



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

November 8, 2020

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## Stay Connected



Greetings!

I'm David Sampson, a member of the Stewardship Committee. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year I've had the honor of being part of the Commitment Campaign that funds the ministries, operations, and facilities at St. Luke's.

This year is different! It's been a tumultuous year that has brought us face to face with tragedy, divided us physically, and torn at the roots of who we are as people and a community.

If you haven't noticed, the Commitment Campaign is different too; it's more personal.

At its heart, the Commitment Campaign is about raising money to do God's work. This year it's also all about bridging the elements that have divided us as a community. The words Connect, Hope, Pray, Act, Give, are not just a slogan on signs and letterhead. These words were inspired by the times and have guided every aspect of the campaign.

The Stewardship Committee, the Vestry, and Father Tim have worked to connect with each of our parishioners with personal notes, we showed up at your doors with cookies, and we called if we didn't see you when we delivered the cookies. While we've reached out to spread the word about the spiritual foundation of stewardship and the Church's financial needs, we've also been listening. Listening to how you feel, listening to your needs, and listening to how we all miss worshiping together and working together in our ministries.

This personal connection allowed us to have conversations of hope and prayer. This was an opportunity to meet new people, see others we had not seen in a while, and talk about the church and our community. From the reaction of the people we talked to, we really needed this. We needed this as a community, and we needed it as individuals. I finished delivering cookies with a little more light in my soul than when I

started. I think others on the Stewardship Committee and Vestry felt the same way.

We're all part of the final element of the campaign: giving. Giving a portion of the blessing God has given each of us is an expression of our faith and love for this community. I hope you will take a moment to prayerfully consider your support to St. Luke's and make a pledge for 2021.

## This Sunday at St. Luke's

### The Twenty-third 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 Sunday

### Celebration Sunday 10:15 Holy Eucharist Service - Outside!

Bring your chairs, blankets and masks this Sunday -- we will be celebrating the 10:15 Eucharist outside, behind Swift Gym! (The 7:45 Eucharist will be held in our sanctuary.) Come, enjoy the music provided by the Three Amigos, and let us break bread together!

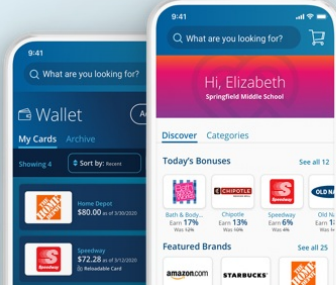
## Advent Blog

### 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@stlukese.org](mailto:tanya@stlukese.org) and we will send you a set of daily readings and some more detailed instructions.

## St. Luke's New Fundraising Program

### RaiseRight- Simply the Right Way to Fundraise for St. Luke's



Introducing our new mobile app

**RaiseRight™**  
by ShopWithScrip

Download on the App Store  
GET IT ON Google Play



### RAISERIGHT INTRODUCTION

During this difficult time, all of us have had to find alternative ways to make our resources go further. St. Luke's Church is no different!

Thankfully, there's a new, contactless, way to raise funds. "RaiseRight" from ShopwithScrip, is a new mobile App that makes raising additional funds for St Luke's quick, easy and safe. RaiseRight involves just a little change to your daily habits while using money you are already spending.

RaiseRight turns everyday purchases, like grabbing your morning coffee or buying groceries and merchandise, from over 750+ brands, such as Starbucks, Amazon and Walmart, into Fundraising opportunities to support St. Luke's.

The RaiseRight App lets you earn in just 3 simple steps;

1. Shop the brands you love. With over 750 retailers listed, you can always find the brands you need & love.
2. Buy E-cards for immediate use or physical gifting cards to use later. Some are even reloadable.
3. Earn for St. Luke's: brands offer rebates of up to 20% of the card's value, so earnings add up fast. You get the full value of the card, St. Luke's gets the rebate amount.

[Click Here](#) to watch the RaiseRight Video and 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

## 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!

*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

### **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!**

### **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**

**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: 850 4644 0470

Password: 211275

Peace,  
Tim

**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@stlukese.org](mailto:tanya@stlukese.org) or 684-2844.

## Pastoral Care

### Pastoral Care Ministry

**There will be a Pastoral Care Meeting on Wednesday, November 11, at 1 pm via zoom.**

**[Click Here](#) to join the meeting and see below for sign on information.**

**Meeting ID: 815 0533 2586**

**Passcode: 875054**

[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

## 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

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