

St. Luke's

St. Luke's Episcopal Church ~ East Greenwich, Rhode Island



MONTHLY

From Father Tim

Dear friends,

At the August vestry meeting I was overwhelmed by the reminder that St. Luke's is a church blessed with a multitude of talented individuals who time and time again are willing to share their considerable talents for the good of the community.

Just in July alone we have benefited from the amazing organizational gifts of Lois McLaughlin, the tremendous creative talents of Rob and John Walsh, and the gentle but constant warmth of Deborah Collins. And that's only a small sample from the past month—I could name countless others from July and before. O how blessed we are!

Recently I was reading an article that challenged me to reflect upon my identity—how I was a beloved child of God, created in God's image, and gifted with God's talents. It was a challenge that I almost skipped over, uncomfortable with engaging in a self-examination that at the same time seemed so self-aggrandizing.

But then I was reminded of the parable of the talents, which appears in both Matthew (25:14-30) and Luke (19:12-27). In both of these stories, the master puts his servants in charge of his gifts and then goes away. As you may recall, the climax of the parable involves an accounting of how each servant has used these gifts. What is clear from the master's final declaration is that we are expected to use these gifts not just carefully or wisely, but fully and for good purpose.

In my reflections it occurred to me that God calls me—and each of us—to use our gifts fully and for good purposes as well. But we can't use those gifts unless first, we are aware of possessing them. As much as it might make us squirm, or as hard as it might be to believe, our first task is to be clear that each of us possesses gifts, talents, abilities. And then our second task is to be discerning about how to use those gifts for God's purposes. Really, to deny those gifts is to resist God's generosity. And to bury those gifts is to reject God's call.

It's hard to imagine but by the time you read this note we will be on the brink of a new "program season." In just a couple of weeks—that will race by as the summer's end always does—we will gather for our Sunday "kick-off," welcoming back the choirs and commissioning the teachers. I love the rush of energy on this day!

I invite you in this resumption of our fuller ministries to consider anew what gifts you might have and how you might put them to God's purposes at St. Luke's. Could it be you possess gifts of hospitality, and might you serve as a greeter or coffee hour provider? Could it be you possess the gifts of gardening or repair, and might you work in our gardens or on our property committee? Could it be you possess a love for children, and might you consider working as a teacher or nursery volunteer?

I could go on with my suggestions but the most important thing is that you imagine your particular gifts and abilities and then consider how you could put them to good work at St. Luke's.

Admittedly, I invite you to reflect upon this question in part to benefit St. Luke's. But I have no doubt you too will experience quite personal benefits--there are few joys as deep as when we share our particular gifts with others.

May you be guided to discern your gifts clearly. May you be moved to exercise your gifts fully. And may you find yourself blessed by a joy deeply.

Peace,

Jim

Curate's Corner

Thoughts from Fr. Dante

It is an absolute joy to be back with all of you in our beloved community. I am deeply grateful for all the care, support, and prayers that I received from all of you during my medical leave as I recovered from surgery. I still have some work to do in regaining my strength and stamina, but I could not be more excited to be back amongst you.

One of the great joys of September is kicking off another program. I am very excited about what we have planned for Youth Faith Formation this fall. Here is a bit of a preview of what it to come.

After several listening sessions, we have decided to change the time for our youth faith formation program. Beginning on Sunday September 16, youth faith formation for grades 4-11 will take place from 9:30am-10:10am, and youth faith formation for grades PreK-3 will take place from 10:15am until the peace (this time slot is not changed from last year). For those of you that are new to our youth faith formation program, or in need of a little refresher, here is the grade and program break down:

PreK – 3 (10:15am – the Peace): Godly Play

4th grade – 5th grade (9:30am – 10:10am): Godly Play

6th grade – 8th grade (9:30am – 10:10am): Youth Faith Formation 6-8 (formerly known as Rite 13)

9th grade – 11th grade (9:30am – 10:10am): Youth Faith Formation 9-11 (formerly known as J2A)

