



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

November 2020

Where We Are Right Now

Dear Friends,

On Saint Luke's Day, we had a very engaging discussion about our lives and our life together as Saint Luke's Church right now. I asked you "How do you feel?" and what you said sounded honest notes of worry and challenge in these disjointed times. Yet, the overarching theme was one of thanksgiving. When asked "What do you need?" your responses always took other people into consideration too. And you also showed the Saint Luke's commitment to the wider community, especially when so many people are hurting. Please take a moment to read how you all responded. Saint Luke's is rising to the challenge. We are aware of and thankful for the abundance of the Spirit in our lives and between us —

"I am grateful for the ways in which parish community is being maintained during this hard time. It helps to organize life in the confusion of the pandemic... I am lonely, living alone but the parish community keeps me going... Missing touch and face-to-face... I am 'Stressed but blessed'... 'I feel good,' to quote James Brown. I live alone. I have no biological family. But here's the good thing: Saint Luke's is my family... Embraced by a wonderful church family... I am grateful for the ZOOM connection. Before the pandemic it was difficult for me to get to church for worship and programs... I am grateful for Father Tom's multi-faceted approach to parish life during the pandemic: Sunday worship in-building and on ZOOM as well as Tuesday Tea, Wednesday Morning Prayer, Bible Study program, Saint Luke Talks... I am anxious, slightly, about the nation, the pandemic, my life; but at least we have these moments of solace and support that uplift my week... I am sad, a little: thinking of All Saints and that our son can't be baptized yet... I am grateful but anxious. I realize others are in the same boat....

I am so tired; pandemic shutdowns have tired me out... I am astonishingly grateful. So many people are suffering. Times are difficult but I have a heightened sense and appreciation for the beauty of this earth... I am thankful for Deacon Joe's presence and assistance... I am thankful. People who are far away from Saint Luke's are once again close because of our online connection... I am awed by the new things we have discovered in this time... I am re-focused; scaling back during the pandemic has been good for me."

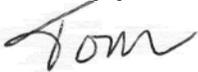
The conversation then moved to a sharing of what is needed in our life together as we go forward. Many of you responded that we need more of what has been holding us together and inspiring us during this time: Worship, including music: "We need Bill's organ playing and the choir's singing so much;" Bible Study "that applies the scripture to the actual conditions of our lives right now — addressing our anxiety and stress and helping us to adopt/have a perspective that puts us on good footing;" Book/Discussion Group, a discussion group on Racism and Social Justice; We need more Fellowship events, if possible: "What creative ways can we spend time with each other?" And, speaking of possibilities, it was also asked if there might be a safe way to do a version of our Annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale — both as a productive activity but also to fund our outreach. We need to continue working at being connected for Parish Care with all our members, young and old. "Are any parishioners in need of help with food shopping or meals?" "How can we reach our families with children who might be burnt out with online learning?" "Can we have an update on the safety protocols regarding Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals taking place in the church building?"

We closed our forum with a discussion of what Saint Luke's can be and do for the wider community and you were very clear:

- Queens Community House Food Scarcity program support (volunteer and financial contributions)
- Queens Community House Emergency Food Pantry support (in-kind non-perishable food donations)
- A Saint Luke's Thanksgiving Outreach Fundraiser—either the Thanksgiving Pie Sale, if there can be a safe version, or just a mini-financial donation drive that meets a need in our area.
- Study program on Racism & Social Justice open to deanery and/or networked with interfaith community.
- Enhancing our "Digital Church" Platform both for inviting the wider community but also making it easy for them to access worship and programs
- The Tangible. ZOOM is hard for me. I need in-building worship, sacred music and Holy Eucharist.

Now, is there anything else you can think of? Please send me your thoughts and comments (stlukestom@gmail.com). Together, we are serving each other in Christ's Name; and together we can be in the larger community serving Christ's love with people in need.

Faithfully yours,



STEWARDSHIP

***Saint Luke's 2021 Stewardship Campaign
begins November 1***

This year's annual Pledge Campaign will commence on All Saints Sunday, November 1, and concludes

with Stewardship Sunday, November 22. A mailing will be going out from the Stewardship Committee designed to stimulate our thoughts, reflection and prayer as we contemplate how we can best support our church in these trying times. To relieve pressure on the office workflow, you will be asked to send your pledge information directly to the pledge secretary, either by email or surface mail.

