



# Light in the Shadows

DECEMBER 2017

*"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matt. 5: 16*

## "Advent: The Coming, The Coming And Coming Again of God."

*"Waiting, living with the questions, may be how God is keeping you attentive...God is more generous in giving us questions than answers. Waiting. The gift of waiting, quite counter-cultural." [Br. Curtis Almquist, SSJE from 2004 homily entitled "Keep Awake!"]*



These past few weeks, our Sunday passages have been about this idea of "watchfulness" and how it is we are called to keep awake in this Season of the Advent until Christmas. When I hear about God's call for us to keep awake, I sometimes wonder if God is suggesting we all become insomniacs! I am kidding, of course. Yet in this Season of Advent, the gospel reminds us of the need to be ready "for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." (Mt. 24:44)

Every day I receive a short reflection from the monks at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) based in Cambridge, and Newbury, MA. This quote from Br.

Curtis' homily he preached in 2004 speaks to how we can cultivate an attentiveness to God in our contemporary age where commerce and all the other trappings of the holiday season vie for our attention.

This month of December is a bit unique in that both the Advent Season and the Christmas Season begin and end the month. What also doesn't happen very often is that the Fourth Sunday of Advent also falls on Christmas Eve day. Some of us are feeling the pressure to

*"Given the busyness of this season, we sometimes lose sight of the opportunity to wait before God this Advent Season. The four candles of Advent symbolize our waiting in hope, peace, love, and joy for the Christ Child."*

*—Rev. Heidi L. Edson*

## Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 3 Advent I</b>
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 10 Advent II</b>
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 17 Advent III (Rejoice/Rose Sunday)</b>
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Greening of the Church after the 10:00 a.m. service)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 24 Advent IV</b>
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Dec. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b>
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols &amp; Festival Holy Eucharist</b> Holy Eucharist, Rite II
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
	<b>The Nativity of Our Lord</b>
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II [a simple, quiet spoken service]
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 31 Christmas I</b>
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan. 7 The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b>
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## Christmas Wonder

I want to see into the heart of a thing ... I want the God-given way of seeing life, not to possess and to control, but to stand back in wonder and gratitude. —Esther de Waal

*Continued on page 2*

From the Senior Warden

## Looking to the Future: Advent



**T**onight I've been listening to a piece on VPR about experiencing spirituality and the existence of God. And Neurotheology.

It was pretty clear that the interviewer and most of the interviewees were agnostic at best. With the exception of one man who self-described as something like a "Post-holocaust Jewish atheist." He

explained that he was unable to intellectualize himself into or out of belief in God. He prayed. He then describes that he experienced an overwhelming sense of "Presence" within himself and also filling the room where he was. How does that get explained?!

Well, there's a science called "Neurotheology." Neurotheology has identified a part of the human brain that is able to have/perceive these experiences of God or of enlightenment. It turns out that chimpanzees also can apparently have experiences of awe and (perhaps?) transcendence when confronted with natural phenomena which "may suggest a spiritual reality." Why did our brains develop the ability to experience the transcendent? The interviewer and interviewee agreed that "The biology creates the experience." And "The experience creates the biology." So, it appears that the scientific jury is still out on the question: Does God exist? What is your experience? What is the collective and historic experience of St. Luke's?

We heard in the report from the recent Vestry Meeting, that our income is dropping and that our continued relying on a "Faith-based Budget" may not bear the necessary fruit we have come to rely on in years past. Further, we heard that, if this trajectory continues, we can expect St. Luke's to be able to survive, continue to exist, for another eight to ten years, until our endowment is depleted.

### Did those words knock the Episcopal breath out of you?

Being on the Vestry, I have been aware of our growing budgetary deficit situation. It's the unavoidable result of our shrinking congregation.

But hearing the words, "St. Luke's will be able to survive for only another eight to ten years" delivered in the St. Luke's sanctuary!

Like the still, small voice. The Voice of God.

But wait! There's more! This is the Season of Advent. The Angel appears to us, humble as we are, bringing a message from The Lord. First: "Do not be

## "Advent: The Coming, The Coming And Coming Again of God."

(Continued from page 1)

get things done in time for Christmas. There is so much to do and so much to prepare for this holiday season that is upon us. By the time you read this, the St. Luke's annual Christmas Tea will have already taken place, as a case in point. Now it's on to the next celebration or event.

