

The Evangel

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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February 2018



From the Rector

Wednesday February 14th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

The Book of Common Prayer tells us:

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

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. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Inside this issue:

Fr. Peter's Message	1
Sr. Warden Message	2
Pioneer Day Information	3
Work Day Photos	4
Chapel Rededication	5
Calendar	6
	6
	7
	7

Here are some suggestions that may help you "observe a holy Lent":

- **Stations of the Cross** will be held at St. Luke's on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (followed by Holy Communion). This will start on February 22nd
- This year we are being challenged by the Presiding Bishop to join the **Good Book Club** and read the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85MKTWjRcbk>). More information can be found at Good Book Club, <http://www.goodbookclub.org/>, Daily Reading Program (<http://www.goodbookclub.org/readings/>)
- Perhaps you would like to examine your lifestyle - here is a devotion that may help, **Forty Days of Lent: An Almost Amish Journey Toward a Slower, Simpler, More Sustainable Life** (<http://www.blessedearth.org/uncategorized/40-days-of-lent-an-almost-amish-journey-toward-a-slower-simpler-more-sustainable-life/>)
- Last year on one Lent challenge was the **Carbon Fast** - climate change is still with us, so this is still a useful devotion (<http://www.greenanglicans.org/carbon-fast-lent-2015/>) Please note the dates are for 2017
- The Lutheran Church produces a **Lent Handbook** as an aid to discipline (<http://www.liturgybytlw.com/Lent/Discipln.html>)
- As we live in place that is experiencing a large influx of refugees, perhaps this is a good year to reflect on Exile, hospitality, and migration. The Forward Movement has produced a Lent Course that reflects on those issues in the Bible, **A Season of Prayer: 40 Days in the Desert.** (<https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/Default.aspx?ContentID=9297&Title=Season-of-Prayer>)

If anyone has other resources, please share them with us. *Peter*

PLEASE NOTE:
The deadline for the newsletter items is the 15th of each month.

From the Senior Warden



First of all, once again, St. Luke's Parishioners proved how generous and caring they are. Thanks to that generosity, we were able to give a nice Christmas bonus to Fr. Peter, Fr. Gene and Organist John. I have received notes and calls from them thanking us for this gift and I wanted to pass their thanks onto all of you. THANKS!!

January 6 was a busy day. Thanks to Joan, members of the Altar Guild and others, the Christmas decorations were removed and stored. While some were working in the church, others were digging and planting around the Chapel. Thank you Carol for leading the Chapel landscaping efforts. THANKS!!

The January 12 Chapel Rededication was a huge success. Thanks to all for your support throughout the year it took to raise the money and endure the weeks of reconstruction. Thanks to John and Joan for painting the new handrails and doors. Thanks to all who helped with the cleanup inside and out and the landscaping around the Chapel; it indeed looked wonderful for the rededication. Thanks to all who helped setup Perrine Hall and to those who provided refreshments for our social hour. Thanks to Emily for the beautiful photo album of the restoration project. One copy was given to Renny for his hard work on the project and one copy will be kept in the church office. Thanks to all who attended the rededication service and dinner – it was so rewarding to see both the Chapel and Perrine Hall filled to almost capacity. As always, we never have to worry about cleanup after a dinner, thanks to all of you who pitched in and did what was necessary to tidy up after dinner. The whole evening was a group effort, but well worth the time and energy – THANK YOU ALL!!

Saturday, January 13, was the Vestry organizational meeting. The following are the Vestry officers:

Senior Warden – Marcia
 Junior Warden – John
 Treasurer – Malcolm
 Secretary – Ginny

We also assigned liaison positions so that a Vestry member is the contact person for key parish groups/activities. The following positions were assigned:

Altar Guild – Ginny
 Scouts – Sean
 Choir – Sherrill
 Communications – Joyce
 Food Coordinator – Judi

The Vestry has a Wish List of items or projects that would be great if we had the money. Our current Wish is to have a laptop computer dedicated for use for the church finances. The plan is to set up the extra office in the Admin wing with a computer for use by the Treasurer. However, after passing the 2018 budget, there was no room for the laptop in the budget. The Vestry still considers this a good idea, and we believe we can find a laptop for around \$500. If anyone would like to donate towards the purchase of a laptop, please let Malcolm know.

