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# The Lifeline

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Shawnee, Kansas

April 2009

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## Small Group Ministry – Closer Than You Think

We are pleased to announce that we are on the verge, the very edge, of initiating our Small Group Ministry. The tentative plan is to organize two groups: one which will meet mid-week and another which will meet on the weekend. Depending on the number of parishioners (and hopefully their friends and neighbors) who are interested in the Small Group Ministry, there is the option of adding other Small Groups. We would anticipate that the Small Groups would meet for a particular purpose or agenda for a set period of time (say, six weeks) and then the groups would set their own agenda; the meeting sites would change as well.

Small Group Ministries are groups of approximately ten people who meet either weekly or biweekly for companionship – in other words, *koinonia*, which is the Greek word meaning both fellowship and communion – study and prayer. The purpose of a Small Group Ministry is to learn how to apply God's Word to our daily lives. Small Groups are intentional: they are designed to help the members grow in their faith and walk; they are also confidential – they provide a safe place to share life's burdens and challenges; and they are transformative – they facilitate growth and a deeper faith.

Even more important, Small Groups are the best incubators for new Christians, for those people with little or no Christian experience. As Episcopalians, we are all evangelists by virtue of our baptism. The Catechism in the Prayer Book states that the "ministry of the lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever we may be; and, according to the gifts given us, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world." Small Groups are one of the best ways to bear witness to our Lord and to carry on his work of reconciliation both with each other and with those seeking a deeper relationship with him. As the baptized charged with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), one of the ways we

can best minister to these searchers and to our fellow Christians through Small Groups.

Finally, Small Group Ministries are important because we can all grow deeper in our faith. The Lord never intended for us to be tepid Christians, but to enjoy everlasting life. As Saint Paul wrote, we all may know the hope to which God has called us, we all may know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and we all may know God's incomparably great power for those who believe. Studying the Scriptures is always rewarding. Sharing the Christian journey with your fellow believers is always enriching.

There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for proposed groups at different times. If one of the suggested times conflicts with your schedule, please use the space to note a time that would be convenient for you, or speak with Shawn Streepy about Small Groups. If you have any questions or comments, please call Shawn Streepy at 913 631-8548 or e-mail at [shawn@stlukes.net](mailto:shawn@stlukes.net).

## Lenten Series

Special thanks to everyone who attended, supported, and brought the delicious food to the Annual Lenten Series. The Lenten Series would not be possible without the hard work of the angels who cleaned the parish hall each Tuesday afternoon, set the tables, prepared and brought the food, and cleaned up afterwards (since we have become a "greener" parish, there were more dishes and cloth napkins to clean each evening). Special thanks also to all the people who led that table discussions after we watched the segments of the "Simply Christian" program as presented by Bishop N.T. Wright. We hope that everyone enjoyed and benefitted from the Lenten Program, and that its content both enriched your faith and provided occasions for reflection and spiritual growth.

— Shawn



## Saint Luke's Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday  
9:30 AM – 2:30 PM\*

*\*Other hours with the Rector  
are available by appointment.*

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### Vestry Members

Vincy Abraham

[ashvinaby@gmail.com](mailto:ashvinaby@gmail.com)

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[jbcarl@stlukes.net](mailto:jbcarl@stlukes.net)

Carol Garton

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Charles Werly

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### Parish Delegates

#### & Alternate Delegates

Christy Keller (Delegate, 2012)

[christykeller81@hotmail.com](mailto:christykeller81@hotmail.com)

Marcia Streepy (Delegate, 2011)

[mkstreepy@streepy.net](mailto:mkstreepy@streepy.net)

Steve Mann (Delegate, 2010)

[mamm1500@stlukes.net](mailto:mamm1500@stlukes.net)

Jim Carl (Alternate, 2012)

[jbcarl@stlukes.net](mailto:jbcarl@stlukes.net)

Kate Wood (Alternate, 2011)

[cwood@gilmorebell.com](mailto:cwood@gilmorebell.com)

Victor Clarke (Alternate, 2010)

[bajan@stlukes.net](mailto:bajan@stlukes.net)

## Youth Group News!

Hey everybody!

I thought that March was supposed to go out like a lamb? Seems like some interesting weather! Despite the crazy weather, we have a lot going on this April with the youth group!

April 5<sup>th</sup> We're having an egg dying, party! – at St. Luke's from 5-6:30, bring friends!

