



***This Sunday at St. Luke's
July 26, 2026***

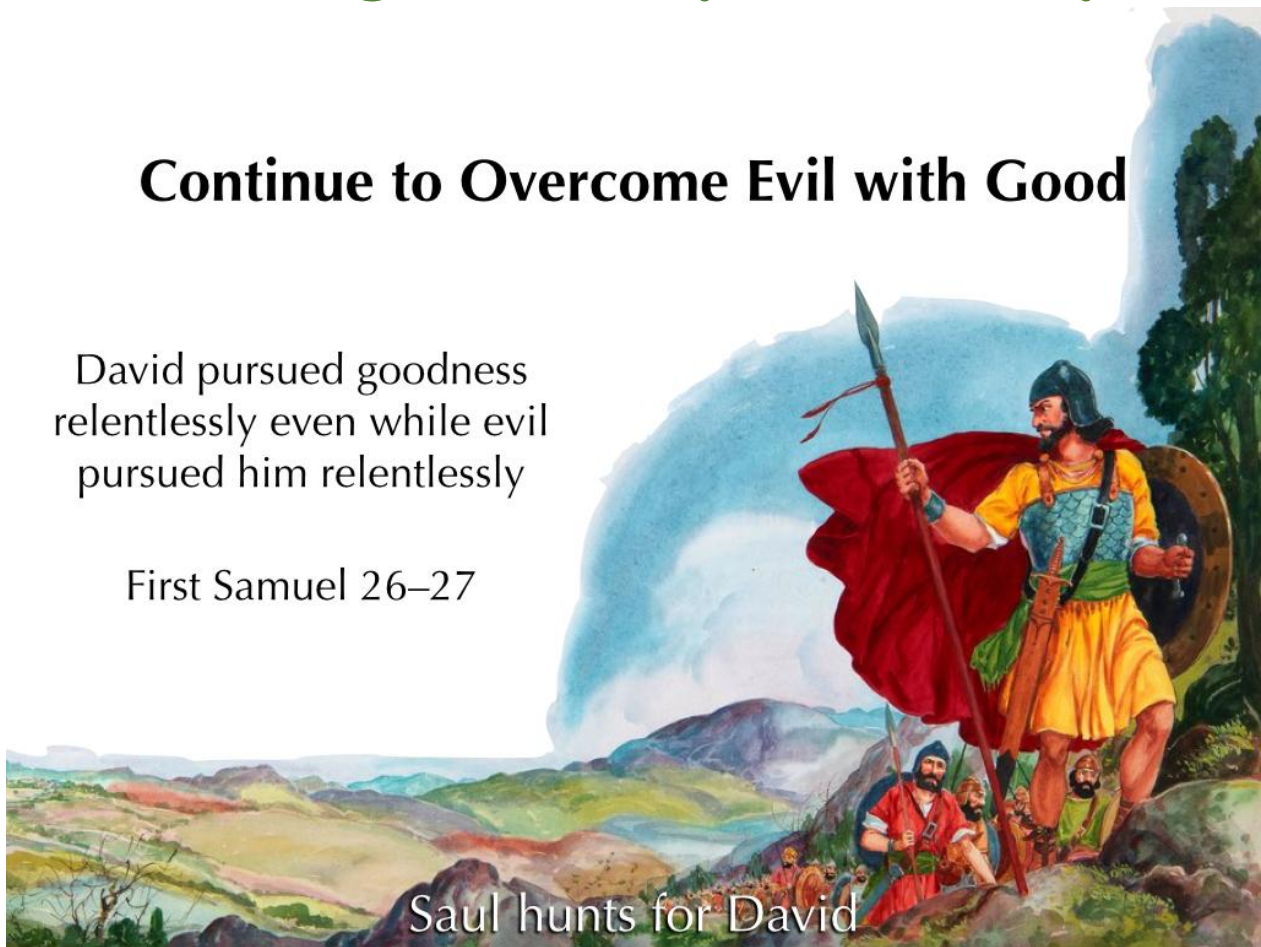
**8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion (said service)
10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer and Sermon together with
Shortened Holy Communion
Steven Cagle, organist**

