



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

monthly

A monthly newsletter for the St. Luke's Community | January/February 2020

From Father Tim

2019 was the coolest year yet at St. Luke's! No, seriously, it was our coolest year—because in 2019 we benefited from the installation of air conditioning in our sanctuary, a gift from Lisa Johnson to honor her parents, Carl and Nancy Hoyer. Lisa's gift not only completed a project Carl had spearheaded in the years prior to his death but also provided yet another example of just how blessed we are to be at St. Luke's Church.

I write this report while enjoying my sabbatical—another blessing courtesy of you at St. Luke's—so I will be a bit briefer than usual. But there were, in fact, so many *cool* things about 2019. Here are just a few.

The year began with an exciting announcement at the annual meeting: the vestry has committed to a major capital project involving the complete refurbishment of our kitchen. This decision came after careful consideration of the many projects which await us, a list of which were clearly and thoughtfully presented by Dave Savage on behalf of the Property Committee. I am so grateful to Dave and the Committee for the time, attention, and thought they devote to our campus. Ultimately, the vestry focused on the kitchen not just because of its current condition but also because of the fact that our feeding ministries play such a big part of our mission and our life.

Not long after the meeting we assembled a steering committee for the renovation design, chaired by Gary Schweizer. Gary, along with Steve and Lois McLoughlin, Ali Poirer, and Paul Brookes, visited numerous sites, reflected upon both our current and future needs, and arrived at a fabulous initial plan. They presented drawings to the vestry and will make a similar presentation at the annual meeting. (See their report in the following pages.) While I won't steal their thunder here, I will say that their vision is very *cool!* We all owe them our thanks for the good work they have done.

At the same time that this group was formed, I also called together a new fundraising committee, consisting of Jon Jacaruso, Dick Kelly, Beth Vollucci, and Bill Warburton. Their charge is to raise funds additional to our annual commitment campaign which will help cover expenses related to both the yearly operating budget and the major kitchen project. Already they have come up with a number of offerings which will provide giving opportunities for both parishioners and friends of St. Luke's. One of their *coolest* ideas is a golf tournament, scheduled for Monday, May 11. To find out more about their plans, see the Fundraising ¹ Report which follows. My deep thanks to all of them for their good work.

While on the subject of money, there are a number of other thank-you's to go around. My continued thanks to David Sampson and the Commitment Campaign team. Once again, they designed a campaign not only creative but faith-filled. And, of course, the Walsh brothers brought it all to life with their always *cool* video and banners. While I am grateful to the entire team for their hard work, I want to add a special thanks to Dottie Fleming who does the huge, even if *un-cool*, job of data management throughout the campaign season. She spends hours at the computer each week of the campaign. Thank you, Dottie.

Also, under the heading of that which is rarely considered *cool*, I want to thank our Finance Committee and Audit Team for all their hard work in 2019. In particular, John Rannenberg has worked so hard to give us a clear understanding of the health and management of our assets and endowment, and in doing so he has made graphs and charts *almost-cool* and certainly illuminating. Seriously, I am so grateful to the members of these two bodies who make sure that our institutional practices are as professional as they are faithful.

Finally, before I move away from money matters, I need to offer a particular thank you to Michael Sullivan, our treasurer. Ask any vestry member and they will tell you that they better understand the budget and accounting of St. Luke's because of Michael's clear and thorough reporting. He comes in weekly to tend to one task or another. He thinks creatively to make sure we are taking full advantage of the available resources, while also managing our monies responsibly. And he answers any and all of my questions with great patience. He is indeed the *coolest* of treasurers, and we are so blessed to have him working for us.

And while on the topic of vestry members, I also must include my thanks to the always calm and *cool* retiring Senior Warden, Mike Grady. Mike has been a leader and partner with me in ways too many to name. He has been faithful, engaged, tireless, and insightful as our Senior Warden. The hours I have spent collaborating with him have been a joy and a privilege. St. Luke's is a better church and I am a better rector because of his service.

