The Salem County Episcopalian



April 2023



Celebrant: "Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?"

People: "I will with God's help."

As Episcopalians, we affirm the connection between what we say and what we do, between word and example, between speech and deed. When it comes to practice, though, we typically say yes to example, yes to deed, but no to word, or, at best, maybe to word. We are reticent in verbalizing our faith in Jesus to others. Our reluctance to put into words our love of Jesus and how others may come to know that love is due to the baggage that is attached to the word "evangelism."

Woven within our Baptismal Covenant is the promise we will share our faith with others. This is called 'Evangelism.' This word may has a lot of baggage for many of us. It does for me: intrusive fundamentalists knocking on doors or standing on street corners and telling anyone who is listening that their version of the gospel and their church are acceptable to God. Televangelists who seem more concerned with raising money for themselves than with the welfare of their flock. Telling rather than listening. Arrogance and imposition rather than humility and affirmation. This is part of the reticence, I believe, we feel about verbalizing the good news of God in Christ in actual speech. Nonetheless, this is a promise we make before God and the Church to share with others by word and example the Good News of the Gospel.

"Evangelism" comes from the Greek word "evangelia."
"Ev" means well and "angelia" means tidings.
Evangelism means "good news" or "good tidings." The word evangelism has 'angel' in the middle of it. In the

Bible, angels were God's messengers. Like Angels, we don't have to stand on street corners to proclaim the good news. Instead, we start within our congregation before taking it elsewhere. We can be quiet and unassuming. We welcome visitors. We say, "Good Morning. I'm glad you're here," to those who are new. We can hand out bulletins with a smile.

Evangelism is, simply, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The Great Commission commands us to go into the world with this good news: Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Mt. 28:19-20).

Growing up, I was taught a formula on how to evangelize – a script, so to speak, of how to "win" others to Jesus. It was easy as A B C. A = Acknowledge you are a sinner. B = Believe that Jesus Christ died for you. C = Confess that Jesus is Lord. Then I was taught a prayer to lead others in receiving Jesus Christ as their savior. We weren't shown how to develop relationships with those we 'evangelized' or demonstrate our love through acts of service. It was to 'save' as many as possible then leave the discipleship of new Christians to someone else.

I no longer subscribe to this formulaic view of evangelism. Our Lord tells us that the world will know we are his disciples by our love. He says in the Gospel of Mark, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these" (Mk 12:30-31). Love of our neighbor is how we demonstrate our love for God.

(cont. on p 2)

(Rector's Desk continued)

The love we have for God is lived out by our love for our neighbor. I believe that the best way we can share Jesus with other people is by loving them with whatever means possible.

If that means we need to feed our food insecure neighbors, we do it. If that means we finding ways to help our neighbors find better options for public transportation in Salem, then we do it. If that means partnering in a ministry, like Lighthouse Ministries, that love the youth of the city through tutoring, summer camps, and skill building, then we do it! If that means getting up from our pews on Sundays to welcome a visitor, we do it. If that means getting up from your table of friends at coffee hour to make a connection with newcomers, then we do it!

As Episcopalians, we believe that evangelism is sharing the Good News of God's transforming love in Jesus Christ. At St. John's, there is no better way of proclaiming God's love than by showing it. Evangelism is building relationships with people and sharing the good news through that relationship. We also believe that God is already present and active in Salem and the communities we find ourselves in. Relying on the Holy Spirit, our job is to reflect the love of Jesus by what we do. God will give us the words to say. It is in the doing those others notice this love. Our invitation to friendship begins a relationship with others where we articulate God's love in the person of Jesus Christ through care and concern.

We must engage in evangelism. This is a promise we have made: to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. God has been so good to us. God's love has been showered upon us by grace. We have so much to thank God for. Out of our gratitude to God, we are to then share that love generously with everyone we encounter.

Happy Easter!

7ather Chuck

From St. Luke's Vicar

This is the Holy Week service schedule for St. Luke's 2023:

Holy Week Worship Schedule:

Palm Sunday April 2, 10:00 a.m.

Tenebrae April 5, 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday April 6, 7 p.m.