Given the busyness of this season, we sometimes lose sight of the opportunity to wait before God this Advent Season. The four candles of Advent symbolize our waiting in hope, peace, love, and joy for the Christ Child. Br. Curtis gives this meaning for the word, Advent: Advent is "the coming, the coming and coming again and coming again of God." In other words, God's presence with and among us invites us to make ready our hearts and souls to receive Christ at Christmas. The saying "still waters run deep" rings true this time of year. How will God come to you this season?

*Blessings,  
Heidi+*



## Christmas Eve Service



**A**ll are invited to St. Luke's celebration of Christ's birth this Christmas Eve on the 24th of December. Beginning at **6:30 p.m.** with the Lessons & Carols, the Christmas Story this year will be told through Song and Scripture to be followed by a short Reflection and the Eucharist. Holy Communion will be followed by the traditional candlelight singing of "Silent Night." Our Christmas Eve celebration will end with the joyous hymn, "Joy to the World." —*Heidi+*



## Christmas Day Service



**O**n Christmas Day, the 25th of December, St. Luke's will hold a Service at **10:00 a.m.** to give honor to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Service will be simple spoken Rite II Service for those desiring worship on this most holy day. —*Heidi+*

afraid!" Then: "The Son of God will be born among you." "How can this be...?" we ask. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you." And: "Nothing is impossible to God!" The Angel tells us.

### Did those words knock the Episcopal breath out of you?

There is a part of our brain especially created to experience God, and to receive the Holy Spirit when that Spirit comes upon us.

Do not be afraid! **Amen.**

—*Belinda*

## Donate A Gift of Christmas Memorial or Thanksgiving Flowers



Adorning the church sanctuary and nave with beautiful Christmas poinsettias has been a long-standing tradition at St. Luke's as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Did you ever wonder how this tradition began?

Poinsettias, also known as, "Christmas Star," perhaps

because the shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are thought of as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. It's said that this winter flower's association with Christmas comes from a Mexican legend. The story goes that a child, with no means for a grander gift, gathered humble weeds from the side of the road to place at the church altar on Christmas Eve. As the congregation witnessed a Christmas miracle, the weeds turned into brilliant red and green flowers. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity. The plant is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, first United States ambassador to Mexico and the amateur botanist who introduced the plant to the U.S. in 1825.

At St. Luke's poinsettias are given as memorials for departed loved ones or in special thanksgiving for family members and special friends. If you wish to participate in this lovely tradition send a check payable to: "St. Luke's Church" with a memo, "*Christmas Memorial Flowers*" by **December 17<sup>th</sup>** to: **Adelaide Johnson, 294 Hill Top Rd., Andover, VT 05143**. Please include a note with the names of persons you wish to commemorate, PRINTED CLEARLY, and indicate whether the persons named are for a "Memorial—those who have died" or are a "Thanksgiving—for those still living.



### Our Greatest Need

If our greatest need had been information,  
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,  
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,  
God would have sent us an economist.

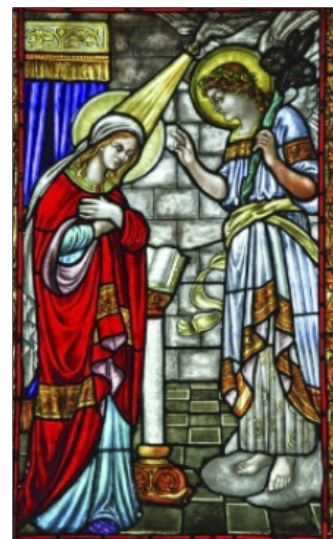
If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness  
and acceptance, so God sent us a Savior.

—Author unknown

## Christmas Eve December 24th: A Celebration of Lessons & Carols And Festival Holy Eucharist

Lessons & Carols is traditionally celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Advent. This year Advent 4 falls on Sunday, December 24 (which is also Christmas Eve.) So we are approaching it a little differently. We will be blending Lessons & Carols\* with the traditional **Christmas Eve Service**. The service will begin promptly at **6:30 p.m.** with nine Lessons & Carols and continues right into the **Holy Eucharist, Rite II**. Holy Communion will be followed by the traditional candlelight singing of "Silent Night." We hope it will be a spiritually enriching experience and warmly invite everyone to come join us for this festive celebration of the Lord's birth!



\* **Footnote:** The service of Lessons & Carols celebrates the birth of Jesus by telling the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in a series of short readings from the Bible. The readings are interspersed with carols, choral music, and congregational singing of hymns.