Not only will Mike's presence be missed at vestry meetings but so too will the voices of our retiring vestry members, Bill McClintick, Jr., Lois McLoughlin, Ali Poirier, each quite *cool* in their own way. They brought a unique perspective and a wealth of wisdom to our deliberations, and I am so grateful that each was willing to share the gifts of their time and talent with us all.

It occurs to me, one way to capture what makes St. Luke's such a *cool* place is the abundance of individuals who are so generous with their time and talents. I've named some; let me name a few more. There's Bob Brockway and Doug MacPherson, leaders of our ever growing buildings and grounds crew, who tend do the ongoing needs of our well-worn campus. There's Cindy and Ben Lovejoy, leaders of our Twilighters, who this year began a series of garden projects which included a little labyrinth for the parking lot.

There's Donna Jordan and her pastoral care team, who continue to offer attention and care to those in need. There's Deborah Collins and her Newcomers Committee, who hosted two newcomer brunches each attended by some fifty people. There are the choir members, young and not as young :), who come each week for rehearsals and make our worship so beautiful. There are the altar guild members, organized by Lisa Johnson and Liz Fox, who do so much work behind the scenes so that Sundays can run smoothly. There's Nancy Arnold and the Adult Faith Formation Committee who offer classes to help adults continue in their faith journeys. There's Theresa Deiters Muscat and Donna Dufault, who work with Dante and a host of devoted Sunday School teachers to tend to the faiths of our youth. And let me not fail to mention all the faithful folks who participate in our numerous feeding ministries, feeding those hungry for both food and community.

In truth, it is the efforts of these individuals, countless others, and our fabulous staff-- Rodney, Lisa, Christine, Dante, Tim, and Christina that make St. Luke's the *coolest* place in town!

And it is also because of these people, to be clear, because of all of you, that I am so excited for 2020. If St. Luke's is the *coolest* church, then surely, I have the *coolest* job, to be your rector.

I can not wait to return to you, rested and renewed, come April 1.

Faithfully yours,

Tim

From Father Dante

*I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent.
Book of Common Prayer p. 265*

As much as I do not want to admit it, Lent is just around the corner. After all, denial is not just a river in Egypt, as they say. While it might seem a bit early to start thinking about Lent, in truth we are just a few weeks away. Though, to be fair, if this issue of the Monthly was not a joint January/February issue I would probably be writing about something else, but I digress. The point is, it is time for us to begin to turn our attention to the turning liturgical seasons.

Our annual observance of Lent will begin on Wednesday February 26 with Ash Wednesday. On that day we will have services, Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes, at 12noon and 7pm. During those services, after the sermon and before the imposition of ashes, I will read the following invitation from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer. (p.264-265).

When we start using words like “notorious sins” it is easy to see why Lent is seen as a chore and something we just need to get through. It is understandable why some do not like Lent because it focuses too much on our sin. But, as one of my seminary supervisors says, while it is not always pleasant it is good for us. It is never fun for us to confess the ways we have fallen short. Prompted by the images in the world around us that distract us from recognizing our belovedness, it can be all too easy for the work of repentance, the work of confession, to be

turned into an exercise of self-deprecation. If we are not careful, Lent could become a time of beating ourselves up, a time where we fall into a trap of thinking we are not good enough, we are not worthy, and so on and so forth.

This Lenten season, I wonder if we might be able to shift our understanding of what Lent is all about. Instead of stopping at “notorious sins” what if we looked to the second half of that sentence, “those who . . . had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church.” I do not know about you, but there are times for me, where I can get lost in naming my sinfulness and forget about the rest of the sentence. The point of this season is not to declare ourselves horrible people. The point is to name that we are not perfect, that we do things we should not do, and then to move to a place of forgiveness and restoration. The season of Lent is a time, not unlike Advent, to take an honest look at our lives and see what needs to change. It is a season to be honest about the ways we have separated ourselves from God and do the work to reorient our lives towards God. It is the work of *metanoia*. That Greek word which means a change of heart, which means reorienting ourselves back towards God, which means a conversion of heart and mind. Lent is not about beating ourselves up, but about opening ourselves up to receive the reconciling love of God and get ourselves reoriented to how we are called to live.

