Dear St. Luke’s Family—

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

These lines from Hymn #67, in our Hymnal 1982, really summarize Advent for me. I’ll never forget a wonderful sermon I heard given on the passage from Isaiah that inspired this hymn. The preacher’s main point was that God says to us, “YOU comfort my people.” While it is certainly within the realm of God’s possibilities, God doesn’t promise that everything magically gets better. God calls us to be the hands and the feet of the Divine presence in the world.

That’s not an easy task!

Nobody ever promised that Christianity would be easy, though! The message of Advent, however, is one of hope. God is with us. And God makes promises to us that are true. How will you receive God’s promises for you, this Advent?

One of the reasons that I really love Advent (aside from my child-like anticipation of CHRISTMAS!) is that it’s an opportunity to begin again. It’s the Church’s New Year, so don’t be surprised if I wish you a “Happy New Year” on November 29th! Advent began, like Lent, as a season of preparation for the Holy Feast of the Nativity (Christmas). Over time, it has lost its penitential overtones and has become a season of joyful expectation. This is why we use blue instead of royal purple during Advent at St. Luke’s. What hasn’t been lost is a sense of God “making all things new.” How will you allow God to make all things new for you, this Advent? Will you take on a new spiritual discipline? Will you work with me to discern what spiritual gifts you may have to share with the parish and the wider world?

But I seem have gotten ahead of myself, again! I’m always doing that during these holiday seasons. I jumped into an exegesis of Advent and skipped right over Thanksgiving! So, let’s backtrack a little and talk about being thankful.

Years ago, when Tim and I first moved to Denver we didn’t know anybody—except for our parish family. One Sunday, close to Thanksgiving, after church, the priest-in-charge of my parish, The Reverend Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, invited Tim and me to have Thanksgiving dinner with her and her family. It began a wonderful tradition. Over time, I took over duties for the meal and cooked a number of vegan versions of Thanksgiving favorites like pumpkin pie, hash brown casserole,
green bean casseroles, squash casseroles, etc. Every year we were surrounded by food and love!

This year, I reached out to Ruth’s oldest son, George, who goes to college near Philadelphia to come to Thanksgiving dinner. Well, the wheels started turning, and somehow, by the grace of God, Tim and I have the privilege of hosting the whole Woodliff-Stanley family in the Old Rectory. We’ve come full circle! From Colorado to Philadelphia, this fine family will join together with our family of fur babies in Altoona, Pennsylvania!

But it’s not just fake turkeys and vegan casseroles that I’m most thankful for (Hey, don’t doubt my Tofurkey making abilities! Only believe!). What I’m most thankful for is the opportunity to catch up with Ruth and her family and tell them about YOU. I want to show them this historic building that Tim and I have been blessed to live in for four months, now. I want to take them over to the church and parish hall complex and show them where generations of faithful people have worshipped for years and years. I want to tell them your stories, especially the stories of your kindness to Tim and me and your faithful support of this church through your stewardship of time, talent, and money.

YOU are what I’m most thankful for this Thanksgiving. You humble me and inspire me every single day. I can’t wait to share the wonderful stories of how the Spirit is moving at St. Luke’s with Ruth and her family, and to walk where the many saints of St. Luke’s, Altoona have walked and continue to walk.

You are blessed, and you are blessing to all the people you meet. Please hold on to this message this Thanksgiving and Advent. I give thanks for you every day, and I pray that this coming Advent will be a time of great spiritual renewal for you. God loves you, and so do I.

Blessings,

Fr. Josh+

Prayer Groups

Are you looking for new ways to support St. Luke’s in our ministry and revitalization efforts? In addition to your time and talent, have you considered keeping St. Luke’s in your regular prayers? Prayer is a very powerful tool, and one that is especially needed at this juncture in our life together. We are hoping to put together a small group of people who pray, regularly, for the mission and work of Saint Luke’s. If you are interested, please contact Anna Fleck or Fr. Josh. Most of the work will be independent prayer, but groups will occasionally meet for combined prayer time and mutual support.