TEA FOR TWO – OR 4, 6, 8 OR MORE
Via ZOOM at 4:00PM Every Tuesday



Afternoon Tea is a drop-in, say-hi hour of informal fun conversation with Father Tom and your other Saint Luke's friends. If you haven't joined us before, request the ZOOM link from Father Tom stlukestom@gmail.com by Monday.

Sunday Holy Eucharist Resumes

As of All Saints Day November 1st, The Holy Eucharist with Homily and Organ takes place each Sunday at 9:00am in the church building. Masks, Social Distancing, and 25% spaced-out pew seating (34 people maximum) are COVID-19 continuing health and safety protocols.

In addition, as a cautionary measure, congregants will receive only the consecrated bread. Please be assured that receiving Holy Communion in one kind is full reception of the Sacrament. Furthermore, worshipers who, under the conditions of the pandemic, feel they are not yet ready to receive the physical element of the blessed bread do, by virtue of their presence and participation at the liturgy, truly receive the spiritual benefits of the real presence of our Risen Lord celebrated in the Holy Eucharist. You are reminded also that if you are experiencing any flu-like conditions, or even the discomfort of what you think might be a seasonable cold, you are asked to stay home until you feel better.

St. Luke's Homemade Thanksgiving Pies



Benefitting Queens Community House Pandemic Food Program

**Hand-crafted Apple, Pumpkin, Pecan or Mince pie,
SOLD FROZEN FOR YOU TO BAKE AT HOME**

Early-Bird Price: \$17 each; orders after Nov. 9: \$20 each

****MASK REQUIRED for outdoor pickup at church on Nov. 25 or 26: NO DELIVERY.****

Home-made pies for pick-up at the church on **Wednesday, November 25, 3 to 5 p.m.**, or **Thursday, November 26**, following the Thanksgiving Service at St. Luke's (10:30 am to 11 a.m.). Order forms can be sent (with your check) to St. Luke's Church, 85 Greenway South, Forest Hills, or place order by phone (718-268-6021) or e-mail (stlukesoffice@verizon.net) and pay on pick-up.

*****Order by Nov. 9 for early-bird price of \$17; late orders: \$20 (final deadline Nov. 22).*****

Thanksgiving Pie Order Form



Name: _____

Tel. (required): _____ E-mail (required): _____

Preferred pickup day/time _____



My Order:

___ Apple Pies (vegan); ___ Pumpkin Pies; ___ Mince Pies; ___ Pecan Pies

TOTAL DUE: _____

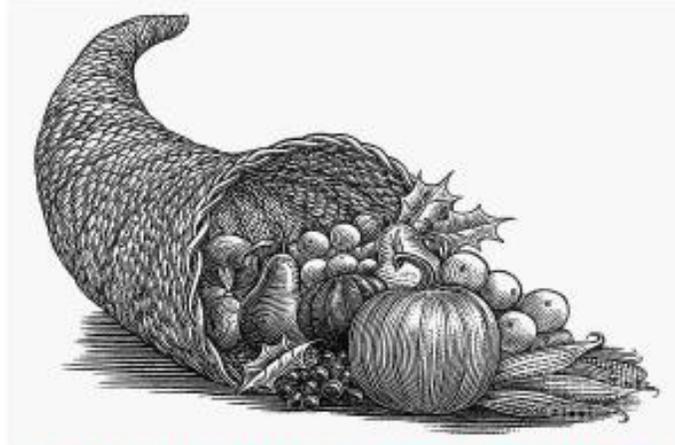
Please make check payable to St. Luke's Church with Thanksgiving Pie Sale on the memo line.

100% of proceeds from the pie orders benefit Queens Community House

Saint Luke's Church (Episcopal)

85 Greenway South
Forest Hills, New York

THANKSGIVING SERVICES



THANKSGIVING EVE PRAYERS

Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30PM via ZOOM
Call 718-268-6021 by Monday, Nov. 23
to receive the ZOOM email link

THANKSGIVING DAY HOLY EUCHARIST

Thursday, November 26 at 10:00AM *in the building*
Reservations required: call 718-268-6021 by Monday, Nov. 23
Face masks must be worn.



