



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector:

Romans 2: Even the Religious Person has No Excuse

From a reading of my article on the first chapter of St. Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*, it is clear that all people are guilty of sin and by reason of this are subject to God's judgment. But when St. Paul wrote this epistle, many Jews believed Israel to be inherently superior to all other nations on account of God's election of them as His chosen nation demonstrated by His election of the Patriarchs; by the Exodus; by His covenant with the nation of Israel at Mount Sinai; and by the revelation of His Law. This belief in their religious superiority led some to be judgmental of the sins of others. In this chapter, St. Paul demolishes hypocrisy and the sin of judging others and exposes the futility of anyone's claim to superiority as a Jew while he is living a sinful life. If we are to interpret this chapter correctly today, we must acknowledge that St. Paul is not just cor-

recting the Jew who judges others but everyone who does so. Today we might add that the Christian who believes himself superior to non-Christians while living a sinful life is as guilty as the rest of the world.

At the end of the first chapter, St. Paul wrote about the people who, knowing God's just judgment that those who com-



mit sins are worthy of death, not only do they but even approve those who do them (*Romans 1:32*). It is for this reason that those who know God's judgment that sin merits death and who disapprove of these sins while continuing to commit them and yet judge other sinners are inexcusable. That is, they are

unable to be excused from God's judgment. Everyone who passes judgment on the sins of others is, in fact, condemning himself since he commits the same sins (*Romans 2:1*). To one who argues that he might not commit exactly the same sins, the reply could be made that in breaking any commandment of God, one has broken all of His commandments (*St. James 2:10*). It is very significant that the form of discourse that St. Paul uses here bears some similarity to a diatribe, a bitter denunciation of a person—in this case, a person representing all who pass judgment on sinners. No one who passes judgment can be excused from God's judgment. The theologian Karl Barth expresses it thus:

Since power belongs only to God, it is the tragic story of every man of God that he has

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Romans 2: *Even the Religious Person has No Excuse*

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to contend for the right of God by placing himself in the wrong.

This must be so if the men of God are not to usurp the place of God.

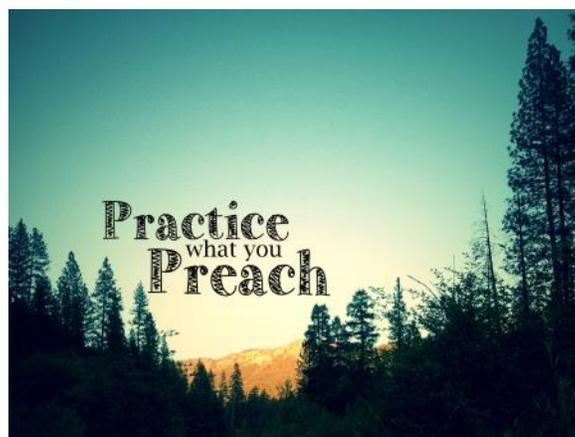
— page 57,
The Epistle to the Romans

It is not the case that any of us can be among a select group of people who are exempt from God's judgment on sin and the sinner, for all who commit sin fall under this judgment. There can be no escape either, by thinking that somehow God's judgment on sin and the sinner is erroneous, since **Romans 2:2** informs us that God's judgment is true against those who commit sins.

In this diatribe against the religious hypocrite, St. Paul asks the rhetorical question whether the man who judges others for the sins which he himself continues to commit thinks that he will escape the judgment of God (**Romans 2:3**). None of us can escape the judgment of God on our sin, and the sooner we realize it the better, for if we think we can, we are despising the riches of God's goodness,

forbearance, and patience and showing that we are willfully ignoring the fact that the kindness of God is intended to lead us to repentance (**Romans 2:4**). If one remains unwilling to turn away from a life of sin, one is storing up God's wrath for the day of wrath and the revelation of His righteous judgment (**Romans 2:5**), for God will repay everyone according to his deeds (**Romans 2:6; Proverbs 24:12**).