Taizé Service Leaders

We are looking for people to lead the Taizé service on the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm. This service, ideally, is very simple. Fr. Josh had ordered some booklets that have everything in them you need to lead the service (including the prayers). You wouldn’t even need to do a separate bulletin or anything fancy to lead it. Please see Fr. Josh if you are interested. If leaders don’t emerge, this service may have to be put on hold for the time being.
Music Recital with Annette Nelson

Annette Nelson and Shana Lambert are pleased to announce that they will be sharing in a joint recital at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on November 21st. Annette and Shana presented their first recital in May 2014 at Penn a State Altoona for Shana's senior voice recital. Since then, the duo has gone on to continue developing their craft separately and are thrilled to present their artistry as a duo once more in the city where their recital work began.

Soprano, Shana Soriano Lambert was most recently seen performing a solo recital at the new Premiere Piano Home of Steinway. She spent the summer performing in the beautiful city of Graz, Austria as part of the AIMS in Graz Opera Studio program. She also recently performed a solo recital entitled Traveling Through Music at the Wolf Kuhn Theater, and Durufle’s Requiem under the baton of Dr. Bruce Chamberlain at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. In April 2014 she won first place in the Honors Program’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Fair, Performance Division, for her research of the performance practice of German Lied and her performance of "Die Nacht" by Richard Strauss, alongside her friend and colleague, pianist Annette Nelson. Mrs. Lambert had the amazing opportunity to perform at the St. Stephens Cathedral in Vienna, Austria, as a member of the choir for the The Birth of Christ, by Andrew T. Miller in December 2013. She is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University where she studied with Dr. Bonnie Cutsforth-Huber, and is currently working towards her Master of Music degree at George Mason University where she studies with Dr. Kathryn Hearden.

Annette and Shana began their work together while they were both sopranos in Dr. Cutsforth-Huber's choir Jesside Pride at Penn State Altoona. While members of the choir, they were privileged to have sang together as choir members at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria. In autumn of 2013, Annette and Shana began collaborative work on Shana's senior recital under the instruction of Dr. Cutsforth-Huber, with Annette accompanying Shana on piano. It was immediately evident that they were an impeccably matched team.

Since their first recital in May 2014, Annette has since accompanied Ivyside Pride, trained under Dr. Cutsforth-Huber as a Lyric Mezzo-soprano, and continued intense piano study under the world renowned concert pianist Dr. Steven Smith. She graduated from Penn State in May 2015 and not long after was able to study at Summer School for the Solo Voice in Saskatchewan, Canada, where she was able to receive instruction from Lawrence Ewashko, Naomi Suchan, Lisa Hornung and Mark Turner.

Annette and Shana are excited to share a new form of their collaborative bond by expanding their repertoire to include vocal duets. Shana being a perfect cast for Susanna and Annette, the spitting image of the trouser role of Cherubino, from Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro, the two are excited to bring these characters to life and bring characters from the stage of opera to the sanctuary of St. Luke's. More works to be performed include pieces from artistic voice works by Edward Elgar, Richard Strauss and Benjamin Britten, sacred works, classic arias from Faust and even a tender duet from Wicked. There is something for everyone at this recital. Annette and Shana are honored to have composer and pianist Dr. Timothy Melbinger of Penn State Altoona accompany them on their duet works and Annette's vocal pieces.

