



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

August 2, 2020

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Stay Connected



Greetings!

My husband, Tim, hung up the phone and looked at me. "Well, the trip is cancelled." We had been expecting it, but his words still hung in the air as we both wondered what would happen next. It was March, and he was in the middle of the discernment and interview process with Trinity Episcopal Church in Newport, a city to which we had never been, in a state we had never seen. As he had been going through the process, our excitement had been building. They were clearly seeking the gifts he brings, and after nearly three years in assistant and associate positions he was ready to lead. But all of the discernment process had been online, with Tim sitting at the desk in our guest bedroom talking to people over Zoom with a painting of the seaside my grandma had done hanging in the background. Just days before he was scheduled to travel from Phoenix to Newport, Covid changed our plans.

When people speak of their discernment experiences, those experiences where we pay special attention to how God is moving in our lives and how God might be calling us, there is often a physical moment, a tangible something, that anchors their stories. They walk into a church building, and their sense of the Holy Spirit shifts, giving them clarity about next steps. I remember exactly where I was on the Francis Scott Key Bridge on my way into Georgetown when I realized God was calling me to ordained ministry. I can tell you what the pebble on the bridge looked like as I offered myself to God in prayer. As Tim discerned a possible call to Trinity, we sat together in our living room day after day, leaving the house as rarely as possible. The rhythms of prayer, pastoral visits, and liturgy that had marked our weeks had been upended by the pandemic, and I wondered how we were supposed to faithfully discern in our unremarkable house, with a kitchen table that had morphed into my desk and studio for online worship literally pushed up against a chair in our living room to give me a bit more space.

The pandemic had left me feeling unrooted. Days merged together; time seemed to lose meaning. I was adrift- I needed anchors. While I was in seminary, I benefitted from excellent spiritual direction and counseling. Both my spiritual director and counselor would often remind me of tools I already knew but had

forgotten in the midst of the stress and existential crises that mark theological training. As I wondered how to anchor myself in discernment, I realized again I did not need to invent anything. I already knew what to do. Since ancient times, the church has established practices that are meant to expand spiritual capacity and allow us to hear God in our midst. My spiritual director once reminded me: Bidden or unbidden, God is present. Discernment does not require conjuring God up; God is already here, longing for us to be attentive to the presence of the Spirit. Intentional prayer practices and intentional routine that matches our time and energy to our values and priorities go a long way to opening us up to hearing that small, still voice in our midst.

Tim and I reoriented our days to make time for intentional prayer together. As we sat together, the joy that manifested in Tim's prayers made it increasingly clear that the Holy Spirit was calling him to Trinity. That clarity motivated and encouraged us, and it also reminded me of another thing I already knew. If God called Tim to Trinity, God would call me to ministry in Rhode Island too. We have devoted our lives to one another in our marriage, and we have committed to serving Christ together. God calls all of us exactly as we are, and God has work for us to do. Our faith calls us to hope instead of fear, to trust instead of doubt. If God was calling Tim to Rhode Island, we were both being called to Rhode Island.

Hope and faith set us free; and as I began my own discernment process, I could hardly imagine the truly special opportunity that would soon materialize. It is a rare gift for a new(ish) priest to get to work and learn in a church like St. Luke's, with a wonderful and warm congregation, a variety of ministries, a faithful and talented staff, and a generous mentor who is excited to share the benefit of his experience. I am so grateful to be with you and I look forward to how the Holy Spirit will move among us. I pray that our time together is good and fruitful, and I trust that I will be a better priest because I have had the opportunity to serve alongside you. Thank you for welcoming me. I am excited to be here!

In faith, hope, and love,

Tanya+

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Ninth 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

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:](#)



Virtual Cocktail Hour

Please join us for a virtual Cocktail Hour at 5:00 pm this Sunday!
We look forward to seeing our St. Luke's Family!

Zoom Meeting Information is below:

[**Click Here**](#) to join meeting. See below for Meeting ID and Password that will be needed to join.

Meeting ID: 825 3469 9092

Password: 588755

This information will also be posted on our Weekend Invitation to Worship!

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.

The study will begin Wednesday, August 5. Classes will gather by way of Zoom, 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: 884 6188 6217

Password: 779185

A Note From Our Treasurer

A Note From The Treasurer

Since mid-March, when the coronavirus shut down our Church, my job changed quite a bit from the norm I knew.

Without a Sunday service, we had no collections to process, so the counters who would meet every Monday have stayed home - minimizing personal interactions is a major weapon in fighting this disease. Christina, our Parish Administrator, was also asked to work from home for the first six weeks or so - there really was no need to risk having her come to the office when the building was locked down.

So for that time frame, I would check the mail daily and once a week, gather the checks and pledges and deposit them in the bank. Lisa, our Bookkeeper, continued coming in on Wednesdays, and the finances went on.

In early April, we applied for the Payroll Protection Program loans, and received one for **\$55,000** in early May. This represents 2 months payroll, so we fully expect that it will qualify for forgiveness when we file.

In May, the Finance Committee recommended a revised budget which the Vestry passed in June, reflecting both reduced income and expenses. The basis for that is as follows:

* Income highlights

- o **Minus** \$20,000 in loose plate
- o **Minus** \$2,700 Designated gifts (Flower and Music memorials from Easter)
- o **Minus** \$15,000 Dante fund (he left 2 months earlier than we budgeted)
- o **Minus** \$30,000 Current Year Pledge
- o **Minus** \$9,000 in fundraising (no yard sale or memorial bricks)
- o **Minus** \$5,800 for the new assistant starting 1 month later than originally budgeted
- o **Minus** \$12,500 in rental income
- o **Added** \$20,000 in DIT income (recommendation from the Diocese that we use all the DIT income this year for operations)
- o **Added** \$55,000 from the PPP loan
- o Net result is total income reduced by **\$20,947** for the rest of the year

* Expenses

- o **Minus** \$18,229 (the 3 months of no assistant onboard)
- o **Minus** \$11,500 in Facilities (\$8,000 in utilities, the rest spread out)
- o **Minus** \$1,950 - small adjustments to most programs and an addition of \$4,500 to digital evangelism for the online worshipping costs
- o Net result is expenses lowered by **\$34,179**

* Bottom line shows a shortfall of **\$18,052**

From day one of these extraordinary times, you, the parishioners of St. Luke's, have continued to show your support and love for our community. The pledge checks have continued to come in, often accompanied by supportive notes and words of thankfulness. I know I speak for the entire leadership team when I say that your commitment, faithfulness and optimism are extremely appreciated! It makes all the work we do worth all the effort!

Thank you,
Michael Sullivan

Community Kitchen Golf Classic



Community Kitchen Golf Classic

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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:

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Monday, August 31, 2020

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@stlukeseg.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:

Hearty Soups, Jello, Pudding Mix, Ketchup, Chicken Stock, Cookies, Mashed Potatoes, Canned Garbanzo and Canellini Beans

Thank you!

EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

St. Lukes Episcopal Church | (401) 884-4116

cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>

99 Peirce Street

East Greenwich, RI 02818

