Rector’s Remarks

The Easter Message this year was, “They found the Body.” Of course, Jesus’ body was not found in the tomb on Easter Day; this was a great frustration to the authorities of the day, and continues as one of the Dateline Mysteries to this day.

On the other hand, we were all invited to look around and “find the Body” in our midst! We found a lot of “little Jesus’s,” and we found the Body of Jesus Christ right here! Alleluia!

We also “found the Body” elsewhere. The people of St. Luke’s brought in over 1200 pairs of socks for the foot-washing ceremony and foot clinic at the Denver Rescue Mission that was held on Good Friday. Our modest goal was 600 pairs, and we doubled it, and more! We saw that our socks would be on Jesus’ feet that day. We understood that the Body of Jesus was ministering to the Body of Jesus in the way we shared the care.

The sock drive was a small, but very tangible, example of how we find the Body of Jesus Christ in so many people and places. The Daughters of the King are sponsoring a Toy Drive through the Easter Season, as well, and our gifts will be taken to Denver Health to be shared with children there.

We speak of finding Jesus in “the least, the last, and the lost.” The feet of Denver’s homeless; the children at Denver Health – we have, indeed, found Jesus there. Alleluia!

I think the most remarkable place we find Jesus, though, is in ourselves. We have been so conditioned to think of ourselves as sinners in the hands of an angry God, to quote Jonathan Edwards, a Puritan preacher in the Great Awakening of the 1700’s. We accept the psalmist’s assessment that, “I am a worm and no man, scorned by all and despised by the people.” (Psalm 22: 6 – the Good Friday Liturgy)

It isn’t a great leap to think that we must also be scorned and despised by God.

How refreshing to look in the mirror and realize, “I am a beloved Child of God. I am a sister or brother to Jesus Christ, and that makes me royalty.” It doesn’t take another great leap to realize, “But then, I am royalty in the midst of royalty. Jesus is found everywhere and in everyone.”

I almost typed, “He is found everywhere and in everyone if we are looking.” But that’s not true. Jesus is there even, and perhaps especially, when we aren’t looking.

The Easter Season invites us to look, and see! We have found the Body!

Alleluia!

Fr. Doug+

April Events

♦ April 2-Foyer Group Reshuffle, 6:00 pm
♦ April 9-Confirmation at St. John’s
♦ April 23-High Tea

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When I was a kid I had a vivid imagination. To be honest, I still do. I remember pretending to be a professional football player as a kid. My imagination was so wild that I would imagine entire seasons—even careers! But as I have grown up I have become somewhat ashamed of having such a vivid imagination. It seems so childish! But then Jesus did say that we should become like children didn’t he?

The truth is that imagination is something profoundly important to God’s Kingdom, and even incredibly dangerous to any Empires standing in the way of that Kingdom. As an example, look up a little information into the censorship of East Germany. Any art (work of the imagination) had to be approved by the state, because they understood the kind of power that is possible when the imagination is set loose within a community.

At Youth Group we have been exploring the Spirituality of Imagination. It has been fun to see how the youth engage their own imaginations. It has also been fun to imagine how the world might be utterly reborn as a result.

As always, all Middle and High School students are welcome to join us at Youth Group on Sundays 5-7pm! During the month of April we will be meeting in a variety of places. If you plan to join us and are not aware of where we are meeting, please feel free to send Ben an email at the address below.

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Peace.
Ben Edwards
bedwards1985@gmail.com

2016 High Tea

All St. Luke’s women are invited to attend the fourth annual High Tea, April 23rd at 2:00 p.m. Invitations are in the mail. If for some reason you didn’t receive yours, please know you are most welcome to rsvp to Fabian in the office (303-355-2331 or fabian@lukeonline.org) by April 16, and join us.

There are many opportunities for Christian fellowship in the preparation for this joyous event. Please contact Joyce Imig (joyce.imig@yahoo.com) or Cathi Long (cathi.long@ymail.com) to join this fun loving team.