All are invited to come and join in this evening of music, free of charge, on Saturday, November 21st at 7 pm at St. Luke's in the sanctuary. Bring a friend and share news of the event with friends and family! Photo credit: Josefina Photography (http://www.josefinaphoto.com)
Prayer List

We pray for comfort and healing for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially those listed below:

| Andy and the youth with whom he works | Sharon Debernardis | Jerry Lescher | Jim Ross |
| Renny Alley | James Dengler, Sr. | Ellen Little | Bud Russell |
| Sr. Mary Angela | Lois Dickson | Ken Loose & Family | Carl Russo |
| Heidi Averill | Dave Erwin | Dee Lynch | Jack Servello |
| Bishop Nathan Baxter | Evelye & family | Jane Lynn | Linda Shore |
| Debbie Beck | Michael Fellabaum | Martha Maitland | Phil Sky |
| Fr. Harold Bishop | Trenia Fulton Reynolds | Bob McGregor | Rich Smith |
| Virginia Bishop | Barbara Gardiner | Jane Miller | Kathy Steiner |
| Maryanna Bollinger | Chris Gardner | Bruce Moran | Carol Stevens |
| Debbie Burgan | Rhonda Giselman | Laurie Moran | Janice Sunderland |
| Jeanette Burgan | Skip Gracey | Milton Nickola | Phyllis Szewezak |
| John Burns | Barry Griswold | Stacey Novak | Glenna Thompson |
| Larry Carothers | Barbara Campbell Hall | Gwen Pattillo | Connie Trach |
| Terry Carothers | Deb Hockenberry | Ed Petriski | Annetta Walter |
| Brian Collins | Tristan Houser | Denise Reeder | Toni White |
| Charlotte Cooper | Loraine Knisely | Mary Jane Reeder | Frances Woomer |
| Mendle Covitch | Mark Kuhn | Cleda Rencher | Ken Zeller |
| Ronnie Dandrea | Joel Leamer | James Ritchey | |
| | Maddie Letsche | Robert | |

Office Hours

Administrative Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
9:30am-2:30pm

Father Josh's Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00 am-5:00pm

(Hours may change to accommodate pastoral situations and Fr. Josh's Sabbath days on Fridays and Saturdays)

Home Visitations

If you find yourself in need of a pastoral visit at home or in a hospital, please notify the Church office or call Fr. Josh on his cell phone at (720) 496-3760. You may also reach him by e-mail at rector@stlukesaltoona.org. Fr. Josh is always glad to accompany you through whatever pastoral need arises in your life.

Additionally, Communion from the Reserved Sacrament is available to all home-bound (or hospitalized) parishioners. Please call the church office or e-mail the church office at info@stlukesaltoona.org to get on the list.
Senior Luncheon Coordinator

We are still in need of a senior luncheon coordinator (or senior luncheon coordinators—plural!) For November a parishioner has generously stepped up and offered to coordinate the luncheon, but we need to share the work so that it doesn’t always fall on one person. Are you good with cooking for large numbers and organizing volunteers? Or maybe you know someone who is? This meal is an ecumenical effort. We feed more people from other denominations than we do our own! If you aren’t the coordinating type and you can’t find anybody who is, then you can support us by praying for this vital ministry. If you can help, though, please contact the church office 814-942-1372 or info@stlukesaltoona.org and let us know. Without your help, we’ll have to stop offering this service.

Holy Day Eucharists for November

These are the Holy Day Eucharists/Special services for November:

- Sunday, November 1—All Saints’ Sunday Solemn Mass with chanting and incense (10:15)
- Monday, November 2—All Souls’ Day Rite I Requiem Mass at 6pm in the side chapel
- Sunday, November 22—World AIDS Day service at 5pm in the Nave.
- Tuesday, November 24—Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 7pm at Jaggard-First UMC
- Sunday, November 29—First Sunday of Advent
- Monday, November 30—Feast of St. Andrew at 6pm in the Side Chapel

I strongly encourage you, as you are able, to keep these feast days. Regular worship and reception of the Sacrament empowers us to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world. Come be fed so that you may feed others.

Adopt-a-Pew

You may have noticed how the church shined/sparkled for our diocesan convention Eucharist (and St. Luke’s Day following). This was the result of hours of labor by faithful parishioners, scrubbing, polishing, dusting, and vacuuming, etc. Fr. Josh would like to see the church stay “convention-ready.” Let’s not let dust accumulate and various things pile up in corners. Episcopalians and other church goers are notorious for claiming a pew for generations in the church. Let’s use that to our advantage! We encourage you to “adopt” your pew. If you notice that it’s cluttered or dusty, take a little bit of time and dust/de-clutter. Additionally, you might consider adopting a place in the church that’s special to you like the choir vesting area or the meeting room across from the upstairs kitchen. Our sexton has limited hours, so every little effort to keep this place shining helps!

