 Wouldn’t it be great if I wrote about how the world has reopened and that life is getting back to normal? I would love to talk about how the County Fair is coming up and this is a time of celebration and recognition for all the hard work that has been poured into these projects. I long for the days of August when there is discussion about starting up school and all the exciting dreams of another successful school year starting. I would be excited to talk about the upcoming plans for the Harvest Hoedown and the event of celebration of all that St. Luke’s does for the community and for the members of the church. However, this is not the year for all this to take place. This is the year that we are faced with a crisis that we cannot control and for which we cannot find any easy and quick answers. The world is dealing with a baffling disease that eludes us. It is increasingly hard to have civil conversations about disagreements without making it deeply personal. To put it clearly – 2020 has stretched us beyond what we believed possible, and we are finding ourselves exhausted.

Where is Jesus in the middle of all this? Where is God the Father helping in directing our efforts? How is the Holy Spirit moving in this “stuck” place? When I ask myself these questions, I realize that although it appears that I am powerless over the events of my life, I have tools to help me upright my approach to life. I can do a couple of simple and intentional actions to turn around and move in a new direction. Finding the courage and the new direction is where God shows up and encourages me to do the hard work of changing my attitude.

Blessings arrive in all shapes and sizes. There is a theme showing up in the stories in Genesis, God will bless those who bless us and curse those who curse us. IT IS GOD WHO IS DOING ALL THE HEAVY WORK! I believe that some of these blessings are those unexpected moments that speak to the heart and mind. It is the wonderful view of Clear Creek. It is the sounds of birds in the morning. It is the extended daylight in the evenings. It is the unexpected word of encouragement, or even acknowledgement, that right now life is difficult and that everybody is doing their best to make it through this crisis of drought and COVID-19. I have a saying that I bring out every August around Fair Days – I can be grumpy, or I can be gracious. This choice is mine and, yes, there are days I am grumpy and hard to be around, and there are days when I want to bite back, I take a breath, breathe out, and extend courtesy.
The drought will end. We will find a way to live with COVID-19 that allows us to return to activities that we all enjoy. Fellowship with one another will take place. While this new way of being together takes shape, I invite and encourage all of us to take advantage of the current moments, to grow in our faith in God. One of my favorite prayers in the Book of Common Prayer is titled For Young Persons and in that prayer is one sentence that stands out and gives me hope – “Help them (young people and perhaps all of us) to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, BUT AS A CHANCE FOR A NEW START. Enjoy the closing days of summer.

Fr. Doug +

BUFFALO’S COMMUNITY
VBS 2020
For all kids age 3 thru going into the 5th grade
August 10-13 6-8 pm
@ Big Horn Baptist Church
1400 Fort St

Here is the link for registering for Vacation Bible School:
https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=56175
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th, will be the absolute DEADLINE for articles and ministry schedules to be included in our September newsletter. We regret there can be no exceptions. We urge all heads of ministry, as well as others with news to share or events to publicize, to take note of this!

More than ever, during this time of so much uncertainty, September’s newsletter is probably the most important newsletter of the year. This is the issue folks will be checking to learn about activities (and how they will happen) for the coming 2020-21 church year. If your group or ministry plans a new study or project, this is where people will expect to read about it. If you need new members for your ministry or outreach, this is the place to make that fact known.

Remember: People will NOT participate in your class or ministry or outreach if they don’t know it’s happening! More than that, they WILL become frustrated and give up if it appears that there is no reliable source of information concerning these things! We’d like to be that source, and share your plans with our entire parish family. Please help us to help YOU! Let’s work together and get St. Luke’s off to a flying start this September!

NEED TO CONTACT THE VESTRY?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise Heitler—Senior Warden</td>
<td>620-0539</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dheitler@yahoo.com">dheitler@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Goins—Junior Warden</td>
<td>307-680-6383</td>
<td><a href="mailto:garygoins@hotmail.com">garygoins@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>307-620-9786</td>
<td><a href="mailto:les_babin@hotmail.com">les_babin@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday: 8:30 A.M.—Noon
Telephone: 684-7529
email: stlukeswy@gmail.com

COFFEE HOUR HOSTESS MONTHLY REMINDER FOR AUGUST!