Remember to mark your calendar for the following events in February:

February 3	Pioneer Day cleanup day
February 4	Scout Sunday and Souper Bowl of Sharing – breakfast between services benefitting the Central Brevard Sharing Center
February 10	Pioneer Day
February 14	Ash Wednesday – Liturgy of the Day services
February 23	Progressive Dinner – details to follow

It's hard to believe that this year Lent starts in February! For many Lent is a time of fasting and self-denial; for others Lent is a time of self-examination. However you observe Lent, remember it is when the Church prepares for the main event of Easter on April 1.

Faithfully yours, *Marcia*

Save the Date for the 7th annual
Pioneer Day

Saturday, February 10th, 2018

Two Locations:

Sams House at Pine Island
6195 N Tropical Trail
Merritt Island, FL 32953
321-449-4720



St Luke's Episcopal Church
5555 N Tropical Trail
Merritt Island, FL 32953
321-452-5260



Historical House, Cabin and Chapel tours.
Cemetery tour. Exhibits, music, educational
booths, arts & craft vendors, & food.

<http://mipioneerday.com/>



www.facebook.com/pioneerdaymerrittisland

Work Day – January 6

Taking down the Christmas Decorations



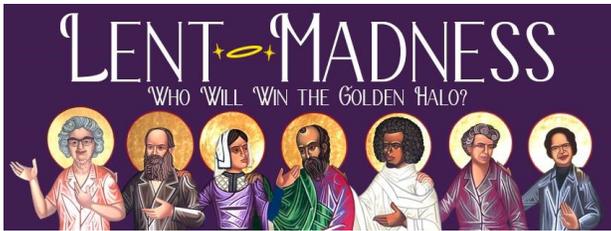
Landscaping for the Chapel





St. Luke's Historic Chapel Rededication January 12, 2018





Lent Madness 2018

The Sainly Smackdown is Back!

By now you've heard that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day coincide this year. The real Lenten *love*, however, kicks off the next day on February 15. Why? Because for the ninth year running, people of faith are gearing up for Lent Madness, the beloved "sainly smackdown!"

With its unique blend of competition, learning, and humor, Lent Madness allows participants to be inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saintly souls across generations and cultures. Throughout Lent, thirty-two saints will do battle to win the coveted Golden Halo. Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament of a similar name, this online devotion pits saints against one another in a bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout this penitential season.

Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Sainly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo.

The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.

This year Lent Madness features an intriguing slate of saints ancient and modern, Biblical and ecclesiastical. 2018 heavyweights include John the Evangelist, Margaret of Scotland, Richard Hooker, Katharina von Bora, and the apostles Peter and Paul.

The full bracket is online at the Lent Madness website www.lentmadness.org and, while not necessary to participate, you can order *The Sainly Scorecard: The Definitive Guide to Lent Madness 2018* at www.forwardmovement.org. This companion guide includes biographies of all 32 saints, a full-color bracket, information about how to fully participate, and a series of Pocket Lent trading cards.

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck, an Episcopal priest and rector of St. John's Church in Hingham, Massachusetts. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women who make up the church's calendar of saints, Schenck devised this devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born.

Starting in 2012, Schenck partnered with Forward Movement (the same folks that publish *Forward Day by Day*) executive director Scott Gunn, to bring Lent Madness to the masses. Schenck and Gunn form the self-appointed Supreme Executive Committee, a more-or-less benevolent dictatorship that runs the entire operation.

The formula has worked as this online devotional has been featured in media outlets all over the country including national television, the Washington Post, NPR, USAToday, and even Sports Illustrated (seriously). More importantly thousands of people have been inspired by the saintly stories of those who have come before us in the faith.

