



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

July 26, 2020

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Stay Connected



Greetings!

Time has come for me to leave. I am very sad to leave such a "growing" place as St. Luke's. I want you to know that the Love I have felt at St. Luke's will be ever present in my ministry. I have been in a community of friends, people who care deeply about each other, and through our virtual worship, I've experienced friends that pray deeply together. I can hear "prayer" in your readings, and a call to action in our discussion on the book -Virus as a Summons to Faith, by Brueggeman. The coronavirus has turned our world upside-down, we have lost our daily routines that comfort us. We are concerned about what this virus will mean for our futures: for our jobs, our social lives, our organizations, our churches, and our happiness. Our study was **how to see God's power** within the pandemic. How do we invite God in to hear us, how do we trust God and promise our faithfulness? We are summoned to be Christians in a time of fear. The stories of the Hebrew Bible help us understand that God is compassionate and **will be with us** through these uncertain times.

My first Sunday at St. Luke's was 9-4-16, and I am leaving 4 years later! I asked Tim if I could preach on my first day, since one of my favorite letters from St. Paul was part of the lectionary. My fascination with St. Paul and Philemon was that Paul asks for forgiveness from a master to a runaway slave, a hard "ask" but that is God's call to us today, to live in the world, caring for each other. Adjusting to a lifestyle that means we think of others, when we put our mask on! **We care for each.** The life-transforming message of Love that Paul puts forward has the same power to transform relationships in our lives. How we treat one another, our family, friends, enemies, and the church. Our lives are different because we are Christians.

I knew when I started ministry at St. Luke's it

was a very special family I was joining. We are a community that has fun together, we work hard together, and we stretch the limits to extend the Jesus Gospel in many ways! I love the family that I have been a part of, and I am sure you know by now - that Deacon ministry is about encouraging us **to act out our Christian Faith. Our Christ like intention is to act and be as Christ in the world of today.** I have been a recurring "asker" about giving to the homeless, supporting immigrant kids with school supplies and healing a forgotten day care in Puerto Rico and many more drives from soup to shower items! These efforts to support people in need could not happen without you, and they are a part of the St. Luke's family. I encourage you to forge ahead!! Intention arises from the heart **-it's the way we live with a Christ Mind.** At the end of every service I say..."Go in peace to Love and Serve the Lord" As a Deacon I send you, we know the Celebration of the Eucharist has ended, & now **our** service begins. I say "Serve on"!!!

I want to thank each person in our parish for saying YES to the ask for help, for serving, for caring and being part of the giving faith community at St. Luke's. I have seen the love of Jesus in you, and am sad to be leaving so many friends! GodSpeed!

Your Deacon,
Christine

A Note From Our Rector

Dear Friends,

When the Bishop first spoke with me about Christine, he said, "I'd like you to work with this woman who is finishing her training to be a vocational deacon. I think St. Luke's would be a great place for her." And then he added "And I think she has a lot to offer St. Luke's too."

Well, now four years later, we all know just what a gift Christine has been to us. And sadly, as you have just read, the time has come for her to move on and share her many gifts with other congregations.

We always knew this time would come. The Bishop has total authority over a deacon's ministry and generally places them in congregations for three to five years. Furthermore, he is exploring a new model for deploying deacons, asking them to serve

multiple congregations based upon regional proximity. With both of these factors in mind, the Bishop began speaking to me several months ago about Christine's coming transition. As we looked at the calendar and imagined another transition in staff with Dante's departure, he agreed to wait until summer. Despite the strangeness of this time, there's no denying that summer has arrived!

So, I invite you to join me in bidding farewell to Christine with a grateful heart. I will be back in touch regarding plans for a proper send-off as the guidelines for church gatherings evolve. For now, keep her in your prayers as she prepares for this move.

Peace,

Tim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Eighth 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

Virtual Coffee Hour

**Please join us for a virtual Coffee Hour at 11:00 am 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: 835 0694 8033

Password: 549693

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

From The 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**

.....

Potowomut Golf Club

.....

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>

Monday, August 31, 2020

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

Annual Goddard Park Picnic - UPDATE

Dear St. Luke's Family,

Our Annual Goddard Park Picnic has been cancelled. However, we have rescheduled for next year and are looking forward to celebrating at the Carousel with our wonderful parish family again at that time!

Blessings to all of you!

St. Luke's Usher Ministry

Help Wanted - Saint Luke's Usher Ministry

Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. ... It is good work you're doing, helping these travelers on their way, hospitality worthy of God himself! (3 John, vs 5-6)

As the reopening of St. Luke's on August 2 approaches, we are busy at work making plans to accommodate the guidance and recommendation provided by the State and Diocese of RI. Now more than ever the Usher Ministry will play a key role in creating a welcoming, reverent, and safe environment for worship. While the changes being considered will reduce the movement during the service, they bring additional responsibility in seating, collecting contact information and managing the flow of congregants when entering and exiting the service.

Additional ushers are needed to cover the increased responsibilities. We are planning an orientation session for ushers the week before resuming services. If you are available to serve and interested in joining the Usher Ministry, please contact the office or email me at smcloughlin2@aol.com so that you can be included.

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

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