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Continue to Overcome Evil with Good

David pursued goodness
relentlessly even while evil
pursued him relentlessly

First Samuel 26–27



Saul hunts for David

LIVING OUT OUR FAITH continues to be the focus of the Trinity season. Jesus' and later Paul's teaching concerning forbearance and breaking the cycle of evil with good is one takeaway from the story of David's magnanimity toward Saul, the first King of Israel, in this Sunday's Old Testament lesson. Saul's insane jealousy coupled with his acute paranoia led him to seek David's life. When David, who had gone into hiding, had an opportunity to put Saul out of his misery, he chose the path of forbearance and mercy. He refused to pay back a bad turn with a bad turn.

One reason he may have chosen this path was because Saul was Israel's anointed King at this time. Likely, David felt – and rightly so – it was God's job to deal with the matter and to do so in His own time. Another takeaway might be not to act hastily and to learn to wait on the Lord.

THE COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

O GOD, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth; We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE EPISTLE – Romans 8:12-17 (J.B. Phillips)

Follow the Spirit, as God's beloved children

¹²⁻¹³ So then, my brothers, you can see that we have no particular reason to feel grateful to our sensual nature, or to live life on the level of the instincts. Indeed that way of living leads to certain spiritual death. But if on the other hand you cut the nerve of your instinctive actions by obeying the Spirit, you are on the way to real living.

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own sons. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old slavish attitude of fear—you have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, "Father, my Father". The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God.

NOTE: Romans 8 is about the meaning of the Christian's life in the Spirit. To have the Spirit of the family of which God is the Father makes us true sons, just as legal adoption does. (William Sydnor)

THE GOSPEL – St. Matthew 7:15-21 (J.B. Phillips)

Living, not professing, is what matters

¹⁵⁻²⁰ "Be on your guard against false religious teachers, who come to you dressed up as sheep but are really greedy wolves. You can tell them by their fruit. Do you pick a bunch of grapes from a thorn-bush or figs from a clump of thistles? Every good tree produces

good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree is incapable of producing bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. The tree that fails to produce good fruit is cut down and burnt. So you may know men by their fruit.”

²¹ “It is not everyone who keeps saying to me ‘Lord, Lord’ who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the man who actually does my Heavenly Father’s will.

NOTE: Followers of the Lord are known to be faithful or wanting by their actions just as a fruit tree is judged by its fruit or lack of it. The same is true of the members of a family, and the Family of God is no exception.

LECTIONARY READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – 1 Samuel 26:1-7, 12-17, 21-25 (RSV)

David extends grace and forbearance

26 Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gib’e-ah, saying, “Is not David hiding himself on the hill of Hachi’lah, which is on the east of Jeshi’mon?” ² So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, with three thousand chosen men of Israel, to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. ³ And Saul encamped on the hill of Hachi’lah, which is beside the road on the east of Jeshi’mon. But David remained in the wilderness; and when he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, ⁴ David sent out spies, and learned of a certainty that Saul had come. ⁵ Then David rose and came to the place where Saul had encamped; and David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army; Saul was lying within the encampment, while the army was encamped around him.

⁶ Then David said to Ahim’elech the Hittite, and to Jo’ab’s brother Abi’shai the son of Zeru’iah, “Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?” And Abi’shai said, “I will go down with you.” ⁷ So David and Abi’shai went to the army by night; and there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the army lay around him.

¹² So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul’s head; and they went away. No man saw it, or knew it, nor did any awake; for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them.

¹³ Then David went over to the other side, and stood afar off on the top of the mountain, with a great space between them; ¹⁴ and David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, “Will you not answer, Abner?” Then Abner answered, “Who are you that calls to the king?” ¹⁵ And David said to Abner, “Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. ¹⁶ This thing that you have done is not good. As the Lord lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord,

the Lord's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jar of water that was at his head."