Committee #4 is scheduled to host Coffee Hours during the month of August. The following ladies are members of Committee #4:

NIKKI ELLIS*  Sue Shambaugh  Denise Heitler
Jo Ann McKenzie  Karen Walker  Marsha Parker
Donna Naill  JoAnn Pearson  Elyse Parker
Kelly Norris  Donna Strickland
BISHOP NOMINEES “HIT THE TRAIL”
TO MEET THE GOOD FOLKS OF WYOMING!

Here’s what you need to know about the Walkabout. “Walkabout” is the term used to describe the visit of nominees for bishop to the electing diocese. It is a time of discernment, both for the people of the diocese, but equally for the candidates themselves. Our Wyoming Walkabout will begin on Monday, August 24, and it will end on Monday, August 31. The primary goal of the Walkabout is to make it easy for as many Wyoming Episcopalians as possible to personally meet the three nominees in a relatively short amount of time. This goal has guided the Transition Committee in designing a route that takes the nominees around the Diocese and to a variety of events hosted by local churches. The events include brief stops as well as some longer visits. The major events—also referred to as walkabouts—will generally take place in the evening.

What might one expect at a Walkabout? Wyoming Episcopalians will meet and have the opportunity to separately question each nominee. You will be asked to submit questions on index cards that facilitators will then pose to the candidates. There are no standard or pre-determined questions; rather, each group will determine its own questions. At the end of each session, there will be time for spontaneous questions from the floor. When reviewing the route and times, please know you are encouraged to attend any of the events—and certainly more than one if you are able. If you’re traveling in Wyoming at the time of the Walkabout, consider attending the event wherever you happen to be, or, if an event in a neighboring town works better for your personal schedule, don’t hesitate to attend that one rather than the meeting in your own community.

THE BISHOP WALKABOUT MEET-AND-GREET FOR THE CANDIDATES WILL BE AT CRAZY WOMAN SQUARE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, FROM 10:00—11:00 A.M.

PLEASE JOIN US IN MEETING AND WELCOMING THE CANDIDATES.

HERE’S THAT INFORMATION AGAIN!  WHEN? Saturday, August 29th  WHERE? Crazy Woman Square  HOW LONG? One hour, starting at 10:00 A.M.

BOTTLED WATER WILL BE PROVIDED. THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW THEM ON A SMALL GROUP AND ONE-TO-ONE BASIS. IF TIME PERMITS, THEY WILL HAVE A QUICK TOUR OF THE BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY.

THE 2020 ELECTING CONVENTION WILL BE SEPTEMBER 18-19 IN CASPER.

HARVEST HOEDOWN, usually scheduled for September, has been POSTPONED until further notice.

ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
REPORT OF INCOME/EXPENSE

Our financial status as of the end of June, 2020, is as follows:
Income $10,211.96
Expenses 12,427.57
Difference <$ -2,215.61>

QUESTIONS?
Contact Church Treasurer Wes Killian at 620-5720.
NEIGHBORS CARING FOR NEIGHBORS
Bread of Life Food Pantry

Hello St Luke's members!

June has already come and gone and BLFP has continued to be here for our community in need. Our June assistance grew a bit from last month with 182 families making up 470 people. We also had over 300+ hours of volunteering contributed to our operations for the month.

We participated in a food drive sponsored by 307 Real Estate on June 16th. We were able to speak on the radio and see some of our own members from St. Luke’s come out to support us. Thank you for 307 Real Estate and all those who donated! We look forward to making it an annual event.

We have started to implement our second phase of our COVID19 Operational Plan and have welcomed patrons back into the pantry to shop for themselves in a safe and confidential environment. We would like to thank all of our volunteers that helped make this happen. It had been four months since the last time patrons were able to shop in the pantry, and this has been a huge win for everyone involved. Our next phase will be to bring back our normal hours of operation with our typical volunteers, which we hope to implement by September.

We have added two new members to our Board! DJ Puente has been nominated by Summit Church to be the Summit Church representative. DJ has been stocking the pantry over the last few months and will be taking over as our fundraiser coordinator and plans to help develop an outreach program with high school students in the future. Alaina Sostrom was also added, as our YMCA representative. Alaina has been volunteering with BLFP since March and has a passion to help. Alaina will be assisting in data organization and helping us to share our story by providing up-to-date data that we can use to make informed decisions by the Board. We are so excited to have both join our Board!

