



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

August 23, 2020

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Greetings!

Even now, I know there's "something more" along my faith journey that I need to explore.

I was very intentional as I slipped these words into my stewardship witness last fall. I had already come to understand that God was asking me to consider a very specific "something more" in my faith journey, but I wasn't ready to talk about it publicly, so I just *hinted at it* with those words, hoping you would understand.

But it is time, now, to tell you all about it! On June 9, 2020, I was received as a Postulant for Holy Orders, seeking to be ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church!

It's been quite a journey, involving much prayer, conversation and struggle. I am so thankful for Tim, who has been incredibly helpful as he patiently listened and encouraged me while I resisted, doubted, feared, questioned and finally believed and embraced that I was being called to serve God and the Church in a new way. I am also grateful our God is very patient and persistent!

I have to say, the Episcopal Church has quite a process to even get to Postulancy, let alone ordination! It is designed to help the candidate as well as the church leadership to faithfully and carefully discern this call to the diaconate. There were forms to fill out to explain my family background and education, my church and work experiences, and make sure that I am physically and emotionally fit for such a call. One important piece for me was the writing of a spiritual autobiography. It helped me to see a pattern of loving and serving God from an early age and to remember others who had spoken to me about ordination, long before I was ready to admit it.

The next step was to convene a discernment group. This was a blessed and humbling experience. I met for four sessions with six kind and faithful members of our parish to go through a well-defined process designed to help me know more deeply what God was calling me to and be able to voice the reasons why. These sessions were filled with questions, some very deep and personal sharing for all of us, great encouragement and guidance, and in the end, a unanimous affirmation of my desire to continue in this process. Hearing this from fellow parishioners was a

profound blessing and a powerful encouragement.

I then met with our Vestry followed by the Diocesan Commission on Ministry who asked many helpful and clarifying questions. Their recommendations resulted in further affirmation of this call by our bishop and on June 9, 2020 I was made a Postulant for Holy Orders.

That is where I am now in the process. I will soon begin 2 years of part-time schooling with the Province 1 School for Deacons. This is a combination of online study, self-study and group study, and is combined with two years of internship assignments at other churches in the Diocese.

I am profoundly grateful for you, the people of St. Luke's. You helped make me ready for this. You have provided a wonderfully safe and welcoming community where I could learn and grow and heal, where I could stand alongside you in ministry and worship, and where I could learn together with you in our adult education classes. Because of you, I can once again move forward in my faith journey.

In September I will begin to serve in another church in the diocese. Sure, the School for Deacons will be challenging, with all the reading, studying and papers. There is much I need to learn and all of it will take time and effort, but the hardest, most challenging part of this next step in my faith journey is the one where I have to say goodbye. But say it, I must, so I can move forward into what God has for me. I don't know exactly when my last day will be, but it will be in the next few weeks.

A big comfort, though, is that St. Luke's will forever be my home church!

What that means is that when I am not assigned elsewhere,

I can come back and worship at St. Luke's!

I will miss you all dearly, so let us commit to still be joined to one another in prayer. Let us lift each other up before God as we continue our work in different parts of the vineyard and as we each move forward in our faith journeys!

May God's peace, love and grace be with each one of you,

Nance

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Click above for the lessons

Streaming Service of Morning Prayer.

Watch our worship service this weekend on [Facebook](#) or on [YouTube](#).

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the parish prayer list.

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, rector, , preaching

Reopening Announcement

Father Tim Announces Our Reopening!

We are so excited to welcome everyone back to St. Luke's!

Please [Click Here](#) to read Father Tim's Reopening Letter to the parish!

[Click Here](#) to view Father Tim's video message!

To Sign Up for Sunday Service using Sign-Up Genius, please [Click Here!](#)

We will also begin using a QR Code for our Sunday Bulletin which can be scanned by using a SmartPhone! This will give worshipers the option to view our bulletin on their phone during Sunday Service or to print the bulletin and bring it to the church.

We will provide hard copies as well.

Here Is The Sunday Bulletin QR Code:



OR

[Click Here](#) to view our Sunday Bulletin!

Adult Faith Formation

The next book study to be *So You Want to Talk About Race* By Ijeoma Oluo

One of the powerful takeaways from our recently completed book study of *Virus: A Summons to Faith* was the observation by many that the concurrence of the pandemic with the violent deaths of George Floyd and several other African Americans has allowed us a particular opportunity for deep reflections on matters related to race. As one parishioner noted to me, "I don't know if this country would be having such a sustained conversation on race if everything else was humming along as usual."

I believe she's right. This is not a normal summer. We are not off on vacation. We are not hosting visitors who like to come to Rhode Island's beaches. We are not even going

to the theater for some summer blockbuster release. It feels like this is a particular moment in time. In fact, I would go so far as to suggest this is what Christian scholars refer to as a "kairos moment."

Have you ever heard that phrase before?

One author described a **kairos moment** in this way: it is "**a moment of maximum opportunity. It is a moment when change is possible. It is an exquisite syncretistic moment when all things 'come together' and align.** I believe it is what the Bible refers to as 'the set time,' and what we in the church call, 'waiting for God's *best*.'"

So sensing the energy and urgency of this moment, I invite you to join me and the Adult Faith Formation Committee in reading, *So You Want to Talk About Race*, by Ijeoma Oluo. We have selected this particular book amongst a variety of possibilities because it provides such a rich, accessible, and personal examination of race in America.

Classes will gather by way of Zoom Wednesdays, going from 7:00-8:30PM. To purchase a book, either look in your local bookstore or purchase on line through Amazon.