Whenever I find myself getting stuck on my sinfulness, instead of the reconciling and redemptive love of God, I call to mind the words of my liturgical hero Percy Dearmer, found in the first verse of hymn 145, “Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry; for schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain. Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication God brings new beauty nigh; reply, reply, reply with love to love most high; reply, reply, reply with love to love most high.”

That invitation to a holy Lent is important. It makes clear that there is not a person amongst us who has not sinned, who has not fallen short of the promises of our covenanted relationship with God. It also makes clear that there is not one person who is beyond the redemptive love of God. These words conclude with inviting us into this holy season, by encouraging a variety of practices to help us reorient our lives: self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial, and reading and mediating on scripture. One again this year, we will offer a variety of opportunities to share in these practices in the form of worship and faith formation. I would also like to offer my availability if anyone would like help discerning what would be meaning practices for individuals use in this season.

No matter what practices take shape for you in this coming Lenten season, I hope you will experience something of the redemptive love of God. I hope you will be able to take an honest account of your life and recognize this honesty is an expression of the relationship of love between us and God. This Lenten season may we take to heart the words of Percy Dearmer:

Now quit your care and anxious fear and worry; for schemes are vain and fretting brings no gain. Lent calls to prayer, to trust and dedication; God brings new beauty nigh; reply, reply, reply with love to love most high; reply, reply, reply with love to love most high.

To bow the head in sackcloth and in ashes, or rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal; but to be led to where God's glory fleshes, his beauty to come near. Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light appear; Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light appear.

For is not this the fast that I have chosen? (The prophet spoke) To shatter every yoke, of wickedness the grievous bands to loosen, oppression put to flight, to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right. to fight, to fight, to fight till every wrong's set right.

For righteousness and peace will show their faces to those who feed the hungry in their need, and wrongs redress, who build the old waste places, and in the darkness shine. Divine, divine, divine it is when all combine! Divine, divine, divine it is when all combine!

Then shall your light break forth as doth the morning; your health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring God's glory bright, your way through life adorning; and love shall be the prize. Arise, arise, arise! and make a paradise! Arise, arise, arise! and make a paradise!

Blessings,
Dante

The Choirs Of St. Luke's

Sweets for your Sweet – Sunday, February 9! Choir Bake sale coming soon!

On Sunday, February 9 the St. Cecilia Choir, along with the Angel and Canterbury Choirs, will have a Bake Sale following both the 7:45 am and 10:15 am services. This is a great opportunity to buy delicious baked goods to share with loved ones - just in time for Valentine's Day! Mini bread loaves, cookies, and chocolate treats are just some of the yummy items you will find at the sale. Your support at the Bake Sale will benefit the St. Cecilia Choir Fund, which is used to purchase materials for the Royal School of Church Music training program. The fund also provides scholarships for the intensive summer training courses enjoyed by many of our choristers.



From the Treasurer

Did you Know!

If you are retired and attained the young age of 70 ½, you are required to take minimum distributions from your retirement accounts. This distribution normally is added to your taxable income.

One thing the tax code allows for is qualified charitable distribution.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity, like **St. Luke's Church!** QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD **excludes the amount donated from taxable income**, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

Can I make a QCD?

While many IRAs are eligible for QCDs—Traditional, Rollover, Inherited, SEP (inactive plans only), and SIMPLE (inactive plans only)*—there are requirements:

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income. This excludes non-deductible contributions.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. (If, however, you file taxes jointly, your spouse can also make a QCD from his or her own IRA within the same tax year for up to \$100,000.) . **(See Fr. Tim if you'd like to donate over that amount)**
- For a QCD to count towards your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

Any amount donated above your RMD does not count toward satisfying a future year's RMD.

Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, and which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD. The distribution must be made to the charity to qualify.

Under certain circumstances, a QCD may be made from a Roth IRA. Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime, and distributions are generally tax-free.