Hats are the these this year. We will enjoy a vintage hat fashion show. Feel free to wear one yourself!

We have made provisions for most dietary needs. Please come and share in this annual event!
The Easter Season begins on Easter Day and lasts for 50 days, ending on Pentecost. Thus, in 2016, the Easter season begins on March 27 and ends on May 15. You will notice that the colors in church during the Easter season change from purple of Lent to white, gold, or white and gold, which are traditionally the colors of the Resurrection. Pentecost, the fiftieth day of the Easter season, commemorates the time when the apostles and other believers were gathered together in one place and were suddenly empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel. They went out into the crowds and amazed everyone by speaking in the native languages of all the people present. Red is the color of Pentecost, symbolizing fire and the Holy Spirit. The Season After Pentecost lasts from the day after Pentecost to the day before Advent. Colors are traditionally green, symbolizing the growth and life of the Church and mirroring the green, growing season of the spring, summer, and fall.

Update on Church School: In the Godly Play classes during the Easter Season, we focus on the parables of Jesus. The word parable comes from the Greek parabolē, meaning “comparison, illustration, or analogy.” Like other teachers (rabbis) of his time, Jesus used simple word-picture images, which we call parables, to illustrate a truth or lesson and help people understand God and what God’s kingdom will be like. One such lesson is the Parable of the Good Shepherd, in which the shepherd leaves his flock of 99 sheep in order to search for the one that is lost. When he comes home, he calls together his friends, family, and neighbors to rejoice with him, because the sheep that was lost has been found. The parable includes the themes of loss, searching, and rejoicing and provides an analogy of God as a shepherd searching for stray sheep, i.e., lost human beings.

Update on Adult Education: As noted last month, several interesting adult education classes are scheduled for this spring. Two classes will focus on different aspects of Celtic theology. Fr. Doug will begin a study of “Celtic Theology” on Tuesday mornings, starting at 11 a.m., beginning on March 29 and continuing through May 24. Fr. Doug will expand on this theme of Celtic spirituality by leading a discussion of “Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation,” written by J. Philip Newell, on Wednesday evenings, beginning on March 30 and continuing through May 25. On Sunday mornings between services (9-10 a.m.), in the Parish Hall, I will lead a discussion on “Excavating Jesus,” by John Dominic Crossan and Jonathan L. Reed. This intriguing book focuses on the integration of archaeological research with textual study (exegesis), to help explain the world in which Jesus lived. Can we truly “excavate” Jesus? Join us on Sunday mornings to learn the answer to that question.
What is a LICA??

You know the tendency...we abbreviate things to save time and sound cool and somewhere during the life of the acronym, people lose the ability to know what we’re talking about! It can be annoying, especially if you’re new and don’t know the local jargon!

LICA stands for Lector, Intercessor, Chalice Administrator and Acolyte. The people who participate in this ministry are on the altar Sunday’s assisting with the service. They read the lessons, they serve the wine at communion time and they assist the clergy in preparing and clearing the elements before and after communion. It is a very rewarding ministry and one we hope that you may have an interest in joining.

If you are interested in what’s involved in the LICA group, let us hear from you. It takes some training, and it might be sort of intimidating at first, but the LICA team is very helpful and supportive, and would love to work with you. Contact Larry Wood at: lawrenceg.wood@gmail.com or call the office 303-355-2331 or e-mail Fabian at: fabian@lukeonline.org and we’ll see that you get connected with the group. You’ll meet great folks, get to know the congregation better, get to wear a very styling robe and cross, and be part of the cool group who know just what ‘LICA’ means!

Prayer Shawl Ministry: A Proposal

Submitted by Lucille Reilly

As my knitting needles click between services on Sunday mornings over coffee, a few parishioners have approached me about starting up a Prayer Shawl Ministry. The implications of a prayerfully hand-knitted piece are far reaching, both to those who make them and those who receive them. (And does anyone realize that the first knitters were men.?!)