New Time for Healing Service

Would you like to help with the senior luncheon AND attend the Holy Eucharist and Healing Service on the first Wednesday of the month? Never fear! Due to popular demand, Father Josh has moved the Holy Eucharist and Healing Service to 10:15am. This gives time for attendees to participate in the service and either attend the senior luncheon (staking a claim on a table is very important!) or assist with cooking and serving for the senior luncheon.
Reflections on Adult Christian Formation

For the past several weeks Fr. Josh has been leading a forum that often turned into storytelling and continuous discussions on Episcopal Spiritual Practices. That means we all had meaningful reflections to share. I will share a couple of mine. We talked about Labyrinths, an ancient tradition, consisting of a meditative walk. My favorite labyrinths are in Green Valley and Scottsdale, Arizona. Both labyrinths’ openings face inward, to the center, with no distracting scenery. I keep my head down in order to follow the very intricate pathways outlined with stones. I usually find something small to pick up – a stone, feather or leaf. As I walk, my mind empties, my body relaxes and I continue on the path. I reach the Center where I place my small object, say a prayer, turn and slowly return to the beginning where I look up, opening my arms to welcome life and in awe of the magnificent mountain facing me. What a wonderful, peaceful, quiet, reflective journey it is. Louise Magee will appreciate the quiet of the journey and reflection.

Another peculiarly human ancient tradition is the home altar. I listened to Fr. Josh’s description of his own altars that began very simply when he was a young man and have since developed into quite elaborate altars. I had to think about my own altar; do I have one? I read the handout that Fr. Josh gave us and realized, Yes, indeed, I have an altar, very different from Fr. Josh’s, yet my own. My Own, is the important operative. I have a 3 tiered end table from my mother, upon each shelf are collectables – each in a series of three. Sometimes reminding me of the three persons in one God or in literature as in children’s stories such as The Three Little Pigs, The Three Bears, and Three Blind Mice – or just a decorating dictate from my favorite aunt who said that objects must be in a series of three. My altar is in a place of honor in our living room. The top shelf is lit by the memory lamp given to me by my sister-in-law at my mother’s celebration of life. The altar touches my ancestors, and brings peace to me each time I pass it during the day.

My final reflection is on prayer beads. This also an ancient tradition, dating to 10,000 bc. These are used as a mediation tool by many religious traditions. Prayer beads are used as a means of keeping count of prayers. To me, coming from the Roman Catholic tradition, the rosary is a very rigid meditation recited with specific prayers and in a specified order. This procedure encourages me to relax and draw into myself, reflectively.

Fr. Josh explained that the word Rosary derives from Rose Garden – but why? On Saturday, as I woke up to the Pittsburgh classical music station, the composer’s composition that I was listening to was based on an ancient story that goes like this - Jesus used the beautiful rose garden as a meditative space, ironically the thorny vines were later woven into the crown of thorns.

Fr. Josh always began each session with a difficult reflective question that made me discern where I am in my faith life, yet I know that I am safe here, at St. Lukes. I leave you with three questions. Was the Rose Garden the Garden of Gethsemane or Jesus’ labyrinth? Why did its contents become a part of Jesus’ agony? And finally, do you have an altar in your home that contributes to your meditation?

—Joyce Remillard

Intercessory Prayers

Are you interested in saying prayers each day for people on our Intercessory Prayer list? If you have e-mail, I will send you the list of prayer intentions each week. If you do not have e-mail, just say prayers for the intentions that are listed in the bulletin each week.

Please send prayer requests to me - vremillardd@comcast.net or to the church office at 932-1372. In addition, please look over the list and remove people who no longer need extra prayers.

