

MY DEAR THEOPHILUS

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION



Archbishop Justin Welby, a volunteer chaplain at St Thomas' Hospital in central London, received his first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.



Dear Parish Family:

When Lent comes, there are many who like to give something up. Some give up chocolate, others restrict what foods they will eat. I knew a lawyer who every Lent gave up alcohol.

This year Lent was ushered in with record cold weather. We have only just started Lent this year in Texas, and we have already given up water (and along with that showers), electricity (and along with that heat and technology), and because of the icy roads we have become hermits. If you have an ascetic bent, then your Lenten goals have not only been met, they have been exceeded.

But there is much more to Lent than the notion of giving something up. Nevertheless, you may have heard the term "Lenten discipline." There is a discipline about Lent.

The word "discipline" is not very popular today where many believe that truth and reality are relative, subjective and individualized. You hear people speak about "my truth," while others seem to disregard objective reality. Therefore, many see **discipline** as a restriction that hinders one's personal freedom to

be who one wants to be. However, nothing could be farther from the Truth and the ultimate Reality.

The root of the word “discipline” is “disciple.” What is a disciple? The word “disciple” comes from the Latin word *discipulus* meaning “student.” You are a disciple of Jesus. You are Jesus’ student. As a student of Jesus you have a discipline, that is, to learn. As you listen to His word and engage in prayer, you get to know Jesus more and more. When you get to know Jesus more and more, then you learn who Jesus is and what Jesus did, not only for you but for everyone, even for those who do not acknowledge Him.

Lent then is a time to draw closer to Jesus who is ***the Way, the Truth and the Life***, who leads to the Father in and through the Holy Spirit. Lent is a time when Jesus increases and you decrease. Lent is a time to immerse yourself in God who is Truth and the ultimate Reality – in whom we live, move and have our being.

As a part of your Lent discipline, I invite you to pray either Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer or Compline from your Book of Common Prayer. I would also invite you to pray Psalm 51 as a daily discipline. The Church begins Lent by praying Psalm 51 on Ash Wednesday. Focus on what it says. Something may stand out one day, and something else on another day. Listen to what God is saying to you. Here is Psalm 51:

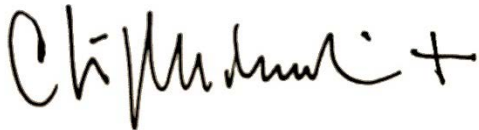
- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.

- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my
salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

So “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.” BCP, Ash Wednesday Liturgy.

Your servant in Christ,



The Rev. Chester J. Makowski, Rector

***WE ARE GOING BACK TO ONE 10:30 AM
SERVICE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT***



***WINTER STORM
DAMAGE REPORT
FROM ST. LUKE'S***

The Oasis had a broken water pipe inside the building. The plumber was called and it is being repaired. Please keep our friends at the Methodist Church and at First Baptist who experienced extensive damage.



Christ tells us: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Mt. 6:21. Please remember the Parish for your annual pledge. This Parish is tremendously generous, but 2020 saw a marked downturn in giving since we were not meeting to worship together and were live-streaming our worship services.

2021 St. Luke's Episcopal Church Pledge Card
In appreciation for God's blessings I/we pledge the following:

\$ _____ per week \$ _____ per month \$ _____ per year

Name(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

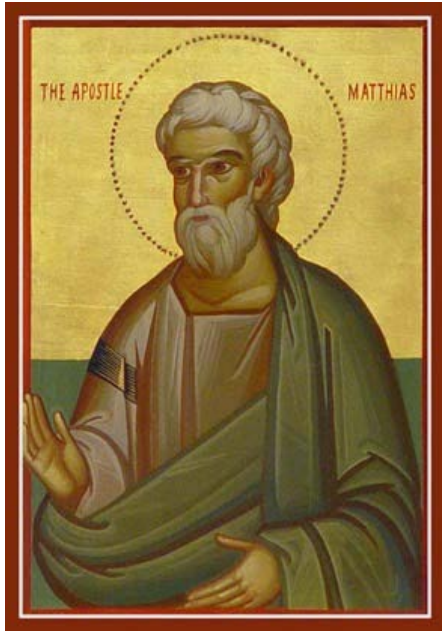
Cell Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____



**Please make all checks payable to St. Luke's Episcopal Church.
Please return by placing in the collection plate by January 17, 2021
Amazing things can happen when you offer your talents,
skills, experience, and financial support!**



***FEATURED HOLY PERSON OF
THE MONTH
MATTHIAS
FEBRUARY 24***

By Franciscan Media's Saint of the Day

According to Acts 1:15-26, during the days after the Ascension Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers—about 120 of Jesus' followers. Now that Judas had betrayed his ministry, it was necessary, Peter said, to fulfill the scriptural recommendation that another should take his office. "Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection" (Acts 1:21-22).