April 12<sup>th</sup> No Youth Group for Easter

April 19<sup>th</sup> Youth Group at normal time 5-6:30

April 24<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> New Beginnings – A youth event for Junior high at St. Michael's, Mission. Contact me for more information! This is a really fun, awesome event! You should come!!

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth group at normal time 5-6:30

May 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Group recognition Sunday morning, youth encouraged to attend 10:15 service!! No Youth group in the evening, Enjoy Mother's day!!

May 17<sup>th</sup> Last YG of the year party!!

Also, it is not too late to get your camp wood application turned in. Camp wood is really an amazing camp! Get an application from [www.episcopal-ks.org/youth](http://www.episcopal-ks.org/youth). If money is an issue, we have some money available for scholarship. Contact me for info!

Peace,

*Christina*

Christina Waggoner, Youth Group Coordinator  
[youth@stlukes.net](mailto:youth@stlukes.net)

*If you do not receive e-mails from me, then I do not have your correct e-mail address.  
Shoot me an e-mail if you would like to get e-mails about upcoming events!*

*It's a good time to be a youth at The Luke!*

## Contacting Our College Freshmen

**Steven Mathew**

Olin Templin Residence Hall, #501

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**Michael Penny**

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Cleveland, OH 44106

[lizzy\\_6428@yahoo.com](mailto:lizzy_6428@yahoo.com)

*Please contact the parish secretary to add other names to this list.*

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# Parish News 'n Events

## Holy Week Schedule of Services

Palm Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM  
Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM  
Good Friday Noon & 7:00 PM  
Easter Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM

*At the Good Friday 7:00 PM service, a traditional (traditional for St. Luke's, that is) Stations of the Cross will be offered, with stations being set up throughout the building.*

## The Dinner Club

April hosts Nona & Marlin Howard invite you to join them on Monday, April 27, 6:30pm at **Ruby Tuesday's** (22220 Midland Dr, Shawnee).

## The Book Club

Book Club will meet Friday, April 24 at 7:00PM at the home of Tom & Rose Schrempp, 8307 Acuff Lane, Lenexa. We will be discussing the book, "Slumdog Millionaire" by Vikas Swarup. Everyone is invited.

## Community Food Pantry

In April, we need *soap & cleaning supplies*. And, as always, Best Choice labels with the bar code included can be redeemed by the pantry for 3¢ each. They also need empty, cleaned 16-32oz water bottles.

## Music Small Group

Do you have an interest in participating in a small group on Contemporary Christian Music? We are looking to form a Small Group who meets to reach out to God through Contemporary Christian Music. If you are interested in listening to, praying with, and/or performing with Contemporary Christian Music, please sign up on the list posted on the Church Bulletin Board. We hope to meet twice a month on a weekday evening for about an hour at participants homes to reach out to God and each other, by listening to and performing music and discussing how God reaches us through this music. You don't have to sing or play an instrument to participate. If you would like to visit about the concept, contact Tom Schrempp at 492-0883 or email him at [h2odude@everestkc.net](mailto:h2odude@everestkc.net).

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Garage Sale

May 2, 2009, 8AM – 4PM. Start saving items for the sale. Sign-up to reserve your own space. Volunteer to help with St. Luke's space. For more information, contact Christy Keller and Vincy Abraham. **Important note:** sale items cannot be stored at the church.

## Sunday School News

Youth Confirmation Class: 9:15 in the library on Sunday. It is not too late to join the class. Who? Youth sixth grade and older. **Note: this class will meet on Easter Sunday!**

Fix up/Paint Evenings: Help us redecorate the Christian Ed Room (mostly done, but needs some finishing touches) and the nursery. Everyone welcome. April 2 at 6:00 and April 16 at 6:00.

Two-year-olds Sunday School class at 9:15 is being suspended while we work out a better schedule for that age group. We hope to resume in the fall.

Easter Egg Hunt: Another St. Luke's tradition! For ages elementary and younger, after the 10:15 Easter service, April 12 in the field across the parking lot.

Vacation Bible School: Coming June 1 through 5, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Look for a registration in next month's Lifeline. Ages preschool (3) through elementary. Invite your friends!

## Jr/Sr High Sunday School

We continue our study of the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel that was written, and the gospel that served as a basis for two of the other three gospels. One of the resources we're using is the Serendipity Study Bible, which we're confident will make our conversations lively and interesting. Everyone is invited to join us each Sunday at 9:15AM in the basement. contact Peggy Cook or Melissa Neufeld with questions or for information.

