



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

Pentecost 2021

Pentecost Spirit and Saint Luke's Future

Dear Friends,

I have always seen much evidence of the Holy Spirit at Saint Luke's Church. Your gifts for ministry and sharing the gospel are many and freely shared. This was especially evident during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Your fundraisers for the Queens Community House Pandemic Food Relief and Diocesan Front-line assistance were generous expressions of outreach. And before we ourselves could be back in our church building fully, we welcomed back Angels in the Garden Childcare (September 2020) so that EMTs and other medical professionals could have a safe place for their children's daily care.

When the pandemic was causing so much uncertainty, Saint Luke's did not turn in on itself. You cared about others even more. When businesses shuttered and you began to work from home, when you worried about what the future might hold, you didn't stop giving to the church. Pledge payments in support of the parish were regularly made by you. Though there are a number of people who, in the upheavals of the pandemic, did not make a pledge

for 2021, the Stewardship Committee is confident that those members will respond to the idea of a six-month pledge for the rest of this year.

Many of the parish's financial revenue flows ceased for many months during the pandemic and are still in abeyance. But because you recognize the importance of raising funds even in difficult times, the ImaginAuction will happen in a few weeks in a new way.

"In a new way" the Holy Spirit will declare to you things that are to come. That's what Jesus said to the disciples and it is Christ's teaching for Saint Luke's today. Today we see things calming down around us and we hope things are looking up. Yet, the Spirit of Truth, the work of the Holy spirit, the dynamic of God's grace isn't usually about "back to normal" but a new way.

What is it all going to mean for Saint Luke's Church? The pandemic changed the way we had to interact as a parish. Our manner of worship had to change too. But we also discovered deep reserves of faith that were expressed in new ways between members of the parish—a willingness and a need to express what is most important about life together with Christ at the center. The crisis became an opportunity and a

calling to grow in faith. This is the growth that is so important for Saint Luke's going into the future.

How will the conditions of our lives the past year and a half and the experience of Christ in our midst go forward? What can it mean for the ways in which Saint Luke's engages in ministry in a new way? That is going to be up to you, individually and together. Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Church and the re-birth and new beginnings for people of faith. Pentecost makes it clear that sharing the Gospel is what it is all about.

To contemporize the Pentecost Gospel: God declares that the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon all the people of Saint Luke's. Your sons and daughters who haven't been able to attend Sunday School for nearly two years shall gather again and speak God's Word. Your younger members of the Vestry shall see visions. And Saint Luke's older folks, who might think they've seen it all, shall dream dreams.

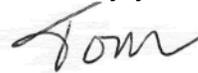
This is a time of transition in society and right here in the parish. It is not a time to sit still or stand on the sidelines. If you are a member of Saint Luke's Church, you are a vital part of the Body of Christ. You need to be a working part of the body, a contributing member who shares who you are and the gifts you have.

In this time of transition, I begin to recede. My role as Rector begins to

change. Your Wardens and Vestry will take the lead more and more. I am honored to be with you a few more months as priest and pastor.

Yes, we are all going through transitions. And Jesus reminds and reassures us that God does not leave us comfortless but sends us the Spirit. Haven't we all been benefitting from the Spirit's comfort? Then we each need to be ready for the Spirit's challenge too, if we would really grow in faith and be of benefit to fellow humanity.

Faithfully yours,



Parish Administrator

In early May we welcomed Lauren Butler. Lauren is skilled behind the desk with plenty of previous employment experience that suits her well for the role of parish administrator. Many parishioners already know Lauren from a different role she has played—in many Gingerbread Players productions!

We are still in a restricted pandemic mode as regards accessing the building. So we are unable to say "stop in and say hello," but be assured that Lauren is staffing the parish office on Mondays through Fridays, 9:00am until 2:00pm, and she will be happy to take your calls and receive your emails.

ImaginAuction

Saturday, June 26

(See flyer on next page)

Join in the fun and invite your friends!

Register NOW for the SILENT AUCTION, and bid on themed baskets, jewelry, classes, lessons and more. Items up for bid can be seen at auctria.events/ImaginAuction.

At the same site, purchase a ticket for the LIVE AUCTION (one ticket per household). A pdf of the items offered at the Live Auction will be sent to registered bidders the week of June 21.

