



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

November 15, 2020

In This Issue

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

[Sunday Social Hour](#)

[Advent Blog](#)

[St. Luke's New Fundraising Program](#)

[From The Treasurer](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Youth Faith Formation](#)

[St. Luke's Choirs](#)

[A Note From Deacon Christine](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Clothing Ministry](#)

[Theology on Tap](#)

[Especially for Children](#)

[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!

We have exciting progress to report on the Kitchen Improvements Project! The Vestry has approved the Committee's selection of Lofgren Consulting Architect to provide professional design services as we move into the design and construction phases of the project. We could not be more thrilled with this choice. Peter Lofgren brings with him a great team of engineers, commercial kitchen consultants, cost estimators, code consultants, and specification writers. As the best architects do, he takes a comprehensive approach to all aspects of putting a project together. He has already demonstrated a keen attention to detail in the coordination of all disciplines of design. Peter has experience in projects that include a commercial kitchen as a part of a wider scope - just like ours.

In addition to his relevant professional experience, Peter is also a longstanding member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Providence and has been involved in their food programs and kitchen upgrades. He understands the importance of our mission. He is also part of a committee formed by Bishop Knisley to look at the development of St. John's Cathedral.

After reviewing his proposal and discussing its merits, the Kitchen Improvements Committee was unanimous in proceeding with Lofgren Consulting for our project. We feel that his experience and approach are a great fit for our project.

We anticipate that the design process will last until February, with construction finishing up in May or June. As with all construction projects (especially renovations), timelines are subject to change. The next very important step is underway. Lofgren's team is inspecting the condition our premises as part of their "due diligence". They will provide a report of their findings along with schematic layouts and preliminary engineering design narratives. These documents will be given to Lofgren's cost estimator who will come up with

a preliminary estimate. This estimate will take in to account the project-specific detail these documents provide along with historical construction pricing and current market realities.

We expect to have this cost estimate by early December. At this point we will have a much better sense whether or not our \$450,000 budget is in line with our vision. Only after this pivotal point, and only after careful consideration by the committee (in consultation with the professional design team), will we proceed with the rest of the design phase. We are making every attempt to proceed soundly and realistically. Balancing budget, scope, and funding sources are part of any construction project, and ours will be no different.

And speaking of project funds, please read on for more exciting news from our Fundraising Co-Chair, Bill Warburton. As always, I have the deepest gratitude and admiration for the enthusiasm and generosity you have all shown for this project and the mission it supports. Thank you for being a part of it. We will keep you apprised of our progress.

Gary Schweizer
Senior Warden

Kitchen Campaign Update

Good news to share!! Our first Golf Tournament was a great success thanks to our Co-Chair Jon Jacaruso and wonderful team of Deborah Collins, Laura Sullivan, Pam Dresselhouse, Dick Kelly, Jane Brockway, Ellen Abell, Dottie Fleming, Steve Mendes and Eric Holmstedt. A special thanks to all the Sponsor's especially our Grand Slam Sponsor, The Family of Ron Clement. Thank you Sue Clement. We appreciate all the efforts of participants and volunteers.

Our starting goal for the Kitchen was estimated to be about \$450,000. With that as our goal, the following indicates what we were able to raise.

The final Golf Tournament numbers are in at \$28,238.

Deborah Collins with her gifted foundation grant writing has brought in an additional \$18,000.

At the Annual Meeting last January ,we received a significant gift from Al and Linda Potter. Additionally, we gained a total of 51 pledges totaling \$95,865. The Ron Clement Memorial Fund has also contributed \$5370.

With the generous support of St Luke's and friends of our feeding ministries, we have raised a TOTAL of \$463,474!!

Thanks to all for getting us to where we are today. What a true accomplishment, especially in a year of a pandemic. The Holy Spirit has certainly been guiding us.

As Gary mentioned, we will have a better sense of final project costs in a few weeks. So, we are not ready to consider the kitchen fundraiser closed just as yet.

Bill Warburton

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Twenty-fourth 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

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: 880 0556 4279

Password: 715610

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

Advent Blog

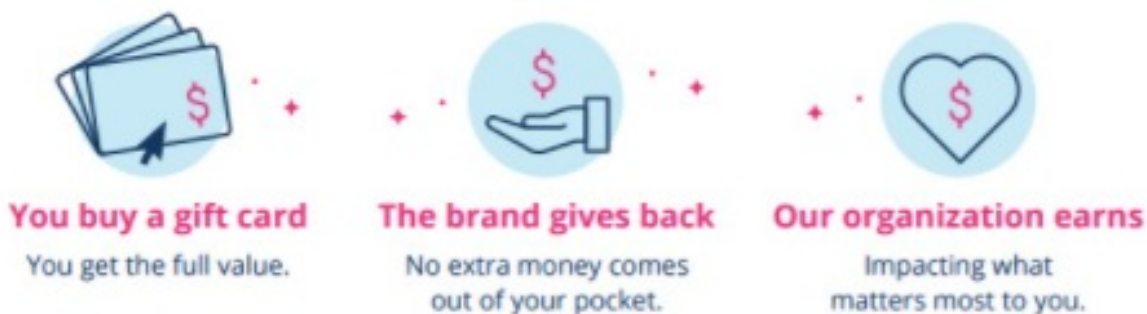
ADVENT BLOG

Each year, St. Luke's provides prayer and reflection resources for Advent. This year, one of those resources will be one we write! Our Advent Blog will be an opportunity for community members to read and pray with reflections written by their fellow parishioners. We are in need of writers! You don't need to be an expert or even have any experience writing about Scripture; just an open heart and willingness to share. If you would be willing to write a short (1-3 paragraph) reflection, email Mother Tanya at tanya@stlukeseg.org and we will send you a set of daily readings and some more detailed instructions.

St. Luke's New Fundraising Program

Giftng that Gives Back ... to St. Luke's!

Last week, we introduced the RaiseRight mobile app from ShopWithScrip. RaiseRight introduces an opportunity for each of us to support St. Luke's through everyday purchases, like grabbing a morning coffee or buying groceries and merchandise. With over 750 brands such as Starbucks, Amazon and Walmart, there are ample possibilities to generate additional funds for the church. Essentially, it's a three-step process...



So, please, add the RaiseRight app to your phone today and help raise additional funds for St. Luke's! Scan the QR code below to get more details on the app. Most importantly, when downloading the app, please enter the following enrollment code to specify St. Luke's as your charitable organization of choice: FEB88LAC73L81



Create opportunities for what matters most to you—right from your phone. Buy gift cards from 750+ brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's simply the right way to fundraise.



[Click Here](#) to view the Holiday Gift Guide and take advantage of increased bonus rewards during the upcoming holiday season. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting opportunity to support St. Luke's.

Thank you,
Mark & Susan Cordle, Deborah Collins & Jeremy Stowe
Your Faithful RaiseRight Project Team

From The Treasurer

A Note From Our Treasurer

The passage of the CARES Act included some useful items for taxpayers. *New charitable deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize.* Beginning in 2020, individuals can deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions from their gross income **even if they do not itemize their**

deductions. Donations must be made in cash to a charity. Gifts of appreciated securities, and gifts to a donor-advised fund or supporting organization, do not qualify. Although the permissible amount is modest, it is a new benefit available to many of our parishioners. The goal of the change is to encourage charitable donations in times of great need. If you're at the point where the new standard deduction is greater than what you can itemize, you still get to take \$300 off your gross income, possibly allowing you to give more!

No cap on charitable deductions for taxpayers who do itemize. Parishioners who itemize their deductions can usually deduct cash contributions up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. For 2020, that cap is lifted, and donors contributing cash to charity may deduct up to 100% of their income, a significant tax savings for anyone able to contribute larger amounts. Again, this is only for gifts of cash, and only for gifts made directly to charity (not to donor-advised funds or supporting organizations). If this applies to you, and for many it won't, remember the work that continues here at the St. Luke's, even though the building is closed. If you do win the big lottery, this would definitely apply J

No required minimum distributions, but qualified charitable distributions are still possible. The CARES Act eliminates required minimum distributions (RMDs) from many retirement plans in 2020. Some parishioners have been using their RMDs for tax-advantaged charitable gifts by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to charity. Under the CARES Act it is still possible for donors who are 70½ or over to contribute up to \$100,000 directly to a charity without paying tax on the distribution. This remains a beneficial way for you to make gifts to your church.

And, as always, thank you for all you do!

Mike Sullivan

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

AFF is offering 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. See below for Meeting ID and Password:

Meeting ID: 882 3875 2419

Password: 054059

Youth Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation

Fr. Tim has put together an excellent group of people to thoughtfully consider how to offer formation in the safest way possible. As we move through this season of uncertainty, we continue to walk in faith and hope. So that we can continue to be in touch with you as our plans progress, please fill out a registration form for each of your children. The form is online only this year and can be found in our weekly and on our website. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Mother Tanya: tanya@stlukeseg.org or 684-2844.

St. Luke's Choirs

St. Luke's Choirs Sing for You!

As a special gift from the Canterbury, St. Cecilia, and Angel Choirs to our St. Luke's family and friends, choir members compiled a special 'arrangement' of "How Can I Keep From Singing". The music is from an American folk song originally composed by Baptist minister Robert Wadworth Lowry in 1868 with the four-part arrangement published by Jeffrey Honoré in 1991. The choirs performed this piece at their 2019 Spring Concert and happily recreated that performance in this video (also available on St. Luke's website and Facebook page).



St. Luke's Choirs Sing For You!

A Note from Deacon Christine

Thank You

To the Saints of St. Lukes' Church from your Deacon,

"One secret of life is that the reason life works at all is that not everyone in your tribe is nuts on the same day. Another secret is that laughter is carbonated holiness". Anne Lamott

WOW!!! Imagine my surprise, when I saw a thick flowered envelope with 4 stamps from St. Luke's! I said, my friends are getting in touch! I miss you ALL so much. I attend liturgy, at different churches, it is not the same. I still have a huge hole where my St. Luke's community was. Please know that I send up "arrow prayers" when I THINK OF YOU!! Remember an arrow prayer is a quick pointed remembrance to God asking for a blessing to that person. In other churches, I see the Altar Guild, Usher ministry, Lay readers and I think of all the people at

St. Luke's working to make God present!

For all these Giving ministries I send God a thanksgiving prayer. Another of my thanksgiving prayers is for the gift of my time with you!! I learned, and grew in ministry, and I enjoyed our work - so much!! Thank you, Thank you, Thank YOU. And Thank You very much for the gift to the Emmanuel Day School, to my clergy fund and to some delicious Deacon hospitality on Aquidneck Island.

Here is a note from my journal the night of our Social Hour and my last Sunday with you on Zoom. "What an amazing call with the people of St. Luke's!! My heart is bursting with love and laughter. Carbonated faith + JOY + the challenge for all of us to keep living the Gospel!! "I close with that and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to send carbonated love to the community of St. Luke's!

God Speed,
Deacon Christine

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Ministry

[Click Here](#) for our new convenient way to request to add someone to our Prayer List. Our new form is also available on our website under our Parish Life tab and is available at the back of the church where the prayer list is kept. Our online form is easy to fill out or you can fill out the hard copy at the back of the church and return it to the office or put it in the basket on Sunday. The prayer list is updated weekly and available for all of us to view in this newsletter. The Pastoral Care Ministry continues to pray for all on the prayer list and send cards to the homebound and those in the hospital. By filling out the information on this new form, you will help us to keep in touch.

Thank you and stay well.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

Clothing Ministry

Clothing Ministry Update

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have had to suspend the collection and sorting of used clothing. We have also suspended our monthly run to Woonsocket to distribute clothing due to crowds and close contact, but we have been brainstorming other ways to help:

Connecting with other Agencies:

In October we stuffed over 30 bags of clothing donations from our basement and drove them up to OPEN CLOSET at 1520 Broad Street in Providence. The group there was thankful and welcoming for our donation as they continue to sort and sell clothing in their thrift store to support feeding ministries in their community. They do accept donations Monday 8-11, Friday 8-11, and Saturday 9:30-1:30.

HELP for the HOMELESS (<http://www.helpthehomelessri.org/>) - this group continues to distribute items in Woonsocket on Sundays. We are hoping to connect with them to create "winter bags" for Men, Women, Teens, and Children to distribute in early December. Our goal is to fill 30 bags for the adults and 50 bags for the children consisting of gloves, hats, socks, underwear, blankets, bottoms, toiletries, and sweatshirts. We have secured a grant that has

allowed us to purchase most of these items.

WHAT WE NEED IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP:

20 NEW SWEATSHIRTS FOR TEENS

SIZES: ADULT SMALL, MEDIUM OR LARGE FOR THE TEENS

These can be dropped at the church by Nov. 30th to be put into the bags.

THANK YOU!

Linda Wegrzyn- Children's Clothing Coordinator Ldwez@cox.net
Joyce Harvey & Caroline Sparhawk (cdsparharwk@gmail.com) - Adult Clothing Coordinators

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap (TOT) is in full swing this fall. We are meeting regularly via Zoom on the last Monday of each month. November TOT Meeting: Mon. Nov 30 7:00pm. Contact Brent Bostick if you aren't on the distribution list. We'd love to have you join us.

We plan to prepare and deliver a Holiday Meal to our neighbors who reside in the East Greenwich Hotel on the afternoon on Sunday 11/22.

Due to COVID limitations around use of our facilities and size of gatherings, the meal will not be prepared in Saint Luke's Kitchen this year. As an alternative TOT members will be asked, via Sign-Up Genius, to contribute items of the menu for delivery, fully cooked, to Saint Luke's on 11/22 between 3:00- 3:30. A small group of volunteers will assemble the meals for takeout and delivery.

If you would be willing to bring some of the menu items to the Church on the afternoon of Nov 22, please sign up on Sign-Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d48aeac2aa1fb6-totthanksgiving>

Please sign up by Tuesday Nov 17 - Thanks!

If you have any questions or are interesting in participating, reach out to Brent Bostick (908-230-7569) brentbostick1@gmail.com

Thanks,
Brent

Especially for Children

To watch Godly Play online please [Click Here!](#)

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:

Canned Hams, Mashed Potatoes, Chicken/Beef Broth, Vegetable Oil, Flour, Sugar, Stuffing Mix, Hearty Soups, Hash, Beef Stew, Spam Luncheon Meat, Canned Peas, Ramen Noodles, Oatmeal, Cake Mixes (Chocolate or Yellow), Chicken/Turkey/Beef Gravy

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.