## The Welcoming Committee

Are you interested in taking part in a new ministry effort geared at improving the way we respond to visitors and newcomers to St. Luke's? Our initial goal is to design a simple process by which we can greet and receive in a way that is more deliberate, and which makes it easier for people to get involved at St. Luke's. If you believe that you have the time and interest, please plan on attending a meeting after the second service **April 19**.

## Garden Day

Circle Saturday, **April 18** on your calendar and join us at 9AM for an hour or two helping to prepare ALL of the gardens at St. Luke's for the summer. You can choose an area you want to improve and go to work! **Bring a leaf rake, kneeling pad, weed digger, and a donation of a bag or two of Dark Brown Mulch.** You'll feel good and be proud of how beautiful all of our gardens look when we've finished (Rain day, 4/25) *See Dan Wheatcroft.*

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# A Moment of Meditation ...

Submitted by Vincy Abraham

“It is the Lord!” – John 21:7

**D**id Christ really rise from the dead? Fact or Fiction? So much depends on the answer to this question. Can a technologically advanced society that continues to open new vistas of scientific knowledge believe in a miracle that 20 centuries of research have not been able to duplicate? Why step back 2,000 years into history to put our faith in an event that violates the laws of science?

Some educated, refined skeptics living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century question if Jesus really come back from the dead.

***These skeptics say:***

- “Miracles are not scientific.” To people of science, dead means dead. They have no evidence that anything that was dead ever came back to life. It goes against their established data to believe that a dead man came back to life.

- “It is spiritual, not physical, resurrection.” Some “enlightened” modern-day skeptics maintain that the disciplines did not really see Jesus with their eyes; they “saw” Him with their hearts. To those who hold this view, Jesus was a great teacher whose ministry ended on the cross but whose influence continues through His words and philosophies.

- “The biblical accounts are too contradictory.” Some people think that if the Gospel writers could not agree on all details, then cannot be sure they got any part of the story straight.

- “The historical accounts aren’t trustworthy.” Obviously, no reporters from the Jerusalem Star were at the garden on that resurrection morning to record the event. So they believe that the non-biblical historical accounts we have concerning Jesus’ resurrection were written some time after the event.

In historical sense, the resurrection stands on ground that is just as solid as the story of George Washington’s winter at Valley Forge.

***The Evidence for Christ’s resurrection:***

**Observation 1:** The verification of Jesus’ death. The following events at the site of crucifixion help to verify that Jesus was dead:

- The Roman soldiers did not break Jesus’ legs because they “saw that He was already dead” (Jn.19: 33)

- The soldiers plunged a spear into Jesus’ side and from it came both water and blood (Jn. 19:34). Medical experts say that if He were not already dead, this would have killed Him.

- When Joseph of Armathea asked for the body of Christ so he and Nicodemus could bury Him, Pontius Pilate ordered a centurion to verify that Jesus was dead

(Mk 15:43-45). The Roman governor would not release the body to Joseph until the centurion was certain that all signs of life were gone.

- Joseph and Nicodemus prepared the body according to the Jewish custom (Mt. 27:59; Jn 19:39; Mk. 15:46). Surely these bereaved friends would not have buried a breathing Jesus.

- The Pharisees and chief priests met with Pilate to discuss what had occurred (Mt. 27:63, 64). The Jewish leaders and the Roman authorities knew beyond a doubt that Jesus was dead.

**Observation 2:** The Empty Tomb. Let us look at the evidence that the tomb was empty:

- We can depend on the historical record. The mere fact that the authorities sealed the tomb and placed guards to protect it indicated that they were determined to keep the body behind that stone barrier. Yet, no historical evidence exists to suggest that those officials knew where the body was. It was no longer in the tomb.

- There is something even more conclusive than the officials’ inaction – the actions of the eye witnesses (Mk. 16:5-6). John and Peter were the next after the women at the tomb to see that Jesus was gone. John is the one who wrote this account as recorded in John: 20. That is solid historical evidence in anyone’s book.

- The reactions of the authorities when the guards reported the events in the garden. Jesus’ disappearance was their sole cause for their concern. Surely their collusion with the guards is solid proof that there was no body in the tomb. So, where was Jesus?

**Observation 3:** The appearances of Jesus. Let’s look at who saw Jesus and where He appeared. It’s one more evidence for resurrection.