For \$25, you can bid on any item. But a VIP ticket at \$50 gives you bidding privileges PLUS a "Party in a Bag!" While bidding, you'll enjoy cocktails or mocktails, appetizers from Jean Tessier, dessert from Earl Liao, and assorted other goodies. The "Party in a Bag" will be available for pickup (or local delivery if needed) on the church lawn Saturday morning, June 26.

Holy Eucharist OUTDOORS on the Church Lawn: (A June Experiment)



What better way to spend a late June afternoon than by taking communion with your fellow parishioners on Saint Luke's lawn? Come join us on Saturday, June 19 at 5:30pm, followed by an opportunity to mix and mingle (masked and socially distanced, of course). If enough people are interested, the liturgies may continue through July.



Pastoral Care "Phone Ministry"

My dear brothers and sisters,
As you know, we have not heard from or seen many of our parish family since the beginning of the pandemic. We can pray that all is well. But even better than that, we can *become* a prayer of compassion and love, reaching out to them in a real and reassuring way by phone. Just a brief chat letting them know that we miss them and hope to see them soon will be a comfort and brighten their day.

Won't you please contact me or Jane Thornton and help us in this mission of love and compassion? Remember, God does not expect us to do great things, but he does expect us to do many little things with love.

--Deacon Joe Occhiuto

REVISED SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



9:00AM on ZOOM

Morning Prayer with Organ and Sermon

Call 718-268-6021 by Thursday midday
to receive the Zoom link

11:00AM in the Church

Holy Eucharist with Organ and Sermon

NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED

Face masks must be worn.

Limited seating for social distancing.

Imagin Auction 2021

All Virtual, All Fabulous, All Fun!



SILENT AUCTION

Bidding opens June 20 at 12 noon & ends on June 27 at 7 pm
FREE Registration for Silent Auction at auctria.events/ImaginAuction

LIVE AUCTION

With Auctioneer, June 26, 7:00 to 9:30pm
\$25 general admission; \$50 VIP admission featuring "Party in a Bag!"
Purchase tickets for the Live Auction at auctria.events/ImaginAuction

Items offered for auction include...

- *Weekend on Fire Island *Virtual self-defense and fitness classes
 - *Stay at an Airb&b in Greece *Pie-of-the-Month
 - *Acupuncture consultation and treatment *Case of wine
 - *Tickets to a Broadway show *Week in East Hampton
- ...and many, many more!***

All proceeds benefit the ministries of St. Luke's Church

stlukesoffice@verizon.net

www.stlukesforesthills



Confirmation Class

Are any adult members of the parish interested in being confirmed? Please speak with Father Tom as soon as possible!

Although the Confirmation date, pushed back by the pandemic, has not yet been set, our teens have been preparing since before the pandemic began. They were giving it their best on Zoom, even though they were already bleary-eyed from their school remote learning. They took a break and then Father Tom suggested they follow along on Father Doubleday's "Why the Episcopal Church?" Zoom series.

Now, our teens and their families will come together in worship for the Saturday, June 19 5:30pm Outdoor Holy Eucharist on the church lawn. In addition to our young people finally being able to gather again, the liturgy will have special prayers throughout and Father Tom's sermon "Baptism -Eucharist - Ministry" will be an explanation (n under ten minutes!) of why it is important to be confirmed.



Choir Notes

Olivia Smith-Grugan's back surgery went extremely well. She is feeling hopeful about the future and validated that this was the right choice for her. All good wishes to Olivia for a swift and complete recovery.

Alonso Jordan Lopez has resigned as our tenor section leader. We are saddened by this news but I have assured him of our gratitude for his time with us, and offered the choir's very best wishes for his future.

I hope you are all enjoying the start of the summer season. It has always been my favorite time of year. And remember, the choir has a start-up date in September. On the 11th we will meet for a Saturday afternoon workshop, and the following day we will be back in church!

--William J. Stokes
Organist and Choir Director



June Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 6 Joseph Dinas
- 8 Joyce Egginton
- 9 Varghese K. Varghese
- 9 Martha Garcia
- 14 Dennis Martinez
- 15 Katie and Tom George (A)
- 15 Frank Fallon
- 17 Finn Cushna
- 18 Shirley Vickers
- 18 Johnny Martini
- 24 Bill Stokes
- 26 Bill Brandt