718-268-6021

[www/stlukesforesthills.org](http://www.stlukesforesthills.org)



RSVP deadline Sunday Holy Eucharist

Our reservation system for the Sunday 9:00am in-building liturgy continues unchanged. Email Jean Tessier jtessier1126@hotmail.com Monday-Thursday with "RSVP" on subject line for seating at the next Sunday's 9:00am service. You will receive a confirmation of seating.

RACE – FAITH - COMMUNITY

Join the conversation on ZOOM

Part 1:

**BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME
by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 7:30 to 9:00PM

What is it like to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it? And how can we all honestly reckon with this fraught history and free ourselves from its burden?

To join this important conversation, purchase the book from your online bookseller and register by email to stlukestom@gmail.com by Monday, November 9 to receive the ZOOM link

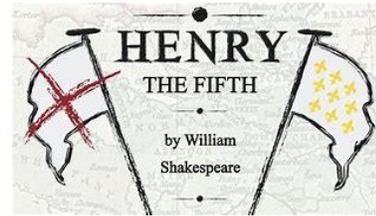


**Did You Know that Saint Luke's
Participates in the Amazon Smile Program?**

Many of us have been doing much of our shopping online recently, and now with the holidays approaching, we'll be doing even more. If you link into the program on Saint Luke's web site, every time you make a purchase at Amazon, the church receives a small donation.

The Gingerbread Players

present



Via ZOOM

Saturday, Nov. 14 at 7:30pm

Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2:30pm

Directed by Jean Tessier, Gingerbread Players past and present from all over the country bring to life the vasty fields of France. The newly crowned Henry V (Louise Guinther) is advised by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Marianne Percival) and the English Court to pursue a conflict with France. The French King (Louise Foisy) is cautious, but agrees, egged on by the impetuous Dauphin and the French court (Jim Haines, Eliza Smith Vallette and Johnny Culver). Also featured are Mike Miller as Pistol, David Friedman as Fluellen, Kait Mitchell as the French princess, and Joanna Friedman as her maid. Mark Dunn as Chorus provides narration and description.

Reservations can be made by email at boxoffice@gingerbreadplayers.org and must be received by November 13. A ZOOM link will be sent out on each day of performance. There is no admission charge, but viewers will have the opportunity to make a donation in support of Gingerbread Players and Saint Luke's Church.

RACE – FAITH - COMMUNITY

Part 2:

Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 to 11:00AM

The second part of this program focuses on a concise selection of provided readings by Martin Luther King, Jr. and John Lewis as we consider the Beloved Community to which we are all called. To receive the ZOOM link, register by email to stlukestom@gmail.com by Thursday, November 19.



Special Gift

To help compensate for the loss of revenue from suspended Special Events due to the pandemic, Bob Lin and Suzanne Schick have made a special gift to Saint Luke’s. As many of you know, Bob was integral to the installation of new theater lighting in the parish hall for the Gingerbread Players productions. Instead of keeping the money that the church owes him for outlay of much of the new equipment, Bob and Suzanne will instead round it up to a \$7,000 gift to the parish operating budget.

The Rector asked them if he could use their names instead of its being an “anonymous gift” because Tom hoped the back story could be shared—that someone working on a Gingerbread Players project, worried that the show could not go on, felt that a contribution made to the church could help soften the blow.

Since March, other parishioners have also been making gifts, such as they can, to make up for the fact that we were unable to present the Imaginauction, Rummage Sale or Spring Musical. Perhaps all of us could consider if we are in a position to make a one-time gift in place of what we might have spent at our special events.

Thank you Bob and Suzanne; thank you all!



November Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Maria Barbanotti
- 3 Autumn Franqui
- 6 Thomas Biglin, Sr.
- 10 Jyri Laatikainen
- 10 Kay and Wolf Kripfgans (A)
- 12 Jeremy Boiko
- 14 Maureen and Thomas Biglin, Sr. (A)
- 19 Thomas Reese and Earl Liao (A)
- 22 Carol Lane
- 25 Marianne Percival
- 25 Michael Karas
- 26 Jean Tessier
- 30 Janice Payne
- 30 Lisanne Ponce



The Bellringer
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 Saint Luke’s Church (Episcopal)
 85 Greenway South
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www.stlukesforesthills.org
 718-268-6021
 The Very Rev. Thomas F. Reese, Rector