



FROM THE PRIEST

What a wonderful first month I have had as the Priest in Charge at St. Luke's. It all began on Easter Sunday and continued to be positive all through the month of April.

I attended my first HP2 meeting in Cincinnati and found that I knew several of the clergy attending, either from seminary or, like me, they were originally from the Diocese of West Virginia. It's surprising how many priests have relocated to the Diocese of Southern Ohio. HP2 is a program offered by the diocese which is a requirement for all new priests to the diocese. Each month the diocese offers a different subject for discussion. At the last meeting we discussed the financial obligations of the churches to the diocese and of the diocese to the churches and clergy.

I believe I have gotten around to all of the shut-ins from St. Luke's and they all would like me to visit and take communion to them once a month. If you feel I have overlooked someone please let me know and I will visit them.

I have decided to begin the 8:00 worship service again in September. I believe it is important to offer this service to those who wish to attend an earlier time to worship.

Sometime soon I will begin a Bible study and it will probably be on a Tuesday or Thursday evening. Please let me know your thoughts on this as I want as many as possible to attend, especially the younger members of the church, who were the ones to request a Bible study.

I will be in the office on Wednesday's from 9:00 to 12:00 and on Thursday's from 10:00 to 12:00. If those hours do not work for anyone wanting to meet with me, call me and we will set up a meeting time that fits your schedule.

I had the honor of presenting St. Luke's scholarship to its recipient at Washington State Community College. All members of St. Luke's should be equally honored to be an important part of each recipient's education and future. Washington State does an awesome job of making the event an enjoyable evening for all the donors and the recipients.

I want to thank all those who participate in the community meal, food basket collection and Outreach Sunday. These programs are wonderful ways to reach out to the community and to let our neighbors in Marietta know that St. Luke's cares about them.

From May 29 to June 4 I will be attending CREDO in North Carolina. CREDO stands for Chaplains Religious Enrichment Development Operation. I am using this time as part of my required continuing education. I have never attended CREDO before but the clergy I have talked to say it is a great time to spend with other clergy while at the same time to learn and to reinvigorate ones ministry.

Once again, I am excited to be your priest at St. Luke's and am looking forward to serving you in any way I can. A special thank you to all who were involved in the process of my coming to St. Luke's, especially your senior warden, Carol Cisler.

Fr. Gene+



THE STAFF

Priest-in-Charge —	Rev. Gene Sheppard
Sexton—	John Brown
Secretary—	Tracy Reifer
Co-Treasurer—	Hazel Boettcher
Co Treasurer—	Sandia Sommer

THE VESTRY

- Sr. Warden— Carol Cisler (2019)
- Jr. Warden— Cliff Essig (2019)
- Clerk for the Vestry— Lindsay Mullen
- Matt Crim (2019)
- Lara Shepherd (2019)
- Ben Windland (2020)
- Mary Marshall (2020)
- Becky Young (2021)
- Marybeth Peebles (2021)

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

It is the first of May, a third of the way into the spring season, and we seem to finally get to experience spring-like days. The earth is coming alive with blossoms and leaves once again. The grass is growing and crop land is being turned with plows. Spring is always an exciting time. Outdoor activities are once again underway, providing athletes and spectators opportunities to get outside our houses and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine, and occasionally the rains. With all the confusing and alarming things that are happening in our world we can thank God for nature where we can retreat to obtain peace and hope for a few minutes. We need to take time to breathe in the fresh air, to listen to the birds singing early in the mornings and throughout the day. Stop to smell the roses, and the newly mowed grasses. It will soon be time to plant our gardens and pot our flowers around our properties. This is a beautiful town to walk about. I love walking through the various neighborhoods from time to time, looking at the beautiful yards and landscapes. One can find serenity in this crazy, wicked world.



Not everyone celebrates a birthday for three months, but a lot of folks celebrate all the month of their birthday. I did not intend to extend my birthday celebration into three months, but unforeseen circumstances dictated it. When we need to work around all the scheduled activities that take place at St. Luke's, especially in the Lenten and Easter seasons, then flooded streets and church undercroft issues, attempting to throw a birthday party in the parish hall becomes a challenge. My family's wish to hold a special celebration for my 80th birthday was not to be dissuaded. I apologize to all who may be tired of hearing about my 80th birthday, and hope you have heard the last of it, I think you have. I will stop celebrating after May 4th when I use my gift tickets to see the Oak Ridge Boys at the Peoples Bank Theater. Thanks to all for the cards and wishes and for sharing in my celebration, and especially to my loving, caring family who thought this milestone was important to acknowledge.

If you have walked through the Meditation Garden lately, you surely have noticed the deteriorating bricks. A few people have reported tripping on occasion and have expressed concern. Matt Crim has done some of the preliminary legwork in the pursuit of the solution and we have obtained a proposal and estimated cost to complete upgrade, replacement and repairs. Greenleaf Landscape, the original contractor, will power wash, sand the bricks, then replace the deteriorating bricks and any that become damaged in the cleaning process. The plan includes removal of the bricks in the circle in front of the office entrance, using those to more closely match the bricks toward the Second Street entrance to the garden. The circle would then be filled with new bricks. The In Memoriam Committee has been consulted and presented with the plans and proposed cost. To date, the committee members have agreed verbally to grant the use of funds from their accumulated account. Following their written agreement to the Vestry, we will pursue this project with the Greenleaf Landscape Company. It is hoped once the walkway is completed the ECW will continue with plans to recreate a butterfly garden between the walkway and the building.

The sign on Second Street will soon have Fr. Gene's name added to the bottom of the sign. Tracy took the pieces to be painted and have the letters applied. They will be applied as soon as they are returned.

If you are thinning out any of your plants this spring, you might want to consider donating them to the church grounds. In the meantime, before all of this new beautification takes place, take a stroll around the building and see what the gardens have to offer presently. We welcome your remarks and input, as well as your volunteer labor to keep these gardens in welcoming condition throughout the years. A new bench could possibly be donated to replace the well-worn metal and wooden bench by the fountain. A new kiosk to replace the one that disappeared might be good. There is a file with readings and versus which we used to keep in the kiosk for visitors. A lot of folks walk through our gardens, but we no longer witness them stopping to sit on the benches to eat their lunches or to just sit and meditate. The kiosk and a new, inviting bench might welcome them back again. Once the improvements are made we might want to let Marietta citizens know we have this quiet, welcoming retreat right in the middle of town.

Enjoy the blessings of Spring.

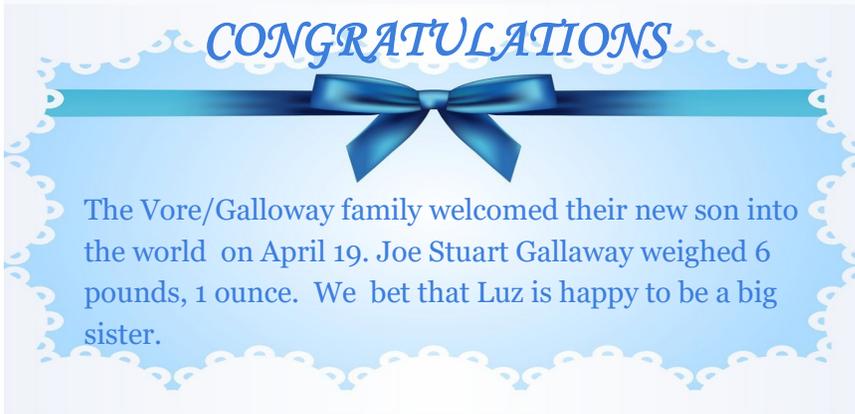
Carol

MAY EVENTS

- 1 Community Dinner 5 PM
- 6 6th Sunday of Easter HE 10:30 AM
Food Basket Collection
- 10 ECW Meeting 10 AM
- 13 7th Sunday of Easter HE 10:30 AM
Outreach Sunday
Door-to-Door Meal 1 PM
- 20 The Day of Pentecost HE & Baptism 10:30 AM
Vestry Meeting 11:45 AM
- 27 The Sunday after Pentecost HE 10:30 AM

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Marybeth Peebles
- 2 Ann Grubisha
- 4 Katherine Pekruhn
- 7 Paul Young
- 13 Tracy Reifer
- 23 Dana Strecker



May 17 - Grant and Lara Shepherd

ST. LUKE'S BY THE NUMBERS— APRIL

Sunday Worship Attendance:

Apr 1	—	70
Apr 8	—	35
Apr 15	—	41
Apr 22	—	38
Apr 29	—	41

Average Apr 2018 — 45
Average Apr 2017 — 64

Outreach

Door-to-Door Meals - 43
Community Dinner— 42

Crisis Intervention

4 Gasoline Cards
1 Water Shutoff
1 Food Card

**Apr 2017 included Rev. Ruppe's last Sunday at St. Luke's*



IN MEMORIAM

The Parish Family of St. Luke's extends its deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of **James Young**. Jim passed away on Sunday, April 22. As per his wishes there will be no visitation or service at this time; a memorial will be held at a later date at the convenience of the family.

ECW COOKBOOK

The ladies of the ECW will be doing a new cookbook as a fundraising effort. We would love to have recipes from all members of the Parish. Ideally, we would like a minimum of 2 recipes from everyone. We plan to also include sections for special diets (e.g. gluten free, diabetic, vegan, etc.) Please submit a typed or neatly printed recipe to either Tracy in the office, or to Anne Etter at home. Pre-orders will be taken sometime in May.



MISC. NOTES

3rd Street Sign is still out of commission. Cliff Essig is working on removing a part to be shipped back to the vendor. It could be out for at least another month.

Yard Sale—don't forget to keep collecting items for our annual sale in August. Items can be put in the large room upstairs in the Parish Hall marked with the sign "Yard Sale" on the door. If you are not able to take them upstairs, please let Tracy know and we will take care of it for you. If you have items too large, call Dennis at 740-374-5079 and arrange for pickup. Please separate and clearly label what is in the box or bag (e.g. kitchen, bath, toys, etc.) Please price items whenever possible. Go easy on the clothing donations; the last several years we have received much more than we could possibly sell. Thanks!

Washington County Right to Life is holding its annual virtual Baby Shower during the month of May to benefit the Women's Care Center. New or gently used gifts suitable for a baby age 0-18 months will be shared with mothers in need in our community. Suggested gifts include: baby bottles, wipes, toiletries, and clothing. Donations will be accepted through the month of May at the following locations::

Teri Ann's, 209 Front St, Marietta

Greenleaf Landscaping, 414 Muskingum Drive, Marietta

Social Hall of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, 506 4th St, Marietta

For questions, call Barb Hintz at 740-376-0551 or Patti Finkel at 740-336-2110

If you have news to share with the Parish, please submit it to the office no later than May 28. Submissions may be emailed to the church office: stlukesmariettaohio@gmail.com