Consult your tax or financial advisor for more on this program.

Vestry Corner

Michael Grady, Senior Warden

As I begin the final month of my term as senior warden, I hear echoes of Fr. Tim's perennial message to new vestry members -- that serving on the vestry is unlike any other type of community board work. So lately I've been reflecting on the nature of that "differentness" -- What is it about the character and functioning of a vestry that sets it apart from other types of nonprofit governance? And while I'll have a little more to say about this at the annual meeting, for now I'd like to share what, for me, is one important distinction in vestry work: How our work as a vestry is both defined and sustained by prayer.

At St. Luke's, it's our long-held tradition of rotating among members the privilege of leading the opening prayer at monthly vestry meetings. In my four years of work on this vestry, the first two as a member, the last two as senior warden, I've admired how seriously every member takes their turn as prayer leader. Over the years, I find that the vestry has really raised its game in both the depth and the thoughtfulness of opening prayers. Our prayer leaders dig deep in search of a fitting theme for prayer. Sometimes the focus will align with the particular season of the year or liturgical calendar. For others, it will be a prayer seeking God's strength as we face a particular challenge as a parish community or for broader society. Often the selected prayer is interactive, providing vestry members an opportunity to participate or to offer a personal reflection.

This thoughtful approach to prayer sets an uplifting tone for our meeting and reminds of the higher purpose of our support for the parish mission of reflecting the light of Christ in the world. And, two hours later, Fr. Tim leads our closing prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of our fellowship. Indeed these "prayerful bookends" are part of what sets vestry work apart from other forms of community leadership. I'm deeply grateful for these four years of fellowship with a dedicated group of parishioners who work tirelessly to sustain our healthy and vibrant community of faith.

St. Luke's Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation Lenten Opportunities

As has been our custom over the last several years the Adult Faith Formation team has once again put together a variety of opportunities for study during the season of Lent. This year these offerings will include a Sunday morning study, a Wednesday night program, and an online opportunity.

Sunday Morning Class

Beginning on the First Sunday in Lent (March 1, 2020) the 9am Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation class will begin a five-week study on creating a rule of life. The discipline of creating a rule of life, a code or pattern or guide for how to live daily life, comes out of the monastic tradition. While the tradition of a rule of life begins with St. Benedict it has expanded beyond monastic circles and is something that many have taken on as a personal task. Over the course of this study we will look both at the history of this discipline as well as spend time thinking about the various elements that go into creating a rule. Finally we will have the opportunity to draft our own rules of life and think together about the principles that will guide us as we continue on our journeys of faith.

Wednesday Night Program

Once again this year, there will be a Wednesday night contemplative Eucharist through the season of Lent. This year, following that liturgy, we will have a Lenten program - a book study combined with a simple supper of soul and salad. For our study this year we will be reading James H. Cone's book *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* and using a curriculum developed by the Center for Reconciliation. This award winning book is considered a landmark in the conversation about race and religion in America. Journalist Bill Moyers, says of this book, "Once again James Cone demonstrates why he is indispensable as an interpreter of faith, race, and the American experience." It is the hope of the Adult Faith Formation team that this study will build upon previous programs and opportunities from past years. More details about this study will be available in early February. This program will meet at 7pm every Wednesday beginning March 4 until April 29.

Online Study through SLACK

Once again we will be offering an opportunity for online daily reflection using a shared daily devotional book. Stay tuned for more information about this opportunity.

Stewardship Campaign

Stewardship in 2020: Don't Fear Commitment!

As the 2020 Commitment Campaign draws to a close, I'd like to sincerely thank those who have pledged to share their treasure in 2020 and make one final appeal to those who might have let their pledge card get buried under the daily chaos.

Our commitment at the beginning of the year allow the Finance Committee and the Vestry to accurately plan our ministries and maintain our family's financial health. While our faith is strong at St. Luke's, we try to avoid basing the budget on it!

If you don't usually pledge, but tend to give as you are able, thank you! But, please try a manageable commitment this year. Start this expression of your faith journey somewhere comfortable just to see how it feels.