—Joyce Remillard
More Reflections on Adult Christian Formation

What a crazy life we lead. We are submerged into our digital devices. Haven’t we become communicative junkies? Emails, Facebook, Instagram pics, our heads arched down reflecting a dim light in our faces and we stare head down like animals feeding from a trough. We even walk beside and through others in this position. And what do we usually derive from this behavior? Do we really need to know where everyone we know is at a given moment? How many times do I have to hear what someone noticed while taking out the garbage? How many pictures do I need to see of someone at a certain location? Is this the meaning of life?

What Fr. Josh offered to us in his forum can be summarized as follows: stop; take a deep breath; let your being wallow in idleness. Where did the practice of those principles bring me? Well, I stared at a spoon and I came to envision it in its total context. As an artifact, what is it made up of? What social relations can it be involved in? What values and ideas does it convey? After that quiet meditation I wrote a poem that embraced the spoon in all its possible contexts: how it came to be, where it is stored, when it is used, why it is used it and for what purpose. I don’t write poetry, as a practice, but the spoon evoked ideas in tranquility that spurred my creative processes. I know you’re laughing but remember Andy Warhol became a famous artist with his painting of a Campbell’s soup can.

Maybe another example of something in your immediate environment will be more relevant to you. Fr. Josh had us take a walk alone in the neighborhood. I walked by the railroad yards and let my mind wander to the point that I saw an array of ghosts that live among us. More specifically, I saw throngs of people buzzing around, some working, some shopping, and some bidding adieu to a loved one who never returned. These were the WWII years. You say that period is done and over with? Not really. Its traces can be seen in the artifacts of present time and the light of those years continues into space indefinitely so that someone somewhere in the universe could see all this at our present moment. Indeed, we are immortal as we ride a beam of light!

These experiences were not gained via communicative technology or while multitasking. Yes, God has provided us with the tools required to keep us so busy that we never have to think of our existence and to ever feel alone; but he also created us as humans, that is, beings that when submerged in a stillness can then surge forth creatively, like lava from a volcano, and change our shape and the face of the earth that surrounds us. Thank you for this experience, Fr. Josh.

—Vince Remillard

Celebrations at St. Luke’s

The weekend of October 17-18 was an exciting time for us at St. Luke’s. On Saturday we hosted the Eucharist for the 145th Diocesan Convention of Central PA. Newly consecrated Bishop Audrey Scanlan was the celebrant, with clergy, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Ushers from throughout the diocese assisting. It was great to see and hear St. Luke’s sanctuary filled with people and music (in four-part harmony!) The outline of the Cross over a map of Central PA is a fitting symbol for “Mapping the Way” as we make our journey through life here in Central PA and in the world.

Sunday was the Feast of St. Luke, physician and Gospel writer. Incense, special music, and traditional service music gave us the opportunity to celebrate our patron saint. During the service Fr. Josh blessed the hands of healers and caregivers who were there. We ended our celebration with a covered dish luncheon as we often do.

—Jennie Sigmon
Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service

On Tuesday, November 24th at 7pm there will be an inter-faith Thanksgiving service at Jaggard-First United Methodist Church. Please stay tuned for more details!

Advent Book Study

The Adult Forum in Advent will be a discussion of the book *The Five Questions of Christmas* by Rob Burkhart (M.Div, Ph.D). From the back cover:

*Five questions spiral throughout the ancient stories surrounding Christ’s birth. These questions from the Magi, Elizabeth, Mary, Zechariah, and the crowd witnessing the naming of John the Baptist open the door to some of life’s great mysteries:*

*How can we find truth and meaning?*
*Why is the world so unfair sometimes?*
*Why do people have to suffer?*
*How can we trust the unseen?*
*How can we design the future we desire?*

*Unwrap the mystery of the questions of Christmas and discover God’s promises about purpose, favor, justice, doubt, and trust—promises you can live throughout the year.*