This quotation of the



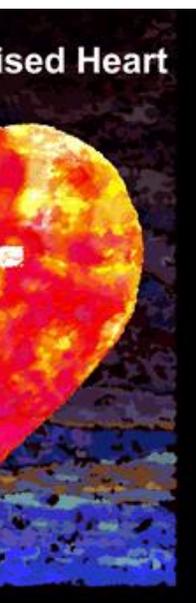
truth that God will repay everyone according to his deeds begins a new section of this discourse. Here St. Paul interrupts his diatribe to teach about the ways in which God will judge people on Judgment Day. God's judgment is based on nothing other than the behavior of each individual, including the goal—whether for good or for evil—each has set for his life. Verses 6-11 of this chapter may appear to teach the doctrine of salvation by works alone, but we

should interpret no part of Holy Scripture in a way that makes it conflict with other clear teaching of the Bible (Article XX, *The Thirty-nine Articles of Religion*). As we shall see, the chapters following **Romans 2** teach clearly that one is saved only by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. What is described in verses 7 and 10 is the life of good works that is the fruit, or evidence, of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Those to whom God will give eternal life are those

who persevere in good deeds, seeking glory, honor, and immortality, while on those who disobey the truth but obey unrighteousness, He will bring indignation and wrath. The latter will issue in trouble and distress to everyone who does evil, whether Jew or Gentile. But there will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, whether Jew or Gentile, since God shows no partiality (verses 7-11).

In the section which follows (verses 12-16), St. Paul shows that God will judge all people, whether they knew and received the law of God or not (nations that never received the revelation of God in Christ). Here he allows for the possibility

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sed Heart

Romans 2: *Even the Religious Person has No Excuse*

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of those who did not receive the Gospel and the Scriptures as then known (the Old Testament Canon) to show in their lives that they have God's law written on their hearts (verse 15) and affirms that they, like those who have received the Gospel, will be judged according to how they live. Their conscience will bear witness to their deeds, and their thoughts will excuse or accuse them on the day when God in Jesus Christ will judge the secrets of people (verses 15-16).

Finally, St. Paul returns to his diatribe against the religious hypocrite, depicted as a Jew in this passage (verses 17-27). The point of his doctrine here is that all the boasts of the Jew in the Law and in knowing God, as well as in teaching the ignorant God's ways, are useless in view of the fact that he himself commits the very sins against which he teaches. It means that his circumcised state counts for nothing, since the man who is uncircumcised but keeps the law of God shows that he is a Jew inwardly, being cir-

cumcised in the heart by the Spirit (verses 28-29). This man receives his commendation from God, not from men (verse 29).

How might we approach a modern interpretation of this chapter? We might conclude that a religious background, knowledge of the Bible, a Christian upbringing, a knowledge of the Christian faith, must find expression in an authentic Christian way of life. There must be no continu-

judgment on account of their sin.

In my exposition of the third chapter of St. Paul's *Epistle to the Romans*, I shall consider both God's diagnosis of man's sinful condition according to various passages of the Old Testament and the revelation of God's righteousness in the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness and salvation of all who believe in Him.

— *The Reverend
Chris
Parrish*

***Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from Your presence,
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.***

Psalm 51:10-12

ing, secret habits of sin which will invalidate the whole of our Christian witness. In view of this and of the sinfulness of all human beings, none of us should pass judgment on another, for in doing so we condemn ourselves. Let us take this lesson to heart. No matter the culture of our upbringing and background, whether Christian or non-Christian, all human beings are subject to God's

Parishioner Profile: Jim Jenson

With 99 well-lived years to reflect on, James “Jim” Jenson now leads a quiet life near downtown Los Altos.

Moving from Los Altos Hills with his wife, Helen, 22 years ago, Jenson maintained an active lifestyle until recently, and he still enjoys the company of friends and

family, walks to De-Martini Orchard, and has an excellent memory. Helen died in 2010, but his three children are frequent visitors from their homes in Houston, Sonora, and Colorado. Jenson also has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Born in Almena,

Kansas, Jenson’s father was the attorney for Gove County. Jenson attended the University of Kansas for college and law school, interrupted by World War II.

“Pearl Harbor was December 7th. I signed up with the Navy December 27th,” he said, describing a program that allowed him to finish his

senior year of college, then undergo training and come out as an ensign.

Active Duty

Jenson was first assigned to a battleship, the USS Nevada, as a gunnery officer. After a trip to the Aleutians, where the Japanese had occupied a couple of islands, they went through the Panama Canal and began a series of trips back and forth between Europe and the United States, protecting convoying troop ships.

Once Europe was secured, the ship was sent to the West Coast, he said, and he was transferred off. He then attended a training school in Coronado.

“I was training to be a spotter, or a forward observer for naval gunfire. I would be attached to the Army,” he said. “I was attached to the 594th JASCO (Joint Assault Signal Company), and at that time it was in Okinawa.”