## "Greening of The Church" On December 17th

Perhaps the most striking and the most universal feature of the Advent & Christmas seasons is the use of evergreens in churches and homes. Among ancient Romans evergreens were an emblem of peace, joy, and victory. Early Christians placed them in their windows to indicate that Christ had entered the home. Holly and ivy, along with pine, and fir are called evergreens because they never change color. They are ever-green, ever-alive, even in the midst of winter. Thus they can well symbolize the unchanging nature of our God, remind us of the everlasting life that is ours through Christ Jesus."

On **Sunday, December 17**, we invite St. Luke's church members to stay a short time **after the 10:00 a.m.** worship service and help us adorn the nave and sanctuary with a Christmas tree, roping and evergreen branches on the window sills in preparation for Sunday, December 24 (Advent 4 and Christmas Eve.) Children are also invited to help set up the nativity scene with Rev. Heidi.

Source: <http://stlukeslebanon.org/>

## St. Luke's Finances Was Focus of The November Vestry Meeting

With the November pledge drive, end-of-year reckoning, and scheduled January 21 Parish Meeting with a vote on the 2018 budget approaching, the November Vestry meeting was necessarily preoccupied with finance.

• **Preliminary 2018 Budget.** The questions to be answered at the Annual Parish Meeting are how the church can move forward and yet where we can cut expenses in order to avoid eliminating the endowment. Last year we made minimal cuts and had savings in health insurance costs and from a change in the Diocesan assessment, but those savings were not enough either for our budget or for the Diocese. As a result, the Diocese is going to refigure its assessment. Suggested expense cuts for 2018 have been offered by a few parishioners, but there are not very many options. Here are some the Vestry discussed:

**Summer Lawn Maintenance:** Buy a push mower to keep in the shed; have parishioners sign up for weekly cutting. Save \$900 budgeted.

**Outreach:** Have individuals contribute to charities they want or give 10% from specific church fundraisers. Save \$6,800 budgeted to tithe.

**Musician:** Eliminate music/save \$8,100 budgeted.

**Sexton:** Have parishioners sign up for weekly church cleaning. Save \$4,400 budgeted.

**Heat:** Meet downstairs in winter in Willard Hall. Save some of \$3,000-5,000 budgeted. Present heating policy: If colder than 15 degrees, church services will take place in Willard Hall. Lew Watters has a calculation model that takes into consideration temperature, wind chill, etc., and that formula dictates whether we meet up or down. If we are holding church in Willard Hall, one suggestion was to look into taking the children to the back upstairs playroom at the Moon Dog building for Sunday School.

**Rector:** Could go from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  time for rector and save \$15,000. Question arises concerning health insurance and Diocesan policy of 80/60, versus 90/70, or the 100% that St. Luke's presently pays.

• The plan is to hold our **Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2018:** to call that meeting to order, present a variety of options, and have serious discussion on them. Options range from continue present kind of budget and cease to exist in about 9 years, to adopt a middle ground, to make drastic cuts. The meeting will then reconvene two weeks later with a 2018 budget based on the feedback.

• **New Fundraisers.** Two additional fundraising proposals were made by Lillian Willis. First is a Plant Sale to be held on the Saturday of May 19; that will need perennial

plant donations by parishioners and other help. Jane Davis will co-chair with Lillian. The second fundraiser will be two pancake breakfasts to be held on the Saturdays of September 15 (Fall Craft Fair) and October 6 or 13 (to capture Leaf Peepers). The Vestry was supportive of the proposals.

• **Stewardship Committee.** John DesLauriers, Andrew Pennell, and Doug Edson have sent out the pledge letters and cards. Ingathering Sunday was November 19. (Read the "Stewardship Report" on page 5.)

• **Finances: Assistant Treasurer's Report.** Lynda Farmer said that additional funds were needed to get through the rest of the year. The Vestry authorized Lynda to withdraw \$10,000 proportionately from the different Vanguard Funds. \$15,000 had been withdrawn in June. Report of the Audit Committee. The entire 2016 audit book has been copied and is in the office for audit reference in 2018.

• **Rental Policy of St. Luke's Facility:** A rental policy is needed. John brought a sample one that addressed its policy regarding weddings, funerals, and payment to organist and minister for parishioners and non-members. Also needed is a policy for rental for nonprofits vs. for-profit organizations. John will draft a policy after researching various churches. It was agreed that Scout groups should be encouraged and not charged to use Willard Hall. Meanwhile Loose Ladies would like to rent Willard Hall again in 2018 on Saturday, April 14 and Saturday, June 9, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.. Janet Hunter will open and close for them on those days, and rental @ \$100 per session is requested.