Good Friday April 7, Cross Walk with

Community churches, noon

Vigil of Easter April 8, St. John's Church, Salem

6 pm

Easter Sunday April 9, 10:00 a.m. with Easter

Egg Hunt right after

April begins with Holy Week this year. Easter, a Christian holiday, is a "movable feast" meaning the day does not have to fall on the same day each year as opposed to a fixed holiday like Christmas. The days before Easter Sunday are also celebrated by Christian institutions commemorating the days leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During this time, we follow Jesus' journey to the cross and commemorate it with these services. The first commemoration is Tenebrae.

We celebrate this service of shadows on Wednesday evening at 7 pm during Holy Week here at St. Luke's.

Jesus would take on the sins of the world—past, present, and future. He would cry out as He hung in humiliation (Philippians 2:8)As , "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46). It was truly a dark, possibly the darkest hour of mankind. This darkness (shadows) is defined in Latin as *tenebris*, from which we derive the name for the commemoration called Tenebrae. The week we call Holy is one that includes Christ's agony among the gnarled olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, directly opposite the Temple Mount.

(cont. on p 3)

(St. Luke's Vicar continued)

Tenebrae was, in its origin, to take place during a Good Friday service. All observances are a means of remembrance of what Christ endured during the last week before His glorious Resurrection.

Jesus spent time in Gethsemane with His disciples after their last supper together in the Upper Room (Matthew 26:17-19, Mark 14:12-16, Luke 22:7-38). Luke records Jesus prayed so gravely that, "His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground" (Luke 22:44). And yet with great love, during that crucial period, He invested intimate time with His disciples. He encouraged them and modeled sacrificial obedience.

Jesus underwent the agony of Gethsemane, Judas' betrayal, trials involving false witnesses, accusations by the Jewish religious leaders, horrid scourging and public mockery, Peter's denial, carrying the crossbeam of the instrument of His death through taunting crowds, and finally, death on the cross. As Jesus hung on the cross, darkness filled the environs for the three hours leading to His death and, at His last breath, an earthquake ensued, and the curtain of the temple tore from top to bottom. Tenebrae, therefore, is a solemn time of reflection both on Jesus' sacrifice and on our hearts for Him. To honor His sacrifice, we solemnize His days before being lifted on the cross (John 12:32).

Interesting elements of some Tenebrae event are: A "hearse" of candles which are extinguished one by one during the course of the ceremony. The candelabra is called a hearse because it represents Jesus' travail toward Calvary. The loud slam of books (strepitus) when only the last candle remains burning (hidden behind the altar) connotes either the earthquake that

occurred when Jesus breathed His last (Matthew 27:51) or the closing of the tomb. After complete darkness, the one candle at the top ("Christ's candle") of the "hearse" is displayed, signifying Jesus' Resurrection.

Believers are fraught with the difficulty of acknowledging the torture Jesus suffered in our stead. We feel unworthy and chastened. Yet hope re-awakens as we ponder His Resurrection and the new life we have because of His atoning work on the cross.

Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, takes place on the Thursday before Easter Sunday. In the Christian faith, Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Christ.

The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin word for commandment, "Mandatum." This reflects Jesus' words "A new commandment I give unto you" that he spoke to the Apostles after washing their feet at the Last Supper as a sign of hospitality and purification. Maundy is used in reference to a ritual foot washing.

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday. The day commemorates the crucifixion of Christ, who is believed in the Christian faith to have died for the sins of humanity. The day is also known as Great Friday and Holy Friday. At St. Luke's, we commemorate this day by walking the Cross Walk with the other churches of Woodstown, stopping at intervals for prayer and singing. We start at the Asbury Methodist Church on S. Main and end up at Marlton Park for a short communal service.

The day before Easter Sunday is Holy Saturday, a day Christians remember the entombment of Christ. Holy Saturday is also known as Great Saturday and the Easter Vigil. Traditionally, the congregation of St. Luke's goes to St. John's to celebrate the Vigil.

Western Christianity celebrates their Easter usually one to two weeks ahead of Eastern Christianity's

Orthodox Easter. This is due to the difference in calendar years used by the faiths. Christians use the Gregorian Calendar meaning their Easter falls on a Sunday within March 22 and April 25. The Gregorian calendar was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 based on reformation of the vernal equinox. Orthodox Christians use the Julian Calendar, which is about 13 days longer than the Gregorian Calendar. The Julian Calendar was started by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C. basing the calendar off the sun.

