

# THE GOOD NEWS

## Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Winter 2023

### Opening Sentences

On the last Sunday of January, as I was standing at the altar breathing in the beauty of the music Rick was wrapping up before the post-communion prayer, I had a sudden revelation. Thanks to you, there's yet another downside of clergy life that doesn't apply to me anymore! I can remember my seminary field education advisor telling me, many decades ago now, "Something you'll have to get used to as a priest is that you won't be able to actually worship yourself, as you are leading services. There's just too much to think about coordinating for everyone else, for you to get spiritually involved yourself."

But, it seems over the past ten years, that warning has completely slipped my mind, and I'm kind of taking my worship with you here at St. Luke's for granted! Yes, I'm still in the business of leading services; but, once I get started, I feel much more like I'm engaged with you in a spiritual sense than orchestrating something for your benefit. Now, maybe that has something to do with how long I've been at it, but I also feel there's something about St. Luke's that's different.

There are those who attend church looking to the clergy for inspiration leading them to God. But I have this sense you come here pre-inspired. I feel you're gathering to give thanks for God's abiding presence in your life, rather than making your weekly visit to God. You're not expecting perfection for your benefit, you're here to share your joy and prayers with everyone else. It's hard to explain, but I'll just say it comes naturally for me to bare my soul to God in worship with you at St. Luke's.

And, while I'm in a mood of gratitude, let me thank the Women of St. Luke's for the amazing Sunday dinners you've been sending Polly and me home with lately. You apparently began the new year on a mission of stress relief; and your plan has been working! On the practical side, these delicious meals have been easy to open up, heat up and enjoy – with a great lunch or two left over. But then, there's the spiritual dimension.

The sense of thanksgiving we drive home with now is hard to describe. Because, it's not just dinner, but love, we're carrying home with us in the back seat of our car. You've managed to say: "this is for you, thank you," and "we love you" all in one box or cooler. How many congregations are honestly able to say to their clergy as they leave church on Sunday morning: "Enjoy your day of rest!" Yes, you've managed to accomplish the impossible! But then, as the card we framed years ago hanging in our entrance hall reminds us: "With God, nothing is impossible."

God's Peace be With You,

The Rev. Philip H. Kasey

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Philip H. Kasey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



This photo of the Kaseys with waitress was posted on Kindred Fare's Instagram 😊 Kaseys are really enjoying their Christmas gift dinners out, on St Luke's!

Verizon

4:07 PM

49%



## Kindred Fare's Post



Like



Comment



Share



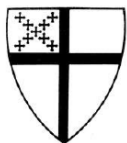
Cake made by Gwen Martin

Congratulations  
Mel and Nancy Davis

Our St. Luke's family shared in the blessing and celebration of their 51st Wedding Anniversary on October 24th.

Their love is a testimony of what "for better or for worse" means when making marriage vows.

Love Endures



### Helping Our Neighbors in Need

Thanks to our St Luke's Joanie Fund, six area families in economic crisis have received funds this year, totaling \$2500. In partnership with The Living Well in Penn Yan, the Joanie Fund committee received information on families with various needs, and was able to send monies helping in very dire situations.

We remember Joanie Barrett, who remains an inspiration to our congregation after her passing in 2019, and who inspires us to help those in need, and to 'pay it forward'. Thank you to all who have contributed to the Joanie Fund over time. Our donations have grown with investment and will be a source of financial assistance to our neighbors in need for years to come.

If you know of a family in crisis, please let us know.

Jennifer Haack, Al Byrne, Donna Gridley, Gene Hunt, Peggy Hoff, Fr. Phil Kasey

### Church Humor

*The first ever **Cordless Phone** was created by God. He named it "Prayer"... It never Loses its Signal and You never have to Recharge it. Use it anywhere...!*

*(from [dreamsquote.com](https://dreamsquote.com))*



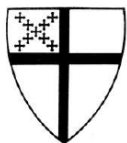
**What is the best way to study the Bible?** You "Luke" into it. (Women's Day)

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." So on hearing the anthem being played, everyone had to stand up!

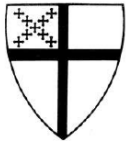
*([jollynotes.com](https://jollynotes.com))*



### ***Farewell Kathy Horton***

One of our longtime favorite comedians is flying the coop to New Jersey. We were pleased to celebrate her and her new journey as the Ladies of St. Luke's hosted a farewell luncheon in her honor. We will miss the bright shining spirit she brought to the back right pew. She will forever play a part in the smiles and priceless moments that we will treasure from the heart.