Interested in stitching? Flag me down at church or give me a call by Wednesday, April 20. We’ll meet shortly thereafter to define and launch this ministry.

Photo Directory Coming...Head’s Up!

Many folks have expressed a desire to have another photo directory, and we listened. We have scheduled Bettinger’s Photography (a local company) to come and take our photos the last of August. We will be letting you know the particulars over the summer; what to wear, when to sign up and how, that sort of thing. We will also welcome anyone who would like to assist with the 3 day shoot in staffing the sign in tables and making parishioners feel comfortable.

We also want to know some information from the congregation, such as what phone number would you like listed, the proper spelling of names, etc.

Be on the lookout for more information coming in the form of bulletin announcements, posters, and sign up/information tables over the next months. We want this to be a great experience for everyone and a useful tool for our members.
Administrative Transition

Fabian Gilchrist  
Parish Administrator

The transition from Parish Administrator to parishioner will be a big one for me. I began my work as administrator in 1998, and at the end of 18 years, I will transition into retirement. Scary stuff!!

The plan came into being with the advent of the 5 Year Plan. At that time, I picked my date, and it seemed a long way off; now it’s almost here! November 1st will be my end date as administrator.

The succession plan has been carefully thought out, and is in place to begin formally on October 1st. Two gentlemen, Mike Kallas and Mike LeClaire, will take over the financial and administrative duties respectively at that time. The training will begin much sooner than that, with Mike LeClaire coming in over the summer to learn the administrative side of things and take over the duties of that ministry in October. Mike recently retired from Channel 7 television as their head cameraman, and is ready for another challenge. Although he has little experience with church administration, he has a passion for the people and place of St. Luke’s and will give the church a stable, and thoughtful presence.

Mike Kallas has been one of my mentors since I came into this position in 1998. He, at that time, was the administrator of St. John’s Cathedral and is currently serving as administrator for Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School in Aurora. He is very familiar with our computer program and knows church accounting and finances well. Both Mikes will work on a part time basis for St. Luke’s, making sure that the reports, record-keeping, communications, scheduling and financials are kept in order. They are both very capable men, and I know that St. Luke’s will be left in good hands.

I would like to take a moment of personal privilege, not to say goodbye, but to say thanks to the people who have made my service here a rewarding, challenging and very satisfying experience. They have guided, instructed, and chastised me into wanting to do my best for St. Luke’s. Hopefully I have come close. I will continue to bless these people in my prayers, and treasure the time that I have spent with each of you. Fr. Doug says that he wants a celebration of my time here in October. It’s a bit awkward for me, because I’m not planning to leave St. Luke’s. I hope to continue to worship here as a parishioner. I do plan to take a couple of months off to gain my bearings and have a rest.

I know that the parish will welcome both Mikes, and treat them as kindly as I have been treated for these past years. Thank you all for allowing me inside your lives, and for letting me walk this journey with you. Let’s have some great times before November!!
Our Mission

“To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Jesus Christ.”

St. Luke’s Staff:
The Rev. Dr. Douglas R. Dunn, Rector
The Rev. Sandy Blake, Assisting Priest
Thomas Strickland, Director of Music Ministries
Fabian Gilchrist, C.C.A., Parish Administrator
Suzanne Bady, Bulletin Coordinator
Bob Blatherwick, Director of Worship Ministries
Dr. Gordon Tucker, Jr., Director of Christian Formation
Ben Edwards, Youth Director
Laura Olivanti, Nursery Supervisor

Phone 303-355-2331  Fax 303-355-5388

Service Times:

Sunday  7:45 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
        9:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Coffee Time
        5-7 p.m. Youth Group (Joshua Station)

Tuesday  9:30 a.m. Contemplative Prayer
          10:00 a.m. Worship

Wednesday  6:00 p.m. Worship
           6:30 p.m. Simple Supper
           7:00 p.m. Study: “Christ of the Celts”

Do you have information to share with the Parish? Is there a special celebration coming up in your life? Get it into the office by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Lark.

The Lark is Published Monthly