Jenson flew from Pearl Harbor to Guam, and then went by troop ship to Okinawa, where he and two others joined their unit after some difficulty. Quartered in “a burned-out Navy house,” from the roof he said they could see Iwo Jima and the kamikaze attacks on the ships there.

“There was a small island off the bank. ... We got bombed every night,” he said. “They were signaling the bombers with flashers, where they were and where we were.”

When Okinawa was secured, their group was sent to Panay, Philippines, for training. It was there they got word the war had ended, but transportation home proved a hot commodity.

“There was a song,” Jenson recalled, singing:

“I’ll be overseas—
Always, with the
rats and fleas

—
Always. This
rotation plan
I don’t under-
stand.

I’ll be overseas—
Always, always.”

Life back Home

After two or three months in the Philippines, Jenson boarded a troop ship for the 30-day voyage home. He was put up in a hotel in San Francisco while he waited for orders. It was a fortuitous stopover. He ended up dating Helen “for 10 straight nights,” he said. “The last night, we were sitting on the steps and I said, ‘You know, I may never see you again — why don’t you marry me?’ ... She said, ‘OK.’”

Once back in Kansas, Jenson went to law school, began practicing law, and started a family. After five years, they moved to California, initially Menlo Park. He tried— and later heard—cases for the National Labor Relations Board. He was an attorney for 15 years and a federal ad-

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Parishioner Profile: Jim Jenson

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ministrative law judge for 23.

In 1966, the Jensons moved to Los Altos Hills, where they resided for 31 years. Nearly half their property was apricot trees.

"I got the family involved," he reminisced. "I built 12 trays, built a little smoke shed to put them in. You smoke the apricots in sulfur. I would do that, and then the family would do the cutting and load up the trays. I would put them into the little shed to get sulfurized, then I would take them and put them on the roof to dry. Then we would package them, put them in the freezer, and give them to all our friends at Christmas-time."

He also enjoyed maintaining the orchard on weekends.

"I rototilled the ground, pruned the trees ... sprayed them if they needed spraying," he said. "I took care of them. I loved it. I've always liked work."

He had a dog, Alphie.

"Got him at the pound— he was a great dog," he said. "I took him (to town) on the weekends. If you live up in the hills here, you always have to go to the hardware store and the plumbing store, and so I'd take Alphie with me. We always stopped at Baskin-

Robbins or Clint's Ice Cream. I'd buy two cones — I'd lick one and he'd lick the other."

Keys to Longevity

After retirement, Jenson took a memoir-writing class at the Los Altos Senior Center.

"You have to read what you write," he said. "So I had written this part about dating Helen for 10 days and then asking her to marry me. The teacher interrupted me and she asked, 'And Mr. Jenson, how long did that marriage last?' I said, 'Well, 59 years so far.' We were married 66 years!"

In addition to a busy work and home life, Jenson always enjoyed physical activity. He and Helen were avid tennis players, and Jenson was also a big swimmer.

"(Daughter) Paige gave me a membership to the Y in the City one Christmas— that's when I started swimming. I loved swimming— I would swim a half-mile one day, a mile the next. Throw in a couple of miles of running sometimes. I did a lot of different stuff."

A last key to longevity? Perhaps the nightly glass of white wine he treats himself to.

Gratitude also seems a binding thread in Jenson's life.

"My kids take awfully good care of me," he said.

— Mary Larsen

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A Life of Faith

There was no parish priest in Oakley, the little town in Kansas where I grew up. Once a month, a traveling Episcopal priest would hold services in my parents' home.

During summers while in college I lived in an Episcopal mission house with three priests. They enlisted my help with many various church activities.

When I was in the Navy during World War II I wore a St. Christopher medal around my neck, along with my dog tags. I survived the war unscathed.

I was married in St. James Cathedral in Chicago in January of 1946. We moved to this area in 1954. I have since attended St. Mark's Episcopal Church and most recently become a member of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills.

I was first introduced to St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills over forty years ago and am thankful for the comfort I have found there.

— Jim Jenson

Thanks
to Mary Larsen
and the *Los Altos Town Crier*
for permitting us to reprint
the first part of this article
and to Jim Jenson
and his daughter Paige Terry
for adding the final section.
God bless you all!

Character, Not Curriculum

During the 19th century, when England was largely populated by Bible-believing Christians, Thomas Henry Huxley was ahead of his time. He invented the word *agnostic* to explain himself and later devoted his life to promoting what he thought of as “scientific rationalism” rather than religion. Among his writings is this paragraph:

“Perhaps the most valuable result of all edu-

cation can give us the ability to do what we should do, when we ought to do it, whether we feel like it or not. In other words, he believes that willpower and self-discipline can be academically taught. If this were true, there would be some correlation between education and successful living. However, many people with advanced academic degrees exercise no willpower and demonstrate no self-discipline whereas many people who failed to graduate high school possess those characteristics.