Sessions will be held:

Sunday, Nov. 29 at 9am “Zechariah’s Journey from Mistrust to Conviction”
Sunday, Dec. 6 at 9am “Mary’s Journey from Tragedy to Resilience”
Sunday, Dec. 13 at 9am “Elizabeth’s Journey from Unfairness to Gratitude”
Sunday, Dec. 20 at 9am “The Journey from Control to Creativity”
Sunday, Jan. 3 at 9am “The Magi’s Journey from Disappointment to True Treasure”

Fr. Josh will summarize the book chapters and discussion after the 10:15 service during coffee hour if you would like to participate, but are not a morning person. He invites all of you to purchase and read the book whether you are participating in the official forum or not. Books are available through Cokesbury.com:
Hardcover-$16.74
Paperback-$11.50
E-book-$11.38

Christmas Eve Service Input

Fr. Josh is very interested in hearing about your experiences with previous year’s Christmas Eve services and times. Which service do you normally go to? What were your impressions of last year’s services? What would you like to see this year, of possible? Please speak to Fr. Josh after any service and let him know your opinion about service times and ways of doing the services. He’s really interested in hearing your thoughts.

Advent Wreath Making

On November 29th, after the 10:15am service, you and your family are invited to join us in the meeting room to make simple Advent Wreaths for your home. Donations of materials (styrofoam, candles, and greenery) will be gladly accepted. We need you to join us for prayer, fellowship and arts & crafts! This will be a great inter-generational church family activity. Join with us as we prepare for Christ to come into our hearts and homes this holiday season.
Advent Meditations

In the past, Saint Luke’s has provided meditations, written by parishioners, during the season of Lent. This year Father Josh would like to extend this tradition to include the season of Advent. There is a sign up sheet, at the back of the church, with daily Scripture readings for Advent. You are invited to write a brief reflection or a poem, or to create a drawing or other work of art (including photography) that captures the essence of one of the Scripture readings for your appointed day. Please prayerfully consider contributing something to this project. The submission deadline is **Wednesday, November 18th**. You don’t have to be a great American novelist to contribute a reflection! Don’t over-think this. Simply contribute what’s on your heart, based on one of the daily readings.

Saint Luke’s Christmas Bazaar

The Saint Luke’s Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 5th from 10am to 4pm in the Auditorium. At this point, tables are still available for $25 per space. Do you have crafts or other goods that you sell? Do you know of other potential vendors? If so, contact our coordinator, Laura, at LauraDsy@aol.com or (814) 942-1372 for more details. Vendors paid by 11/15 will be listed in the newspaper ad. I’ve heard rumor that there will be ugly Christmas sweaters.

Saint Luke’s in the Christmas Parade!

Look for Saint Luke’s in this year’s Spirit of Christmas parade! The parade is on Thursday, December 3rd from 6pm to 8pm on 10th, 11th, and 12th Avenues. Saint Luke’s is a vital part of the downtown Altoona area redevelopment. Please come and show your support for us and our community partners during this event!

World AIDS Day Service

There will be a World AIDS Day service on November 22 at 5pm in the Nave. Please stay tuned for any further details about this service—it is still in the planning stages.

September 2015 Financial Report

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Hoagies for November/December

November hoagie orders are due 11/13, with "construction" on the 19th, and distribution on the 20th, to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be no hoagies in December, but we will return in January, ready to take on the New Year! Maybe your New Years resolution will be to help us increase our hoagie sales? This ministry is now a vital part of our mission at St. Luke's. Can you pledge to sell at least 10 hoagies in any given month? Can you pledge to help prepare the hoagies? Please pray about this ministry and how you might be able to help spread St. Luke's hoagies across the city. Each hoagie bag includes information about our services and mission at St. Luke's. Spread the word!