This year, after Easter, Mother Antoinette will be having knee replacement surgery on April 18. The first two Sundays of her absence will be celebrated by Deacon Sally Maurer. If all goes well, Mother A will be able to have a service (possibly seated!) by May 14...May 21, surely. Then the second knee surgery is tentatively scheduled for May 30. Please keep Mother A and the people of St. Luke's in your prayers as we go through this together. The parish leaders will be called upon to lead Morning Prayer on several Sundays.

Mother Autoinette



Seven Statements of Jesus on the Cross



Now that we are winding down our Lenten Journey, we should take a moment to reflect upon how well we did in keeping to our commitment during this season. Did we sneak a piece of chocolate into our diet or skip

some days of not reading the Word of God as we promised? Has our hunger grown for those earthly desires that we temporarily refrained from or did our appetite for spiritual food increase?

When we study {not just read) the Bible, one of the patterns we notice is that seven appears quite frequently from Genesis with the seven days of creation all the way through to Revelation with the seven churches, seven golden lampstands, the scroll with the seven seals, etc. Seven is God's number of completeness and perfection (both physical and spiritual).

As we draw closer to Good Friday how are we going to look upon the cross that our Lord and Savior was nailed to? No parent wants to see their children suffer or die before they do. Yet this is what God called upon Mary to do as she stood there helpless watching her son die an excruciating and humiliating death. Although we may not fully understand why we all face one form or another of suffering, we do know that Jesus (although sinless) had to face it for our salvation.

While hanging on the cross and bearing the burdens for our many sins, Jesus uttered the following seven statements:

In Luke. 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. The declaration of their need for forgiveness makes it clear that they were guilty, despite their ignorance. With their ignorance they can be forgiven, otherwise they would suffer the wrath of God. We willingly and rebelliously commit some sins; while others we are entirely unaware of.

In Luke 23:43. "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise. Prior to the resurrection, God had a place where He kept the spirits of the forgiven dead. He called that place Paradise. Now according to the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor 5:8 to be absent from the body we will be present with the Lord.

In John 19:26-27, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman,

(cont. on p 5)

(Warden's Words continued)

behold your son," and to John, his beloved disciple, he said, "Behold your mother." While these verses show how Jesus cared for His mother, it does more than that. It shows how Jesus is forming a new family from all those who will trust in him.

In Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? As Jesus hangs near death, He cries out the words of Psalm 22:1. Jesus bears the full wrath of God for our sins.

John 19:28 says "I thirst." The apostle John links Jesus' statement "I thirst" to the fulfillment of Scripture in Psalm 22:15 "My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death."

John 19:30 says "It is finished." This means that the work God sent Jesus to do is finally and fully complete. There is nothing left for us to do other than to receive the benefits of this work, to put our faith in the one who offered his life as a sacrifice for our sin.

Luke 23:46 says Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. Jesus entrusted His Spirit to God and we should do the

Because of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, we can confidently trust Him, knowing our sins are forgiven and by this Gospel we are saved.

Henry Herrera



From The Deacon's Bench

I'm glad I live in a region that has seasons. There is a rhythm to life with the change in seasons that you cannot appreciate if you live in climates where there is not much change between winter and summer. Spring is my favorite season – I love to watch plants and flowers emerge from their winter hibernation and grow into beautiful adornment.

Many years ago, when I had a particularly stressful job, I completely missed the all too brief blooming of my lilac bush. It was planted against a garage, directly in front of where I parked my car. One day, I came home from work while it was still light out and realized that the flowers were gone and only greenery remained. I sat in my car and cried. What in the world was I doing that I didn't even notice? I swore that would never happen again and so far, I have kept that oath.

Sometimes, we are so busy, so wrapped up in our day to day lives that we miss the small things – the opportunities just to see God's glory all around us. For clergy, the next couple of weeks will be extremely stressful, paying attention to details for several different services, all of which have meaning as we journey with Jesus to His Resurrection. It is even hard to plan because we almost have to walk through each day and then think through what needs to be changed, added, removed for the next service. So many small details to bring meaning to this walk from Palm Sunday to Easter.