He is right that it would be most valuable to acquire early in life the ability to make yourself do the things you have to do when you ought to do them. Conversely, it follows that acquiring the ability to refrain from doing those things that you ought not to do would be equally valuable.

But it just isn't that simple. There is no course you can take in high school or college that will equip you with these vital life skills. If there were, there would be no such thing as a procrastinating professor. Doing what you should do and doing it in a timely manner is not a matter of fact. It is a matter of faith. Refraining from things you ought not to do is not a matter of curriculum. It is a matter of character.

Here is a little of ancient Jewish wisdom's

teachings on the topic.

Each of the three letters making up the Hebrew word for *king*—**MeLeC**—stands for a part of the human body.

M - Mo-aCH -
Brain

L - LeV -
Heart

C - CaVeD -
Liver

What is more, those three parts of the human body carry special spiritual allusions. The brain alludes to our analytical and thoughtful abilities. Whenever the word heart is used in Scripture, it means our emotional beings. Finally, the word **CaVeD**, liver, means base bodily appetites.

Furthermore, the word **MeLeC**, king, occurs thousands of times in Scripture. Biblically, when discussing people, *king* can refer to anybody rising to leadership over his fellow humans.

Thus, aspiring to leadership means running your life and making your decisions based primarily on intellectual and thoughtful analysis. Secondly, consider your emotions. Finally, only once all else is in place, indulge the bodily appetites. A successful life is lived firstly on doing what one's head directs and only subsequently on what one's heart wants. Seldom, if ever, are important decisions made

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cation is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not. It is the first lesson that ought to be learned and however early a man's training begins, it is probably the last lesson that he learns thoroughly.”

It serves to show how even smart people can say foolish things. Huxley is suggesting that edu-

Character, Not Curriculum

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based on the calls of the body.

Conversely, let's see what Hebrew word emerges by reversing the three letters. What if one runs one's life with paramount emphasis on food, sex, and fun? Then if time and energy still allow, one does what one's heart directs, and finally, if ever, one listens to the call of one's head. What would that life look like?

Reversing the order of the letters making up the Hebrew for *king*, we now have:

Caved -

liver -
bodily appetites

Lev -

heart -
emotions

Mo ach -

brain -
the intellect

What does the Hebrew word **CaLeM**, (the opposite of **MeLeC**) mean? Answer: Embarrassment, shame, calumny. Notice that words like *calumny* and *calamity* possess the root letters of CLM.

The lesson is clear. To reach the heights of leadership and success, do first what your head tells you. Only then consult your heart, and finally, very finally, think of what your body craves. Failing to heed this guidance leads to calumny, embarrassment, and

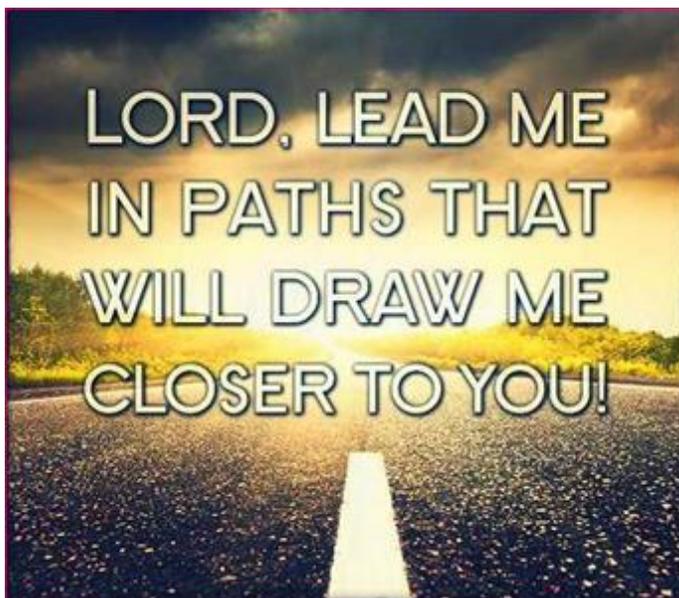
shame.

The problem is that knowing this does not ensure that we will follow it. Every business professional incarcerated for cutting corners and every politician publicly humiliated by his extra-marital affairs knows that he should have followed his head rather than his bodily desires or his heart.