You might notice that there is no program for our seniors. Do not fear, we have not forgotten them. The curriculum we use for grades 6 and up builds throughout a young person's teenage years to help them take on increasing responsibility as they move into adulthood. This year, for our seniors, we are going to encourage them to begin to transition into adult ministries in the parish. These young adults have been invited to help teach the young children classes for our youth faith formation program. Some will make a deeper commitment to their liturgical ministries. Some will engage more fully in our outreach ministries. As we kick off this new program year, I am very excited to join with other youth faith formation leaders and help these young people discern how God is calling them to participate in our life at St. Luke's this year.

I am also very excited for our fall youth group kick off. **All young people in grades 6-8 are invited to join me for a planning and information meeting on Sunday September 23 following the 10:15 service to talk about our hopes and dreams for the upcoming year. I ask that a parents plan to join us for this meeting.** I am also excited to announce that this year we will introduce senior mentors to our youth group. These mentors will be juniors and seniors in high school who will help plan and participate in leadership of this youth group with me.

Finally, we have been listening to the request of parents for more engagement from our youth faith formation program. Starting this fall we will be launching a new parent's e-newsletter. Each week parents will receive an update about what happen throughout our youth faith formation classes that Sunday, previews of what is coming up on the calendar, and resources to continue faith formation at home.

One of the most important parts of ministry, it seems to me, is gratitude. So as we begin this new program year I want to express my gratitude to all those parents and adult volunteers who have agreed to share in the ministry of youth faith formation this year. Without the dedicated ministry of these individuals we could not have the wonderful youth faith formation program that we do. We are always looking for more people to share in this exciting and fruitful ministry. If you feel God calling you to youth faith formation ministry at St. Luke's please let me know. I would be delighted to talk more with you about it.

Again, thank you for all for support and care through the month of August. I am delighted to be back among you and cannot wait to see what God has in store for us this year.

Blessings,
Dante

The Choirs Of St. Luke's



THE RETURN OF THE CHOIRS!! The summer break has been great, but I've missed the wonderful music of our choirs...haven't you? St. Luke's supports a vibrant choral ministry where there is a place for everyone – children, teens, and adults. **Please know that new members are always welcome!**

In the choir program, we work on musical skills, reading music, vocal production and more. We also explore music in the context of Christian worship and tradition. And, by the way, we have a lot of fun!

So, is the time right for you and/or your child(ren)? I hope so! Please let me know what questions you might have. I would love to add your name to the appropriate choir roster.

In the words of Hans Christian Anderson, “where words fail, music speaks.” Come add your voice to the musical prayers and praises that resound at St. Luke's!

Rodney

Contact me at rodney@stlukeseg.org or 401-884-4116 ext. 107

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Canterbury Choir

Adult Choir – beginning September 6
Thursdays at 7:30pm

St. Cecilia Choir

3rd-12th graders – beginning September 7
Fridays at 4pm

Angel Choir

K – 2nd graders – beginning September 13
Thursdays at 4pm

The Vestry Corner

At our August 14 vestry meeting, Fr. Tim shared Brooke MacDonald's annual request for the payment of CHANCE Scholarship funds for the children of El Pedregal, Dominican Republic. Brooke started fundraising for the scholarship program eight years ago as part of her high school senior project. In approving this request, the vestry invited Brooke to share the following update on the CHANCE Scholarship, knowing that many of you have contributed generously to the fund over the years.

Michael Grady
Senior Warden

CHANCE Scholarship Update by Brooke MacDonald

In 2010, I helped found the CHANCE Scholarship as part of my senior project at East Greenwich High School. In its first year, CHANCE provided tuition support for six children to attend the Mount Transfiguration Episcopal School in El Pedregal. As many of you know, St. Luke's has a longstanding relationship with El Pedregal where youth and adult parishioners travel every two years to build houses in the barrio and work on improvement projects at the local school, church, and camp. When we created the scholarship, our goal was to support two additional students each year. I'm pleased to report that this coming school year CHANCE will award 20 full tuition scholarships of \$260 each. These awards allow students to benefit from an educational opportunity their families could not otherwise afford. The parents and children of El Pedregal are grateful for your support as they pursue their dreams of a brighter future.

