



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

September 20, 2020

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Greetings!

Though I never had the honor of knowing him, I attended Ron Clement's funeral at the end of August. For most of the service I was sitting in one of our pews, and I was deeply touched by the evident love his family shares for him and for each other. In addition to the love and respect people clearly have for Ron, one of the things that really made an impression on me was the joy and surprise of seeing and hearing children in the pews: their rustling as they tried to sit still, their murmurings to their parents, seeing them crane their necks as they tried to see what was happening at the altar- all of this was such a joy! One of Ron's grandsons emphasized "Amen" at the end of every prayer, and his enthusiastic participation reminded me that this was a time for shared grief, but also for shared celebration. The opportunity to be together was a gift.

As St. Luke's has begun in-person services again, I have been struck by the thoughtfulness and diligence the reopening committee has put into considering how to make the space as safe as possible. Windows are open, allowing for cross-ventilation in the church. Rodney and Fr. Tim measured between the pews to ensure that people would be properly distanced from one another, but then Rodney realized that people might sit in the pews differently than they had originally imagined, so now the spacing allows for six - nine feet of distance between families. Pews are clearly labeled with the number of people who can safely sit in them. We have reduced the time of each service to an hour or less. Given the latest research, that has given us confidence to have both services in the sanctuary, with sanitization of surfaces between them. Everyone is wearing a mask, and I have begun to recognize some people by the smiling eyes I see above the line of their face covering. I've been grateful for Fr. Tim's affirmation that whether you join us in person or online, we are one body praying and worshipping together.

Until Ron's funeral, I didn't realize how much I

missed one particular set of voices during our Sunday services- that of St. Luke's children and teenagers! I have had the opportunity to meet a few, and I can't wait to meet more. There is a special vitality and energy to our youngest members, and I look forward to seeing them and their families as folks feel ready to re-enter the church. Our youth faith formation will pick up again soon, and I've been so impressed by the commitment and dedication of our adult leaders. They put a lot of love and care into their work, and they want to keep all of us as safe as possible too.

It is a curious time to get to know people. I get to spend more time with folks during our Zoom Adult Faith Formation on Wednesday evenings or our twice monthly Zoom Social Hours than I do following church services- (I miss coffee hours!)- but it is clear that St. Luke's is a special place because of the people gathered together, whether online or in the church itself. St. Luke's is special because each of you is part of it, and I am grateful to be here with you.

Blessings and gratitude,  
Mother Tanya

## This Sunday at St. Luke's

### [The Sixteenth 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

## Sunday Social Hour

**Please join us for a virtual Sunday Social 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: 829 9428 8365

Password: 024460

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

## 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: 874 3325 8882  
Password: 250432

## Youth Faith Formation

### **Looking Forward to Resumption of Youth Faith Formation Offerings!**

We are busy planning to resume our Youth Faith Formation programs in the near future, with the hopes of starting in-person classes on Sunday, October 11. In anticipation of the 2020-2021 year, please [Click Here](#) to fill out our Youth Registration Form, one for each of your children. We have decided to go paperless with our forms. You will also find a link to these forms on our Website.

Stay tuned for a more detailed announcement from Father Tim regarding these offerings in the coming weeks. We can't wait to see you and your children!

## 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!

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org) | <http://stlukeseg.org>  
99 Peirce Street  
East Greenwich, RI 02818

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