St. Luke's makes giving easy. There are cards on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Just ask the ushers. For our tech-savvy parishioners, we offer online options as well. Visit the web site (<https://stlukeseg.org/stewardship-and-giving>) or scan the QR code in the Sunday service sheet.

Thank you!

Dave Sampson
Stewardship Committee

JANUARY SAVE THE DATES

January 5, 2020

5 pm Epiphany Pageant @ Church

January 15, 2020

1 pm Pastoral Care Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

January 16, 2020

8 am Property Breakfast @ Dining Room

January 25, 2020

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

January 26, 2020

9 am Holy Eucharist with Annual Meeting To Follow

January 27, 2020

5 pm CCK Dinner @ Dining Rm

January 29, 2020

7 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting @ Blackburn Rm
7 pm Theology on Tap @ Choir Room

FEBRUARY SAVE THE DATES

February 3, 2020

6:30 pm Fundraising Committee Meeting

February 4, 2020

5 pm Episcopal Charities Board Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

February 5, 2020

2 pm EG Clergy Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

February 6, 2020

9 am Interfaith Council Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

February 11, 2020

7 pm Vestry Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

February 12, 2020

1 pm Pastoral Care Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

February 20, 2020

8 am Property Breakfast @ Dining Rm

February 22, 2020

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

February 24, 2020

5 pm CCK Dinner @ Dining Rm

February 25, 2020

6 pm Pancake Supper @ Dining Rm

February 26, 2020

12 pm Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist Service

7 pm Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist Service

The Rector's Sabbatical

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich is on sabbatical until April 1, 2020. In his absence, please contact the Associate rector, The Rev. Dante A. Tavolaro.

One Service Only

Please join us for our Annual Meeting!

Sunday, January 26th
@ 9 am
Followed by
St. Luke's
185th Annual Meeting

Commitment Campaign Update

As of January 17, here is the status of our 2020 Campaign:

Total Number of Pledges	193
Total Amount Pledged	\$440,473

In addition, we have received \$2,220 in special gifts

For Comparison's Sake, at this time last year:

Total Number of Pledges	183
Total Amount Pledged	\$442,531

Our thanks to all of you who have pledged for the next year. If you have not yet pledged, we ask that you please do. The work and worship at St. Luke's depends upon your generosity.

Blessings,
The St. Luke's Stewardship Committee

Wednesday Night Contemplative Eucharist

All are welcome and invited to join us for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist each Wednesday night in Lent at 6pm from March 4 until April 1. This service will be a contemplative service consisting of Scripture readings, readings of spiritual writers, and opportunity from communal reflection. For more information please speak with Fr. Dante.

Save The Dates!

Community Kitchen Golf Classic

This will be held on **5/11/20** at Potowomut Golf Course to help support our kitchen remodel. If anyone is interested in playing you can registry online at: <https://communitykitchenclassic.eventbrite.com>.

For more information on volunteering or if you or someone you know are interested about sponsor options please contact Co-Chairs Bill Warburton & Jon Jacaruso at ckgolgclassic@gmail.com

Hill & Harbor Community Yard Sale 5/23/20

(Save Your Items)

Theology On Tap is having fun and busy . . . join us?

Christmas Meeting: The **TOT Christmas meeting** at Greg DeGroot's was a huge success! The meeting was very well attended, as more that 16 of our TOT group celebrated our fellowship and the Holy Eucharist, led by Father Tim. Many thanks to Greg & Judy, Rob and Father Tim!

January Meeting: We will kick off 2020 with the **January TOT Meeting on Jan. 29 at 7:00pm**. Mark your calendars - this should be fun!

Rob Walsh has made arrangements for **East Greenwich's new Town Manager, Andrew Nota** to join us for refreshments and discussion. Please join us as we welcome and introduce Andrew to St. Luke's. We'll be meeting this month in the Choir room on the 2nd floor of the church.

If you have questions or thoughts about TOT, give Brent Bostick (908-230-7569) brentbostick1@gmail.com or Steve Mendes stevemendes@cox.net a call, note or text.