- To Mary Magdalene at the tomb (Jn 20:11-18)
- To Several Women as they ran from the tomb (Mt. 28:9-10)
- To Two Disciples on the Emmaus road (Lk. 24:13-32)
- To Peter at an unknown location (Lk. 24:33-35)
- To 10 Disciples in the Upper room (Lk.24: 36-43)
- To 11 Disciples (including Thomas) in the Upper Room (Jn. 20:26-31)
- To Seven Men at the Sea of Galilee (Jn. 21:1-25)
- To 11 Disciples on a mountain (Mt. 28:16-20)
- To His Disciples near Bethany (Acts 1:9-12)

The evidence was clear. Jesus was alive. Now their job was to go and tell the people.

**Observation 4:** The Reaction of the Jewish Officials.

- A Roman soldier was no coward. But notice the
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reaction of the soldiers who were protecting Jesus tomb when they felt the earth move and saw the angel roll back the stone. They “shook for fear of Him and became like dead men” (Mt. 28:2,4).

- They turned themselves in! Facing sure punishment, they still felt that they must report the amazing event to their superiors

- The officials bribed the soldiers to spread the news that “His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept”(Mt.28: 13)

Yes, the officials knew that Jesus has risen. Their reaction proves it. Their bribe verifies it. And their hastily concocted story authenticates it

Observation 5: The Outlook of Jesus Disciples.

- The disciples just didn’t seem like the men of action you would need if you wanted to win a following and influence the world. What changed this cowardly group of mourners into a courageous band of evangelists who were willing to stand up and testify that the crucified Jesus was alive?

- No, the disciples were not the type of men who could have lied a lie as far-reaching as one that claimed that a dead man wasn’t dead anymore. Tradition says that these men died horrible deaths. They were willing to die for the One who overcame death for them – and for us!

Observation 6: The Start of the Christian Church. The church that began less than 2 months after Jesus’ death is the result of something more significant than His great sayings, parables and philosophies. Let’s see what were people told when they were first given the opportunity to embrace this new faith.

- Standing before people from all Roman Empire, including many from Jerusalem, Peter described Jesus as the One “God raised up (Acts 2:24, 32). As a result of this clear, straightforward message, 3,000 people believed Peter and were baptized that very day.

- In a later sermon, this man who had earlier denied that he knew Jesus now called Him the “Prince of life, whom God raised from dead” (Acts 3:15). Even when he faced the wrath of the religious leaders, Peter stood by his

story that “the God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree” (Acts 5:30)

- These are the kinds of statements that led to the start of the church. Peter was telling people that the crucified Christ was alive. That was the only message the Christian Church needed to catch fire and for 2,000 years it’s been the driving force behind the church.

Observation 7: The expectation of Christ’s return.

- One of the most important activities of the early church was to share in what we now call the communion service. It was a time to remember Jesus’ death and to reflect on His sacrifice. But what would the early Christian have had to celebrate if Jesus were still dead? These people were living in Jesus generation. They would have known if the resurrection story was not true.

- They listened and obeyed when Paul said, “as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (1Cor. 11:26). This verse makes it obvious that the first-century believers were eagerly awaiting Jesus’ return. They could not have believed in the second coming without knowing that He was alive.

- This idea that Jesus would return to be with His people again was taught throughout the New Testament. No would dare predict such an event as Jesus’ return if He were in fact lying in a tomb, or if His body had been taken away and hidden. No, John and Paul knew exactly what had transpired on that resurrection day.

Think of the key world events of the last couple of decades. Or go back to an earlier era. Now think back through history. Each of these events had extraordinary historical significance. But none of them has the kind of monumental, worldwide, eternal effects that one event almost 2,000 years ago claims to have. This event? The resurrection of Jesus Christ.

– Compiled from “Did Christ Really Rise From The Dead?” by Dave Branon, Discovery Series Booklet, RBC Ministries

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## **Inquirers’ & Confirmation Class**

Bishop Wolfe will be making his next “episcopal visitation” to St. Luke’s on Sunday, May 17. As is usually the case, we will be presenting to the bishop any candidates for Confirmation, for Reception into the Episcopal Church, and to Reaffirm their Baptismal Vows. In addition, there will be a baptism. Please contact Fr. Jim if you’re interested in participating.

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# Remember in Your Prayers ...