I hope you'll join us for this important read. Although reading a book doesn't guarantee a deeper understanding of race-related issues, listening to the stories of one African American woman surely seems like a good place to start.

Peace,
Tim

[Click Here](#) to join our Adult Faith Zoom Meeting. See below for Meeting ID and Password:

Meeting ID: 857 8707 2842

Password: 703831

Community Kitchen Golf Classic



Community Kitchen Golf Classic

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Potowomut Golf Club

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Monday, August 31, 2020

Support the Renovation of St. Luke's Community Kitchen!

- Purchase a Tee Sign to promote a business/organization
- Be a Sponsor
- Make a Donation
- ***Invite others*** to purchase a tee sign, be a sponsor, or make a donation!

To learn more, contact Event Co-Chairs Bill Warburton or Jon Jacaruso at ckgolfclassic@gmail.com

Or, visit the Community Kitchen Golf Classic website at: <https://communitykitchenclassic.eventbrite.com>

Thank you to all who have already registered to golf or support this fundraising event with your donations and sponsorships!

Tea Time Theology: Diocese of RI Podcast

The Diocese of Rhode Island has created a new podcast called **Tea Time Theology**. Below is a note from one of the people involved in this project announcing it to the Diocese. As with much in our Diocesan life, St. Luke's has been involved with this new effort. The audio and recording work has been done by Taylor Wilkey, and our Associate Rector was interviewed for an episode to air in June. Be sure to tune in and listen to voices from around our Diocese.

Hello Rhode Island Episcopalians!

Do you have questions about faith, church, and spirituality? So do we! Tea Time Theology is the new podcast sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, whose goal is to create space to have real and meaningful conversations about faith.

Our first episode will be dropping on April 14th . Please follow our social medias! We are @teatimetheology on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. You will be able to listen on: Stitcher, Google Podcast, and The Apple Podcast App.

Thanks,
Ivy

Especially for Children

To watch Godly Play online please [Click Here!](#)

Mask Making and Free Masks and Gloves

If you are looking for something hands-on to do to help out during this time of COVID-19, here is a project that might be right for you. There is an increasing demand for face masks in our communities: both masks for medical professions and masks for every day use in the wider community. While we cannot make the N95 masks for medical professions, there are a lot of resources out there for making everyday masks. If you are a person who knows how to sew (sewer/sewist/master of the sewing needle) please consider joining the efforts of people around the country to make home-sewn masks. [The Mask Now Coalition](#) is one such organization sharing information and patterns for masks.

HOME DELIVERY OF FREE FACE MASKS AND SANITARY GLOVES

I will be glad to deliver free surplus blue face masks and white latex gloves to the homes of people who need them and will use them appropriately.

Please contact Timothy Barcott. 401-397-6700. Weekday evenings.

Creating Connections

As we seek ways to connect while we are physically apart we want to hear how you are doing! We invite you to share with us the ways you are finding joy, gratitude, and God in the midst of our physical separation. Take a short video, snap a photo, record yourself singing a song, write a reflection or poem, share a favorite prayer! Be creative! Please send your pictures, videos, and other reflections to us at connections@stlukese.org. As we receive these stories and reflection we are going to share them on our parish Facebook and Instagram accounts, as well as here in the St. Luke's Weekly. We are making joy, and grace, and gratitude, and God's love contagious!

Virtual Church

In addition to joining St. Luke's for virtual worship, we want to share with you other resources for being created around the Diocese and wider Episcopal Church.

The [Washington National Cathedral](#) is streaming Morning and Evening Prayer in addition to Sunday morning Eucharist. For those of you interested in finding worship that is of a high church

expression [St. Thomas Church](#) on Fifth Avenue in New York is broad casting their Sunday morning worship. You also cannot go wrong tuning in to [St. Bart's](#) or [Trinity Wall Street](#).

There are also great opportunities closer to home. Many of the parishes of our Diocese are streaming different forms of worship. Try out saying morning prayer and evening prayer with [St. Paul's Pawtucket](#), or Compline with [ECC](#), or Stations of the Cross with [The Church of the Redeemer](#), Providence, or check out Virtual Emmanuel Church with the folks of [Emmanuel Cumberland](#). The Diocese is working on keeping a list of all the different options our parishes are providing. You can find that [here](#).

Here are some other resources to help you continue your life of prayer.

[Podcast version](#) Forward Day by Day.

[A Morning at the Office - Morning Prayer](#), also sponsored by Forward Movement

[Weekly Eucharistic Scripture Readings](#) from The Lectionary Page

[Morning and Evening Prayer in English and Spanish](#) from Mission St. Clare

If you have other resources that you think will be of help to members of our community please email them to [Fr. Tim.](#)

Looking for Helpers / Looking for Help

Several of you have already reached out, volunteering to help those in need. If you are healthy and in a low risk category, and would like to be added to a volunteer list please email our [Church Administrator](#). We are working on creating a team of individuals who can help out as the need arises.

With all of the precautions and guidance coming from the Governor, CDC, and the Department of Health, we are aware that some members of our community may have difficulty getting access to basics like food, medication, and other necessities. If you find yourself in need, please contact our [Church Administrator](#) for assistance.

Food Cupboard

Greetings from our Food Cupboard!

We are reaching out to update you on some of our needs during this challenging time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our families that they are able to stay healthy and safe.

Please consider donating these items:

Pancake Syrup, Beef Stew, Hash, Small Canned Hams, Chili, Coffee, Vegetable Oil, Crackers, Cookies, Hearty Soups, Chicken Noodle Soup, Pasta Sides, Gravy (Chicken and Beef), Ketchup and Mustard, Pasta Sauce

Thank you!

EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

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