Eleven "celebrity bloggers" from across the country have been tapped to write for the project: the Rev. Amber Belldene of San Francisco, CA; the Rev. Laurie Brock of Lexington, KY; the Rev. Megan Castellan of Kansas City, MO; Anna Fitch Courie of Honolulu, HI; Dr. David Creech of Morehead, MN; Neva Rae Fox of Somerville, NJ; the Rev. David Hansen of Woodlands, TX; Emily Miller of Chicago, IL; Carol Howard Merritt of Chattanooga, TN; The Rev. Marcus Halley of Minneapolis, MN; and the Rev. David Sibley of Manhasset, NY. Information about each of the celebrity bloggers and the rest of the team is available on the Lent Madness website.

If you're looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn't be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ. (<http://www.lentmadness.org/category/lent-madness-2018>)

2018 LENT MADNESS.ORG

ROUND OF 32

SAINTLY 16

GLATE 8

FAITHFUL 4

- Peter
- Paul
- Phoebe
- John the Evangelist
- Esther
- Lazarus
- Anna the Prophet
- Michael
- John of Beverley
- Martin de Porres
- Dymphna
- Gertrude of Nivelles
- Thomas à Kempis
- Maria Skobstova
- Genesius
- Quiteria

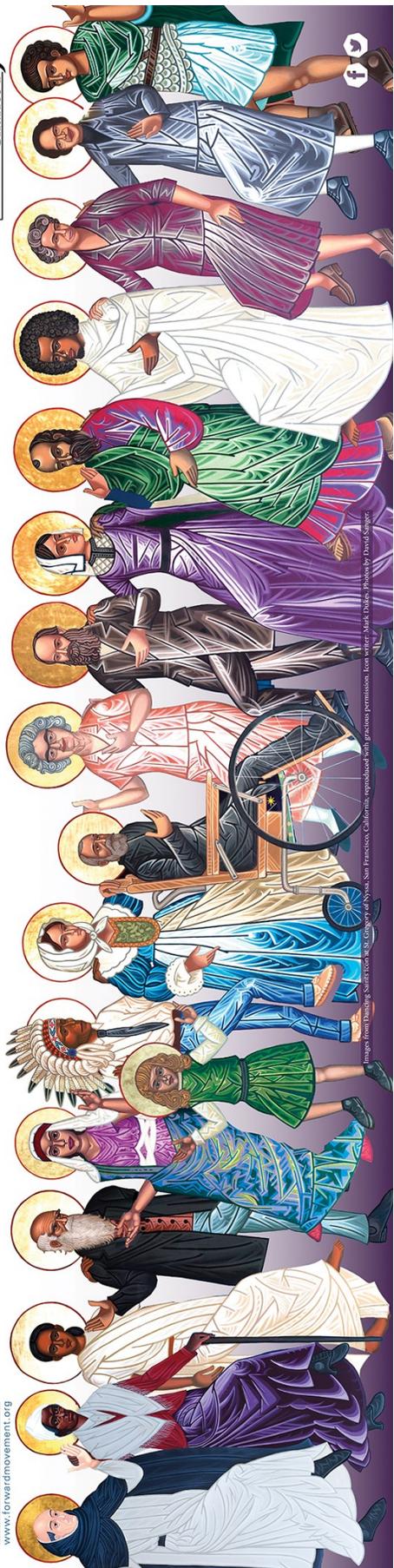
Biblical

Monastics & Martyrs

- Anna Alexander
- Peter Claver
- John Wesley
- Edith Cavell
- Eglantyne Jebb
- Seraphim of Sarov
- Isaac Watts
- Catherine Winkworth
- Isidore the Farmer
- Phocas the Gardener
- Wulfstan
- Katharina von Bora
- Mary of Egypt
- Richard Hooker
- Margaret of Scotland
- Charles I