November 15th Hymn Sing

What happens when you have a priest who was an organist in seminary and who still loves playing hymns? You have opportunities to sing hymns! Father Josh would like to invite you to a “good ole fashioned hymn sing” on November 15th following coffee hour after the 10:15am service. There is a sign-up sheet where you can write your name and one or two of your favorite hymns. Hymns will be selected based on how much time is available for the hymn sing. Father Josh will play organ and Annette will play piano.

DABC Meeting at Saint Luke’s!

I have been a part of the Downtown Altoona Business Community organization since his arrival in Altoona. The November meeting of the DABC will be in the meeting room (across from the upstairs kitchen) at 5:30pm on Thursday, November 5th. I encourage any interested parishioners to join me and meet the people who support Altoona’s revitalization efforts. Making connections in the wider community is essential to us being a missional church (outwardly focused) instead of a maintenance church (inwardly focused).

—Father Josh

Enneagram Workshop Nov. 15 & 22

The Enneagram is a personality typology that includes nine different personality types. This is a tool that Fr. Josh uses as a spiritual director and in pastoral counseling sessions (such as pre-marriage meetings). He would like to introduce this system to the adult forum (and to any interested persons who can’t make it to the adult forum). Please attend this two session series at 9am or see Fr. Josh for other arrangements. Unfortunately, the sessions will not be as in-depth as Fr. Josh would like due to time constraints, but you should leave having a good idea of what your type is and what that means for your day-to-day life.
Speaking of adventures... We will be moving into the season of Advent, which exists in a realm of possibilities at the moment. We will be using a new mass setting, so we will be saying goodbye to the LEVaS setting for a time. Advent is a time of memories and anticipation, and the music choices focus will reflect things that are familiar. Some of the most hopeful and affirming hymns can be found during Advent season. I think of "Lo How A Rose E'er Is Blooming," reminding us of the prophetic hope of Christ our Savior to the Israelites who waited and the rich history that can be learned by knowing the story of the Son of Man.

"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night."

Advent hymns showcase hybrids such as these by highlighting history, prophecy and hope - three very important elements we hope to exemplify as we plan the coming season of Advent!

We have also reinstated the Taize services, which will require leaders. If you would like more information about leading a Taize service, contact Father Josh. Please consider joining us in the choir at this exciting time at St. Luke's as we continue to meet in the sanctuary Wednesday evenings at 7 pm for choir rehearsal. What better excuse is there to get in the Advent 'spirit' than to sing Advent hymns? We would love for you to join us.

—Annette Nelson, music director
**St. Luke’s Episcopal Church**

806 13th Street  
Altoona, PA  16602-2422

Phone: 814.942.1372  
Fax: 814.942.0756  
Email: info@stlukesaltoona.org

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**PARISH LEADERSHIP**

**BISHOP**  
The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan

**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE**  
The Rev. Josh Shipman

**SENIOR WARDEN**  
Jane Gable

**JUNIOR WARDEN**  
Shannon Berndt

**SECRETARY**  
Laura Gottfried-Letsche

**TREASURER**  
Laura Gottfried-Letsche  
Angela Alley

**ASST. TREASURER**  
Debbie Burgan

**ADVISORY BOARD TO THE BISHOP**

- Angela Alley  
- Shannon Berndt  
- Debbie Burgan  
- Amy Falbo  
- Jane Gable  
- Laura Gottfried-Letsche  
- Vince Remillard  
- Jim Pritchard  
- Jennie Sigmon

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
Annette Nelson

**ADMIN. ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER**  
Tressa Nolan  
**SEXTON**  
Carl Letsche

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**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Altar Guild**  
Open

**Arts & Performance Guild**  
Tim Inman

**Christian Education**  
Open

**Communications**  
Laura Gottfried-Letsche

**Finance**  
Open

**Flower Guild**  
Angela Alley

**Fundraising/Hospitality/Parish Life**  
Deb Burgan

**Outreach**  
Open

**Property**  
Shannon Berndt

**Stewardship**  
Jane Gable

**Worship**  
Jennie Sigmon

**Youth Ministry**  
The Beacon—Jerry Rice