This time last year, I was recovering from a stem cell transplant. I got permission from the Dr to return to church for Palm Sunday. It wasn't easy but I could not imagine not being part of Holy Week and everything that means to me. I'm so glad that I got to be a part of that journey. Easter was a little later than it is this year and little did I know that on Easter Monday my father would leave us and be with his Jesus! Many other things happened in 2022, mostly I'd just like to wipe that year off my calendar, but here we are, beginning Spring, preparing for Easter and hopefully stopping to take in God's beauty all around us.

For all of us, I hope that we can take each day of Holy Week for what it means. Palm Sunday, with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus reaches the culmination of His ministry here on earth. Yet the day

(cont. on p 6)

(Deacon's Bench continued)

turns quickly somber as we read the Passion Gospel – setting the stage for the week to come.

On Wednesday, we are invited to join St. Luke's for a service of Tenebrae, an ancient service where we recount all the lamentations and gradually extinguish candles until we have complete darkness and a loud noise to harrowing of hell.

On Thursday, we commemorate the institution of the Holy Eucharist – our central worship service, the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ. Then the Sacrament is taken to the Chapel where it may be viewed and honored while in the Church, we strip everything away and create the emptiness of Good Friday.

On Good Friday, we watch with centuries of believers as Jesus sacrifices His life on a cross for our salvation. The sanctuary is starkly bare, the reserve sacrament is administered and everything is consumed. There is a great emptiness.

At the Easter Vigil, we recreate the ancient tradition of the early followers who had to worship in secret, with new converts to the faith having been under instruction and prepared for Baptism. We recount God's faithfulness to His people through the generations and we renew our own Baptismal vows in a darkened peaceful chapel and then we make our way into the Sanctuary to celebrate Easter for the first time this year.

Then we have the Sunday of the Resurrection! Easter is here, a great time for celebration and joy – the Alleluias are back, the Church is adorned with flowers and beauty. Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!

May we be blessed as we make this journey ourselves; may we see Jesus in all His triumphant glory!

Deacon Sally Maurer



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist

April 2, 8:00 am. (St. John's) April 2, 9:00 am. (St. George's) April 2, 10:00 am. (St. Luke's) April 2, 10:30 am. (St. John's)

Tenebrae April 5, 7 pm. (St. Luke's)

Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist
April 6, 7 p.m. (St. John's)
April 6, 7 p.m. Washing of the Feet;
Stripping of the Altar (St. Luke's)

Good Friday April 7, 11:15 am Stations of the Cross (St. George's)

April 7, Noon, Cross Walk with Woodstown Community churches, (St. Luke's)

April 7, Noon, Holy Eucharist with Reserved Sacrament (St. George's)

Vigil of Easter April 8, 6 pm. Holy Eucharist (St. John's)

Easter Sunday April 9, 8 am (St. John's)
April 9, 9:00 am. (St. George's)
April 9, 10:00 a.m. (St. Luke's)
with Easter Egg Hunt following
April 9, 10:30 am (St. John's)
with Easter Egg Hunt following



St. John's News



4/3 Amy Vanderveer

4/4 Jimmira Trinidad

4/8 Liam Dyer

4/8 Sarah VanSant

4/9 Laurie Bailey

4/14 Lil Man Torres

4/15 Suzanne Schultz-Maloney

4/21 Carlos DeJesus

4/24 Larry Owen

4/26 Xavier Lewis

4/30 Ayana Torres

4/7 Tyler and Sarah Van Sant

4/10 Bill Pankonien and Peggy Fittabile

4/11 David and Eileen Miller

4/19 Evelyn and Jimmy Trinidad

4/25 Joe and Judy Kimber



We need help to 'flower' the church and chapel for Easter. It takes a lot of work to make them look good every Easter. Usually Amy Schwarz heads it up, but she

is not able to do it this year. Please volunteer a few hours of your day on Saturday, April 8 starting at 10 am to be a part of this important ministry. Pizza will be served after we are done.



After Easter, we will begin a study on John. Books have been ordered and will be available shortly. There will be no Bible

Study during Holy Week (come to the Maundy Thursday service at 7 pm). There will also be no Bible Study on April 20.



