

# Stewardship for Life



CHRIST THE KING ~ CAMBRIDGE :: ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON ~ ISANTI :: STS PETER & PAUL ~ BRAHAM

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

We are all called to grow in faith. Just as we need food for our bodies, academics for our minds, and friendship to nourish our emotional health, our souls need spiritual nourishment to grow in faith. As a priest, I am called to grow in my faith as I lead others in growing in their faith. When the parish is growing, the pastor should be growing right along with it. This is why I want to be involved in so many different aspects of Church. It nurtures the soul.

Prayer is our foundation to a relationship with God. Mass calls us to come together in unity as the Body of Christ. We are nourished through the word of God and the Eucharist, and then we are sent into the world to live as disciples of Jesus. We experience the mercy of God through confession that we might treat others with compassion.

We continue to learn about our faith that we might continue to take responsibility and help others grow in their faith. We use our gifts in many ways that we might be an extension of the hands and feet of Jesus as we interact with others.

Achieving parish growth can be difficult. It isn't just a matter of individuals growing, but of the people of God growing in faith together. Just as an individual becomes curious, seeks, and learns to trust, so too does the community. A new idea is presented that piques curiosity, it is explored and tested, and finally trust is achieved. People need to buy into the idea for it to have success. New ideas are difficult, because they create change. It is easier simply to maintain what we have, and then when it becomes difficult to maintain, let it go. This kind of gradual change, though sad, is much easier to achieve.

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For years I served as a priest on the west end of the St. Cloud diocese, and I witnessed diminishment. Church culture became stagnant, and it was difficult for anyone who had a fresh approach to break through the culture of maintenance. Growth was difficult. I asked for a new assignment that would challenge me to grow in my faith.

I am grateful that God called me to this assignment. I have very much enjoyed my time here and hope for many more years.

Yet, it feels like a critical time, as the planning process of the diocese comes to fruition. Can we trust that the Holy Spirit is preparing us for growth? Remember, Pope Benedict XVI said the Church would become smaller and stronger, and then it would grow. We can't simply maintain what we have. We need to become intentional about mission, and seek growth.

~Blessings, Fr. Peter



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## ***STEWARDSHIP HOSPITALITY***

### From Maintenance to Mission:

This is a shift from a mindset of keeping the Parish focus on running activities as they have been to a mindset of focusing on active evangelization and discipleship. It is changing the mindset from keeping the Church running smoothly within its walls to that of a mindset of going beyond the Church walls to help people encounter Christ. If we want to reach people who have not yet encountered Christ, we need to loosen our grasp on the status quo. One of the ways that can help move a Catholic Community from Maintenance to Mission is through Radical Hospitality.

### Radical Hospitality:

This is a phrase referring to individuals welcoming those who are unlike themselves. We are to encounter Christ in all people, especially the suffering and those on the margins of society. Radical hospitality calls us to be available to others. We were created to serve God and to serve others. Radical hospitality is about transforming our hearts and our communities, it's about justice for every soul. When we have the opportunity to be hospitable, we have the opportunity to make a friend of a stranger. Wonderful things will happen if we become radically available to others. This week, reflect on ways you can show Radical Hospitality in your community and take action!

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## PRAYER: SAINT WHO?

We are all called to be saints, and god-willing when we get to heaven, we will be one. Everyone in heaven is a saint, and most are not well-known, however, in this newsletter, we hope to help you become familiar with their stories. The veil separating us from them is very thin and having a friend heaven-side can be such a blessing for you on your own path to holiness. I'd like to introduce you to a saint you may not know yet, and I hope she becomes a friend of yours: St. Lucia

She is Santa Lucia to the Italians, Sanka Lucia to the Swedes and St. Lucia or St. Lucy to all English speaking people. Although known by many names, this young Italian woman is mainly recognized for wearing a wreath of candles on her head and being a light in dark times. Much of what we know of her comes down to us from the poetry of Saint Aldhelm, an English bishop of the seventh century...

Born in the year 284 in Syracuse, Sicily, she was named Lucia, a derivative from **LUX**, meaning light. this seems fitting as she would later die on December 13th which under the old Julian calendar was the day after the winter solstice, the longest, darkest night of the year. Lucia grew up in a time of great christian persecution. Her father died when she was a baby and her mother raised her as a christian. Her strong christian faith led Lucia to develop a deep love for the poor and persecuted people, and she would carry food to them in the night. One story tells that in order to carry baskets full of food with both hands, she strapped torches to her head, thus creating the beloved image of her with a wreath of candles.