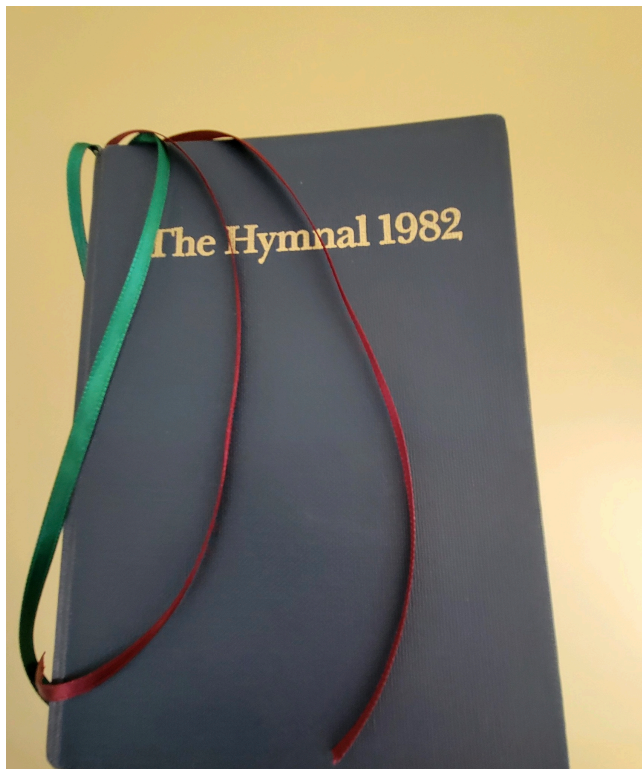
*Bless you Kathy*



### A Note from Women's Group

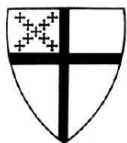
As many of you may know, the St Luke's Women's Group is currently meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. Women's Group is a wonderful fellowship. We share ideas, work on projects and plan future events or new projects. One of the first things we're doing is to alternate preparing a meal to send home with Fr. Phil each Sunday. Not that we doubt his culinary skills, but who doesn't enjoy a night off from cooking. You may have noticed our most recent project - book marks for the hymnals and prayer books in the church.

And let us not forget Kathy Horton's send off brunch. By all accounts, the women outdid themselves! The food was delicious as well as the lovely table decorations; (a memory of Bev Gordon set the stage for the happiest of celebrations). 'Twas a day Kathy will remember for years to come. She was full of high spirits with wide smiles and fond praises all the way home!!



*If you have thoughts,  
suggestions or ideas you'd like  
us to give thought to, please be  
sure to let me know.*

**[gwen.martin55@yahoo.com](mailto:gwen.martin55@yahoo.com)**

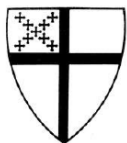


October 2022

Our fur babies were on their best behavior while Fr. Phil extended his annual Pet Blessing.

Our well behaved pets enjoy Fr. Phil's sermons as much as we do.





### LET'S GET READY FOR EASTER!

Yes, Easter is coming ... and so is springtime! Meanwhile, winter is the perfect time to prepare for the joy; beginning with Ash Wednesday. On Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> we have our Ash Wednesday Eucharist with the imposition of ashes, to start us all out on the level ground of our shared and limited humanity. Through the five weeks of Lent following that, we can examine these lives of ours in the eyes of our loving God. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> when we gather at the Parish House to begin our Palm Sunday procession, we will find ourselves led to the realization that no matter what we've discovered or resolved about ourselves during this Lenten journey, God loves each one of us so much that he's put his son's life in our hands. Holy Week has begun.

The evening service at the Parish House for our April 6th Maundy Thursday Agape Meal reminds us of the spiritual and personal fellowship in Christ we enjoy as a parish family. The next day at Noon, we walk the Good Friday Stations of the Cross in shock and sorrow that we let the life of Christ that God put in our hands slip away. And then, suddenly it's Easter Day, and we're all together again; this time being welcomed into new life, and a second chance at keeping the Risen Christ alive forever, so he can fulfill God's promise to take us there with him.

It's all about to begin! So, don't forget:

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd @12 o'clock noon ... All Aboard!!

### The Wardens Report

First of all, thank you, thank you, and thank you for your continued support of St. Luke's! Thanks be to God! We were blessed with a wonderful Stewardship Season, thanks to Jan Williams, chair of the committee this year, and can report that we have a balanced budget to work with for 2023. I, (as well as others), know that it wasn't that long ago we needed to do a couple of fund raisers during the year to help financially get through the year. We are truly blessed to have Fr. Phil and all of you, our little flock. Our light at St. Luke's shines very bright!

Even though we didn't get to have our Christmas Eve service on December 24<sup>th</sup>, we were blessed on January 1<sup>st</sup> with an amazing service of Lessons and Carols. Thanks to Emily Slade for her beautiful solo and everyone else for their singing! The church was beautiful and it was a wonderful way to start the New Year. Great to have so many on Zoom joining in as well.



Since our last newsletter, the renovation of the restroom at church has taken place. Todd Stone, the contractor, did an amazing job of getting the old chimney out and repairing the roof, new green board dry wall, tile flooring, paint, new fixtures, and a new wider door. It is lovely and functioning well. We still have a few small details to finish, but wow it's wonderful. Todd will be back this year to repair the storm door on the parish. The wind finally got it and broke the frame but somehow never broke the glass.