¹⁷ Saul recognized David's voice, and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king."

²¹ Then Saul said, "I have done wrong; return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day; behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly." ²² And David made answer, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and fetch it. ²³ The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put forth my hand against the Lord's anointed. ²⁴ Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the Lord, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation." ²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

NOTE King Saul, filled with paranoia, is seeking to kill David whom he sees a rival. In this episode of the sage, David, forced to be a fugitive, spares Saul's life. In so doing David exhibits amazing magnanimity. Instead returning a bad turn for a bad turn, He extends grace.

TRINITY 8

THIS SUNDAY

Preacher: The Rector

Lectors – Tim Kirby

Acolyte – Sally Hess

Verger – Jim Noblett

Ushers – Tim Kirby and Judy Brooten

OLD FASHIONED SUNDAY SCHOOL ANGLICANISM 101

Grab a cup of coffee and join us!

The Anglican expression of the Christian faith is discussed. Classes begins at 9:15 a.m. and are held in the Yellow Room. **This week's topic will be "Christian Hope in an Uncertain World".**

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

July and August

- ☐ **Eastern Orthodox Vespers** – Sunday, July 26, at 2 p.m.
- ☐ **Pat Webb Memorial Service** – Saturday, July 25, at 2 p.m.
- ☐ **Vestry Meeting** – Sunday, July 26, following the 10:30 a.m. service.
- ☐ **Christmas Bazaar Planning Session**, Tuesday, July 28, at 10 a.m.
- ☐ **AARP Good Driver Class** – Saturday, Aug. 1, at 10 a.m.
- ☐ **SLMG Monthly Meeting** – Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 11 a.m.
- ☐ **The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ** – Thursday, Aug. 6, HC Jennus chapel at noon.
- ☐ **Eastern Orthodox Vespers** – Sunday Aug. 9 and 23, at 2 p.m.
- ☐ **St. Bartholomew the Apostle** – Monday, Aug. 24, HC Jennus chapel at noon.
- ☐ **Charles Lutz Concert** – Thursday, Aug. 27, 6 p.m.
- ☐ **Fellowship Luncheon** – Sunday, Aug. 30, following the 10:30 a.m. service.

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 Robert Cranor for supplying Tim Kirby, St. Luke's gardener extraordinaire, with bedding plants for the church garden.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

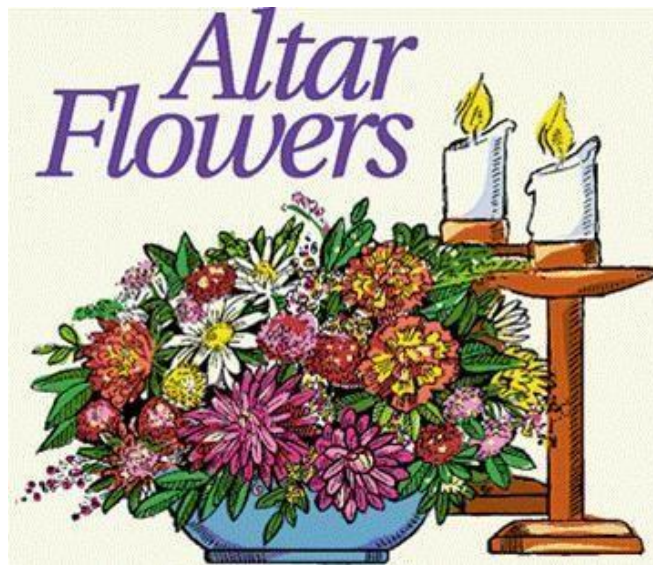


For information, contact, Diana Burden Mark at 678-852-6907 or email dburden6907@gmail.com.



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 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 2026

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 2025

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.