When she was 20 years old, her mother chose an unbelieving man for Lucia to marry, but Lucia had promised herself to the Lord and felt in her heart that she could not marry this man. During this time, her poor mother was suffering from a hemorrhage. Lucia prompted her to visit the tomb of St. Agatha and pray for healing. She was immediately healed. She was in awe and so thankful. Lucia asked if her dowry money could be given to the poor to show their gratitude and her mother agreed. Meanwhile, the man pursuing Lucia was very angry, determined to make her his own and also desired the money from the dowry. He informed the emperor about the deeds Lucia was doing; feeding christians and the poor. When brought before the emperor, she was asked to deny the Lord, but she refused. When it was discovered that she had no dowry she was given a harsh sentence to live out her life in a brothel.

As she bravely stood to accept her punishment, the soldiers tried to carry her away, but found that she could not be moved from where she stood. Instead, they were ordered to light a fire and burn her, but it would not light. Finally, she was killed by the sword and her beautiful, illuminated earthly life came to an end on December 13th.

This young girl teaches us what a strong faith in god can bring. She knew her mother could be healed and she was. She knew the poor had dignity and she served them. She knew and loved the lord, and when asked to deny him, she showed great courage and chose death instead. If we all could have an ounce of her faith...

***think of the mountains we could move!***

# ***CALLED AND GIFTED: IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?***

Have you ever wondered how you can follow Jesus' plan for your life in this time and place? Maybe you want to explore what it means to live your faith fully as an adult. If you have, consider taking the Called and Gifted discernment process to uncover how the holy spirit is uniquely working in your life.

I first heard of Called and Gifted in a parish email announcing a new session was starting. While I did not know what Called and Gifted meant, I felt a pull towards something as I read the words. Only after a friend explained what the sessions included did I sign up; sometimes we need an inside scoop to take the next step in getting involved, so I am here to share a sneak peek and get you excited about coming to a workshop!

The process is done in three steps:

**Step One:** Attend five weeks of the Called and Gifted introductory workshop. Here you learn signs and characteristics of 24 charisms--or "spiritual gifts"--of the Holy Spirit and how the discerning process works. You'll also learn how your unique charisms impact your life, your parish and those around you.

**Step Two:** Have your own personal gifts interview where you discern how God is calling you to recognize your charisms and how to better utilize them in your life.

**Step Three:** Pick one charism to "experiment with" over a period of 8 weeks (meet every other week) and see how the Holy Spirit works through you.

I loved everything about the Called and Gifted steps. From learning about each charism to being open to what the Holy Spirit had waiting for me and going through the discernment process. The charism that I chose to discern was wisdom.



**Want to know what having wisdom means? Come to our next Called and Gifted process this spring and find out!**

-- Kristen Lorsung



## ***CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:***

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

DECEMBER 24, 4PM CTK  
DECEMBER 24, 7PM SPP  
DECEMBER 25, 9AM SEAS

### **SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD DECEMBER**

31, 4PM SEAS  
JANUARY 1, 8:30AM SPP



ARE YOU ENJOYING THIS NEWSLETTER? KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR LENTEN EDITION!  
**THIS EDITION WILL BE THE ONLY ONE SENT VIA MAIL;** THE REST WILL BE EMAILED, WITH HARD COPIES AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH ENTRANCES.

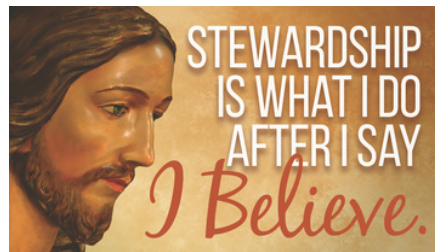
# STEWARDSHIP: WHAT IS IT?



What does **The Stewardship Way of Life** mean? It means creating space in our lives for God to become central. How? Jesus calls us all to follow Him as His disciples and He challenges us to see Him in each of the people we meet. By discerning our individual, gratuitous gifts of the Holy Spirit and sharing them, we encounter Jesus in those same people.

Through each word, action and deed, our relationship with Christ can deepen. Each encounter changes our way of thinking as we become more Christ-like. Through these moments we grow closer in our relationship with God.

Stewardship acknowledges that God made everything as a gift. We need to understand our blessings, be intentional disciples and know that God asks us to use our gifts for His glory.



We offer Him thanks with the very gift of ourselves, through stewardship.

Lives change when communities are active in groups and ministries whose focus is on growing their relationships with Jesus. Our priorities change, and when we put others first, friendships flourish. Giving back to God using our Time, Talent or Treasure is a joyful experience! Come discover how the Holy Spirit is uniquely at work in your life by participating in the Called & Gifted Workshop. Trust in the Holy Spirit and prepare to be amazed at how beautiful your life is about to become!

*In upcoming issues, we will explore in greater depth the Four Pillars of Stewardship: Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service.*

## LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE?

### Ongoing opportunities for service

- Christ the King needs a Sacristan
- Funeral lunches as needed
- Cleaning in all 3 churches

contact Brigitte for further information: 763-689-1221 option 2

### Community opportunities

- Shalom thrift store in Cambridge has different types of opportunities such as: check out, sorting items, steaming clothes and stocking shelves.

IACC gets donations from shalom for volunteer hours worked.

Call Shalom if you are interested: 763-689-0348

- Tusen Tack thrift store in Braham also has volunteer opportunities and does much good in the community. Fill out a volunteer form on their website today! [tusentack.org](http://tusentack.org)

### Upcoming opportunities

- December 11<sup>th</sup>: SEAS Guild Silent auction. Bidding closes december 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30
- December 14<sup>th</sup>: SEAS Knights Breakfast with Santa 9:30am-noon  
If you'd like to help, Call/text Sheila Mayer: 218-434-1141
- Starting February 20<sup>th</sup>: Fish Frys  
SPP Thursdays 3-4pm  
and Fridays 3-8pm  
SEAS Fridays 3:30-8pm  
People are needed to work and bring desserts



# STEWARDSHIP FINANCES

As we begin to look at stewardship for life, it is good for us to consider the current financial state of our parishes. Having recently submitted the annual reports to the diocese I will be using numbers from these reports to explain our current situation.

The annual report is a diocesan report covering the fiscal year, July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Our overall numbers look good, and are very similar among the three parishes.

On the surface it might look like Christ the King is the weakest link, but all three parishes are very similar. Let me explain.



All three parishes have roughly the same total income. The ordinary income includes the Sunday offering, and online giving. The extra ordinary income includes fundraising, investments, and other things like votive stand money, religious education receipts, and rental income. Other income includes restricted gifts that are designated for a particular purpose, unrestricted gifts, bequests, and multi-parish reimbursement.

ST PETER AND PAUL		CHRIST THE KING		ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON	
TOTAL INCOME:	346,363	TOTAL INCOME:	349,959	TOTAL INCOME:	358,537
ORDINARY:	173,778	ORDINARY:	213,945	ORDINARY:	221,940
EXTRAORDINARY:	156,797	EXTRAORDINARY:	18,622	EXTRAORDINARY:	90,770
OTHER:	15,778	OTHER:	117,392	OTHER:	45,827
TOTAL EXPENSE:	246,606	TOTAL EXPENSE:	324,678	TOTAL EXPENSE:	258,845
ORDINARY:	208,877	ORDINARY:	283,030	ORDINARY:	212,487
OTHER:	37,728	OTHER:	41,648	OTHER:	46,357
CAPITAL PROJECTS:	19,183	CAPITAL PROJECTS:	33,154	CAPITAL PROJECTS:	55,024
NET CHANGE:	80,574	NET CHANGE:	13,793	NET CHANGE:	44,668

In the case of Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, as compared with Christ the King, both SPP and SEAS have much higher fundraising and investments, while Christ the King has more than \$50,000 in multi-parish reimbursements as compared to the others because they pay a larger percentage of the shared expenses and then receive reimbursement from the other parishes. Additionally, Christ the King has a much higher percentage of people offering a one-time gift which falls under restricted/unrestricted gifts.

Ordinary expenses consist of those expenses that are part of daily operations. The other expenses are clergy medical, priest retirement,

and the annual assessment to the diocese.

When we take out the above noted \$50,000 shared expenses from Christ the King's ordinary expenses, and understand that they are currently paying all of the rectory expenses, the ordinary expenses between the three parishes are also very similar, as are the other expenses. However, the disparity is in the timing of the capital projects. While SPP and SEAS capital projects came out of investments, Christ the King had to raise the money for their projects. However, due to the timing of the CTK projects, the income was gathered in last year's report, while the final expenses were paid in this year's report.

Thus, it looks like they are in the red, even though the projects were fully funded.

When we consider Stewardship for life, we need to increase our Sunday giving across all three parishes to cover our operating expenses, and prudently consider our building situation. Over the past five years Christ the King has spent significantly more on capital improvements. Over the next five years Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will have to spend significantly more on capital improvements. In our next Stewardship News Letter, I will offer a look at how the ACC is doing half way through this fiscal year.

Michael J. Sullivan  
IACC Administrator

# BRING ST. LUCIA INTO YOUR HOMES THIS ADVENT!

## A Family Tradition and Recipe

There are so many fun ways to celebrate her life this December 13<sup>th</sup>! One of our family's favorite activities is making the traditional Swedish "Lucia Buns." When our daughters were tiny, our eldest would dress up like Lucia with a simple white dress, a red ribbon around her waist and a paper candle wreath on her head. She would deliver the buns in the morning to our middle daughter, whom we named Lucia, waking her up in this fun way. As our girls have grown, we still love the tradition and now they all deliver the "Lucy Buns" with a cup of coffee to Dad in the evening. We love reading Lucia's story on that day from a well written picture book that remains part of our tradition.

**Fun Fact:** You might be wondering how in the world did a young Italian girl have such an impact on Sweden? Truth be told the answer is a bit of a mystery. Many years ago Sweden was a Roman Catholic country, but has since become predominantly Lutheran. So how did her story get there? One very popular story among Swedish-Americans tells how many years ago a young maiden was seen in the bow of a ship coming across Lake Vänern. She had a wreath of candles on her head and was carrying food for the poor of Värmland who were suffering from a famine. Since that time, Lucia's feast is celebrated with candles all over Sweden on December 13<sup>th</sup> as she was a light to them in a very dark time.



Whether you ask her to pray for you on her feast day, or bake "Lucy Buns" with your family, I invite you to bring this dear St. Lucia into your homes this Advent. As the hours of daylight diminish, let her life and death be a reminder to you of our one true light in the darkness; Jesus Christ.



**Happy Advent!**



## REFERENCES:

EKSTRAND, F. (1989) *LUCIA: CHILD OF LIGHT*. MOUNT VERNON, WA: WELCOME PRESS.  
RYDAKER, E. (2002) *LUCIA MORNING IN SWEDEN*. MINNEAPOLIS, MN: NODIN PRESS. 2015.

## Lussekatter ( Lucia Buns )

1 pkg active dry yeast  
1/4 c water, warm  
3/4 c milk  
1/2 c butter or margarine  
1/2 c sugar  
2 eggs  
1/4 tsp salt  
1/4 tsp powdered saffron  
4 c flour



*For brushing:* 1 egg, 2T water

Dissolve yeast in warm water and set aside.

Warm milk, add butter to melt.

Place all above ingredients in a mixing bowl using 2 cups of the flour.

Mix for 3 minutes using mixer.

Add rest of flour and beat with wooden spoon.

Knead dough, adding a little flour for easy handling.

Put in a bowl and let rise to double.

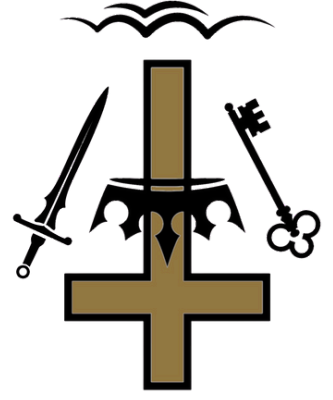
Turn out on floured board and shape into Lussekatter.

Let rise on cookie sheet and brush with egg and water mixture before baking.

Put a raisin in each curl and bake at 450 degrees for 10 minutes.

*Makes about 4 dozen rolls.*





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