



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

November 22, 2020

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## Stay Connected



Greetings!

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -- Philippians 4:4-7*

I was reminded of these words earlier this week when reading Jim Wallis' *Christ in Crisis?*. I find Paul's counsel to the Philippians not only uplifting but particularly meaningful, given that they lived in a time where uncertainty and fear abounded.

Wallis' own observation regarding Philippians seemed equally timely. He wrote:

*Nowhere does the text or the commentary suggest that Christians will not experience fear, but it does suggest that turning to God in fearful times and focusing on our joy and gratitude can help us get through those times. All of this is confirmed by both therapists and spiritual directors who tell us how gratitude is what most releases our anxieties and calms our fears.*

Our time today is not that much different from that of the Philippians, is it? We too are living in a moment with an abundance of fear and uncertainty-not to mention a fair amount of disappointment as well. And one could say that the irony, heading in to next week's holiday, is that the very nature of Thanksgiving only adds to our disappointment. Most of us will not be able to gather with family and friends around a table festively decorated and covered with our favorite foods.

It might be tempting, even easy, to let fear and disappointment dominate the day. Yet, as people of faith, we are provided words and ways to combat this

temptation. Paul's words call us to prayer - even, or maybe, especially, in times like these. He invites us to make our supplications (our deepest desires) known to God. And he challenges us to do so in a very particular way, finding a spirit of thanksgiving, despite our yearnings and disappointments.

Now admittedly, that might be a tall order, and taller for some than others. Yet we also are reminded that God is with us throughout it all, that "God is near." In the fear, disappointments, and uncertainty, God will meet us, God will guard our hearts, God will provide us with holy peace.

Without a doubt, for most of us this coming Thanksgiving will be different from any other. But there are some things that even a pandemic cannot take away. We, you and I, share a community called St. Luke's. We share an invitation to prayer, both personal and corporate. (You'll find a link to a Thanksgiving service of Evening Prayer posted on our web site by 4:00PM Wednesday.) And we share a God whose peace - and love - surpasses all understanding.

Will that make everything magically better? Certainly not. But it just might "release our anxieties and calm our fears."

May you have a keen sense of God's nearness even in this "socially distanced" Thanksgiving season.

Peace,  
Tim

## This Sunday at St. Luke's

### [The Last 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

## Virtual Service for Thanksgiving Eve

**A link to a Thanksgiving Service of Evening Prayer  
will be posted on our web site by 4:00PM Wednesday**



## Advent Blog

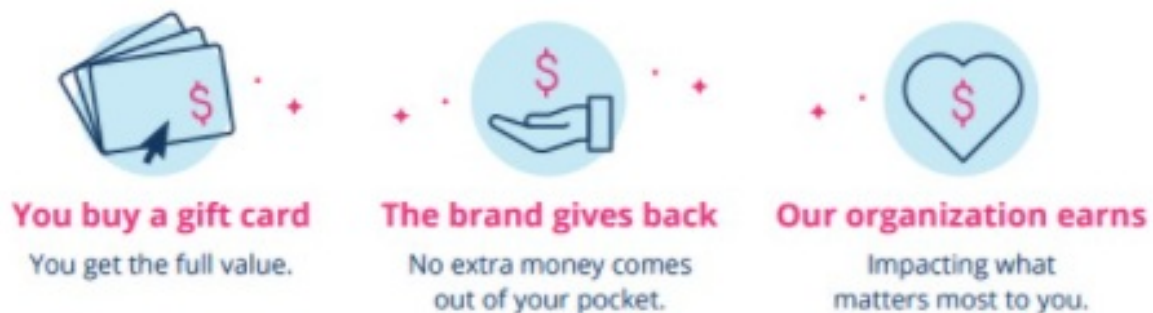
### ADVENT BLOG

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](mailto: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

## 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.

**Our next Adult Faith Meeting is scheduled for December 2 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.**

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

Meeting ID: 886 8796 5392

Password: 395498

## 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](mailto: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!

## Looking For Readers!

### Looking for readers! We want to hear your voice!

We have wonderful liturgical volunteers who regularly contribute to our shared virtual worship service, and we would like to increase our ranks! We would love to hear from more members of our congregation. All you need is a willingness to share scripture with your sisters and brothers at St. Luke's, a means of recording yourself (most of us just use our iPhone or computer!), and access to Google Drive or Drop Box. Christina will send you a reading Monday or Tuesday, and you record yourself reading and send it back to her by Thursday. It is such a joy to see familiar faces and hear familiar voices, especially while we are apart. We would love to see your face and hear your voice too! Please be in touch with Christina at [cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org) if you're willing to share in this important ministry.

## 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

## The Giving Tree



Our Giving Tree last year was a huge success thanks to all of your kindness and generous donations! Your beautiful wrapped gifts and monetary donations made it possible to help 14 families have a wonderful Christmas.

The year 2020 is very different and difficult for many families. We are asking for your help and support once again. The decision has been made this year to provide families with Walmart Gift Cards. With these cards, families can purchase gifts and food. We are asking parishioners to purchase these cards and either drop them off to Christina at the office or mail them to St. Luke's by December 10th.

Thank you for helping to put smiles on the faces of our families in need this Christmas!

Sincerely,  
Judy & Karen (co-chairs)

## 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:**

#### **NEW SWEATSHIRTS FOR TEENS**

#### **TRIAL SIZE TOOTH PASTE (60 ARE NEEDED)**

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](mailto:Ldwez@cox.net)  
Joyce Harvey & Caroline Sparhawk ([cdsparharwk@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Unfortunately, with the escalation of COVID 19, we are concerned that our plan to prepare a holiday dinner for the East Greenwich Hotel residents, may put people at risk. Sadly, we are going to cancel the Theology on Tap sponsored meal and try to find a safe way to provide some help and relief to our neighbors.

Alternatively, we do plan, during Thanksgiving week, to give a \$15 voucher for Jiggers restaurant to each of the East Greenwich Hotel residents so they can purchase a wholesome, delicious meal . . . on us.

If you would like to help out, you can contribute by sending or dropping off a check to the St. Luke's office made payable to St. Luke's Church with "TOT Thanksgiving Dinner" on the memo line, and that will help us help others.

Special thanks to the folks that had already signed up to bring Thanksgiving "fixings".

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

Spam, Small Canned Hams, Chicken/Beef Broth, Mashed Potatoes, Hash, Chili, Beef Stew, Yellow or Chocolate Cake or Brownie Mixes, Canned Fruit, Pudding/Jello Mixes, Pasta Sauce, Beef/Chicken/Turkey Gravy

Thank you!

EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

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