In Search of: Handyman

St. Luke's is looking for a handyman to do small repairs and projects beyond the scope of our Property Group. If you know of anyone, please call Christina in the office, 884-4116. Thank you!

EPISCOPAL CHARITIES 2020: **GIVE – SHARE – LOVE CONTINUES!**

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 23rd**! That's the date we'll launch our Parish's 2020 Campaign for Episcopal Charities! Continuing with last year's theme, we will have a local focus on Giving, Sharing and Loving with our special guests from [The Sharing Locker](#): Kamila Barzykowski, Jan Searles and Denise Levins. These three dynamic volunteers from this wonderful ministry, housed in the Westminster Unitarian Church, just up the street, will share how their service to the community provides support and non-food items for those in need, partnering wonderfully with the feeding ministries of St. Luke's. The Sharing Locker has, once again, received a grant from Episcopal Charities, thanks to your ongoing support. They will speak briefly at both services, and will be featured at the coffee hour between the services. Come and be inspired by their dedication, hear the impactful testimonies that this ministry provides, and be heartened indeed to make your contribution, both as a volunteer, and as a donor to The Sharing Locker, and to all the other non-profits and ministries that are beneficiaries of your generosity, through Episcopal Charities.

...and watch for Bishop's Knisely's letter, coming in February, just around Valentine's Day. It's all about Love, and Giving, and Sharing, and our welcoming of The Sharing Locker on February 23rd!

Laura Sullivan & Pam Dresselhouse
2020 Episcopal Charities Co-Chairs

Women of Grace

The Women of Grace kicked off the New Year on January 8th with a gathering of 25 women at the home of Deborah Collins. After taking some time to meet and greet each other, The Rev. Pam Gregory shared a reading that was written on Christmas Day by Lonnie Lacy, a priest from South Georgia. His article, titled [What We Hold](#), challenged us to think about what we hold on to and what we can let fall away as we enter this New Year. Themes from the discussion ranged from the call to abide in Christ, to struggles with intimacy, to balancing priorities. It was a stimulating and insightful experience, laced with lots of laughter and warm fellowship.

So, come join us next month – February 5 at the home of Tricia Radigan (270 Fletcher Road, North Kingstown). Laura Sullivan, Marie Hennedy and Sophie Meschter will lead a discussion based on C.S. Lewis's *The Four Loves*. We look forward to seeing you then!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

Dr. Martin Luther King said.....”You must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

Infinite hope..... So what is your football Hope this year?? I'm sure I will get many answers to this question, but I would like to ask you to be part of a ***different kind of Souper Bowl...***

A Bowl that gives Hope to lots of people!!!

Like last year, St. Luke's is hosting a “Soupa Bowl of Caring”, led by Bill Capron, Pam and Dick Kelly. It's very easy to be involved, you **can contribute a can of soup!** All the proceeds from this drive will go to the Food Pantry at St. Luke's and Christ's Community Kitchen. ***Last year we collected over 400 cans!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

Did you know there are people living in negative situations- sometimes without Hope because of a lack of food in this country? Or that **16 million** children live in food insecure households in the US. And the most needy are:

“The people most vulnerable to the harmful effects of hunger are children and senior adults,” said Rhode Island Community Food Bank CEO Andrew Schiff

Food Insecurity in Rhode Island

11% (47,700 households) are food insecure

4.7% (20,400 households) report very low food security (hunger)

Poverty in Rhode Island

12.9% poverty rate

131,393 living in poverty

16.6% poverty rate for children under the age of 18

34,000 children living in poverty

Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities in which they live. **We can help.** There is joy in serving and giving to those in need.

When you buy super bowl supplies, add a can of soup to donate to our neighbour's that need warm food this time of year. If you have questions ask Bill, Dick or Pam, or me. **We will have collection boxes available in the atrium of St. Luke's through Super Bowl Sunday!!** I am hoping for a good game!!!!



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
99 Peirce Street
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Newsletter