St. John's is in need of people to step up and help set up (before) and clean up (after) coffee hour each week. You would be responsible for arranging for the

items to serve, setting things up, and cleaning up after. Once a month we have Birthday Sunday (1st Sunday-cupcakes are provided) and Sandwich Sunday (when Vestry has a meeting). For more information and to volunteer, please see Eileen Miller or Father Chuck.



We pray for those who serve in our military, especially:

Christine Canino, US Navy Lt. Col. Peter Larrabee, USAF

Senior Master Sgt. David John Milne, USAF Major Tyler Patrick VanSant, USAF Captain Joseph Flescher III, USAF Captain Marlene (Flescher) Myers, USAF 2nd Lt. Michael McCormick, US Army George (Bud) May, US Army Christopher Phifer, Captain, USMC



St. John's Prayer List April 2023

Helen & Jim Acton Frances Ames Suzanne Pankonian George Neff **I**anice Anna Hiller Carol Bacon Gail Boyd Pat Major Sally Maurer Francine Peterson George Joseph Peterson, Jr. Joseph Bill Fox Iim Michele Pfeffer Elaine Pfeffer Brenda & Bill Gaunt Rich Frieze Eric Kates John Ensslen Susan Ewan

The Kamera Family Joel Norton
Emma Messer Andrew & Judy Bill Clisham
Beth T. Steph Miller Karen Shuler
Margaret Hancock Peggy Fittable Amy Schwarz



Holy Eucharist PALM SUNDAY 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's HOLY WEEK	3	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 9 am Quilters SJ 7 pm NA SJ	5 Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 7 pm Tenebrae SL 8 pm AA SJ	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 7 pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist SJ 7 pm Eucharist SL	7 GOOD FRIDAY 11:15 am Stations of the Cross SG Noon Cross Walk SL Noon Good Friday Eucharist SG	8 6 pm Easter Vigil m SJ
9 Holy Eucharist EASTER 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's	10	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 7 pm NA SJ	12 Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist SL Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	13 8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	14	15
Holy Eucharist 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's	17	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 9 am Quilters SJ 7 pm NA SJ	Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ No Bible Study at St. John's	21	Tea Time St. George's 2-4 pm \$20/person Contact Bonnie 609-420-1400
Holy Eucharist 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's	24	25 8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 7 pm NA SJ	26 Noon Holy Eucharist SJ 8 pm AA SJ	8 am Yoga- Parish Hall SJ 6:30 Bible Study with Potluck Dinner SJ	28 Activities are	29
Holy Eucharist 8 am St. John's 9 am St. George's 10 am St. Lukes 10:30 am St. John's					held in the following churches: SG-St. George's SL-St. Luke's SJ-St. John's	



It's Tea Time

St. George's Church Pennsville, NJ 08070

April 22, 2023 2:00 – 4:00 \$20.00 per person

Call to Reserve Your Table Today
Bonnie Davis
609-420-1400
Great food & Prizes

St. John's Episcopal Church

76 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079

Sunday 8 am & 10:30 am

Wednesday Noon

Parish Office: 856-935-1798 E-Mail: stjohnssalemnj@comcast.net

Rector: The Rev'd Charles Messer

856-935-1798 (office) 610-800-8795 (cell)

frchuckmesser@gmail.com slarrabee@comcast.net

Deacon: The Rev'd Sally Maurer Facebook: St. John's Salem

856-769-1409 (h)

856-297-2385 (cell) Website: St. John's Salem

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Services

Services

Sunday 10 am

37-39 E. Grant Street, Woodstown, NJ 08098

Wednesday 10 am

Parish Office: 856-472-1501 E-Mail: stlukeswoodstownnj@gmail.com

856-472-1501 (office)

stlukessupply@gmail.com

Facebook: St. Luke's Woodstown

Website: St. Luke's Woodstown

St. George's Episcopal Church

Vicar: The Rev'd Antoinette Tackkett

Services

Sunday 9 am

3 Church Landing Road, Pennsville, NJ 08070

Parish Office: (856) 678-7979

Deacon: The Rev'd Sally Maurer 856-769-1409 (h) 856-297-2385 (cell)

slarrabee@comcast.net

Facebook: St. George's, Pennsville

Website: St. George's, Pennsville



The Salem County Episcopalian c/o St. John's Episcopal Church 76 Market Street Salem, NJ 08079

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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