Ancient Jewish wisdom teaches that the basic requirement for a king of

ty.

There are naturally agnostics and atheists with high character, just as there are, sadly, religious people without. However, what I say to atheists who ask me if I think being religious makes me better than they is this: I don't think my faith in God makes me better than you. I don't know what's in your heart. How could I know? But I do know that



Israel was an active and healthy relationship with God. The Israelite king had to write his own copy of the Torah and he had to follow it. A connection with God is one of the strongest tools for building character. Possessing deep conviction that regardless of where one finds oneself, the King of Kings is watching with the highest expectations is a guard rail of moral safe-

ty. my religion makes me far better than I would be without it, and me I do know.

Huxley was an intelligent man. Of this there is no doubt. However, he lacked wisdom, believing that character could be taught as if it were a page of historic facts.

– Rabbi Daniel Lapin

MDAS 2019 Women's Retreat

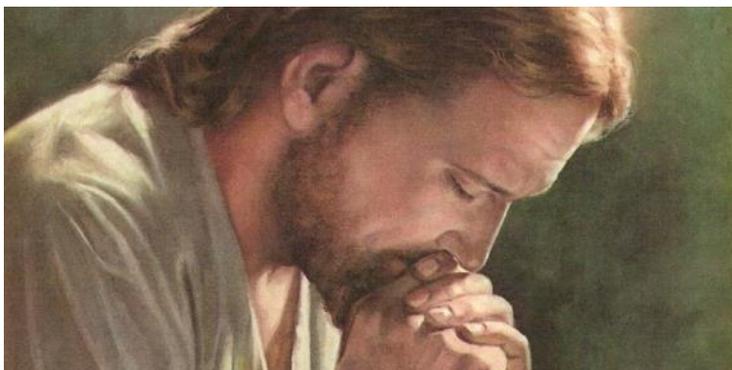
The annual Missionary Diocese of All Saints Women's Retreat will be held at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland, from October 17th to 19th, 2019. The Retreat is open to any woman who wants to

grow in her relationship with God.

Registration forms are available from Father Chris Parrish or online at <http://www.themdas.org> and must be submitted with payment to the Retreat Registrar by September 15th.

This year's theme is **A Deeper Experience of the Lord's Prayer.**

These three days will take us deeper into the prayer we all know so well but may not know as well as we think we do.



Make Shopping Count for Good

Patsy and I just signed up for AmazonSmile, designating St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills Anglican Church as recipient of the donations we earn through shopping there. Apparently we're the first to do so.

St. Luke's is on their eligible charities list. The program is free and easy. Parishioners simply need to designate St. Luke's once and then just conduct their usual Amazon business through the Smile.Amazon.com portal. "The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchas-

es." Not a lot, but it's painless and eventually could amount to something...

– Bill Zahrt



Another organization which sends donation checks to designated charities based upon members' online shopping is iGive.com. Parishioners only need to designate St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills

Anglican Church as the charity they wish to support and then shop at iGive-participating online retailers.

"iGive is a free service to causes and members. Since 1997, iGive has grown to 350,000+ members supporting 50,000+ causes and raised over \$9 Million! iGive members generate donations by shopping online at any of 1,900+ stores. There are no added costs, obligations, nor any hidden fees. You don't need to enter any codes or notify the store or iGive. It's all automatic!"

– Kim Vogel

Our Chapel Family Prayer List

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness:

Archbishop
Foley Beach;
Bishop
Bill Ilgenfritz;
Canon
Michael Penfield;
Father Chris Parrish;
Deacon Peter Vogel; and
Deacon Linda Bracken;
also all those who serve
as Thy ministers in governing
our nation and state,
particularly:

President
Donald Trump; and
Governor
Gavin Newsom;
as well as all those who
are any ways afflicted, or
distressed, in mind, body,
or estate; especially those
for whom our prayers are
desired:

the soldiers, sailors,
marines, airmen,

police officers,
firefighters, and pilots
who protect us every day;
our persecuted Christian
brothers and sisters
throughout the world;

all refugees;
Jim and Edna Davis;
Estelle Wilson;
Joya de Rossett;
Sharon De Souza;
Debbie;
Scott;
Brittany;
James and Tanya Theiler;
Dale Quinn;
Lisa;
Ben;
Marion;
Max;

Dan and Kendra Paack;
Ernst Hernandez;
the Stanko family;
Yoshihiko and Hideko
Ikegami;
Elizabeth Ann and her
husband;
Stephen;
Lori Anderson;
Ali Hemphill;
Lori Hemphill;
Pennel Magaw;
Tracy Magaw;
Lourdes Fernandez;
Mary Frances Reeves;
Maryanne Sanchez;
Kaitlyn Lindstedt;
Pamela;
Debbie Battersby;
Claudia;
Brenda Terry;

Elise;
Thomas and MaryAlice
Dunbar;
Mrs. Kitt;
Jon Carter;
Marilyn;
Frank Capone;
Father
Robert Herrell;
Bishop Bill Ilgenfritz;
the family of
John Jerrehiam;
Maria Fernandez;
Dave Joines;
Rose Lane Handwerker;
safety on the highways
for all who commute,
especially
during rush hour;
the life
and continuing longevity
of St. Luke's
Chapel in the Hills; and
for all those
who are in our hearts,
that it may please Thee to
comfort and relieve them,
according to their several
necessities; giving them
patience under their sufferings,
and a happy issue
out of all their afflictions.
And this we beg for Jesus
Christ's sake. Amen.

Please note: This prayer
list was current as of
July 28th, and the
people of St. Luke's
will pray for each
need until we are notified
that it has been met.
Please contact Father Parrish
to make corrections.
Thank you!



Parish Postings

The Vestry will meet on Sunday, August 18th, immediately following the worship service. All interested parishioners are invited to observe.



St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills will host its annual International Day on Sunday, September 1st. This celebration of our oneness in Christ will begin with Holy Communion and Holy Unction at 10:00 AM and continue with a potluck international luncheon in McNeely Hall. Invite your friends and neighbors!



Our Summer Community Missions Project is to collect funds with which to make a donation to North Valley Community Foundation. North Valley Community Foundation makes grants to 501c3 organizations working to bring relief to those affected by the devastating Camp Fire. For more information, please visit www.NVCF.org

Please note your donation to this cause by writing *NVCF* on your check memo line or offer-tory envelope so that our Treasurer will know how to allocate the funds. Thank you!



This is a call to everyone who would like to be confirmed by a bishop in the

upcoming year. The Sacrament of Confirmation is a rite in which, after a believer has been baptized, they make a mature commitment to the faith, and receive an increased gifting of the Holy Spirit through the bishop's prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing. In Confirmation, God strengthens the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer for His daily increase in his or her Christian life and ministry. Confirmation class will soon begin. Please contact Father Chris Parrish if you are interested in taking this important step.



Love is strong as death; but nothing else is as strong as either; and both, love and death, met in Christ. How strong and powerful upon you, then, should that instruction be, that comes to you from both these, the love and death of Jesus Christ!

~ John Donne

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 4th

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. John

9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

10:00 AM

Sunday, August 11th

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study: St. John

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

12:00 PM

Sunday, August 18th

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study on Recess

9:15 AM

Holy Communion

10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting

immediately following the worship service

Sunday, August 25th

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Bible Study on Recess

9:15 AM

Office of Morning Prayer

10:00 AM

Holy Communion

12:00 PM

Sunday, September 1st

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

International Day

Bible Study on Recess

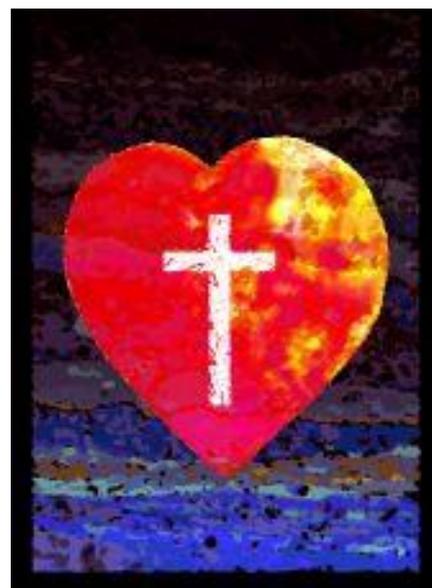
9:15 AM

Holy Communion with Healing Service

10:00 AM

International Day Potluck

immediately following the worship service





The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
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ALL SAINTS IN
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

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Website:
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«AddressBlock»

Worship Schedule

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship soon!

***"A place
where the Bible is taught."***



*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month

Holy Communion
(with Healing Service on First Sunday)
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Said Holy Communion
noon

Please note that both services on Feast Days occurring on these Sundays will be Holy Communion.