



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

September 6, 2020

In This Issue

[This Sunday at St. Luke's](#)

[Reopening Announcement](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Women of Grace](#)

[Tea Time Theology](#)

[Especially for Children](#)

[Making Masks and Free Masks and Gloves](#)

[Creating Connections](#)

[Virtual Church](#)

[Looking for Helpers / Looking for Help](#)

[Food Cupboard](#)

Quick Links

[St. Luke's Church](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island](#)

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[The Anglican Communion](#)

Stay Connected



Greetings!

I'm a bit of a weather geek. Joseph calls me "Doppler boy". Have you ever used one of those radar apps on your phone or computer where you can toggle between "past" and "future" radar animation? I love those. Well consider this newsletter the first half of the St. Luke's "weather report". I will be reviewing our recent past, and next week Father Tim will take a look at our future. Six months into this pandemic, and on the threshold of a new fall season, it seems like an appropriate time to pause and take measure.

Six months since we have had anything close to business as usual at St. Luke's. In some ways agonizingly long as we endure significant disruption at best and difficult hardship at worst. Yet at the same time it is hard to believe it has been half a year of altered reality, as the clock has stopped us in an endless holding pattern. But while it has not been business as usual at St. Luke's, we have adapted and continued on with business most unusual. We have built upon our existing paths of connection and found new and different paths. New and diverse ways that have bound us as strongly as ever as a church family.

Our biggest reconnection, as you all know, has been the resumption of Sunday worship services at church! How wonderful it has been to see one another, to worship in our beautiful sanctuary and auditorium, and to hear the wonderful words and music of our liturgy. But it has been different, hasn't it? We've traded in two-dimensional images of our faces and garbled Zoom voices for partially covered faces and voices muffled by masks. We still long for the beautiful sound of our full choir. We miss that sacred approach to the communion rail that so powerfully symbolizes our coming before God. We miss the fellowship of coffee hour in the atrium, the warm touch, the healing hug. And we lament the fact that we are not yet fully a congregation reunited as we feel the absence of many who cannot yet safely return to our sides.

But we've forged new paths to compensate. Weekly virtual services are routine. And quite good, would you not agree? The warm messages of welcome from Father Tim. Rodney's nurturing organ and piano music played while the camera pans around our lovely sanctuary (ahem ... not too unlike the times when my gaze wanders in church). The uplifting soloist performances. The comforting repetition of the Morning Prayer liturgy. And of course some of the best preaching you will find anywhere - reaching into our hearts and souls in a way that I sometimes feel is even more direct and immediate than when heard across rows of pews. One of the recommended coping mechanisms for getting through this pandemic is to establish new routines. Watching St. Luke's virtual worship on YouTube at the same time and in the same space each Sunday morning has been a huge anchor for Joseph and me during these troubling times.

It is a happy predicament I am faced with to be running out of article space to recount all the ways we are continuing to be a church at St. Luke's. I listed many of them back in my May newsletter, but they bear some repeating. We regularly meet every other Sunday on Zoom for virtual social hour (moved to evenings to accommodate those attending morning services at church). We continue to learn and grow together through our Zoom Adult Faith Formation classes on Wednesday nights. (By the way, if you think Father Tim's preaching is great, you really need to come check out his moderating skills as he guides us through some fantastic conversations). Our property committee continues to keep our grounds looking great. We took a big gulp and completed the last of our campus roof repairs, knowing that we must keep up with the maintenance of our buildings -- even in these uncertain financial times. Our committees continue to meet, plan and manage. Our staff continues to keep the office running and our building clean. We've said a sad goodbye to our Curate and Deacon and hello to our new Assistant Rector. Thanks to the hard work of so many and the generosity of even more, we finally were able to hold the golf tournament to raise funds for the kitchen renovation. We are so nearly close to our fundraising goal and are poised to recommence the kitchen design and construction process. And in countless ways that none of us have a full view of, we are staying connected with one another, offering support and simple friendship, and looking out for those we know just need an extra phone call or word of encouragement.

I'm sure I've left out many noteworthy past and current conditions in this St. Luke's weather report. But

the picture is clear -- we are still here and we are still functioning as Christ's church. And whether you participate in person or virtually, frequently or on occasion -- St. Luke's is your church. Together we are St. Luke's. Whether in person, on the internet, or in common prayer, we are the gathered Body of Christ. In times of turbulence or calm, we are gathered and bound together in God's love. And the forecast is always the same, in hard times and easy times -- community, perseverance, and a hope that does not disappoint.

Peace,

Gary Schweizer
Senior Warden

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Fourteenth 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. Tanya Watt, assistant 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!

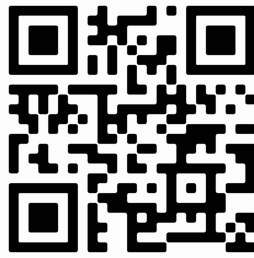
[Click Here](#) to view Father Tim's video message!

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: 823 8561 4451

Password: 896620

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Zoom Meeting - Wednesday, September 9, at 1 pm

Please [Click Here](#) to join us for our Pastoral Care Meeting via Zoom. See below for Meeting ID and Password:

Meeting ID: 815 0533 2586

Password: 875054

Women of Grace

Women of Grace - Looking Ahead!

It's hard to believe, but the Women of Grace is starting its fifth year of fellowship and, yes, grace! The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 inspired our group to continue its meetings over the summer, which generated an incredible range of topics for discussion over the upcoming year. We will kick off the year with a Brené Brown video and Patricia Warburton will then lead us in a discussion on Brown's perspective on 'belonging'. Proposed topics for the remainder of the year range from a Poetry Share to discussions on spiritual discernment, Sacred Harp music, racism and faith, Taiye Salasi's Ted Talk on 'where we are local', the Rule of Life, and The Episcopal Church's Beloved Community program. We are always open to more ideas - so join us!

Women of Grace meets once a month via Zoom-typically, the first Monday evening of each month. Each gathering begins with a period of fellowship, followed by a topical discussion and ending with a prayer, reflection or compline. We start at 7pm and promise to say our final AMEN by 9pm! If you are not currently on our mailing list, please email Deborah Collins (dcollinstn01@gmail.com) to add your name and email address and receive updates on meetings.

Due to Labor Day falling on the first Monday of September, our **next meeting is scheduled for September 14**. Details for linking via Zoom and information for the discussion will be emailed to the WOG list and posted in the newsletter the week prior to the meeting.

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:

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

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