• **Nominating Committee:** A Nominating Committee of Belinda Whipple Worth and Jean Hancock was created to recruit volunteers for key positions\* to be voted on at the Annual Parish Meeting. [\*Treasurer, Pledge Treasurer, Stewardship Chairman, and Vestry members.]

• **Next Regular Vestry Meeting:** Wednesday, December 13, to discuss 2018 Budget.

• **Christmas Vestry Dinner:** (pay own way for Vestry members and spouses/partners): Friday, December 15, 6:00 p.m., at the Free Range Restaurant in Chester.

—Lillian Willis, Clerk

When we place our trust in God, we enter a mysterious relationship. We can never be separated from God's love, whose ultimate expression is the peace that passes all understanding.—FDBD 12/29/2016

2018 JANUARY LITS DEADLINE:

👉 **DECEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Email all announcements, articles, photos, etc.  
to: panjoe@vermontel.net

*Continued at top of page*

## Welcome Anne Goodreau Our New Church Musician

Anne Goodreau, our new Church Musician, describes that here was a new idea for her when these words were said to her at age twenty by members of the Baptist Church where she had just taken a position. The idea that her life and work could be about more than “getting a job” was transformational for her and has guided her private and professional life since.

Some decades later, Anne is eager to teach and practice her philosophy of music ministry at St. Luke’s. She sees her primary purpose is to support the worship of the congregation through both singing and hearing of song. She explains that this is a spiritual experience that is best supported or delivered through technical excellence. For example, through teaching the choir proper phrasing and breathing techniques, the congregation can experience a greater understanding of the text of the hymns and, thus, experience a more complete spiritual worship experience, on both intellectual and emotional levels.

Anne has much to say about her philosophy of music in worship. You may be reading some of her thoughts in future editions of *Light in the Shadows*.

Anne grew up in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Her father was a professional musician, playing both jazz and classical piano. Anne inherited her father’s musical gift. Indeed, she doesn’t remember not knowing how to read music or not knowing how to play piano with two hands. Imagine! She began studying clarinet at age ten and was “ignited” by this instrument at age thirteen. She attended the University of Lowell (now UMass Lowell) as a music major and received her degree in Clarinet Performance. She says she is currently on fire for Klezmer clarinet music and may be ready to play for the Seder this Spring. Anne also embraces and finds worth and purpose



in a wide range of musical styles, from Classical and Traditional to more contemporary Christian music.

Anne’s spiritual journey has brought her to embrace these words from the First Epistle of John to summarize her personal philosophy: “So we know and rely on the love God has for us.” She describes that she has passed up professional opportunities that seemed outside of God’s wish for her, choosing to use her musical gift as ministry and to “rely on God” for her security, financial and otherwise.

She also recounts how when she was seventeen “and searching” she attended an Episcopal Christmas Eve service. “I never looked back.” Although she has held positions in other denominations since that time, and has become expert in many Christian traditions, including Lutheran, Baptist and Episcopal, she is very happy to have come back to the Episcopal tradition.

Anne, welcome to St. Luke’s. Thank you for your ministry among us! —**Belinda Whipple Worth**

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## 2018 Stewardship Campaign Report

Sunday, November 19th was Ingathering Sunday at St. Luke’s at which time 16 pledges were received. As of this writing St. Luke’s has received a total of 19 pledges equaling \$55,140. For some perspective, 2017 pledges were \$61,500, which was down substantially from previous years. John Hoover, our Pledge Treasurer, reports there are several parishioners that have pledged in the past that have yet to do so. If those who traditionally pledge give, as anticipated, we could see our pledge total for 2018 exceed the 2017 figure above. The Stewardship and Finance Committees are hopeful that St. Luke’s will receive quite a few more pledges prior to the December 13th Vestry meeting for which budget(s) for discussion are being prepared. If you haven’t pledged yet and meant to do so, please mail your pledge card to the church or place it in the collection plate as soon as possible. If you’ve misplaced your pledge card there are extras on the table at the back of the nave. And thank you to all who have made a commitment to continue to support God’s ministries at St. Luke’s Church in 2018. —**John DesLauriers, Stewardship and Finance Committee Member**



## The Outreach Corner

### Outreach...Flows Out of Abundant Love & Compassion

St. Luke's Church has a long history of generosity. We have traditionally given away 10% of our pledge and plate income to charities, both local and national/international. This past year the Vestry reduced the Outreach giving due to budgetary constraints. According to the November Vestry report delivered by John DesLauriers, there will, most likely, need to be further cuts to many areas of the church budget if St. Luke's is to survive into the future. This monetary commitment to Outreach is one of the things that makes St. Luke's unique and of which I have been the most proud. While we are in challenging financial times right now, it is a goal for which we should continue to strive.