We are still working out the details of the Zombie Run this year as it will be different, due to circumstances. Please stay tuned as we coordinate with the Buffalo Cross Country team to create a safe and fun fundraiser this coming month.

Once again, a special THANK YOU to all of St. Luke's members for their continued support during this time. We truly appreciate it.

Kelly Norris, Chair of Bread of Life Food Pantry

ARE YOU IN OUR BLESSING BOOK?

We’d love to add you!

Please share your birthday, anniversary, and baptismal dates by calling 684-7529 or emailing us at stlukeswy@gmail.com

JUST WHEN ARE THOSE DEADLINES?

The Sunday Bulletin: NOON EACH WEDNESDAY
The September Newsletter: THURSDAY, AUGUST 20
GROWING THROUGH GIVING

Normally I would be doing a plug for the *Harvest Hoedown*. It is an annual fundraiser that provides an entire month of operating funding for St. Luke’s. Because COVID-19 provided real concerns about gathering indoors and how the efforts of putting together this fundraising event could work, it was best to postpone this type of fundraising event until a time when we could safely gather face-to-face, to listen to live music, to eat a meal and have a friendly competition in purchasing memories and other items.

Which also means that we can be creative in coming up with other ideas to raise the funds to continue to function as a church. What about St. Luke’s do you find valuable and worthy to make a contribution toward? Because we are an Episcopal Church, we have access to resources that are intended to bless our local community. The Foundation of the Diocese of Wyoming has made available a little more than $21,000 to support our community. These funds were used to purchase food at the Bread of Life Food Pantry, to provide funding for Friends Feeding Friends, and to help the Buffalo Senior Center purchase personal protection equipment. All these organizations help those who need more help.

St. Luke’s continues to be this Episcopal presence and an agent of God’s blessing with your contribution to the church here in Buffalo. The way we can look at our pledges and contributions to St. Luke’s is to watch how God can take what we give and multiply it to help others. Please contribute, in gratitude for what you have received from St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and to sustain our ability to help others.

Fr. Doug +

SAYING “GOODBYE” TO SOME SPECIAL PEOPLE

Recently our St. Luke’s family found themselves saying their goodbyes to Dr. Geoffrey and Aimee Sherman, as well as to their children, Emma and William. The Sherman’s are now settling into their new life in Casper, and we already miss them! We want to express to them how much their participation in the life of this parish has meant to us. Both Dr. Geoff and Aimee are gifted in their leadership abilities and they were generous with their time given in service to our Lord and St. Luke’s. As for Emma and William, what can we say? They have each won our hearts and brought us many smiles. It was a privilege and a joy to watch them learn and grow in their faith, as young members of our parish family. We will miss the Sherman’s, but we know God has a plan for each of them. We are grateful for the time they were ours. God speed, Dr. Geoff, Aimee, Emma, and William. May He guide and watch over you.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD IS COMING!

We know it’s only August, but the time for the “Christmas Shoebox” project is almost here. With that fact in mind, NOW is a good time to start gathering items for those boxes! Wal-Mart and Target, as well as our local Buffalo merchants, will have school supplies on sale. We would be looking for normal school items: crayons, markers, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, protractors, compasses, small notebooks, water colors etc. These all make great shoebox items! We encourage you to buy “extras” when you shop, and save them. The time is fast approaching!

DO YOU HAVE A REQUEST FOR OUR PRAYER CHAIN?

To initiate a prayer request, please contact:

JO ANN MCKENZIE

Email: joannmcken@gmail.com

Call or text: 620-0779
Vestry Minutes July 12, 2020

Persons present: Fr. Doug Wasinger, Senior Warden Denise Heitler, Marsha Parker, Linda Clark, and remotely by Les Babin and Gary Goins. Amy Irene joined later by phone. Marie Miller and Karen Walker were present for discussion.

After opening with prayer, the previous minutes were approved as written. The first item for discussion was the Harvest Hoedown. Marie Miller led the discussion of the pros and cons of having the event this year, in light of the coronavirus restrictions. Marsha made a motion that we postpone the event for this September. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion followed as to what we can do to make up for the significant financial contribution that the Harvest Hoedown has contributed to our budget for the past 9 years. Linda moved and it was seconded that Marsha head up a committee to brainstorm new fundraising ideas. The motion passed and Marsha agreed to put a committee together.

