



**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
22 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042



September 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

In our journey of faith, we find ourselves drawn to various spiritual disciplines that deepen our connection with God and transform our lives. One ancient discipline that deserves our attention is the practice of hospitality.

Hospitality is not merely a courteous act of entertaining guests; it is a profound spiritual discipline that reflects the very heart of God's love for us. Throughout the pages of Scripture, we encounter many instances where hospitality is not simply a gesture but manifests the nature of God and calls us to reflect that quality as we reflect the image of God in the world.

Abraham's generous reception of strangers in Genesis, the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke, and Jesus' welcoming of the weary and the burdened in Matthew all demonstrate the significance of hospitality in the spiritual life. In Hebrews 13:2, we are reminded, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

***St. Luke's hospitality should be like an oasis in the desert of life  
where all people can find springs of water of new life and a  
place of rest and relaxation in the shadow of God's presence.***

As we move into **Annual Membership Campaign 2024**, we hope to engage more deeply in the spiritual disciplines involved in hospitality both as individuals and as a faith community by:

1. Opening our hearts to the leading of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit guides us to recognize and respond to the needs of those around us.
2. Increasing our generosity by liberally giving our resources, time, and energy to bless others.
3. Walking humbly as we recognize that we all receive of God's grace and acknowledge our common need for God's love.
4. Extending Christ's compassion through listening with greater empathy to others' stories, joys, and struggles.
5. Fostering unity amidst our differences by bridging cultural, social, and generational gaps that may exist among us.
6. And, most importantly growing spiritually as we step outside our comfort zones, engaging with new perspectives and learning from one another.

Let us embrace hospitality as more than an occasional event. This year, let us begin to make hospitality *a way of life that transforms us and those around us*. May St. Luke's become a place where every individual feels the warmth of Christ's love through our acts of kindness, our listening ears, and our open hearts.

May each of us reflect Christ's welcoming embrace, and in doing so, fulfill His words: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). With you as a companion on The Way, I remain

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. David A. Zwifka  
Rector