



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

September 13, 2020

In This Issue

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

[Reopening Announcement](#)

[Reopening Announcement](#)

[Tea Time Theology](#)

[Especially for Children](#)

[Making Masks and Free Masks](#)

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

[Creating Connections](#)

[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!

Hard to believe it's actually September, isn't it?!

Even harder to believe that we begin another month in the shadows of the pandemic. And yet, as Gary's note last week so well captured, we have managed over these past several months to find light despite the long stretch of the shadows.

There's no denying that in our many experiences of worship, in our monthly social hours, and in our weekly adult faith formation sessions, we have found light to warm our hearts. And there have been numerous special occasions too- our farewell to Christine, our welcome of Tanya, our celebration of Ron Clement's life, and our golf and dinner fundraiser-which not only warmed our hearts but even fed our souls. This pandemic may change our patterns of life, but it cannot overshadow God's irrepressible grace or St. Luke's irrepressible spirit.

Under the heading of "life is changed but not ended," I find myself still excited by the dawning of another "program year" at St. Luke's. True enough, this Sunday we will not be able to revel in the return of our many-voiced-choirs or delight in the rush of kids as they enter at the time of the peace. Nor will we be able to enjoy a festive coffee hour as part of a grand kick-off.

But if you attend worship this Sunday (in either form), you still will be blessed by the musical talents of Rodney and members of the choir. You still will hear sacred stories that speak of welcome, of life, and of love. And you still will feel God's presence in it all. All of that remains true, regardless of COVID-19.

Moreover, you should know, as these final warm weeks of summer give way to the chill of fall, many of us are busy not only doing the routine work of the church but also re-imagining a robust finish to 2020. Even though the impact of this virus will linger throughout the next several months, the Spirit-filled efforts of St. Luke's

will continue.

Recently I convened an additional steering committee to address how we might do **youth faith formation** in the weeks to come. As with worship in general, the group will draw from state and diocesan guidelines and also watch state-wide trends in test-positive rates. We'll borrow from some of the best practices currently being adopted by area schools (as many of you know, I happen to have an "in" there). We'll listen to the needs and hopes of you, our parents. (I have already heard from many of you that we should avoid burdening the youth with yet another Zoom class if at all possible.) And then we'll design a way forward that is both safe and engaging. You'll hear more as plans come in to focus.

Likewise, Rodney has been busy not only planning music for our worship but also researching the latest findings regarding singing and transmission. He's also talking with parents from **the St. Cecilia and Angel choirs**, exploring the prospects and prudence of offering some form of choral instruction, even if this means in smaller groups and outdoor settings.

Steve McLoughlin soon will be meeting with a group to discuss how we might resume our **feeding ministries** in some safe but effective manner.

Committees from **pastoral care to stewardship to adult faith formation** are meeting, planning ways to care for parishioners and continue our journeys in faith.

And, of course, our **dedicated building and grounds crew** persist in their efforts to keep the campus looking great. (Check out the new roof over the loggia and the new sunflowers by the far doors!)

So, as you can see, we will not let this virus stop us in our work to be the church. In fact, I think it even more important during this crazy and difficult time that we find new ways to be all that the church can be—a place for connection, a place of hope, a place that makes a difference in the lives of folks near and far.

This weekend, the NFL will kick off another season, despite the pandemic. For many, there will be much joy even in the face of a few compromises and changes. If they can manage such a feat, imagine what we can do this fall, by the grace of God?

Peace,

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Fifteenth 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

Celebration of Life Service for Martin Denny-Brown - Saturday, September 12, at 2 pm

Please join us for the livestreaming of a Celebration of Life Service for Martin Denny-Brown

1. Our Facebook page can be accessed by clicking this link: <https://www.facebook.com/stlukeseq>.

2. You do not need a Facebook account to access this page. If you do not have an account, Facebook will ask if you would like to set one up. Simply click the 'X' at the top right corner to close that box or click 'Not Now.' If you do have an account, 'Liking' our page ahead of the service will allow Facebook to send you a notification when the livestream begins.

3. The livestream will be accessible from St. Luke's Facebook page 15 minutes before the service begins, at 1:45 pm. The livestream will be the first thing you see beneath our information. You do not need a Facebook account to view the video.

You can practice accessing our page any time you would like by clicking the link above. Feel free to explore what is already on our page. We have our regular Sunday Morning Prayer services linked there and some fantastic pictures from our beloved community.

We are grateful to be able to offer this livestream so that people who cannot join us in person can still remember and celebrate Martin's life with us.

A Note From The Treasurer

From the Treasurer,

August	2020 YTD	Budget	%	2019 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$290,437	\$301,000	96.49%	\$312,744	(\$22,307)
Loose Plate	\$12,965	\$16,950	76.49%	\$24,434	(\$11,469)
Other Personal Inc.	\$39,941	\$46,067	86.70%	\$109,077	(\$69,136)
Total Personal Inc.	\$343,343	\$364,017	94.32%	\$446,255	(\$102,912)

Total Other Inc	\$84,334	\$81,471	103.51%	\$29,199	\$55,135
Total Income	\$427,677	\$445,488	96.00%	\$475,454	(\$47,777)
Staff Expenses	\$275,931	\$280,715	98.30%	\$299,252	(\$23,321)
Facilities Expenses	\$71,434	\$85,443	83.60%	\$114,752	(\$43,318)
Program Expenses	\$14,594	\$17,912	81.48%	\$15,364	(\$770)
Outreach Expenses	\$11,514	\$6,953	165.60%	\$5,483	\$6,031
Total Expenses	\$436,575	\$454,104	96.14%	\$497,594	(\$61,019)
Net Income	(\$8,898)	(\$8,616)	103.27%	(\$22,140)	\$13,242

Overall results continue to be encouraging.

Our income is down, both to budget and last year, but we continue to have reduced costs in running the Church.

Your continued support of the Parish has been a blessing!

We know that there are some households within the Parish that have seen lost and reduced incomes and have had to reduce or pause their support. Without asking, many others of you have stepped up and continued your pledges, and in some instances, even given extra, as well as supporting our kitchen capital campaign and fund raising efforts, and increasing support to the food cupboard. The "Love thy Neighbor" message is alive and well in our Parish!

Michael Sullivan

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: 863 1107 9730
Password: 750827

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!

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 the week prior to the meeting. If you are not currently on our mailing list, please email Deborah Collins (collinstn01@gmail.com) to add your name and email address and receive updates on meetings.

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!

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

St. Lukes Episcopal Church | (401) 884-4116
cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>
99 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818

Copyright © 2020. All Rights Reserved.