Mostly Modern

Miscellaneous



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February Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, 523</i>	2 The Presentation Christ as the Temple	3 <i>Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg</i> 9:00am Church Preparation
4 Presentation (W) 8:00 am HE Rite II (A) 9:15 am Super Bowl of Caring 10:30 am Scout Sunday	5 <i>Anne Hutchinson (1643) Roger Williams (1638) Witnesses</i> 6:30pm Cub Committee 7:00pm NMIHO	6 <i>Titus, Bishop and Confessor 1st Century</i> 6:00pm Cub Den Meeting 6:30pm BSA	7 10:00 Prayer Group Meeting 10:30 am Holy Communion	8 6:30pm Holy Communion Scout Committee 7:00pm Choir	9	10 Pioneer Day
11 Pioneer Day (W) 8:00 am HE 10:30 am HE	12 <i>Charles Freer Andrews, Missionary 1941</i>	13 <i>Absalom Jones, Priest 1818</i> 6:30pm BSA 7:00pm Holy Communion 7:30pm Vestry	14 Ash Wednesday 10:30am Liturgy of the Day 7:00pm Liturgy of the Day	15 <i>Thomas Bray, Priest and Missionary 1730</i> 6:30pm Holy Communion 7:00pm Choir	16	17 <i>Janani Luwum, Archbishop and Martyr 1977</i>
18 Lent I (P) 8:00 am HE Rite I (I) 9:15 am CFP 10:30 am PCE Rite II (D)	19 6:30pm Pack Meeting	20 <i>Fredrick Douglas, Prophet</i> 6:30pm BSA	21 <i>Peter Damian, Bishop 1072</i> 10:30 am Holy Communion	22 <i>Eric Liddle 1948 Missionary</i> 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross 6:30pm Holy Communion 7:00pm Choir	23 <i>Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr 156</i> 6:00 pm Progressive Dinner 6:30pm GSA	24 Matthias 12:30 Ladies Lunch
25 Lent II (P) 8:00 am HE Rite I (I) 9:15 am CFP 10:30 am PCE Rite II (D)	26 <i>Emily Malbone Morgan, Prophetic Witness 1937</i>	27 <i>George Herbert, Priest and Poet 1633</i> 6:30pm BSA	28 <i>Oswald, Abbot at York 992</i> 10:30 am Holy Communion			

Join us on February 4th for our annual
Sooper Bowl of Caring
 between services



Cost is \$5.00 or 10 cans of soup per person

Breakfast will be pancakes, eggs, bacon, hash brown casserole, orange juice and coffee. The proceeds (and food donations) will go to benefit the Food Pantry of the Central Brevard Sharing Center.



Worship Schedule

Sundays:

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Christian Formation Program	9:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist (Nursery)	10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service	10:30 a.m.
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Thursdays:

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service	6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

(On Sundays beginning at 10:15 a.m. nursery for children under six years old is provided in the last room of Perrine Hall by parish volunteers)

In the 1870's the LaRoche, Porcher, and Sams families settled in Courtenay, named after a mayor of Charleston. Episcopalians from the Charleston/John's Island Area of South Carolina met in homes for worship. In 1886, the diocese of Florida established St. Luke's Mission and in 1888, the first church building was constructed on land given by Mr. Edward Porcher, with funds provided by Mrs. Lucy A. Boardman of Connecticut. This building remained the church building until a new one was dedicated on January 25, 1978, and the old building was designated the chapel. St. Luke's congregation uses the new building for most worship services and the chapel for small weddings and funerals.

St. Luke's Parish offers a full program of worship and Christian Education on Sunday mornings. We also have a mid-week program of Eucharist and Healing Service Study. In addition, dedicated adult leaders staff our Youth Group for grades 6th-12th.

St. Luke's Parish was one of the founders of the Central Brevard Sharing Center, which seeks to meet the needs of those people who cannot find help through regular service agencies. Since 1886, St. Luke's Church has sought to offer the love and worship of God through Jesus Christ by serving their neighbors and strives to make a positive contribution to the spiritual growth of Merritt Island and Central Brevard County.

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