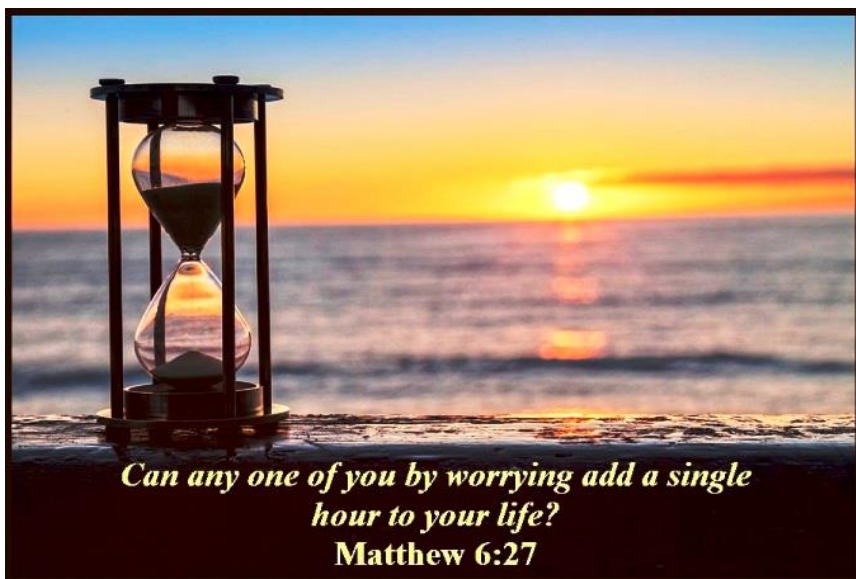




This Sunday at St. Luke's
September 8, 2024

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:15 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with
Shortened Holy Communion
Steven Cagle, organist

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity



AGE OF ANXIETY. “Wherever you look, the message is the same: anxiety is the epidemic of our age. The numbers alone tell a grim tale: diagnosed cases of anxiety disorders are up 1,200 percent over the past three decades and affect as many as 117 million Americans,” says a recent article in *Psychology Everywhere*. Hence, Jesus’ message in the Sermon on the Mount concerning worry needs more than ever to be heard and heeded. The counterbalance to worry is faith, not faith in faith, but faith in God who feeds the birds of the air and clothes the flowers of the field. Worry is futile; faith in God gives us an anchor in life’s storms.

COLLECT FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

KEEP, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Galatians 6:11-18 (J.B. Phillips)

A final appeal, in my own hand-writing

¹¹ Look at these huge letters I am making in writing these words to you with my own hand!

¹²⁻¹³ These men who are always urging you to be circumcised—what are they after? They want to present a pleasing front to the world and they want to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who have been circumcised do not themselves keep the Law. But they want you circumcised so that they may be able to boast about your submission to their ruling.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Yet God forbid that I should boast about anything or anybody except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which means that the world is a dead thing to me and I am a dead man to the world. But in Christ it is not circumcision or uncircumcision that counts but the power of new birth. To all who live by this principle, to the true Israel of God, may there be peace and mercy!

¹⁷ Let no one interfere with me after this. I carry on my scarred body the marks of my owner, the Lord Jesus.

¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, my brothers, be with your spirit.

NOTE: The Christian does not trust in “the flesh” (the outward and material) but rather his trust is in the cross of Christ. Because of this center around which his life is oriented, he is a “new creature.” Life has meaning it did not have before. (H.W. Dobson)

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 6:24-34 (J.B. Phillips)

Put your trust in God alone

²⁴ “No one can be loyal to two masters. He is bound to hate one and love the other, or support one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and the power of money at the same time.”

²⁵⁻³⁰ “That is why I say to you, don’t worry about living—wondering what you are going to eat or drink, or what you are going to wear. Surely life is more important than food, and the body more important than the clothes you wear. Look at the birds in the sky. They never sow nor reap nor store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Aren’t you much more valuable to him than they are? Can any of you, however much he worries, make himself an inch taller? And why do you worry about clothes?”

Consider how the wild flowers grow. They neither work nor weave, but I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was never arrayed like one of these! Now if God so clothes the flowers of the field, which are alive today and burnt in the stove tomorrow, is he not much more likely to clothe you, you 'little-faiths'?

³¹⁻³³ "So don't worry and don't keep saying, 'What shall we eat, what shall we drink or what shall we wear?! That is what pagans are always looking for; your Heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Set your heart on the kingdom and his goodness, and all these things will come to you as a matter of course.

³⁴ "Don't worry at all then about tomorrow. Tomorrow can take care of itself! One day's trouble is enough for one day."

NOTE: In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches us not to become anxious and put our trust in material things rather than in our heavenly Father. Anxiousness about the future can trick us into transferring our trust from God to mammon (the things of this world). (William Sydnor)

LECTIONARY READING

FIRST LESSON – Ecclesiasticus 5:1-10 (RSV)

Ancient sage warns against trusting in one's wealth

⁵ ¹ Do not set your heart on your wealth,
nor say, "I have enough."

² Do not follow your inclination and strength,
walking according to the desires of your heart.

³ Do not say, "Who will have power over me?"
for the Lord will surely punish you.

⁴ Do not say, "I sinned, and what happened to me?"
for the Lord is slow to anger.

⁵ Do not be so confident of atonement
that you add sin to sin.

