

## A WORD FROM OUR PRIEST

It has been a month since I wrote my last submission for St. Luke's Newsletter, but it seems a lot longer. When I wrote my last article for the newsletter, we were worshipping in the church building and preparing for Holy Week. I could never have imagined that our church, our communities, and our lives would go through such a drastic change in thirty days.



Since I last saw the congregation, I have not seen my children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren. Since my great grandson was born, I have only been able to hold him once. Thank goodness for the pictures and videos my family has sent us so we can stay connected.

All of us are going through a time of change and I know first hand how hard it is for us to continue with a positive attitude, as each day passes. Beth, James, and I had a meeting today via Zoom, to discuss some ways we can worship together using Facebook live and perhaps Zoom. James has been at the forefront of trying new things and I am thankful to him. I am also thankful to Tammy, who has been there to support James, as he has tried new things to bring the church together for worship in various ways. Beth has been a great asset to St. Luke's during the "Shut-in." James and I have asked her to do things out of the ordinary, especially during Holy Week.

I hope I am wrong, but I don't expect to be able to worship in our church building for at least another month, and when we can; how will it look? Will we have to sit six feet apart? Will we have to wear masks? We may never be able to shake hands or hug again.

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## THE STAFF

Priest-in-Charge —	Rev. Gene Sheppard
Office Administrator—	Beth Harris
Sexton—	John Brown
Co-Treasurer—	Hazel Boettcher
Co Treasurer—	Sandia Sommer

## THE VESTRY

- Sr. Warden— James Wright (2021)
- Jr. Warden— Cliff Essig (2021)
- Clerk for the Vestry— Tracy Reifer
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- Becky Young (2021)
- Marybeth Peebles (2021)
- Mark McKarnin (2022)
- Grant Shepherd (2022)
- Mike Reifer (2023)
- Hazel Boettcher (2023)

## A WORD FROM OUR PRIEST (*continued from page 1*)

Will everyone come back to church, especially those who were newcomers? What will the “new normal” look like?

As I list some of my concerns, I think about the hard times our Church has been through before and survived. It is time for us to step up and keep the Church alive and meaningful anyway we can. I know we are capable of it. St. Luke’s has a great vestry and other leaders within the church who are willing to continue working hard to get the church back to where it was, and even better, before we were confronted with the coronavirus.

In spite of coronavirus, St. Luke’s still has bills it has to pay. I ask that you keep sending in your pledges and if I, or anyone on the vestry can help in any way, let us know. I also ask for your suggestions on how to improve our online worship. I have watched several other churches worship services online and most are about the same as ours.

I also ask that you keep, not only St. Luke’s, but the Diocese of Southern Ohio in your prayers. The churches within this diocese are doing the best they can to follow the bishops’ guidelines for worship, until things get back to “normal,” but the leadership of the diocese has to make the important decision of when we can once again return to our church buildings. Remember, we are not in this alone.

Thanks to all of you who continue to do what you can to support St. Luke’s and for the words of encouragement you share with me.

Fr. Gene+

### ST. LUKE’S BY THE NUMBERS — MARCH

#### **Sunday Worship Attendance:**

**Mar 1 — 40**

**Mar 8 — 51**

**Mar 15 — 21**

#### **Crisis Intervention**

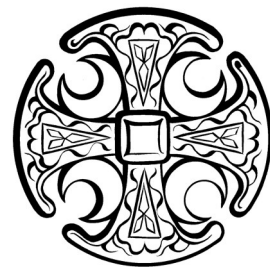
**Utilities: Gas — 0**

**Door-to-Door Meal Deliveries — 39**

**Average Mar 2020 — 37**

**Average Mar 2019 — 39**

The first thing I wish to do is express my gratitude for our parish. Someone is always volunteering to accomplish a task, and this is especially true during our present circumstances. Several have stepped up, and out of, their comfort level to participate in projects that sustain and fortify the believers. When you participate in their endeavors, even if only observing and being strengthened; you, in turn, bolster them. That is how it so often works. The comforters are comforted in the same act. The recipients edify the givers. I am thankful that so many in our parish understand this spiritual algebra.



Lent, which certainly seemed to run longer than usual this year, is over, but the contemplation, introspection, and insight remain. The way we live now, during this pandemic, assuredly encourages the same reflection present in Lent. The times challenge us to examine our understanding of “love your neighbor” and “do unto others”. We find that the answers change as the circumstances change, of course, but the principle remains the same.

Certainly, these days reinforce what we already knew; we, not the building but the people, are the church. Together we will move through the times, following our Christian principles and praying for guidance. Comforting and being comforted; sustaining and being sustained.

*James*

## 2020 APRIL TREASURER UPDATE

Since Church has been physically closed since mid-March due to COVID-19, Sandia Sommer and I have been going to the Church office once a week (on separate afternoons) to make sure our financials are addressed in a timely manner. All bills and financial obligations have been paid for March and up to date for April. Incoming funds have been deposited and reports and payroll have been taken care of.

Our sub-total giving has seen a drop... understandably with no physical Sunday Services. There is no plate offering. Some parishioners have been mailing in their pledge envelopes but many have not. If you are able to do this it would be helpful. Sometimes it is easier to keep up than catch up.

I am sharing this information with all of you so you know what is going on. We are not in any financial trouble currently. Please all continue to do your part keeping St. Luke's united while being physically separated. This too will pass. God Bless.

Hazel Boettcher, Treasurer

## March Baptism



*Happy  
Birthday*

7 Rebecca Keeley  
9 Maureen Hayes  
10 Rachel Essig  
11 Aidan Perrizo  
15 Marlene Dyar  
17 Andrew Essig  
18 Charles Kurner  
25 Faith Perrizo 29 Mary Marshall

*Happy  
Anniversary*

11 Pat and Marlene Dyar

# APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	20	21	8	23	24	25
26 <i>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</i>	27	28	29	30		