Property Committee

The Property Breakfasts continue during the summer on the 3rd Thursdays each month – June 21, July 19, August 16 and September 20, beginning at 8 am with a wonderful breakfast made by our amazing chef, Cindy Lovejoy! We'll be tending to the grounds and of course there'll be inside projects as well! We invite you to come whenever you're in town. We are always looking for help and could use more volunteers! We have a lot to do around this big beautiful church of ours!

Please continue to tell us of things that need property attention. Thank you!

Sandy and Peggy Rubel (884-6594)

Be a Blessing at Twilight!

Nothing says "we care" like well-tended grounds, but many of us work during the day or have sports with our youth on weekends and are not available to help. Enter The Twilighters, a group of God's blessings who will gather starting in mid-September, one night a week after work and before homework to tend to our beautiful grounds here at the church. We will begin on Monday September 17 from 6-8:30 pm and each Monday through mid-November in order to get the grounds ready for winter. We will have dinner at 6:00 pm with a light meal of soup and salad, the Twilighters will work on the grounds freeing up the Property Breakfast crew to attend to more technical tasks. We will be raking, pruning, clearing and sprucing up the grounds. No experience necessary: Bring your significant other! Bring your teenagers! This is an opportunity for stewardship of your time.

Bring a rake, bring clippers, bring gloves and be a blessing at twilight!

RSVP (to make sure we have enough food) to Cindi Lovejoy benem@cox.net

Property
Committee





CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS are available in the atrium and on our website. They can be turned into the office with a check or dropped into the collection plate in an envelope. Please note that this year we will be changing the time of youth faith formation for those in grades 4 and above. Below is a list of our youth faith formation classes, their meeting time, and location. If you have any questions please speak with Fr. Dante or Theresa. **Classes begin September 16** and we cannot wait to see you there!

PreK - 3 (10:15 am - The Peace): Godly Play in the Godly Play room.

4th Grade - 5th Grade (9:30 am - 10:10 am): Godly Play in the Godly Play room.

6th Grade - 8th Grade (9:30 am - 10:10 am): Youth Faith Formation (formerly known as Rite 13) in Room 9

9th Grade - 11th Grade (9:30 am - 10:10 am): Youth Faith Formation 9-11 (formerly known as J2A) in Room 7

#SMS18: Social Media Sunday – Coming to St. Luke’s September 30!

Often, worshippers are asked to put away their devices during worship service, but you won’t hear that on Social Media Sunday. Why? Because Jesus said so.

Jesus said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15

With over 2.3 billion users of social media* around the globe and 1 million new social mobile users added each day*, going into the world to share good news requires using new tools to be where people are.

Social Media Sunday is the day set aside for Christians everywhere to use digital devices intentionally to share their life of faith with the world. Started at Trinity Episcopal Church in Tariffville, Connecticut in 2013, Social Media Sunday has grown over the years since to include people of faith everywhere. In 2016, thousands of people participated by sharing status updates, check-ins, photos, videos, and links on their social media accounts. The date for Social Media Sunday has been permanently set for the last Sunday in September.

How can you be a part of digital evangelism today (and every day)? Check out the ideas in the graphic at right.

Whatever you do, include the hashtag #SMS18 with your post! Simply type #SMS18 anywhere in your post or in the description of a picture or video you share.

There are more ideas and over a thousand friendly people ready to answer your questions on the Facebook group for Social Media Sunday, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SMS15/>.