⁶ Do not say, "His mercy is great,
he will forgive the multitude of my sins,"
for both mercy and wrath are with him,
and his anger rests on sinners.

⁷ Do not delay to turn to the Lord,
nor postpone it from day to day;
for suddenly the wrath of the Lord will go forth,
and at the time of punishment you will perish.

8 Do not depend on dishonest wealth,
for it will not benefit you in the day of calamity.

9 Do not winnow with every wind,
nor follow every path:
the double-tongued sinner does that.

10 Be steadfast in your understanding,
and let your speech be consistent.

NOTE: The wise counselor who wrote this book also warns against trusting in one's wealth. "Do not delay to turn to the Lord," he advises, "nor postpone it from day to day" (v.7). (William Sydnor)

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

THEME: KEEP YOUR EYE ON GOD

Options

In-church.

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

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Teaching Tuesdays New Bible Study – Learning from Proverbs

September 10 – October 15, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Yellow Room,

Session 1 – Introduction, D.J. Fulton, presenter

Women's Bible Study – *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*

Book used in the study is by Dr. David Jeremiah
Wednesdays, Sept. 25 – Oct. 30, 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Yellow Room

Book is \$20; Workbook is \$10



FUTURE FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCKS DATES

St. Luke's will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Fifth Sundays with a potluck lunch following. Dates for future events are Sept 29 and Dec. 29.

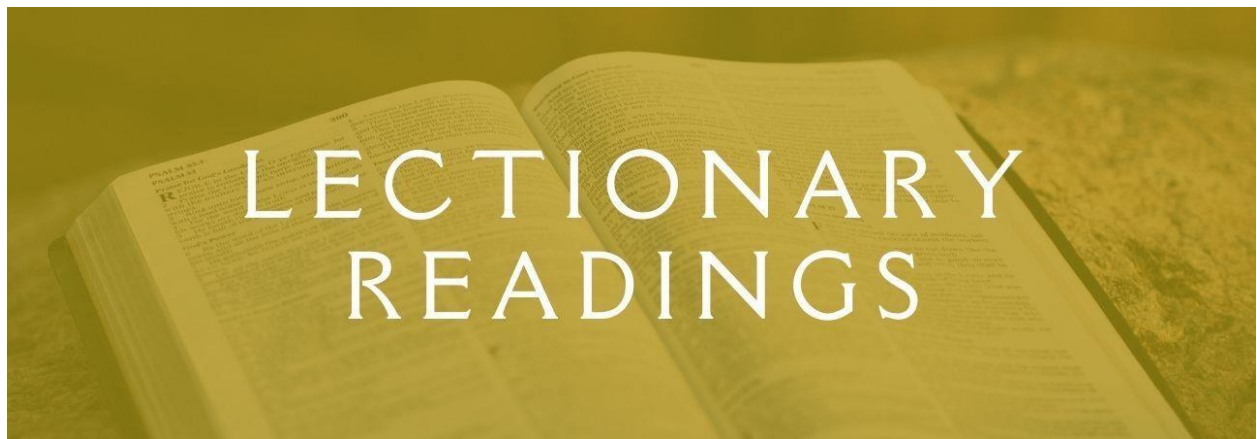


Tip of the Canterbury Cap to Jennifer Higdon for preparing lunch for the St. Luke's Men's Group on Sept. 3.



5th SUNDAY BRUNCH
September 29, 2024

Join us September 29, at 9:30 a.m. for a fifth Sunday combined service followed by a fall potluck brunch. Fun food like crusty bread, sausages, kielbasa, fall veggies, etc. will be the fare. We will be serving an Oktoberfest/autumnal menu. A sign-up sheet will soon be available in Thomason Hall. A fun time will be had by all!



Sharing Tuesdays

A Preview of Sunday's Readings

9:45 a.m. Sharing Tuesdays is your turn!!!
There are no teachers; no leaders; no presentations;
no videos; no homework; no assignments. Just
COME and read the Bible together with your
brothers and sisters in Christ and share from your
heart. All thoughts, questions, uncertainties, feelings
are welcome.

CHOIR PRACTICE

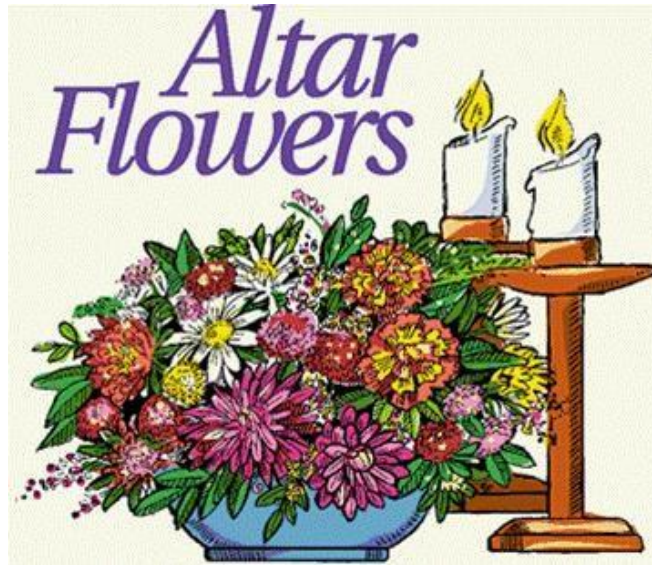


For information, contact, Diana Burden at 678-852-6907 or email
dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 2024.

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 2024

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 2024

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.