They nominated two men: Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias. They prayed and drew lots. The choice fell upon Matthias, who was added to the Eleven. Matthias is not mentioned by name anywhere else in the New Testament.

Reflection: What was the holiness of Matthias? Obviously, he was suited for apostleship by the experience of being with Jesus from his baptism to his ascension. He must also have been suited personally, or he would not have been nominated for so great a responsibility. Must we not remind ourselves that the fundamental holiness of Matthias was his receiving gladly the relationship with the Father offered him by Jesus and completed by the Holy Spirit? If the apostles are the foundations of our faith by their witness, they must also be reminders, if only implicitly, that holiness is entirely a matter of God's giving, and it is offered to all, in the everyday circumstances of life. We receive, and even for this God supplies the power of freedom.

Let us pray: Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being

delivered from false apostles, may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO WINTER STORMS



Episcopal Relief & Development is in close contact with Episcopal dioceses in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana as they assess needs created by winter storms that are producing widespread power outages across the south.

Winter storms and ongoing freezing temperatures knocked out power in much of Texas on February 14. Over 3 million homes lacked electricity as of Wednesday morning. Without power and heat, many water pipes and water mains froze and burst, leaving people without water and causing damage to their homes. The storms have also interrupted the food supply chain, compounding the challenges for people who lost food due to lack of refrigeration. Food banks have been similarly affected, making it difficult for them to serve vulnerable communities that rely on their services. People without homes have been especially impacted as sleeping outdoors is extremely dangerous in these conditions but shelter space is already limited due to COVID-19 precautions.

The organization's US Disaster Program team has been in communication with staff at the Episcopal dioceses of Dallas, East Carolina, Fort Worth, Oklahoma, Northwest Texas, Rio Grande, Texas, Western Louisiana and West Texas, many of whom have been personally affected by the water and

power outages all week. Partners are in the process of assessing the needs of vulnerable communities such as those without housing.

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas, with Episcopal Relief & Development's support, is supplying emergency shelter, warming centers, food, generators and gasoline to under-resourced communities in the greater Houston, Waco and Austin areas. The diocese is leveraging its long-term Hurricane Harvey recovery team, which was already responding to COVID-19, to meet these immediate needs and will continue to assess how it can provide support as the crisis evolves.

"Our partners in southern states are experienced in responding to hurricanes and are adapting emergency response plans in light of the cold weather and power crisis," said Katie Mears, Senior Director, US Disaster, Episcopal Relief & Development. "As temperatures begin to rise, we expect to see more reports of water damage, and we stand ready to support our partners as they respond."

Please [pray](#) for all those impacted by the winter storms and freezing temperatures. Donations to the [US Disaster Response Fund](#) will enable Episcopal Relief & Development to continue to respond to this crisis and other disasters, whether natural or human-made.

For 80 years, Episcopal Relief & Development has been working together with supporters and partners for lasting change around the world. Each year the organization facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives for more than 3 million people struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. Inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 25, Episcopal Relief & Development leverages the expertise and resources of Anglican and other partners to deliver measurable and sustainable change in three signature program areas: Women, Children and Climate.

Photo Courtesy of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX



HOSPITAL VISITS

Given COVID-19, visitations are restricted by hospitals. Nevertheless, if you know of anyone who needs a home visit because they cannot get to Church, please call the Parish Office, or let Fr. Makowski know. We will see if the hospital will allow Fr. Makowski to call on them. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Fr. Makowski at 713.299.7675.

THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER

Praying is something that we all can do, young and old, rich and poor, tall and short. Please pray for everyone in our Parish, those who have asked you to pray for them and especially those who have no one to pray for them.



***PLEASE BRING PORK & BEANS
FOR MANNAFEST***

SHOP AT THE OASIS THE HOME OF THE BEST BARGAINS IN POLK COUNTY



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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LIVINGSTON, TEXAS 77351
CHURCH OFFICE: 936.327.8467
WWW.STLUKESLIVINGSTON.ORG

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.07, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA PARA EL LIBRE PORTE DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO A LIBRE PORTE.

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.06, DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (TRASPASE POR PORTADOR DE LICENCIA CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTO), PERSONAS CON LICENCIA BAJO AUTORIDAD DEL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, DEL CÓDIGO DE GOBIERNO (LEY REGULADORA DE ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBERÁ ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTO.