



THE FONT

SUMMER 2021

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE ORDER OF SAINT LUKE

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Check out our updated
website at:
<http://saint-luke.net>

The Font
The Order of Saint Luke
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Franklinville, NJ 08322

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FROM THE ABBOT'S DESK

Greetings!

It is only July, but my heart is already yearning for October. I can't wait to gather in Pittsburgh for our 75th anniversary celebration. We will be at Saint Paul of the Cross Retreat Center – a place dear to many of us. If you have been there, you probably have your favorite spot in mind already: a beautiful chapel, the paths



**Sr. Abbot
Elizabeth Moore**

through the park-like grounds (complete with wild turkeys and other creatures), the refectory where we gather after compline for wine and soda and laughter – as well as serious sharing.

It is customary at our retreats to have a guest lecturer from outside the Order. We have had many wonderful speakers in our 75-year history. But this year will be different. This year our speakers have been selected from our members. We will be reflecting on our past, our present, and our dreams for the future as we hear from Br. Mark Stamm, Br. Don Saliers, and Sr. Kimberly Greway. I am looking forward to the stories they will share with us and the challenges that they will present to us as we move into our next 75 years.

You can register for the retreat online this year. There is a registration form posted on the website that you can complete there and send in. Of course, you also have the option of printing it and mailing it if that is your preference.

Speaking of the website, I hope you have all had the opportunity to explore our newly re-

leased updated site. The address is the same: <https://saint-luke.net/> In addition to the new capability of registering for retreats online, you can now order books online. Many thanks go to Br. Jonathan Hehn and Br. Scot Bontrager for the work they put into this update. If you find an error, or if there is some additional information that you wish we would include, please let us know. We want the site to be as informative and helpful to you as possible.

We are planning to either live-stream or record and broadcast events at this year's retreat for those of you who cannot be with us in person. While we wish that we could all be together, I am aware that schedules and costs and geography don't make that possible. We hope this will give everyone a way to participate.

For those who can come to Pittsburgh, we are planning an Anniversary Banquet on Tuesday evening. As far as I know, this is not a black-tie affair (just kidding, Br. George) – but it is a special time for us to celebrate. I look forward to being with you for the party.

The Order of Saint Luke has been very important in my life. It has given me spiritual grounding. It has provided me with siblings who have helped me grow and change and deepen my faith. It has been a great gift. My challenge to you is to ponder how the Order has been a gift to you. Is there a story you could share that would show us why the Order is important to you? Is there a particular person who has been important to you? Consider sharing your stories as we gather to celebrate. We are blessed to have one another.

Abbot Elizabeth
July 2021

**Plan NOW to Attend OSL's 75th Anniversary
Oct. 11-14
Details Page 6**

IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

Br. Robert-George Schall, OSL bhagwon@earthlink.net

Faith communities have frequently kept necrologies of those saints who have gone before us. In this manner The Order of Saint Luke remembers these sisters and brothers.

July 5	Br. Thomas Davis	(2005) Texas
July 9	Sr. Gloria E. Manning Smith	(2020) New Jersey
July 18	Sr. Linda Murry	(2015) Missouri
July 19	Br. Ted Hoffmann	(2013) North Carolina
July 24	Br. Jerry Allen Smith	(2003) Kentucky
July 26	Br. Mark Dwight Mashburn	(2007) North Carolina
July 27	Br. Tom Hill	(2003) West Virginia
August 5	Br. Thorwald Torgersen	(2001) Northern New Jersey
August 12	Br. John Hope	(2009)
August 17	Br. Eugene Covington Holmes	(2016) South Carolina
August 19	Br. Rhymes H. Moncure, Jr.	(2006) Bishop in North Texas
August 21	Br. David J. Bort	(2017) Bennington, Vermont
August 24	Br. Ken Buth	(2014) Louisiana, Florida
August 27	Br. Gary Lawrence Smith	(2020) Eastern Pennsylvania; Tennessee
September 7	Br. Hoyt Hickman	(2016) California
September 8	Sr. Miriam Louise Olson	(2019) California
September 9	Sr. Amy Margaret Anderson Beveridge	(2015) Connecticut
September 11	Br. Bill Hunter	(2011) Texas, New York
September 17	Br. Howard Sterling	(2014) New Jersey
September 18	Br. Kenneth Brian McKee,	(2019) Ohio
September 19	Br. Lindsay Churchman	(2015) Illinois, previously Iowa and Texas
September 21	Br. James M. Ault	(2008) Bishop, GBGM, Drew Theological Seminary
September 22	Sr. Christine Farrar	(2011) Missouri
September 23	Br. Russell E. Sonafrank, II.	(2003) Indiana
September 29	Sr. Jeanne Audrey Powers	(2017) Minnesota
October 5	Br. Robert E. Gordon	(2002) Virginia
	Sr. Lucile Beasley	(2015) California
October 9	Br. Bob M. Fuqua	(2004) West Virginia
October 11	Sr. Marjorie Erickson	(2016) New Jersey
October 12	Br. Thomas Frank Beveridge	(2014) Connecticut
October 16	Rev. Dr. Laurence Hull Stookey	(2016) Friend of OSL
October 21	Sr. Jane Anne Ferguson	(2008) Illinois
October 22	Br. Robert Fletcher Thomas, Jr.	(2005) South Carolina
October 30	Br. James Turner Mussman	(2020) St. Francis Chapter, West Ohio Conference
October 31	Br. Arthur J. Landwehr	(2003) Illinois
	Rev. Dr. James Floyd White	(2004) Friend of OSL

A request: If you or your chapter are aware of other deceased members of the Order, I'd be grateful if you could send information to me at bhagwon@earthlink.net so that they may be included in the list of siblings for whom we give thanks to God.

REQUIESCAT EN PACE

Br. Robert-George Schall, OSL bhagwon@earthlink.net

Br. Kenneth 'Brian' McKee (1963-2018)

Br. Kenneth "Brian" McKee was 56 years of age when he passed away on September 18th, 2019, in McConnelsville, OH. He was born in the neighboring community of Malta, OH, on August 8, 1963. Br. Brian was the son of Kenneth J. McKee, and Barbara Faye Nichols McKee Chappellear. In addition, he had a kind stepfather, Ronald L. Chappellear. His grandparents were William Doyle McKee and Zola Emma Teters McKee, and John Leslie Nichols and Gladys Bertene Armstrong Nichols. Br. Brian was very close to his "Grandma McKee."

Br. Brian was a 1985 graduate of Ohio University with a BSED. He also studied at Hollywood Anglican Seminary and St. Mary The Virgin Anglican Seminary. His main desire in life was to always serve the church of the God he loved, and thanked, for the blessings in his life. He was ordained by the Right Rev. John A. Bell, Bishop, as an Anglican clergyman; first as a Deacon on September 2, 2017, and then as a Priest on March 17, 2018. He began the St. Mary The Virgin Anglican Church, meeting for services in Trinity United Methodist Church and his home.

Br. McKee delivered Franciscan Meals on Wheels to shut-ins for 11 years, and volunteered at Highland Oaks Health Care Center, playing the piano and singing hymns with the residents for 12 years. He taught in the Morgan Local Schools from 1985 until 2000. Brian loved history. He was a life member of the Morgan County Historical Society and served as both president and a trustee. Brian McKee honored his ancestor, Moses Mingus, a soldier in the American Revolution, by joining the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). He served as president of the Rufus Putnam Chapter SAR, in



Zanesville, OH for 12 years. Brian was a member of the Armstrong Clan Association. Br. Brian was also a member of the Order of Saint Luke.

He began organ lessons at 9 years of age and played in church for the first time at 10 years of age. Throughout his life, he served as organist as he was needed in various churches. Br. McKee had a long tenure as organist of St. James Catholic Church and Trinity United Methodist Church. He played for two or three churches each weekend for many years, as well as dozens of weddings and funerals over the years. Br. Brian was a member of the Thursday Music Club in

Zanesville, OH, and served as both vice president and president. For many years, he enjoyed singing tenor in the choir for the annual concert of Handel's Messiah.

Br. O. French Ball remembered Br. McKee as a "good friend and old order liturgical church service colleague" who passed from this life much too early from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Br. French further commented that Br. Brian "was raised in a former old order Methodist Episcopal Church ... and that he truly loved and could perform the music and the recitation from the classical 1928 American Book of Common Prayer liturgies!"

In addition to his many other talents, Br. Brian had a lifelong love of Arabian horses. He owned Arabians for most of his life. His stallion DA TRIPOLLI+// won 13 national show titles in English

and Fine Harness. He also exported a daughter of DA TRIPOLLI+// to a buyer in Saudi Arabia. He is pictured below with the horse he exported.

A memorial Holy Communion service was conducted by The Right Rev. John A. Bell, Bishop, on September 27, 2019, at Trinity Church, McConnelsville, OH. Br. Brian was cremated.

Requiescat in pace, Brother Kenneth Brian McKee, OSL, as we remember you this day.

Sources: Ancestry.com, and the Miller-Huck Funeral Home, McConnelsville, OH.

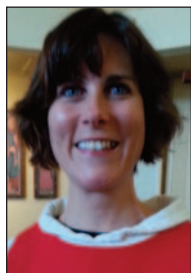
If you would like to make any comments or further additions to this obituary, please contact Br. Robert-George, OSL Necrologist, at: Bhagwon@earthlink.net



Br. Brian McKee stands with a daughter of his champion Arabian stallion, DA TRIPOLLI+//, that he exported to a buyer in Saudi Arabia. (Courtesy photo)

FROM THE PROVINCIAL GENERAL

While the annual OSL Retreat is a marvelous gift, much of the weekly and monthly work of the Order throughout the world happens in the context of the



**Sr. Heather
Josselyn-Cranson**

Chapters and Associations. Since the summer often brings a little extra mental space to reflect, please consider doing one or more of the following to support the work of our Chapters and Associations:

- Reach out to them! You can find a list of our Chapters and Associations

here: <https://saint-luke.net/chapter-life/> See if there's a group near you, and let the Prior know of your interest. Volunteer to help with an upcoming gathering – our Priors need people with enthusiasm!

- If you don't live near a Chapter or Association, consider joining one in worship via Zoom. Many of our communities are hosting online times of worship, which you can identify in the following chart. They would love to have you participate in prayer, even from a distance.

- Fill gaps! If you would like to participate in a Chapter or Associa-

tion but don't have one nearby, consider forming a new one. Please contact me at hjosselyn@hotmail.com if you'd like more information about how this could work. I can put you in touch with other OSL members who live in the area, and who may be glad for your initiative.

Our Priors do wonderful work in supporting the Order of Saint Luke, but they shouldn't have to do this work alone. If you can take one of the steps above to encourage or assist them, please do so. Healthy Chapters and Associations help to keep our entire Order well!

Weekly Opportunities for Corporate Prayer in the Order of St. Luke

(rev. 10/15/2020)

Morning Prayer
Title: Morning Prayer
Day: Thursday
Time: 7:00AM Eastern / 3:00AM Pacific
Platform: Zoom on the first Thursday
Conference call the rest of the month
Host Chapter: Dayspring Chapter
Contact: Br. Matthias Tanner at
Br.Matthias@gmail.com

Evening Prayer
Title: Evening Prayer
Day: Tuesday
Time: 8:30PM Eastern / 4:30PM Pacific
Platform: Zoom on the first Tuesday
Conference call the rest of the month
Host Chapter: Dayspring Chapter
Contact: Br. Matthias Tanner at
Br.Matthias@gmail.com

Compline
Title: Compline
Day: Monday
Time: 9:00PM Eastern / 6:00PM Pacific
Platform: Zoom
Host Chapter: None
Contact: Br. Adam Lassen on Facebook

Title: Mattins
Day: Thursday
Time: 10:15AM Eastern / 7:15AM Pacific
Platform: Zoom
Host Chapter: Koinonia Chapter
Contact: Br. Aidan (Joshua Allison) at
barefootfriar@gmail.com

Title: Evening Prayer
Day: Wednesday (Biweekly)
Time: 3:30PM Eastern / 12:30PM Pacific
Platform: Zoom
Host Chapter: Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter
Contact: Sr. Kimberly Greway at
kimberly.greway@alleghenycounty.us

Title: Compline
Day: Thursday (Monthly on the first Thursday)
Time: 8:30PM Eastern / 4:30PM Pacific
Platform: Zoom
Host Chapter: Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter
Contact: Sr. Kimberly Greway at
kimberly.greway@alleghenycounty.us

Title: Morning Prayer
Day: Friday
Time: 9:30AM Eastern / 6:30AM Pacific
Platform: Zoom
Host Chapter: Perkins School of Theology Chapter
Contact: Sr. Jennifer Kilpatrick at
JKilpatrick@smu.edu

Title: Evening Prayer
Day: Wednesday
Time: 9:00PM Eastern / 5:00PM Pacific
Platform: Zoom
Host Chapter: Cal-Pac Chapter
Contact: Br. George Martzen at
gmartzen@gmail.com

Other
Title: A Liturgy for When We Cannot Meet
Day: Sunday
Time: 4:00PM Eastern / 1:00PM Pacific
Platform: Zoom
Host Chapter: None
Contact: Br. Brett Isernhagen at
brettisernhagen@vaumc.org
or 757-231-5553

Midday Prayer
Title: Midday Prayer
Day: Monday through Thursday
Time: 1:30PM Eastern / 10:30AM Pacific
Platform: Facebook Live
Host Chapter: None
Contact: Sr. Celia Halfacre on Facebook

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4PM EST: A Liturgy for When We Cannot Meet – Br. Brett	12:30PM CST: Midday Prayer – Sr. Celia 9PM EST: Compline – Br. Adam	12:30PM CST: Midday Prayer – Sr. Celia 8:30PM EST: Compline – Dayspring Chapter	12:30PM CST: Midday Prayer – Sr. Celia 3:30PM EST: Evening Prayer (biweekly) – Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter 5PM PST: Evening Prayer – Cal-Pac Chapter	7AM EST: Morning Prayer – Dayspring Chapter 9:15AM CST: Mattins (Morning Prayer) – Koinonia Chapter 12:30PM CST: Midday Prayer – Sr. Celia 8:30PM EST: Compline (monthly) – Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter	8:30AM CST: Morning Prayer – Perkins School of Theology Chapter	NO EVENTS

Links to Recurring OSL Events

(Subject to change; check with the contact person listed)

Br. Adam Lassen Compline – Zoom

Mondays – 9:00pm (Eastern)
<https://zoom.us/j/736740447>
Meeting ID: 736 740 447

Br. Brett Isernhagan Liturgy for When We Cannot Meet – Zoom

Sundays – 4:00pm (Eastern)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8841278284?pwd=SGNmNkRncIRjaOVGVQZdGhNcTB4QT09>
Meeting ID: 884 127 8284
Password: 475156

Cal-Pac Chapter Evening Prayer – Zoom

Wednesdays – 5:00pm (Pacific)
<https://zoom.us/j/94240036920?pwd=Q3NNK1g3SnZ2Q2dDajlkeZxbHZEZz09>
Meeting ID: 953 7944 6983
Passcode: 923955

Sr. Celia Halfacre Midday Prayer – Facebook Live

Monday through Thursday, 12:30pm (Central)
<https://www.facebook.com/celia.kitchens>

Dayspring Chapter Morning Prayer – Conference Call/Zoom

Thursdays – 7:00am (Eastern)
FreeConferenceCall: 1-515-603-3162, passcode 620-432#
Zoom: Link changes monthly; contact Br. Matthias
First Thursdays – 7:00am, (Eastern) – Zoom

Dayspring Chapter Compline – Conference Call/Zoom

Tuesdays – 8:30pm (Eastern)
FreeConferenceCall: 1-515-603-3162, passcode 620-432#
Zoom: Link changes monthly; contact Br. Matthias
Contact Br. Matthias at Br.Matthias@gmail.com

Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter Evening Prayer – Zoom

Every other Wednesday - 3:30pm (Eastern)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82941812352?pwd=U2tTaW5qN0ptSWdsbFJPV0VKeW9zdz09>
Meeting ID: 829 4181 2352
Passcode: Hickman

Hoyt Hickman Memorial Chapter Compline – Zoom

First Thursday of the month – 8:30pm (Eastern)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285390650?pwd=QTNjVDZFRM3BjNVFZWkljb1dMTExVdz09>
Meeting ID: 842 8539 0650
Passcode: OSL

Koinonia Chapter Mattins (Morning Prayer) – Zoom

Thursdays – 9:15am (Central)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84285390650?pwd=QTNjVDZFRM3BjNVFZWkljb1dMTExVdz09>
Meeting ID: 842 8539 0650
Passcode: OSL

Perkins School of Theology Chapter Morning Prayer – Zoom

Fridays – 8:30am (Central)
Zoom: Contact Sr. Jennifer Kilpatrick at JKilpatrick@smu.edu

What's happening with your chapter or association? Share your activities with your OSL siblings around the world! Send news to Sr. Heather Joselyn-Cranson, OSL, Provincial General, at hjosselyn@hotmail.com

FROM THE PRIOR GENERAL

Br. George R. Crisp, OSL
revgrc@yahoo.com

Our 75th anniversary as an Order will be celebrated at our annual retreat Oct. 11-14, 2021. We will gather in person at St. Paul of the Cross, 148 Monastery Avenue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our retreat speakers will be Br. Don Saliers, Br.



Br. George
Crisp

Mark Stamm and Sr. Kimberly Grenway.

Please Note: In order to have meaningful participation in the retreat (singing, hugging, eating together), we are requiring that you be vaccinated by October 1 in order to attend the retreat. This is for the mutual benefit of our Order and the retreat house.

The cost of the retreat is \$325. A registration form is included in this issue of *The Font* and will be available to download on the OSL website (and possibly through Facebook). The registration deadline is Sept. 10 and payment can be made via credit card or check. Submit registrations to Br. George R. Crisp (see form on Page 11). We are also working

to develop an electronic registration option via the OSL website.

The 2021 Hoyt L. Hickman Award

The 2021 Hoyt L. Hickman Award was presented at 15 seminaries on behalf of the Order. This award is presented to a graduating senior who has shown exceptional ability in liturgical scholarship and/or exceptional ability in leading worship.

The Hickman Award comes with the gift of a handmade ceramic chalice and paten plus a certificate suitable for framing. (If the recipient is not someone seeking ordination, an alternative gift of a ceramic bowl is.) These beautiful and functional ceramics are crafted by E. Preston Rice of Tyrone, Pennsylvania.

This year's recipients and their schools are as follows:

Hae Jin Bahng – Boston University School of Theology (no photo)

Karen Bartkowski – Palmer Seminary, Eastern University

Angie Hong – Duke Divinity School

Rachel Little – Candler School of Theology

Taeshin Kim – Drew Theological School

Sr. Jennifer Kirkpatrick – Perkins School of Theology

Sunil Kotian – Christian Theological Seminary

Han Lee – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Karissa Miller – St. Paul School of Theology

Saebae Nam – Claremont School of Theology

Trevor Oetting – Dubuque Theological Seminary

Seth O'Keagley-Gibson — Iliff School of Theology (no photo)

Eric Rouff – Asbury Theological Seminary (FL)

Rachel Smith – Asbury Theological Seminary (KY)

Todd Wilson – Memphis Theological Seminary

Each of these students will be invited to attend our retreat this October as our guests. See recipients' photos on the facing page.

FROM THE CHANCELLOR GENERAL

I hope you will visit and use our new website. I have updated our membership forms, both for Annual Membership and Life Vowed Members, and they are now on our website. Please download the forms for use in making your annual vows. The cost of postage is very expensive and as your Chancellor General, I am trying to save funds for our ministry and believe the postage is better spent in providing our publication *Doxology*. If you have not provided me with your email address, please do so as this will ensure your receipt of our newsletter, *The Font*, and allow our chapters to let you know they are praying for you.

I look forward to seeing you at retreat to celebrate being together after lockdown in 2020 and to celebrate our 75th Anniversary. If you did not receive your new member certificate, let me know and I will mail it to you. I have a list prepared from my recent move but am happy to update it to make sure you have



Sr. Jeanette Block

Sr. Jeanette Block, OSL,
oslchancellor@gmail.com

your certificate. I will bring certificates to retreat for those professing their vows for the first time and will be able to collect and process your Affirmations / donations.

Br. Aidan (Joshua) Allison has been a huge assistance to me this year in processing all the documentation that comes through. Pray for both of us as we continue to serve the ministry and mission of The Order of Saint Luke. Please make sure you have the new address of The Order: 810 Fries Mill Road, Franklinville, New Jersey 08322.

Sr. Jeanette Block

Hoyt Hickman Award Recipients 2021



Karen Bartkowski



Angie Hong



Rachel Little



Taeshin Kim



Sr. Jennifer Kirkpatrick



Sunil Kotian



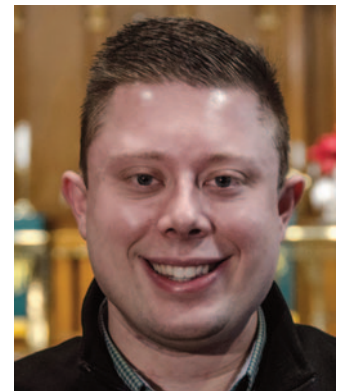
Han Lee



Karissa Miller



Saebae Nam



Trevor Oetting



Sean O'Keagley-Gibson



Eric Rouff



Todd Wilson

NO PHOTOS

Hae Jin Bahng — Boston University School of Theology
Rachel Smith — Asbury Theological Seminary (Kentucky Campus)

See Prior General's aarticle on Page 6 for full list of recipients including seminaries.

FROM THE PASTORAL CARE OFFICER

Br. David Eichelberger, OSL
daveosl@yahoo.com

Beloved Siblings, Sisters and Brothers:

I pray that each of you has been aware of God's presence during this trying time of Covid-19 and natural disasters.



Br. David
Eichelberger

We rejoice with **Sister Kimberly Greway** on her appointment to an ecumenical ministry as Pastor of the St. John's ELCA congregation in North Versailles, Pa.

We pray for those who are dealing with

chronic illnesses:

Sister Nancy Bear Cartwright who has completed her voice therapy following thyroid cancer surgery earlier in the year.

Sister Carol Gathagan as she recovers from a recent health scare during a worship service she was leading.

Sister Ruth Duck who has moved to assisted living.

Sister Magdalene Ruth Astle on a good report on her recent eye examinations.

Sister Carol Peck on her recovery following extensive illness.

Brother David Eichelberger who is dealing with a recent diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome.

For all who have succumbed to COVID-19 especially those who have been suffering with "Long COVID" which has not relented from damaging their bodies.

We pray for those who have lost loved ones:

Brother William Boyd Grove on the death of his wife Mary Lou's sister, Jane.

The family of **Brother Cliff H. Field, Jr.**, a former President of the Order who died recently.

For those who have lost loved ones because of Covid-19 pandemic, sudden illness, or disaster.

For the families who lost loved ones in the collapse of the condominium tower in Florida.

We pray for those who are transitioning their places of ministry or employment:

Brother James Caffrey who recently retired from his position as Music Director of Greensburg First UMC.

Sister Jeanette Block who recently retired from full-time ministry.

Brother Doug Morrison Cleary in Australia who recently concluded his ordained ministry with the Anglican Church of Australia.

We pray for **Brother Theodore Somes** on his reception into the Episcopal Church and move to Virginia Theological Seminary from Wesley Theological Seminary, and for his discernment of the type of ministry God is calling him to perm.

We pray for all who are in transition from one parish or workplace to another, for those who are un-, or underemployed who desire full employment.

We pray for those who are discerning their call to become part of our Order.

We pray for our General Officers and our presenters as we prepare our 75th anniversary and Retreat in October at the St. Paul of the Cross Monastery in Pittsburgh.

We pray for our Brother in Christ, **Pope Francis**, as he recuperates from recent surgery in Rome that his health will be renewed and he resume his ministry to the world as leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

We pray for the church universal that the world will see the love we seek to offer in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Loving and Empowering God, you who called into being the universe and all that we can see and know, surround us with your presence in these most trying times. We confess that we have been sorely tempted to deal with our problems on our own without reaching out to you.

We rejoice that your grace has fallen upon us in our times of need even without us asking or being aware. In the unfolding of the deep mystery of life you surprise us with the magnificent gift of love and forgiveness even when we justly deserve your condemnation or disapproval.

Your world is in turmoil with disease, famine, fires, floods, and other signs that we have harmed our ecology by our willful disregard of the intricate interconnect-edness of all beings. May we become agents of reconciliation and healing for our communities, nations and world.

Center us, O God, in you and guide us into renewed pathways of grace. We ask this all in the strong name of our beloved sibling, the Anointed One who came to lead us into freedom. Amen.

Help Preserve the Order's History

Each of us has a precious gift to give to The Order of Saint Luke – our memories of life among our OSL siblings.

No encounter is too small to be included in the "Our Story" Project now under way. Br. Mark Stamm,

past abbot, is chairing this important project to capture OSL history. Br. Mark will give us a report on the project at this fall's Retreat when we will celebrate the Order's 75th anniversary.

See more details on Page 9.

OUR STORY PROJECT

Opportunities Available to Help Document OSL's Story

From Br. Mark W. Stamm, Director

The work of the “Our Story Project” continues, and during a “release time” semester from Perkins, I’ve been blessed with the opportunity to focus on this work in deeper ways. My abiding conclusion: You can be a most interesting, even inspiring, group of folks.

I’m looking for persons to participate with me in the process, and in the following ways:

- **Transcribe interviews.** We have audio and video records of many of the interviews that I and others have conducted, but experience teaches us that media change, sometimes making earlier forms obsolete. There is much to be said in support of records printed on paper. To that end, I need volunteers who will listen to recordings and create transcripts. Please let me know if you’re willing to try your hand at this work. I will offer some instruction.

- **Submit your written accounts and other printed materials.** Perhaps you’ve kept journals reflecting on life within the Order and/or your living of the sacramental life, or perhaps you’d be willing to write short (or long) accounts of your experiences as they relate to the Order and the Rule. Please consider submitting these—and yes, edit them as you wish. Your story is your story, and you decide how you want to tell it. But, we don’t completely have “our story” without your contribution.

- **Volunteer to be interviewed.** Although I prefer to conduct these interviews in person, I’ve adjusted my process during the pandemic, and in all likelihood will continue to do many interviews remotely, Zoom now being my good friend. But again, consider allowing me (or one of my colleagues in the project) to interview you. I think most persons

have enjoyed the opportunity to share about their perspective and their experiences. As my process has developed, I’ve been sending interviewees a set of questions that I’d like to ask them and then I ask them for suggestions as to topics that they would like to discuss. In other words, you become a full participant in the process. So please, volunteer, and we’ll find a convenient time for our conversation.

- **Volunteer to conduct interviews.** If you’d like to participate in conducting interviews, I can coach you on the process. The primary requirements are curiosity, and an openness to your sibling’s narrative as it unfolds, that is, a willingness to listen. If that work sounds interesting to you, please contact me, and let’s talk.

Contact me at mstamm@smu.edu
214-768-2447.

A Call to Promote OSL's Journal, *Doxology*

Doxology has undergone a re-design for 2021, and now looks better than ever!

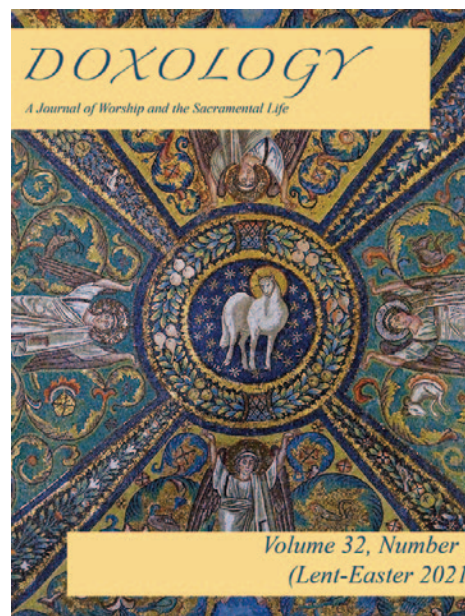
In addition to all OSL members receiving a print subscription, non-OSL members are offered a “pay-what-you-want” pricing for print subscriptions. Complete back issues of *Doxology* are also available for free worldwide via Google Books and on our new publications website. I am asking for your help in sharing this news with anyone you know who is interested in worship and the sacramental life by sharing with them the following information:

Interested in worship? Consider subscribing to *Doxology*: a journal of

worship and the sacramental life. “Pay-what-you-want” print subscriptions and free digital back issues are available at <http://oslpublications.org>. If you’re a researcher looking for content from a specific issue or content on a certain topic, articles can be found either by searching the author/title on Google Books, or by running a search in the ATLA Religion Database with ATLA Serials, which is now indexing *Doxology*.

I hope you’ll help me spread the word and increase the readership of *Doxology* for the benefit of the Order and the Church!

— Br. Jonathan Hehn, Editor



FROM THE COMPANION FOR LIFE-VOWED MEMBERS

Living the Rule of Life and Service Amid the Pandemic

By Sr. Magdalene Ruth (Cynthia) Astle, OSL

Studying in hopes of taking Life Vows in The Order of Saint Luke took on a new meaning last year for me when the coronavirus pandemic struck America. As churches everywhere halted in-person gatherings, including worship, to stop the disease spread, I found myself wondering: what exactly am I committing to do when it appears that, for the foreseeable future, I'll be following the Rule in isolation?

This question is normal for those of our OSL siblings who live where there are no local chapters or individuals with whom to gather. However, I live and work in a bustling metropolis where there are two OSL chapters (Perkins and Trinity) in which I have participated, as well as being a member in a thriving congregation, St. Stephen United Methodist Church. Not only that, I am an extrovert who finds personal interaction extremely satisfying. So to say the least, I have been starved for the kind of interaction that I've viewed as necessary to living out the Rule.

As with so many things, the coronavirus pandemic has forced me to look at life and service from a socially distanced perspective. My contemplation has led me to the following discernments associated with my following the Rule:

We affirm the apostolic hope. Yes, I can readily and gladly affirm Jesus Christ as "the sacrament of the presence of God," and that I strive to be formed spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically by Christ's "incarnation, life, death, resurrection, ascension, gift of the Holy Spirit and coming again." But how can I be "sent forth to proclaim" the good news of Jesus Christ when threatened by an often-fatal disease for which I am at high risk? By their decisions to transfer 2020 meetings to online venues,

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our OSL officers have affirmed that the health of the body supersedes our gathering at this time. However, it seems to me that even the threat of a global plague doesn't absolve us from the duty to proclaim the good news. This task may be simpler for me than for others since I am by vocation a writer and have several outlets for my writing. While those channels are available, I still find myself having to make conscious choices about when and how to proclaim the apostolic hope. Sometimes I fall back into old patterns and thus lose opportunities to give witness. I grieve the times over the past months when I have overlooked such opportunities, especially on social media.

We live for the Church of Jesus Christ. As the pandemic has worn on, I've been increasingly irked by the attitude of some public officials who have said that it was necessary to re-open church buildings for "church" to happen. From my perspective, the church has never closed! I ache for in-person worship, especially for the Eucharist, but neither my local congregation nor I have been halted by pandemic restrictions. We have continued to feed people through our food ministries with appropriate health precautions. We made more than 1,000 face masks for the Navajo Nation, which has been hard-hit by COVID-19. We've hosted the American Red Cross for biweekly blood drives. We've discovered how to use online discussion for everything from church

council business to children's times and study groups. If "liturgy" truly is the "work of the people," then all these activities have been liturgical as they bring Christ's healing grace.

We seek the sacramental life. One of the great benefits of the coronavirus pandemic to my congregation has been holding online prayer twice daily, organized by two of our OSL siblings, the Br. Geoffrey Moore, our pastor, and his wife, Sr. Heather Gottas-Moore, our youth ministries director. I confess that until we started Morning Prayer and Compline via our Facebook page, I struggled to keep up with the Daily Office. Now my days, and those of my husband and our other prayer companions, are structured around the morning and evening offices. I'm deeply grateful for this unexpected blessing that has erased my fear of infection and lightened my emotional burden.

We promote the corporate worship of the Church. I have spent much time pondering how much the coronavirus pandemic has affected this part of the Rule. I think our congregation has answered whether online worship can still be worship, because a great sense of community, encouragement and inspiration has been fostered through this means. In addition, social media worship has enabled us to reach out in ways that were precluded previously by distance. It has become clear that online corporate worship must remain a part of the

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MOMENT FOR MEDITATION



More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters,
more majestic than the waves* of the sea,
majestic on high is the Lord!
— Psalm 93:4

Photo by Craig Cameron on Unsplash

FROM THE COMPANION FOR LIFE-VOWED MEMBERS

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church's post-pandemic future. However, this new reality leads to a question that pertains directly to our next vow.

We magnify the Sacraments. With St. Stephen's clergy and lay leadership so deeply rooted in the Order, our congregation has resisted the push to hold what is termed "online communion." While some United Methodist bishops have granted dispensation for the observance of virtual Eucharist, our resident bishop has not.

I confess that I have mixed feelings about this debate at this time. Receiving the bread and the cup in the midst of the gathering community brings me closest to the Divine Presence than I ever expect to come in this earthly life. Yet I ache with the loss of the Eucharist caused by the pandemic's enforced isolation. Being a layperson, I am not qualified to preside over the Eucharist and ergo cannot partake while sheltering at home. Furthermore, our faith community can't conduct baptisms at this time because

the sacrament requires personal contact made risky by the coronavirus.

I personally find baptisms a neglected sacrament in the church these days; I believe they ought to be conducted with much more engagement and celebration than they typically are. I also think that most Christians don't appreciate the significance of the baptismal vows they take or that have been taken on their behalf. However, I am finding that a concurrent crisis, the uprising against racism in the United States, has contributed to a new awareness of our baptismal imperatives. Thus I find myself pressing for us to remember why we are wearing masks to protect others from potential infection or marching in an anti-racism protest. Of all the vows in the Rule, this one is dearest to my heart.

We accept the call to service. I have been bound to the call to service since I was a girl. I grew up in a Masonic household and was active in The Order of Rainbow for Girls, one of the Ma-

sons' youth organizations. Service has always been part of my discipleship in many forms; it is so integral to my psyche now that my first respond to any need is to ask, "How can I help?" Even with the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic, I have been able to sew close to 40 face masks for various groups and individuals, and I expect to do so as long as the pandemic crisis continues.

While I am not a liturgical scholar, I believe that my devotion to a Lukan spirituality through the Order has revived and strengthened my discipleship. Indeed, as I have said to many of our siblings, I view the Order as my "discipling community." Reviewing the Rule of Life and Service against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic has given me a deeper appreciation for the many ways in which the Rule shapes my being and my doing as a follower of Jesus Christ and a Life-Vowed member of The Order of Saint Luke.

2021 Retreat of The Order of Saint Luke
"75th Anniversary Retreat"
October 11-14, 2021
Retreat Speakers: Br. Mark Stamm, Br. Don Saliers,
and Sr. Kimberly Greway
 St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center
 148 Monastery Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1498

Please Note: In order to have meaningful participation in the retreat (singing, hugging, eating together), we are requiring that you have your COVID vaccination by October 1 in order to attend the Retreat. This is for the mutual benefit of our Order and the retreat house.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Are you an OSL member? ☐ Yes ☐ No CELL PHONE: _____

Is this your first time attending an OSL retreat? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Your first name as you'd like it to appear on your Nametag: _____

☐ Sr. ☐ Br. ☐ Sibling ☐ Other

☐ I have special dietary or mobility needs *which I will communicate to Br. George Crisp.*

☐ I prefer a single room ☐ I wish to share a room with _____

Most rooms have private baths and are reserved as singles. If you want to room with someone, then please indicate that preference above.

☐ Please register me for the **2021 Retreat** – Arrive Monday, Oct. 11, leave Thursday, Oct. 14 (three nights) at a cost of **\$325.00**. The retreat begins at 4:00 p.m. on Monday. Includes these meals: M = D / T = B, L, D / W = B, L, D / Th = B, L.

☐ Due to my travel arrangements, please register me for an overnight room Sunday, Oct. 10 at a cost of **\$60.00** (meals to be determined). *Note: A limited number of rooms are available.*

☐ Please register me for an overnight room Thursday, Oct. 14 at a cost of **\$60.00**. Includes two additional meals: Th = D / F = B

NOTE: Transportation will NOT be provided from the airport. A convenient way to get to the Retreat Center is by a ride-share service. *You must make your own transportation arrangements.* Additional passengers may reduce the rate, so it pays to meet up with others at the airport if possible.

For the Retreat, please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ My check is enclosed.

□□□□ – □□□□ – □□□□ – □□□□

Exp. □□/□□

Signature: _____

Registration deadline is September 10, 2021.

Please return payment to Order of Saint Luke and a completed registration form to: