



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

September 27, 2020

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Greetings!

It seems like so long ago that COVID-19 seized the attention of our country, dominating not just our actions but also our conversations. While scientists worked to make sense of this novel virus, Christians (and no doubt all kinds of people identifying as "spiritual") struggled to make sense of the relationship between the virus and faith. "Why is God allowing this to happen? Where is God as we suffer? What kind of hope can I place in God as I wait and worry?" These were just a few of the questions that animated our conversations. And in response to the events and questions, many at St. Luke's read professor Walter Brueggemann's book, *Virus: A Summons to Faith*.

By the end of May, following a series of police actions which resulted in the deaths of numerous black Americans, COVID shared our attentions with questions and conversations regarding race-or more specifically, our nation's long history of racial injustice. So, once we finished Brueggemann's book, over thirty members of St. Luke's began reading Ijeoma Oluo's book *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Personally, I have found her book immensely informative, and I have found our conversations incredibly rich.

Next Wednesday (September 30) we will conclude our reading of Oluo's book. But still, the challenges of how to live out our faith in these times remain numerous and constant. In addition to the strain of COVID and the turmoil of social unrest, our nation faces a coming presidential election. Anxieties run high and disagreements run hot. The daily news is filled with stories of fear, hate, and violence. All of which makes our next book study so timely.

Wednesday, October 7, the Adult Faith Formation class will begin reading Jim Wallis' *Christ in Crisis? Reclaiming Jesus in a Time of Fear, Hate, and Violence*. About this book, one reviewer wrote,

Quick Links

[St. Luke's Church](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island](#)

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[The Anglican Communion](#)

Stay Connected



"In *Christ in Crisis* Jim Wallis provides a path of spiritual healing and solidarity to help us heal the divide separating Americans today. Building on "Reclaiming Jesus"-the declaration he and other church leaders wrote in May 2018 to address America's current crisis-Wallis argues that Christians have become disconnected from Jesus and need to revisit their spiritual foundations. By pointing to eight questions Jesus asked or is asked, Wallis provides a means to measure whether we are truly aligned with the moral and spiritual foundations of our Christian faith.

'Christians have often remembered, re-discovered, and returned to their obedient discipleship of Jesus Christ-both personal and public-in times of trouble. It's called coming home,' Wallis reminds us. While he addresses the dividing lines and dangers facing our nation, the religious and cultural commentator's focus isn't politics; it's faith. As he has done throughout his career, Wallis offers comfort, empathy, and a practical roadmap."

As you might imagine, the reading of this book will be challenging. And I suspect the candid conversations sure to arise will not be easy either. Yet I know I always find the content of such books so much richer when read with you all. And, in the end, I always find my faith so much deeper, too.

I hope you will join me and others in reading Wallis' book. (The easiest way to get a copy is to order on Amazon.) I pray that one way or another we navigate the many difficulties of these times with a sense of God's presence and a grasp of God's grace.

Peace,
Tim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Seventeenth 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

Sign-Up Genius

Please Remember To Use Sign-Up Genius!

Now that we are approaching maximum capacity for attendance, please remember to sign up for Sunday Worship!

[Click Here](#) for Sign-Up Genius!

Blessing of the Animals

Join Us For Our Blessing Of The Animals On October 4, 2020!
Bring a Chair or Blanket and your Mask!
We look forward to seeing you!!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 4, 2020

Academy Field Behind Swift Gym

Holy Eucharist at 10:15

Blessing of the Animals at 11:00

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR BOTH!

Bring a chair or blanket for
the service!



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 Adult Faith Formation Study to Begin Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00pm

Our next AFF offering will be a study of Jim Wallis' *Christ in Crisis? Reclaiming Jesus in a Time of Fear, Hate, and Violence*. About this book it was written:

In *Christ in Crisis* Jim Wallis provides a path of spiritual healing and solidarity to help us heal the divide separating Americans today. Building on "Reclaiming Jesus"-the declaration he and other church leaders wrote in May 2018 to address America's current crisis-Wallis argues that Christians have become disconnected from Jesus and need to revisit their spiritual foundations. By pointing to eight questions Jesus asked or is asked, Wallis provides a means to measure whether we are truly aligned with the moral and spiritual foundations of our Christian faith.

"Christians have often remembered, re-discovered, and returned to their obedient discipleship of Jesus Christ-both personal and public-in times of trouble. It's called coming home," Wallis reminds us. While he addresses the dividing lines and dangers facing our nation, the religious and cultural commentator's focus isn't politics; it's faith. As he has done throughout his career, Wallis offers comfort, empathy, and a practical roadmap.

Please join us for what promises to be a timely and important study.

You can order the book on Amazon. If you need help obtaining a copy, please email Father Tim.

[Click Here](#) to join our Adult Faith Zoom Meeting on September 30. See below for Meeting ID and Password:

Meeting ID: 845 9231 9869

Password: 547580

Peace,
Tim

Youth Faith Formation

Looking Forward to Resumption of Youth Faith Formation Offerings!

September is almost over, and it's been so different than how things usually are this time of year. Our kickoff Sunday was great, but it was absent most of the things that bring a new energy and excitement as we look forward to our program year together. Amid all of the changes we are experiencing together, we are so *excited* to share our hope that Youth Formation will begin on October 11th!

Fr. Tim has put together an excellent group of people to thoughtfully consider how to offer formation in the safest way possible. Masks will be required, 6 feet of distance will be between people, classes when possible will be held outside, and we hope to establish stable groups. Keep your eyes open for more details on our plan from Fr. Tim! We want you and your children to be as safe as possible, and we are eager to resume formation classes so that we can *grow in hope and faith* together!

But we need your help. Please fill out a registration form for each of your children as soon as possible to help us plan for our classes. Even if you're not completely sure you'd like your child to participate this year, by filling out the registration form you give us a way to stay in touch with you as our plans progress. The form is online only this year and can be found [here](#). Questions? Feel free to reach out to Mother Tanya: tanya@stlukeseg.org or 684-2844.

Godly Play Volunteers

Looking for More Godly Play Volunteers

As we prepare to resume our Youth Faith Formation offerings, we are looking for some additional Godly Play volunteers. Volunteers typically serve one Sunday a month, leading the children through a Godly Play story and reflection time. A curriculum outline is available so advance preparation is minimal. A brief training before beginning to teach will be provided.

If you are interested, please email Theresa Deiters-Muscat, our Godly Play coordinator. Her email address is tmdbluejean@gmail.com.

Thanks so much for considering this important and fun ministry!

Women of Grace

Women of Grace

In October, the Women of Grace will meet **Thursday evening, October 8**. We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Tanya Watt, St. Luke's Assistant Rector, as our speaker/discussion leader. Mother Tanya will speak on creating a *rule of life*. If you check out The Episcopal Church's webpage on [The Way of Love](#), you will find some background material on shaping a personal rule of life.

Featured on that webpage is a workbook, *Living Intentionally* by Br. David Vryhof, which states that "a rule of life allows us to clarify our deepest values, our most important relationships, our most authentic hopes and dreams, our most meaningful work, our highest priorities. It allows us to live with intention and purpose in the present moment". Please join us to welcome Mother Tanya and learn about a rule of life.

Women of Grace meets once a month via Zoom. Each gathering begins with a period of fellowship, followed by the evening's discussion, and ends 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 any additional 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, you may email Deborah Collins (collinstn01@gmail.com) to add your name and email address and receive updates on meetings.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap (TOT) Kickoff **Monday Sept 28 7:00pm** **All men of St. Luke's are invited!**

If you would like to reconnect with church friends or just meet the men of St. Luke's, we would love to have you join us for the September TOT meeting, as we kickoff our 2020-21 year. While we'd all prefer to meet face to face, COVID necessitates that we meet virtually, so for the foreseeable future we'll be meeting on the last Monday of each month on a Zoom call (or phone call, if you prefer).

TOT is a casual group of St. Luke's men who enjoy meeting for occasional service projects, guided discussions and mostly good conversation and fellowship. Everyone is welcome and we all leave feeling enriched.

Click Here to log in to our Zoom Meeting on **Monday (Sept 28) evening at 7:00 pm.**

- Meeting ID: 931 5151 4923
- Passcode: 183714

Or dial in on a phone call: +1 646 876 9923

- Meeting ID: 931 5151 4923
- Passcode: 183714

For questions or suggestions, contact Brent Bostick: 908-230-7569 or brentbostick1@gmail.com

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

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