Fr. Doug reported that a contract has been signed with K L & A Engineers and Builders for $3,000, for a professional structural assessment of our building. The grant that was originally given for a ramp will be repurposed for this assessment.

Judy Goins is again playing for the second service. Because of her compromised immune system, a Plexiglas screen will be installed on one side of the organ, and the door behind her will not be used from 9:30 a.m. until after she has left the service. The Altar Guild will be advised of this change.

We did receive a second Covid-19 grant from the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, for a little over $11,000, to be used for the purposes we applied for. All Saints in Kaycee included their 2nd grant with ours, doubling the amounts to our community partners. Friends Feeding Friends has received approximately $10,000 for the purchase of food; The Buffalo Senior Center has received approximately $5,000 for the purchase of Covid-19 supplies, and approximately $5,000 will be used for individual thank-you gifts of Buffalo Bucks to various frontline workers who have served during this pandemic.

Fr. Doug will follow up with distributing those gifts.

Treasurer Wes Killian prepared the monthly financial statement. We are approximately $1,000 In the red for the month of June. Considering that we have not had in-person services, it was agreed that our members are being good stewards in continuing to send in pledge contributions. Denise asked that we set up a budget committee to work on the 2021 budget. She, Wes Killian, Fr. Doug and Amy Irene will make up the committee.

We spent considerable time discussing ways to improve Pastoral Care within our church membership. Denise asked that when we meet again in August we come with some concrete specific ideas on ways to move forward.

We will meet again on August 16th at 11:15 am.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Clark

PASTORAL CARE

Many times it’s the “folks in the pews” who are the first to learn about those who can use pastoral care. Please don’t let us overlook people who need us. If you know of someone we can serve in this way, please contact:

Karen Walker  620-1789  The Church Office  684-7529
Fr. Doug Wasinger  620-0061
It was a good morning. The day was bright but not scorching as Dhaqaboo left his house for the school. Batii, his son, and Gennet, his little girl, were playing outside with all of the little children from the surrounding houses. He paced his way to the school for the teachers’ meeting—the meeting that would set the stage for the upcoming school year. After the meeting, all of the staff stood around and visited about family and community events. One of the teachers invited everybody to his house for coffee, but Dhaqaboo refused and headed for his house.

He had walked about a mile and a half when he began to hear the wailing—the cry that indicated someone was dying or was already dead. He listened and realized that the sound was coming from his compound. He began to hurry toward his house to find out what had happened. As he got to his house he saw his wife, his mother and his sister wailing and beating themselves. The neighbors were gathering and crying. His son and the other little kids came racing toward him shouting, “Gennet is dying! Gennet is dying!” He ran to the house and there was his daughter lying on the bed absolutely still—a tiny, withered figure wrapped in a blanket. He gathered her up in his arms and started out the door. His wife and mother grabbed at him and said, “Where are you going? She’s dying.” “I’m taking her to the clinic,” he stated. “It’s no use. She won’t live that long.”

Ignoring them he began to run down the road toward the clinic, carrying his daughter. As he ran he realized that the body had gone limp in his arms. He stopped, sat down under a tree and unwrapped his bundle. Gennet appeared to be dead. In desperation he cried out, “Jesus, you healed Lazarus. Heal my daughter.” At that moment he saw a light and a cross that crossed his line of sight. He knew that God had heard his prayer and that his daughter would live.

He gathered her up in his arms and hurried toward the clinic, knowing that she would not die. The clinic staff reacted swiftly but they didn’t hold out a lot of hope, because she was so sick. Dhaqaboo never doubted, because God had promised him that his daughter wouldn’t die. Gennet responded almost instantly to the medicine, and Dhaqaboo took her home that afternoon. When they got to the house, all of the family was waiting. They began to praise and thank God for his miraculous healing. Later Dhaqaboo asked them what had happened between 9 o’clock when he left for school and 11 o’clock when he got home. His wife said, “The children were outside playing when Gennet began to shake and then she got really hot. She just kept getting sicker and sicker. When we finally realized she had malaria, she wouldn’t respond anymore. There was nothing we could do.”

The following morning Dhaqaboo told his story to the teachers. His story was a testimony to what God can do in impossible situations and a reminder that prayer is our power line to God, who can do the impossible.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

“I will protect those who know My name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.” ...Psalm 91:14b-16

Tom Berry (8/1), Lathyn Garcia (8/1), Kathryn Eklund (8/1), Don Long (8/2), Bill Joy (8/2), Sandy Todd (8/3), Suzanne Bilyeu (8/4), Nikki Ellis (8/5), Margo Mader (8/5), Jake Mahar (8/5), Wolfgang Wuerker (8/5), Kylie Miller (8/5), Tami Mays (8/6), Mike Greenough (8/6), Ryan Newton (8/7), Terry O’Brien (8/8), Lissa Omohundro (8/8), Cody Grubb (8/8), Madeleine McAuley (8/8), Punky Bradley (8/8), Dave Todd (8/10), Susan Palmerlee (8/11), Arthur Richardson (8/11), Charlotte Eastwood (8/11), Alexis Wasinger (8/12), John Wonka (8/13), Kellie Wasinger (8/13), William Carron (8/14), Bob Kessler (8/15), Steve Penwell (8/15), Mary Alice Gurney (8/15), Samantha Grubb (8/15), Connor Lunt (8/15), Mike Hanson (8/18), Livvy Grubb (8/19), Jill Wasinger (7/19), Aaron Kessler (8/21), Sid Parker (8/21), Paige Shambaugh (8/22), Heath Thornton (8/22), Mark Curry (8/23), JoAnn Pearson (8/23), Nancy Sorensen (8/23), Rob Holt (8/24), Samantha Kessler (8/24), Kelly Norris (8/24), Wendy Martin (8/27), Brett Goodson (8/27), Mike Mader (8/28), Chris Joy (8/28), Amber Lompe (8/28), Wes Killian (8/30), Joel Killian (8/30), Alexis Jones (8/31), & Elaine Walker (8/31).

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!
(The following folks were baptized during the month of August.)

“One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; one God and Father of all.” ...BCP p. 299

Jennifer Lompe (1963), Sadie Gruntmeir (8/1), Karl Rubottom (8/2), Mary Pat Barlow (8/3), Seren Chapin (8/4), Vivanne Ostheimer (8/5), Leighton Gammon (8/6), Karen Boggs (8/10), Heidi Stoltz (8/10), Bill Driskill (8/10), Joyce Strickland (8/11), Angie Gilbert (8/14), Eli Schiffer (8/14), Trell Schiffer (8/14), Karol Scott (8/15), Mason Hodge (8/17), Mary Gammon (8/18), Emma Sherman (8/19), Alex Duren (8/20), Janice Anderson (8/22), & Laurie Butler (8/29).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

“Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know You, to love You, and to serve You.” ...BPC p. 429

Dr. & Mrs. Dale Anderson (8/4)  Mr. & Mrs. Scot Ward (8/25)
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Boggs (8/5)  Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Johnson (8/25)
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Ratcliff (8/6)  Fr. & Mrs. John Meyer (8/26)
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bradley (8/7)  Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Wuerker (8/26)
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Cork (8/13)  Mr. & Mrs. Tom Holt (8/30)
Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Kessler (8/15)  Mr. & Mrs. Jim Curay (8/30)
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Barlow (8/22)  Mr. & Mrs. James Hayes (8/31)
Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Miller (8/24)  Mr. & Mrs. James Gibbs (8/31)

“God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.” ...C.S. Lewis

NEED TO CONTACT FR. DOUG?
Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday
9:30 A.M.—Noon
Day Off: FRIDAY
Address:
513 Hart Street
Cell/Text:
307-620-0061
Please feel free to use this number!
PRAYER FOR
ST. LUKE’S

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Fr. Doug Wasinger

Sunday, August 2
8 & 10 A.M.  Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 9
8 & 10 A.M.  Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 16
8 & 10 A.M.  Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 23
8 & 10 A.M.  Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 30
8 & 10 A.M.  Holy Eucharist

Sunday services are both live and streamed.

Each Wednesday,
7 A.M.  Holy Eucharist

HEADING OUT?
Have a wonderful time!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
August, 2020

THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING TO PAY YOUR PLEDGE.

“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.”

— Mother Teresa