Thanks to Gage Slade our Facebook page is getting a facelift. Big thanks to Nicole Landers for getting in up and running originally, but after leaving for the UK no one had worked on it. We are very thankful for the talents of the Slade family and deciding to call St. Luke's their new church home.

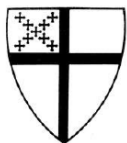
Our next big project will be the retaining wall along the creek on the South side of the church property. We're happy to say after a year of searching we have accepted a proposal for 75 feet of wall, removing one old tree and a couple of tree stumps, and bring the grade of that side of the lawn, back to level where it should be with the rest of the lawn. Eventually the wall will be topped with a wrought iron railing similar to the one up the sidewalk going into church. Our projected start time is, hopefully, April and could be finished with grass growing by Memorial weekend.

The shelter box project for the Southeast District raised \$11,000 in total and St. Luke's raised \$520 towards that. The funds will make a tremendous difference in emergency disaster relief. Thank you for your support and generosity!

In closing I would just like to say thank everyone for making Kathy Horton's Sunday so special. Who would have known the Gospel reading for last Sunday, when we picked the date, would be so perfect, along with the wonderful sermon from Fr. Phil. Later everyone out did themselves with that wonderful brunch. It was a true church family affair in every word!

Blessings to All,

Donna



### Happy Birthday!

#### January

10 John Schutt  
6 Peggy Hoff  
17 Lou Gridley; Alan Byrne  
26 Susan Hawkins  
26 Derek Egburtson

#### February

10 Cindy Merrill

#### March

2 Desi Egburtson  
13 Kathy Horton

#### April

5 Ed Kilburn  
8 Jan Williams  
9 Donna Gridley; Antoinette Brodtkin  
17 Marky Watson; Anella Tillman  
17 Marc Brodtkin  
20 Mel Davis  
23 Katy Wheeler  
30 Steve Yuschak

#### May

7 Beth Wilder  
13 Roger Slade  
15 Gwen Martin  
26 Henry Ferris

### Happy Anniversary!

#### February

7 Penny & Ed Kilburn  
10 Donna & Lou Gridley

#### March

20 Marc & Antoinette Brodtkin

#### May

26 Revs. Phil & Polly Kasey

### Our Prayer List

Dick Galusha	Bonnie
Warren Cole	Rose Masurkiewicz
Paul Rossi	Tex Doolittle
Donna Carroll	Trace Servin
Jan Thorne	Penny Kilburn
Amy Rial	Lisa M. Gibson
Mary Key Seward	Rick Kingsley
Mel Davis	Michele & Family
Katelynne Egburtson	Regina Rice
Brad Connors	Dave Hoffman
Jane Salyer	AJ Pass
Sophia	Sophie
Leslie Shaw	
Mary Renolds	
Carl Hampton	
Cheryl Ward	

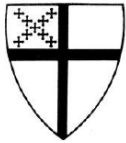
*Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their trouble, and bring them the joy of Your salvation.*

#### SERVICE PERSONNEL ON ACTIVE DUTY

Andrew Hunt

*We commend to your gracious care and keeping, all the men and women of our armed forces.*

If anyone has a pastoral emergency, contact:  
Fr. Phil Kasey at 315-585-1019 or  
email at [phkasey@gmail.com](mailto:phkasey@gmail.com)



**St. Luke's  
Episcopal Church  
Rev. Philip H. Kasey**

**Vestry Wardens**

John Wilder  
Donna Gridley

**Vestry Members**

Nancy Davis  
Gene Hunt  
Spencer Cook  
Gwen Martin  
Marky Watson

**Treasurer**

Rodgers Williams

**Church Events**

Sundays 9:30 AM  
Eucharist

**First Sundays**

Food for the Needy

**Second Tuesdays**

Women's Group

**Third Thursdays**

5:30 PM Potluck  
@ Parish House

**CHURCH**

121 West Lake Road  
Branchport, NY 14418

**PARISH HOUSE**

187 West Lake Road  
Branchport, NY 14418  
(315) 595-6162

[stlukesbranchport.org](http://stlukesbranchport.org)  
[stlukesbranchportny@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesbranchportny@gmail.com)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
187 West Lake Road  
Branchport, NY 14418

**Upcoming Events:  
January 2023 - April 2023**

January

19 Potluck - 5:30 @ Parish House

February

5 Please bring "Food for the Needy" items

16 Potluck - 5:30 @ Parish House

22 **Ash Wednesday @ 12:00 Noon**

March

5 Please bring "Food for the Needy" items

16 Potluck - 5:30 @ Parish House

April

2 Please bring "Food for the Needy" items

2 **Palm Sunday - Gather @ Parish House**

6 **Maundy Thursday Agape Meal**

**6:00@ Parish House**

7 **Good Friday @ 12:00 Noon**

9 **Easter Day**