## Our Health & Strength Prayer List

Our Agape Family, Linda Ahrens & Family, Alan, Vanessa Allen, Bill Allen, Mika Allison, Don & Blanche Anderson, Larry Andrews, Rob Arend, Family of Asher Arcand, **Kathy Bagby, Julie Ball, Diane Ball**, Anita Bergman, The Thomas Bickle Family, **Bob**, Joan Boyd, **Amy Breidenthal**, Louise Bricker, **Jeanette Burris**, Brian Busch, Caydence, Paul Chastain, **Laine Clements**, Amanda & Jason Coleman, Darrell Corson, Theophilus Cumberbatch, Diane Damro, **Virginia Davis**, Pat DeLong, Christa Devonshire, Joanna Diviney, **Joan Duran**, Angela Evans, Theresa Fletchall, **Dr. Wayne Fowler, Sr.**, Jack Francis, Heidi Gentry, Marsha Gribble, Christie Gutierrez, John Habley, June Harlow, Barbara Hart, **Tom Hayselden**, Valeria Henderson, Sherry Holtman, Kathy & Zach Hudon, The Hoffman Family, Colleen Hurley, Tim Janicke, Merle Johnson, **J.R.**, Katelyn, Gail Kent, Bob Kuemmerlein, **Elizabeth Laird, Fr. Arleigh & Betty Lou Lassiter**, Anne Liebst, Roger Liebst, Vic Lenoir, Jurie Lindley, John Long, Harold Luttrell, Steve Lynch Family, Tom McAnerney, Alan McDonald, Tasha McDonald, Elizabeth McGranahan, Niki McKechnie, Karlee McQueen, Marcheschi Family, Maugham Family, **Alex Mathew**, Leo & Donna Mealman, Vickey Meyers, Bruce Miller, **Jeanne Miller**, Natalie Miller, Sid & Mary Morris, Chris Mueller, Jason Mueller, **Ellene Nash**, Colten Newman, John Owen, Christie Owens, Barb Parkhurst, Lilly Passler's Great-Aunt, Ann Perry, Lauren Perry, **Amy Pfannensteil**, Liz Pfeiffer, Milly Pfeilsticker, Jerre Plunkett, Deb Quintero, **Sarah Reese**, Chris Roesner Bud & Frank Rowan, Sabrina, JJ, & Katie, Dwayne Sax, **Edith Sheahan**, Jimmy Shelton, Kirsta Sherman, Jason & Autumn Smart, Pat Smith, Steven Smith, **KT Speicher & Family**, Helen Stambaugh, Jim Stegeman, Ivan Straker, Sherry Sullivant & family, Skylar Tatham, Ethel Thomas, Laura Tindel, Paisley Ann Trickey, John Urnes, Carl Van Winkle, Charles Verstaete, Mary Ann Wagner, Nellie Wangari, **Ginger Waters, Charles Werly**, Clancy Wiedel, **Brad Wright, Wilbur Wright**.

### ✠ In Memoriam ✠

*No names have been submitted.*

### Homebound & Shut-In

June Harlow, Wanda Kirkham, Annette Redler

## April Anniversaries

Dawn & Steve Sullivan	8
Vincy & Abraham Verghese	20
Rose & Bob Wrede	22
Marcia & Shawn Streepy	24
Ellie & Swede Holmberg	26
Peggy & Jim Cook	28

## April Birthdays

Bonnie Howard	1
Alex Mathew	1
Jim Gray	3
Heather Hayselden	4
Henry Kniggendorf	4
Nat Cassingham	5
Barbara Weaver	5
David Speicher	8
Sheeba Mathew	8
Shara Crawford	10
Bill McGuinn	10
Mark Schrempp	10
Brenna Anderson	10
Megan Jones	12
Rose Wrede	13
Stephanie Hoffman	16
Wanda Holtorf	18
Stephen Mathew	18
Michael Penny	19
Tyler Plunkett	19
Herman Holtorf	22
Ellie Holmberg	23
Cheryl Ball	23
Bill Park	28
Niki McKechnie	30

## In the Armed Forces

**Beth Behn**, John Belshe, Jonas Brown, Brett Casey, Sean Connelley, Michael Cook, Nathan Craft, Peter & Nathan Durand, Amity Feliz, Brian Fiffer, Wayne Fuller, Charles Garcia, **Michael Green**, Evan Hall, **Harvey Hayselden**, Robert Heraldez, Josh Jonas, **Benjamin Karpinski**, James LaVine, Kurt Littlejohn, Greg Marsh, Greg McBride, Kelly Morris, Kyle Nosbisch, Sam Nosbisch, Rodney Martin, Daniel Ohlstein, **Barry Palmer**, Quentin Peach, David Rodgers, Matt Schiffel, Bill Simiser, Jayson Smith, Andrew Stemm, Bobby Stallings, **Chris Still**, Nathan Tacha, Alan Walker, Kevin Wright.