That being said, Outreach is more than likely to be one of the budget items to be considered for reduction. In anticipation of this possibility, I would like all of you to put on your thinking caps. Money is only one way that we can contribute to the many charities that we support. Physically volunteering at places like the Vermont Foodbank, The Chester/Andover Family Center, Our Place Shelter, Habitat for Humanity etc., are other ways to contribute to Outreach. Holding fundraisers to support specific outreach programs, like PINS, is another possibility.

All of this requires some consideration on the part of the congregation. What outreach programs are important to you? Would you like to do more "hands on" volunteering?

Do we want to have a "theme" for our outreach? For example, if our theme were to be—"feeding the hungry," are there ways to do that beyond the Family Center and the VT Foodbank. For example, could we be more involved as a church in the summer food program at the elementary school? Perhaps we just need to strengthen participation in the programs that we already support instead of adding new ones?

We are going to have to think creatively about our priorities for outreach. This challenge might be just what the doctor ordered to breathe new life into the Outreach Program. The future of Outreach cannot be decided by a handful of people, but requires the commitment of the whole church family. Let's all try to come to the Annual Meeting in January with some fresh ideas to support and rethink this time honored tradition of generosity at St. Luke's—so that we don't become less generous, but are generous in different ways. Generosity flows out of a sense of abundance. We may not have abundant funds, but we have abundant love, abundant compassion and there is abundant need in this world. It sounds to me like a good match. —*Jane Davis & Sally Hoover, Outreach co-chairs*

## Christmas Wishes

Stark paper birch,  
And warm winter moon,  
Bright angel choirs  
Commencing their tune,  
Proclaiming a time  
Of forgiveness and love.  
I fervently pray  
They can sing loud enough  
To drown out the din  
Of power and greed,  
To herald a new age  
And scatter the seeds  
Of compassion and justice,  
Of Kindness and love.  
Then, please send the sun  
And the rains from above.  
Oh God of the seasons  
And of the fresh breeze,  
Nurture the whole earth  
And tend to these seeds.  
Make us your farmers  
And teach us to till,  
Acres of kindness  
And fields of goodwill.  
Bolster our courage.  
Release us from fear  
And fill us with love  
That will last the whole year.  
—*Jane Mason Davis*

## Annual Reports Due January 7th

The **2017 Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on Sunday, **January 21, 2018** following the one, 9:00 a.m. worship service that morning. Lew & Bonnie Watters have graciously agreed to compile the **Annual Report Booklet** in preparation this important meeting. This is a "heads-up" reminder that **ALL** "annual reports" are due **January 7th**, enabling us to have the completed booklets in church on the week prior to the meeting (Sunday, January 14) so they can be read and inwardly digested ahead of time.

Lew prefers to have the individual reports in a Word document in Times New Roman, 12-point single-spaced, or in the body of an email. **Send to:** lewbon@vermontel.net. Lew has extra copies of last year's Annual Report Book for those who need one for a reference. It is important that we know who to expect reports from, and that they are checked for spelling. Many thanks.

## Celebration of A Life: Norman K. Wright

### November 15, 1931 – November 9, 2017



Ever since we celebrated the life of Norm Wright at his memorial service the words and music from the Gradual Hymn keep coming back: "Shall We Gather at the River." Indeed, it and the cover photo capture him. Norm was first and foremost a family man, having raised four children. His beloved wife, Irene, was an important part of raising their family and was also very involved at St. Luke's prior to her passing in May 2012. Norm led an active life here in Chester centered around a lovely retirement home and

gardens overlooking Mt. Flamstead. He knew the movements of wild turkeys on Stone Hedge Lane as well as the ups and downs of our town budget. Norm enjoyed 30 years of living in Chester and developed lasting relationships within the community. At St. Luke's he generously served on the Stewardship Committee, was a constant and reliable driver taking patients to and from medical appointments in all kinds of good and bad weather, a cook at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and he even picked up the church mail at the post office when called.



Irene & Norm enjoy a past August Supper with their dear friends, Norm & Ruth Harrison.

It was altogether fitting that close friends and family joined in singing "Happy Birthday, Norm," at the reception held at Free Range Restaurant on the Green, because November 15 was Norm's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday. Earlier at the internment at Pleasant View Cemetery, which overlooks the Chester green, faithful friend Jack Cable read a familiar poem "Dad" to Norm's family. For those who knew him well, there are countless stories of his adventurous career at Mobil Oil, his energetic and endless projects and travels, his exquisite taste in art, guided by an extraordinary mind to his very last day on earth. —*Lew & Bonnie Watters*



## Please Save Cancelled Stamps & Card Fronts



I'm making my annual appeal for everyone to save their cancelled stamps (domestic or foreign)—leaving enough paper around the stamp so that they can be neatly trimmed, ensuring that the stamp is undamaged. The stamps will go to charitable organizations. Also please save the fronts of any used greeting cards such as Christmas, birthday, get well or otherwise. These cards will be recycled into new cards. Please put both the stamps and card fronts in an envelope or a clear plastic bag and leave them on the table at the back of the church or hand them directly to me on any Sunday. Note: Do not save scraps of ribbon or wrapping paper as they are no longer needed. Thank you! —*Freddy Holden*



### WEEKLY

#### • Sunday Adult Advent Study:

Sundays, **11:40AM-12:30PM** in Willard Hall. A meditative study of four Canticles that are found in our own Book of Common Prayer. These Canticles from the Daily Office tell the story of Christ's birth through poetry and chant. We are using the book: "Songs in Waiting: Spiritual Reflections on Christ's Birth" as our guide. All are invited to join us. [Books will be on hand.]

#### • Lunch Bunch Book Study:

Mondays, **Noon-1:15PM** in Willard Hall for bag lunch/sharing/discussion/prayer. We are currently reading, "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World," by His Holiness the Dalai Lama & Archbishop Desmond Tutu. All are welcomed to join us.

#### • Mid-Week Morning Prayer and Adult Advent Study:

Wednesdays: **Morning Prayer: 9:40AM;** and **Adult Study 10:30AM** in Willard Hall. A meditative study of four Canticles that are found in our own Book of Common Prayer. We are using the book: "Songs in Waiting: Spiritual Reflections on Christ's Birth" as our guide. All are invited to join us. [Books will be on hand.]

#### • St. Luke's Choir Rehearsal:

Saturdays: **10:00AM** in Willard Hall. We invite you to come sing with the choir during the Advent & Christmas season. Contact Anne Goodreau at [annegoodreau@gmail.com](mailto:annegoodreau@gmail.com), if you are interested or just show up at the rehearsal. All are welcomed.

### LESS THAN WEEKLY

#### • 2017 Christmas Tea & Sale:

Saturday, **December 2nd** in Willard Hall. **11:00AM-3:00PM**. Come enjoy a delicious tea buffet and so much more. Be sure to invite your friends & neighbors for a fun day!!!

#### • Greening of The Church:

Sunday, **December 17th** following the **10:00 AM** service. See article on page 3.

#### • Monthly Vestry Meeting:

Wednesday, **December 13th** in Willard Hall. **6:30PM Gathering & Scripture Reflection;** **7:00PM Regular Agenda.** Focus topic is the 2018 Budget." All church members are welcomed to attend.

# DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

## Birthdays:

2	Andrew Pennell	20	Tom Widger
5	Jessica Buchanan	22	Michael Fromberger
5	Ellie Pennell	24	Noah Jones
7	Janice Fielder	26	Alyce Meyer-Fielder
7	Bonnie Watters	26	Sanford Johnson
14	Alison DesLauriers		
17	Brad Dunbar		
18	Christine Burchstead		

## Anniversaries:

22 Bill & Lynne Reed

**Come Join Us !!!**  
**Christmas Tea & Sale**  
**Sat., December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**  
 St. Luke's Willard Hall

“St. Luke’s  
 is an  
 intentional  
 Christian  
 community,  
 deepening faith  
 and  
 broadening  
 love.”

## ✠ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✠

**Dec. 3**

**I ADVENT**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Dec. 10**

**II ADVENT**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Dec. 17 III ADVENT (Rejoice/Rose Sunday)**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Dec. 24**

**IV ADVENT**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Dec. 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**6:30 PM Lessons & Carols/Holy Eucharist**

**Dec. 31**

**I CHRISTMAS**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

☛ **CHURCH SCHOOL:** Sundays at 10:00 a.m. following reading of The Collect. All children are welcomed.

## St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Heidi L. Edson, Rector  
 313 Main Street, Chester, VT 05143 • Office Phone: 875-6000  
 stlukes@vermontel.net • www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org

Light in the Shadows

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