on with it, and had a wonderful, rich and blessed time. Aaron's ordination is a milestone for St. Luke's which has never hosted an ordination before and has not put forward any members as candidates for Holy Orders in quite some time.

Christmas preparations are in full swing and we must now turn our attention to the beginnings of 2010. Father Michael asked all of the vestry to prayerfully consider our life and ministry together in order to take counsel for the future, preparing for our annual meeting and the vestry for 2010, as well as our vision for hospitality and mission for the upcoming year.

Building and Grounds chairman Bob Bell reported that the sign for the Christmas services will be ready soon. Ben Beaman cleaned the carpeting in the Undercroft that was water marked by the flooding of the kitchen.

The information was sent to the State regarding the solar energy project. We hope to have this installed in early spring.

Chris Gehlbach reported that youth group attendance has been down this year and there are five to seven children in Sunday school.

Mary Ann reported that the Christmas walk was not well attended this year and it was not well publicized this year. Only two members of the youth group attended. We will be hosting the reception after Lessons and Carols this year. There will be a Twelfth Night Party on January 6. The evening will begin with Epiphany Mass and a potluck dinner after the service. Mary Ann also reminded everyone that all annual reports should be sent to the office by January 13 in order for everything to be printed and handed out January 24. The annual meeting will be held on January 31 with a potluck after the meeting. Meat and beverages will be provided for the dinner.

Father Michael declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with the Grace.

The next Vestry meeting will be January 20, 2009 at 6:00 pm.

ST. LUKE'S VESTRY & STAFF

The Rev'd Michael Greene, Rector

Mary Ann Rhoades, Senior Warden
& Financial Secretary

David Mueller, Junior Warden

Bob Bell

Tanya Brooks

Chris Gehlbach

Luke Nelson

Sarah Nelson

Tammy Predny

Ruth Rendleman, Historian

Anna Battaglia Hendrix, Sunday
School

Laura Crawford, Youth Minister

Ben Beaman, Sexton

Jim Brown, Groundskeeper

Arthur Felts, Organist &
Choirmaster

Randy Karstens, Organist &
Technician

January Milestones:

Birthdays:

1 Kate Barber	8 Janice Richards	24 Phyllis Heckman
2 Caryl Utley	8 Roxy Almassy	24 Eligh Barton
2 Lanna Brown	12 Miki Fleming	26 Beth Brooks
3 Meridith Knudson	13 Deaaron Wiilson	29 Liz Nagy
4 Bernadette Hambley	20 Beverly Halford	29 Sara Smith
6 Joseph Beilke	22 Joyce U Gibson	30 Penny Crowe
6 Emily Vivian	23 Harry Brooks	30 Don Delp
	31 Tom Gehlbach	

Book Club News

Book Club will celebrate six years of good reading, lively discussions, and enjoyable times with a birthday party on Tuesday, January 19. We'll discuss *Ordinary Heroes* by **Scot Turow** and order dinner brought in. . Anyone who loves to read and enjoys lively discussions [sometimes even about the books!] is welcome to join us. Even if you can't come to the meetings, but have a suggestion about a book you have enjoyed, please share that with us!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of the People: This month's special prayer intentions:

For the Anglican Communion: We pray for the Anglican Communion and the Dioceses of Aberdeen & Orkney, Scotland; Algoma, Ontario, Canada; Antananarivo, Indian Ocean; and Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil.

For our Diocesan family: We pray for the Congregations in the Aurora Deanery and for the Junior High Youth and Youth Ministers attending New Beginnings in January; as well as for our Companion dioceses of SE Mexico and Renk.

For the sick and those in need of healing: Lowell Albee, Inga Albee, Tokuko Albee, Will Stephenson, Patsy Nelson, Stephen Michael, Mary Borchardt, Jim Fleming, Gabriel McCoy, Nicole Cortez-Turner, Donna Cortez, Patrick Bryson, Kristina, Fred Knudson, Fred Helmstetter, Cassidy

For the Homebound: Miki Fleming, Connie Utley, Rudy Goede, Mary Louise Fredette

For the Guidance of the Holy Spirit: Emma, Ray Trujillo, Mary Ann, Kristina

For those in the military: All our service men and women, especially Will Gibson, Jacob Alander, Zach Walls, Justin Van Ommesen, David Turner

Faithfully Departed: Patti Emmole, Lukas Kelly, Lynda Pavesich, John Hambley, Monica Steeb, Leah Swartz, Lucy Bates Shaw, and Hubert "Pete" Howell

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Acolytes, Ushers, Coffee Hour Hosts, Lectors, Sunday School Assts. and others)

Please **mark the date you will NOT be able to serve** in February and return this slip to the Church **by January 24** or e-mail stlukedixon@comcast.net

February Dates:

Names

_____ 7 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	_____
_____ 14 Last Sunday after Epiphany	_____
_____ 17 Ash Wednesday	_____
_____ 21 First Sunday in Lent	_____
_____ 28 Second Sunday in Lent	_____

January 2010 Rota						
	Chalice Bearer/ Servers	Lector	Usher/ Greeter	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour Fellowship	
Jan. 3	CR: Jim Love CB/TR: Gail Greene TR: Jake Nelson	Kathryn Esgar	Bob & Judy Bell	Kathryn Esgar & Gail Greene	Mary Ann Rhoades & Joyce U Gibson	
Jan. 6 Epiphany Wed. 6 p.m. Mass & Potluck	CB/CR: Mary Ann Rhoades TH: Brad Linboom TR: Deb Davey & Jo Davey	Ken McLean	David Mueller & Tanya Brooks	Kathryn Esgar & Gail Greene		
Jan. 10 Baptism of Our Lord & Birthday Party	CB/CR: Judy Bell TH: Luke Nelson TR: Jo Davey & Bailey Bridge	Gary Gehlbach	Chris & Gary Gehl- bach	Mary Ann Rhoades	Bob & Judy Bell	
Jan. 17	CB: Deb Davey CR: Brad Linboom TR: Gail Greene	Johanna Berman	Meridith Knudsen & Mary Lowe	Cathy Pavesich	Father Mike & Hope Greene	
Jan. 24	CB: Luke Nelson CR: Claire Etchison TR: Annie Etchison	Mary Ann Rhoades	Mary Ann Rhoades & David Mueller	Kathryn Esgar & Gail Greene	Sarah & Kurt Nelson	
Jan. 31	CB: Ray Trujillo CR: Jim Love TR: Mary Ann Rhoades	Vi McLean	Vi & Ken McLean	Mary Ann Rhoades	Annual Meeting Potluck Dinner Vestry Hosts & Clean-Up	

Code: CB = Chalice Bearer; CR = Crucifer; TH = Thurifer; TR = Torchbearers

Please remember:

Find a replacement if you cannot serve, call the office with any changes, and come 15 minutes early!

Thank You for your service!

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAY SCHEDULE 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour, Undercroft 5:30 p.m. Chant Service			CODE: E = Eells Room U = Undercroft		1 Holy Name Mass, 6 p	2
SUNDAY 3 SCHEDULE HEALING SERVICE Red Bowl	4 M P 9 a E P 5 p Rotary, noon	5 MP 9 a E P 5 p Mass 12:15 p.m. TOPS, E, 5 p.m.	6 M P 9 a E P 5 p 6:00 p.m. Mass & 12 th Night Party	7 MP 9 a E P 5 p 5:30 p. Mass, supper & Bible Study	8	9
SUNDAY 10 SCHEDULE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JANUARY BIRTHDAY PARTY	11 M P 9 a E P 5 p Rotary, noon	12 M P 9 a E P 5 p Mass, 12:15 pm TOPS, E, 5 p.m.	13 M P 9 a E P 5 p Healing Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Youth Group	14 M P 9 a E P 5 p 5:30 p Mass, Supper & Bible study	15	16 Women's Prayer Breakfast 9:30 a. River's Edge
SUNDAY 17 SCHEDULE Rector's Discretionary Fund	18 MP 9 a E P 5 p Rotary, noon PFLAG, 7,E Youth Ski trip	19 M P 9 a E P 5 p No Mass today TOPS, E, 5 p.m. Book Club, 7	20 MP 9 a E P 5 p Healing Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Youth Group Vestry, 6 p	21 M P 9 a E P 5 p No Mass	22	23
SUNDAY 24 SCHEDULE	25 M P 9 a E P 5 p Rotary, noon PFLAG, 7, E	26 M P 9 a E P 5 p No Mass TOPS, E, 5 p.m.	27 M P 9 a E P 5 p No Mass Youth Group	28 M P 9 a E P 5 p 5:30 p Mass, Supper & Bible study	29	30
SUNDAY 31 SCHEDULE ANNUAL MTNG & DINNER						



January
2010

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE REV'D MICHAEL GREENE, RECTOR

221 West Third Street
P. O. Box 494
Dixon IL 61021

WEB SITE:

STLUKEDIXON.ORG

▪ Office Hours:

Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tel. & Fax: 815-288-2151

E-mail:

stlukedixon@comcast.net

St. Luke's Schedule of Services

Monday through Thursday:

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.

Evening Prayer, 5 p.m.

Sunday Services:

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. Bible Study, Undercroft

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

followed by coffee and fellowship

5:30 p.m. Chant service

Daily masses: Tuesday at 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

followed by coffee and fellowship

Thursday at 5:30 p.m., followed by supper and Bible Study