# Ministry Schedule: April 2009

	April 5 (Palm Sunday)	April 12 (Easter)	April 19	April 26
<b>Altar Guild 8:00</b>	V Clarke	D Wallower	B Carl	V Clarke
<b>Altar Guild 10:15</b>	C Uhrmacher	R Cantwell	P Jones	C Keller
<b>Acolytes 10:15</b>	E Cook E Sullivan	L Riddle, G Rhorer	P Kariuki T Wrede	A & C Garton
<b>Ushers 8:00</b>	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg
<b>Ushers 10:15</b>	M Jones J Darnell	J & B Carl	C Smith S Jarvis	G & C Keller
<b>Greeters 8:00</b>	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg
<b>Greeters 10:15</b>	D Breidenthal	D Fowler	D Kissane	S Jarvis B Jarvis
<b>Lay Minister 8:00</b>	V Clarke . . . . . L/Ch	R Jones.. . . . L/Ch	U Prescott . . . L/Ch	C Werly . . . L/Ch
<b>Lay Ministers 10:15</b>	R Wrede . . . . . Ps/Ch K Wood . . . . . Cr/Ch C Speicher . . . . . L/I	M Neufeld Ps/Ch S Mann . . . Cr/Ch C Smith . . . . . L/I	C Burris . . . . . Ps/Ch B Carl . . . . . Cr/Ch K Wymer . . . . . L/I	T Jones . . . . . Ps/Ch M Neufeld Cr/Ch S Jarvis . . . . . L/I
<b>Lay Eucharistic Visitor</b>	S Mann B McGuinn	M Neufeld M Neufeld	R Jones P Jones	J Carl B Carl
<b>Counters</b>	J Speicher, C Speicher, C Keller	J Darnell, C Ball D Callaway	D Kahn, R Knabel, S Sullivan	B Carl, J Carl D Wallower
<b>Coffee Hosts</b>	Zones 2 & 3	Zones 2 & 3	Zones 2 & 3	Zones 2 & 3

**April 9: Maundy Thursday**

L = P Jones

Ps/Ch= B Carl

U = J & B Carl

**April 10: Good Friday**

L = J Carl

**Legend:** L/Ch = Lector, Chalice (usually at 8 A.M. only)

Ps/Ch = Psalm, Chalice

Cr/Ch = Creed, Chalice

L/I = Lector, Intercissors

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please try to find a replacement, or contact the parish office no later than the Friday that you are scheduled. We appreciate it very much!

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# Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

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*It has been long known that the most effective way to grow a congregation is simply to invite a friend to come to church with you. So what are you waiting for?*

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## Out of Sight But Not Out of Mind

As Father Jim announced in the March edition of the Lifeline and has repeated in the weekly Sunday bulletins since then, I will be leaving St. Luke's after Easter Sunday for a "field education" experience at St. Aidan's in Olathe. This is an experience which all persons seeking ordination as a priest must, well, experience. The plan is for me to remain at St. Aidan's until the day of Pentecost, which is Sunday, May 31, 2009.

The purpose is to work with another rector, get outside my comfort zone, and perhaps stretch my wings a little bit. The "field education" assignment can (in the wise words of Rose Wrede) be considered "student teaching." I hope to have the opportunity to work with the youth of St. Aidan's and initiate a newcomer's ministry. My prayer is that this time working with the rector and people of St. Luke's will provide opportunities to develop my priestly ministry.

Speaking of a priestly ministry, this field education assignment means that when I return to St. Luke's on

Sunday, June 7, it will not be as a deacon. I confess to having mixed feelings about all of this. I am both excited and eager to initiate a new ministry, but also sad to be leaving all of the parishioners at St. Luke's who have blessed and encouraged me along this lengthy and often arduous journey. Thanks to all of you for your kindness, support, prayers, and willingness to let me seek God's path in my life.

Just because I might be physically absent doesn't mean that I'll forget anybody. I hold all of the people of St. Luke's in my heart, and remember you in my prayers. Those prayers, just like my love for all of you, will not diminish just because I am gone for seven Sundays, or because one day soon I might wear a different stole. God bless all of you.

— Shawn

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