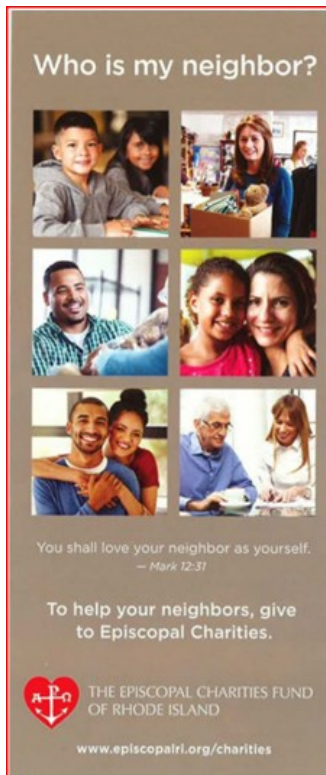
Join and learn more about how you and your church can use new tools on #SMS18 - and every day - to share the good news and be the Church online.

Stay tuned for more information about #SMS18 and ways to participate in the coming weeks.

*Social Media statistics from 2016 found here: <http://bit.ly/2c9F6wR>

Episcopal Charities: Still in Need of Your Extraordinary Caring!

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?” Many of us will recognize the familiar invitation of Fred Rogers as the opening line of his legendary television show, *Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood*. Perhaps you’ve seen the documentary of the same name earlier this Summer, - a wonderful look into Mr. Rogers himself, his vision, and his timeless mission for children of all ages.



Neighborliness comes in many forms, and Jesus calls us to awareness when he is asked the question: “*Who is my neighbor?*” Jesus responds with the Parable of the Good Samaritan, a story that underscores the reality that we are all neighbors, and God’s Children.

Our 2018 Episcopal Charities Campaign also asks this question, as the need continues for your support through this year. Over the Summer, St. Luke’s Extraordinary Caring has brought the total to over \$28K! This figure includes a \$5K grant from Amica, secured by Nancy Kaull, - a continuing legacy from the late Carl I. Hoyer.

Also, over the Summer, many of us visited the ninety-plus agencies who have applied for grants from Episcopal Charities. The visits were eye-opening, inspirational and demonstrated the many ‘neighborly’ ministries there are throughout the State. When we met to advocate for the places we had visited, it was sobering to learn that the needs far exceeded the funds received thus far.

Therefore, as enter the Fall, please consider your gift to support Episcopal Charities, if you have not already done so. You may [give directly online](#), or fill out and mail a gift form, found in the Atrium. Or, place the envelope in the offering plate, or leave in the Church Office.

Or speak with one of us!!

Thank you for your Extraordinary Caring!

Your 2018 Episcopal Charities Co-Chairs,

Harry Waterman & Laura Sullivan



You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

- Mark 12:31

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SEPTEMBER 30·11:15AM
ST. LUKE'S COURTYARD
99 PEIRCE ST.
EAST GREENWICH

VISITING PETS AND PEOPLE
WELCOME AT OUR REGULAR
SUNDAY 10:15 SERVICE AS WELL



SEPTEMBER SAVE THE DATES

September 5

7 pm Women of Grace

September 6

7:30 pm Canterbury Choir Rehearsal begins

September 7

4 pm St. Cecilia Choir Rehearsal begins

September 9

KICK OFF SUNDAY

9 am Church School Registration

September 11

7 pm Vestry Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

September 12

1 pm Pastoral Care Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

September 13

4 pm Angel Choir Rehearsal begins

September 16

9 am Youth Faith Formation begins

9 am Adult Faith Formation begins

10:15 am Holy Eucharist with Teacher Commissioning

September 20

8 am Property Breakfast @ Dining Rm

September 22

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

September 23

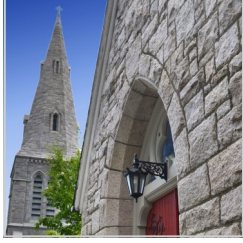
10:15 am Holy Eucharist with Acolyte Ceremony

September 24

5 pm CCK Dinner @ Dining Rm

September 30

10:15 am Holy Eucharist with Children's Sermon & Blessing of the Animals ¹¹



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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