



This Sunday at St. Luke's
September 27, 2026

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion with choir, organ and anthem
Frank McKinney, organist

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

**"FOR EVERYONE
WHO EXALTS
HIMSELF WILL BE
HUMBLED, BUT THE
ONE WHO HUMBLER
HIMSELF WILL BE
EXALTED."**

LUKE 14:11 NAB

**Pride and the
Christian**

As children we were all taught, "Pride cometh before a fall." No doubt, that is a good lesson to learn inasmuch as false confidence can lead to disaster. Yet, at the same time, we were told to take pride in our personal appearance – "Don't slouch." "Wear clean, pressed clothes. Keep your finger nails clipped and clean. Take pride in your work, no half-way measures will do. Be proud of your family and don't do anything that would

besmirch its good name. We were taught all this and more. So which is it: To be proud, or not to be?

Surely, the answer lies in what we mean by ‘proud’. The pride the Bible warns against is none of the positive things we have mentioned. It is rather a false pride, that causes one to live only to oneself. It is the opposite of humility, that virtue that turns the focus off ourselves and onto others. Christian humility is one of the loveliest of the Christian graces. It leads us to, whenever possible, to bear one another’s burdens.

The irony is that in losing ourselves in the service of others we find our true selves. Instead of heads hung down in false humility, living in this way leads to a righteous confidence, sure purpose and real happiness. It’s living the Jesus way. Follow Him! (VHM)

COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O LORD, we pray thee that thy grace may always prevent [go before] and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE (H.C.) – Ephesians 4:1-6 (J.B. Phillips)

Christians should be at one, as God is one

4 ¹⁻⁶ As God’s prisoner, then, I beg you to live lives worthy of your high calling. Accept life with humility and patience, making allowances for each other because you love each other. Make it your aim to be at one in the Spirit, and you will inevitably be at peace with one another. You all belong to one body, of which there is one Spirit, just as you all experienced one calling to one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father of us all, who is the one over all, the one working through all and the one living in all.

NOTE: In the ethical, second half of the Epistle to the Ephesians those who are members of the Christian Church are described as possessing “lowliness and meekness . . . long-suffering, forbearing one another.” These qualities of dependence on others and of being self-effacing build up to brotherhood. They are the opposites of pride and arrogance. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL (H.C.) – St. Luke 14:1-11 (J.B. Phillips)

To heal or not to heal on the Sabbath?

14 ¹⁻³ One Sabbath day he went into the house of one of the leading Pharisees for a meal, and they were all watching him closely. Right in front of him was a man afflicted with

dropsy. So Jesus spoke to the scribes and Pharisees and said, “Well, is it right to heal on the Sabbath day or not?”

⁴⁻⁵ But there was no reply. So Jesus took the man and healed him and let him go. Then he said to them, “If an ass or a cow belonging to one of you fell into a well, wouldn’t you rescue him without the slightest hesitation even though it were the Sabbath?”

⁶ And this again left them quite unable to reply.

A lesson in humility

⁷ Then he gave a little word of advice to the guests when he noticed how they were choosing the best seats.

⁸⁻¹¹ “When you are invited to a wedding reception, don’t sit down in the best seat. It might happen that a more distinguished man than you has also been invited. Then your host might say, ‘I am afraid you must give up your seat for this man.’ And then, with considerable embarrassment, you will have to sit in the humblest place. No, when you are invited, go and take your seat in an inconspicuous place, so that when your host comes in he may say to you, ‘Come on, my dear fellow, we have a much better seat than this for you.’ That is the way to be important in the eyes of all your fellow-guests! For everyone who makes himself important will become insignificant, while the man who makes himself insignificant will find himself important”

NOTE: Jesus told this parable which cut the ground from under an attitude of self-importance. It is a picture-explanation of Romans 12:3. (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

FIRST LESSON – Jeremiah 13:15-21 (RSV)

Exile threatened to people of Judah

¹⁵ Hear and give ear; be not proud,
for the LORD has spoken.

¹⁶ Give glory to the LORD your God
before he brings darkness,
before your feet stumble
on the twilight mountains,
and while you look for light
he turns it into gloom
and makes it deep darkness.

¹⁷ But if you will not listen,
my soul will weep in secret for your pride;

my eyes will weep bitterly and run down with tears,
because the LORD's flock has been taken captive.

¹⁸ Say to the king and the queen mother:

“Take a lowly seat,
for your beautiful crown
has come down from your head.”

¹⁹ The cities of the Negeb are shut up,
with none to open them;
all Judah is taken into exile,
wholly taken into exile.

²⁰ “Lift up your eyes and see
those who come from the north.

Where is the flock that was given you,
your beautiful flock?

²¹ What will you say when they set as head over you
those whom you yourself have taught
to be friends to you?

Will not pangs take hold of you,
like those of a woman in travail?

NOTE: In the course of a series of parables and warnings (chapter 13) the prophet pleads with the people to give up their pride and turn to God before it is too late.

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lector – Tim Kirby

Acolyte – Sally Hess

Verger – Dr. Alvin Cash

Ushers – Tim Kirby and *put your name in this blank!*

(New usher volunteers and altar servers are needed! Why not put your name in this blank? Speak to Tim Kirby about being an usher; to Jim about being a being a reader or acolyte.

EVENING BIBLE STUDY

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN FOUR WEEKS



Gifted Bible teacher Charles Lutz is leading a four-week Bible study entitled **"The Old Testament in Four Weeks: History and Literature"** on Thursdays through Oct. 8. Gather at 5:30 p.m. for a meal. Study will follow at 6 p.m. Please invite a friend to come with you.



OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY SCHOOL NEW STUDY BEGINNING!

“These Things We Believe: A Look at the Nicene Creed”

Grab a cup of coffee and join us!

Adult Sunday school will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Skelton Conference Room in the Parish House next door. The study for the next few weeks will focus on the Nicene Creed. A video series featuring RC Bishop Barron will be used. The Rector will be the facilitator.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

September and October.

- **Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy** – Sunday, Sept. 27, at 2 p.m.
- **The Old Testament in Four Weeks, Charles Lutz instructor** – Thursdays, Sept. 17- Oct. 8, Meal at 5:30 p.m. Study at 6 p.m.
- **WSL Joyful Celebration and Luncheon** – Saturday, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, Sept. 27, following the 10:30 service.
- **St. Michael, and All Angels** – Tuesday, Sept. 29, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.
- **WSL Fall Bible Study** – Wednesdays, Sept. 30 – Nov. 4 at 10 a.m.
- **SLMG Monthly Meeting** – **Saturday**, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m.
- **Annual Church Picnic** – Sunday, Oct. 11, following the 10:30 a.m. service.
- **Eastern Orthodox Divine Liturgy** – Sunday, Oct. 11 and 25, at 2 p.m.
- **Young Harris Concert** – Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6 p.m.

- **St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles** – Wednesday, Oct. 28, HC Jennus Chapel at noon.

Options

In-church.

Online. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and available for viewing following the service on YouTube. To access both put “Parish Church of St. Luke, Blue Ridge, Ga.” In the search bar.



Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Judy Brooten for coordinating education for the St. Luke’s Women’s Group.



JOIN THE CHOIR!



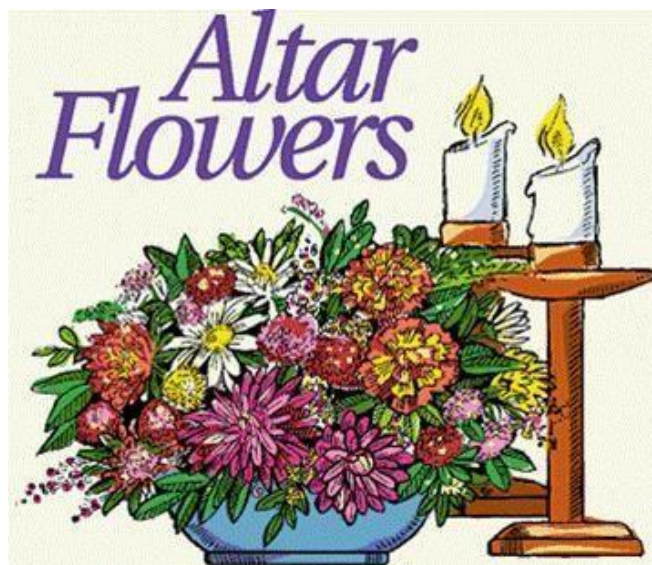
For information, contact, Diana Burden Mark at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



The Anglican Relief
and Development Fund

OUR MISSION

St. Luke's mission is to grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and to share our faith, our hands and hearts for the sake of the Gospel, our community and the world.



SIGN-UP FOR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet for Altar flowers is available in Thomason Hall for 2025.

Please sign up for days you wish to commemorate.

Flowers are needed throughout the end of the year. Please email or call Kathryn Noblett at the church office to sign up.

Financial Pledge for the Year of our Lord 2027

As stewards of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2027.

Name

Address

Amount

_____ Weekly _____ Monthly _____ Yearly

(Please tick the appropriate blank)



St. Luke's Church, "The Parish Church of the Mountains," 7 Ewing St., (POB 1821), Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513; (706) 632-8245; www.stlukesblueridge.org; stlukes@tds.net.