



NuHu Weekly

The New Humanity
Blog & News

October 12, 2023

A PASTORAL MESSAGE

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Isaiah 58:9b-12

My Dear Church,

I am certain that each of us have some sort of response as we watch videos and see images from across the globe, as we watch the Holy Land descend into the depths of war and destruction. For centuries, perhaps from the start of time, the land that has figured in the Abrahamic faith traditions has been wrought with violence and destruction. The complexities of the Israeli and Palestinian conflicts predate many of us – and is so thoroughly complex that a simple explanation cannot do the justice that is needed. The political, partisan, and religious fervor that arises from conversations regarding Israel and Palestine is perhaps some of the most devastatingly divisive conversations that we can have in our world today.

I know that to mention the conflict in a letter or pastoral message is, in and of itself, divisive. There is no perfect message. There is no way that a statement can make everyone happy. To do nothing, to say nothing, in my opinion is far more problematic. We know from the experiences of the Shoah (or the Holocaust) that to be silent in the face of injustice is itself an injustice.

Israel and Palestine have grievances and have both suffered injustice and violence inflicted by one another upon one another. Solutions have been discussed and borders made, but war still rages. The kidnappings and terrorism that we have witnessed are unspeakable truths and traumas that the world now bears. Yet the upheaval and unrest is not recent.

It is the innocent that seem to bear the burden of a society that is constantly in upheaval. The trauma that is born out of violence not only affects the victim – but it also damages the very soul of the perpetrator.

In a conversation today, one of my colleagues at Cornell said, “it does not matter what side you are on, but if you cannot allow your heart to break at the kidnappings and murder of families and the death of children, then your humanity is in trouble.”

If our hearts cannot break when another human person is slaughtered, if we cannot weep at the abuse of another person, then we are in trouble. Nothing can change until we see the humanity in “the other.”

The world is very dark right now. The yoke of hate has yet to be removed from us, so long as we continue to point our fingers and speak evil, peace will escape us. However, it is in the light that we can find hope and the power to remove the yoke and start the journey towards restoration of the breaches among the world and the rebuilding of the streets of humanity.

Perhaps light a candle tonight as evening comes and pray. Gaze on the flame and ponder the peace of God and know that all the darkness in this world can never overcome the light of a single candle.

So let the light shine from each of our homes and carry that in our hearts as we take a step into the next day. Call your friends, hold your loved ones close, and check in on those that may be afraid for their safety or that of a loved one across the globe.

May the elusive peace we pray for come to light and be manifest in our world.

Pr. Jason

What Is "Vespers?"

A Mini From the Loft

Vespers is the service for Evening Prayer. Its origins are monastic and date back hundreds of years. Widely used and sung in the Anglican cathedrals and chapels, Lutherans have also adopted it in places. It begins with giving thanks for light, even as the light of the day fades. Two psalms are sung, in this case one congregationally to the lovely setting of "Let my prayer rise before you as incense" and the other chorally to a setting by Parry famously used at British coronations, "I Was Glad." An evening hymn is sung, in this case an old favorite *Abide with Me*, likely familiar to those laying the cornerstone one hundred years ago. Readings and reflection follow, including chorales by J. S. Bach. The Magnificat text is traditional at this service and a festal setting by Stanford will be offered. The service concludes with prayers and a forward-looking sending hymn *Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen*.



Festival Choral Vespers on the Centennial of the

Laying of the Cornerstone at
St. Luke Lutheran Church
Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Livestreamed at the usual Sunday Service Zoom link
Dinner to follow, main dishes provided.
Anyone able to bring a salad/side or dessert to share
is warmly invited to do so.



A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL SAINTS is in the narthex, please add anyone you wish to have remembered on All Saints Sunday, November 5.

BLOOD DRIVE at St. Luke
Tuesday October 24 9am-2pm. Signup
at Red Cross website or app; let people
know we're a site!



NEXT BOOK FOR THE BOOK GROUP: *Love is the Way*, by Bishop Michael Curry. Discussion will be held in November so you have an entire month to read!

SUNDAY SERVERS: Thanks to those serving this Sunday: Assisting Minister Lauren Mossotti-Kline, reader Bev Dodici, ushers Janelle Alvstad-Mattson and Susan Hoskins.

CALENDAR

Thursday,
October

12

8:00 pm **Nightsong/Compline** at Immaculate Conception
Also on the [Youtube Channel](#).

Sunday,
October

15

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Confirmation class after service

Tuesday,
October

17

12:15 pm Bible Study

Discussing the Sunday readings past and future

Saturday,
October

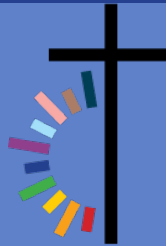
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4:00 Festal Vespers for the Centennial of the Laying of the Cornerstone - Dinner following

[Worship Online](#)

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Get In
Touch

**Sunday 10:00 am
Service of Holy Communion**

St. Luke is a [Reconciling in Christ Congregation](#) of the [ELCA](#). As a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, the people of St. Luke Lutheran Church are called by God to be a community of Christians, a part of the body of Christ. Because we believe we are one in God's eyes, we welcome the mix of ages, races, gender identities, physical and mental capabilities, and sexual orientations with which God's children are blessed. Everyone is invited to share in God's grace. We rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus--not our wealth, nor our poverty, nor our nationality, nor our political convictions, nor whom we love, nor anything else in all creation. We are called to follow God's mission of reconciliation and justice with all humanity, and we celebrate our journey of discipleship with a special appreciation for the privileged responsibility of our campus related ministry.

St. Luke Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry; ELCA | 109 Oak Ave., Ithaca, NY
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