



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

December 20, 2020

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Greetings!

It's hard to remember, but our first snowstorm this year was right before Halloween in October. It was a beautiful, gentle snow. When I drove to St. Luke's, it was like I was driving through a snow globe, especially when I exited onto Division Street and drove under trees laden with glittering tufts. This week I eagerly awaited another round of snow. This time was...different.

The snow began to fall Wednesday night during our Zoom Adult Faith Forum, and I listened to the insights of the group as I stood by the window and saw the lovely accumulation begin. I went to bed sorry that I was missing the gentle sweep of snow. At about 1:00 in the morning I woke up to howling winds and the sound of pelting flakes striking our windows. I began to worry about whether our electricity would hold up, and every time I heard another whoosh of wind I woke up again, startled by the power of the storm. When the light of day was dawning, I went to open the door to let Daisy, our dog, outside. There was no opening her usual door, which had snow piled up against it, so I went to the front door, and she slid down the steps with snow up to the top of her legs as she tried to be efficient. I felt terrible as she scampered back upstairs and into the house.

We had some breakfast and some coffee, and my husband Tim started shoveling the front walkway. A neighbor came by with a snowblower and offered to help. Tim's parents live in Oregon, and his dad is always helping neighbors with his snowblower, and it was kind of nice to feel like there was a Jim Watt helping out neighbors on our street too. While they went around the front of the house, I took a shovel and went to the back porch and backyard, clearing a little path for Daisy. As I was shoveling, I noticed how this snow caught the light, how good it felt to be outside, how the cold air was so refreshing. So much of our life right now is about seeking to be faithful in the midst of uncertainty and ambiguity, but shoveling out space in our backyard for Daisy was concrete. The task had a beginning, middle,

Stay Connected



and end, and it was satisfying to see the outcome of my work. For the record, Daisy appreciated my efforts too.

The snow continued to fall, and the wind continued to whip around our house, but everything felt cozier after we had tended to our little spot in the world. It was reorienting; I had stepped outside of the worry and concern of the night before and into a world that was bright and beautiful. Sometimes my spiritual life can feel like that, too. I can get caught up in worry and concern but stepping into a different space, a space of prayer or meditation, a walk where I intentionally offer my thoughts to God, a moment of breathing deeply, can be completely reorienting. Our scripture tells us to not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow has enough worries for itself. We are invited to be present to the world around us, the world that is full of the grandeur of creation, the world that has good neighbors and good coffee.

My prayer for you, for all of us, is that when we find ourselves overwhelmed, when we find ourselves weighed down with worry, that we may pause, close our eyes, breathe deeply, and open our eyes reassured of the presence of God in our very midst.

Advant Blessings!
Tanya

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

St. Luke's Zoom Christmas Party

Come one, come all!

You're invited to the St. Luke's COVID-Christmas Party, 5:00PM, Sunday, December 20

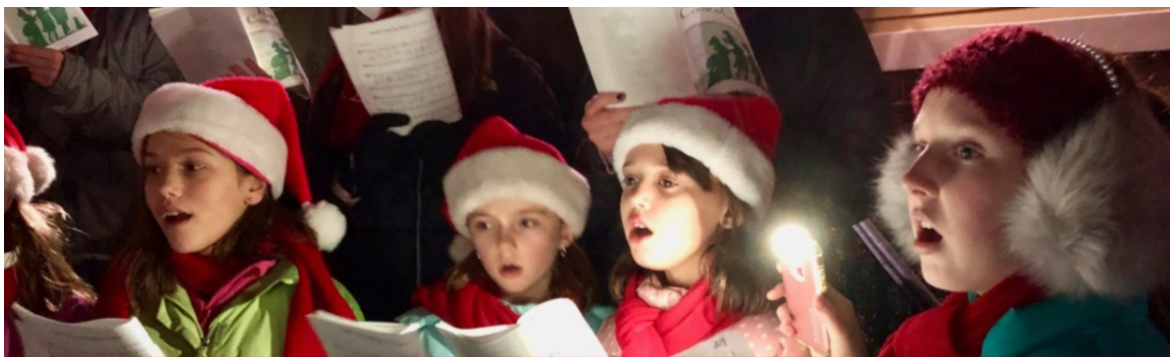
Zoom in prepared to share a personal Christmas favorite-- a favorite Christmas song (singing optional), a favorite Christmas poem (recitation preferred), a favorite Christmas drink (recipe required), a favorite Christmas drinking vessel, a favorite Christmas tradition, a favorite Christmas movie, a favorite Christmas sweater, or any other favorite Christmas tradition you might like to share!

It's only for an hour but let's see how many Christmas favorites we can pack in to those 60 minutes. And let's not let this Grinch of a pandemic steal our Christmas cheer!

[Click Here](#) to join our Zoom Christmas Party!

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ST. LUKE'S

Celebrate Christmas With Us!



Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

Join Us in Virtual
Worship, Reflection,
and Song

www.stlukeseg.org
Facebook & YouTube

- *Morning Prayer Services -- Each Sunday of Advent*
- *Daily Advent Blog -- Nov. 29 through Dec. 24*
- *St. Luke's Christmas Concert -- as of 5pm, Sat., Dec. 12*
- *Christmas Eve Day -- as of Noon*
 - *A Celebration of Christmas -- Stories, Songs and Prayers for Children & Families*
 - *Lessons & Carols -- Scripture Readings, Seasonal Prayers, Christmas Music, and Sermon*

From The Treasurer

A Note From the Treasurer

I was in the checkout line the other day, waiting for my turn to approach the register, masked and socially distanced by the stick on feet placed on the floor. It brought me back to the annual meeting last year, where our floors (and walls and many other places, so it seemed) also had stick on feet for that year's commitment drive theme of taking our next step. Who knew we would be trend setters.

October and November were solid months financially. Pledges and gifts have continued in your support of our Parish. With all the good news of vaccines coming, and a potential return to less sickness and a less restrictive lifestyle, there is a reason to hope.

And hope sounds like a pretty good Christmas gift for all of us.

If you can, please help us close out 2020 on a positive note.

	2020 YTD	Budget	%	2019 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$382,778	\$400,000	95.69%	\$419,131	(\$36,353)
Loose Plate	\$17,960	\$17,700	101.47%	\$31,321	(\$13,361)
Other Personal Inc.	\$65,165	\$68,819	94.69%	\$130,517	(\$65,352)
Total Personal Inc.	\$465,903	\$486,519	95.76%	\$580,969	(\$115,066)
Total Other Inc	\$110,133	\$94,533	116.50%	\$47,201	\$62,932
Total Income	\$576,036	\$581,052	99.14%	\$628,170	(\$52,134)
Staff Expenses	\$384,676	\$391,199	98.33%	\$408,644	(\$23,968)
Facilities Expenses	\$102,289	\$111,926	91.39%	\$144,990	(\$42,701)
Program Expenses	\$21,825	\$29,296	74.50%	\$22,739	(\$914)
Outreach Expenses	\$12,067	\$7,506	160.76%	\$7,036	\$5,031
Total Expenses	\$607,610	\$626,658	96.96%	\$668,302	(\$60,692)
Net Income	(\$31,575)	(\$45,607)	69.23%	(\$40,132)	\$8,557

Peace,
Michael Sullivan

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 or 684-2844.

Advent Blog

Advent Blog

During the season of Advent we experience the longing for Christ's presence among us, the call to wait and to endure faithfully because we know God is faithful to us and the inbreaking of Christ into our world is so very near. This year, Advent has a special resonance; we are enduring and waiting in a way that we never have before. As we live into this season of longing and hope, we are physically apart. But while we are apart, we are able to be together, to hear each other's voices, through our Advent Blog. We are so glad to offer a resource for reflection and connection with one another, to hear the voices of the saints of St. Luke's through their reflections on the scripture for the day. Our Advent Blog is just one click away. [Click Here!](#)

12 Days of Christmas Blog!

Our cup is truly running over, and the enthusiasm for our Advent Blog has spilled over into the coming season of Christmas. During the 12 Days of Christmas, we will have the opportunity to continue to hear from members of our faith community as they reflect on the scripture for the day. We have seven open slots for writers. Please consider contributing your voice to the chorus

of reflections! 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 she will send you a set of daily readings and some more detailed instructions.

Advent Resources

Other Resources For Your Advent Journey

From Forward Movement - forwardmovement.org

"Waiting and Watching"

"A Way to the Manger"

"O Wisdom - Advent Devotions on the Name of Jesus"

"I Witness" Kate Moorehead

"What Are You Waiting For?" Christine McSpadden

"Expecting Jesus" Danielle Elizabeth Tumminio

"Joy of Heaven, to Earth Come Down" Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

From Amazon

"Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from Henri Nouwen"

"The Soul of Christmas" Thomas Moore

"Preparing for Christmas" Richard Rohr

"Our December Hearts" Anne McConney

"Faithful Celebrations" Sharon Ely Pearson

Diocese Offering Blue Christmas Service

The Diocese of Rhode Island is offering a Blue Christmas Service

The longest night of the year occurs during Advent, this year on December 21. The Diocese of Rhode Island is offering a Blue Christmas service via Zoom on that night. Blue Christmas services recognize the deep griefs that people may be bearing while also orienting us to the promise of hope that marks our shared faith.

The Service will be held on December 21 at 7 pm. [Click Here](#) to join.

St. Luke's RaiseRight Program

Deck Your Halls with Dazzling Bonuses for St. Luke's!



Looking for an easy way to shop for and send gifts? RaiseRight ecards and gift cards will help on both accounts! Purchase now to lock in 'Dazzling Bonuses' that will earn up to 17% for St. Luke's. Not only can you lock in these bonuses for Christmas, but they will also apply for early shopping purchases you might consider for upcoming birthdays, special occasions, or general shopping needs. You can even purchase your Giving Tree

Walmart gift cards through RaiseRight! With new bonuses every week, there are ample possibilities ...



12%



16%



17%



10.75%



13%



15.75%

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



SCAN ME



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

Pastoral Care

Stained Glass Window Books and Note Cards

If you are missing church, here is an idea that will lift your spirits!

The Pastoral Care team will be selling The Stained Glass Window Books and Note Cards. They make wonderful Christmas gifts! The cost for our book is \$25 each or two for \$40. Shipping cost is \$2 if books are mailed to the recipient. The cost for our cards is \$10 for a package of 5 cards. They can also be picked up at the church office. Please call the office or email Christina, cimondi@stlukeseg.org, if you would like to purchase these. We accept cash and checks made out to St. Luke's Church. All proceeds go for the restoration and maintenance of our beautiful windows!

Thank you!

Pastoral Care Ministry

Prayer is a powerful way for us to support each other and build community. If you would like to add someone to our parish prayer list, please use the online Prayer List Request Form. It is available on our website under our Parish Life tab and here in our Weekly Newsletter. The prayer list is updated weekly. 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 form, you will help us to keep in touch. [Click Here](#) for our Prayer List Request Form.

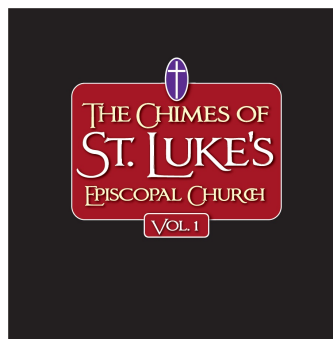
Thank you and stay well.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

St. Luke's Chimes

Another Great Holiday Gift Idea!

Many of you may have heard the chimes playing from our church tower on Sundays after services or on many a Tuesday evening over the last year. Now, a recording of 31 hymns is available on CD. Selections range from 'old chestnuts' such as Rock of Ages, patriotic tunes--My Country 'Tis of Thee, gospel songs--It's Me O Lord, to traditional favorites like O Praise Ye the Lord. Contact Christina Imondi, Parish Administrator, at cimondi@stlukeseg.org to obtain a copy. There is no set price--rather, a donation to St. Luke's would be gratefully accepted.



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!

Big Brothers and Big Sisters Donations

Big Brothers and Big Sisters Donations

In our continuing efforts to be a good neighbor and serve our local community, we have added a new addition to the St Luke's parking lot! The clothing bin is a result of joining in a new partnership between the Episcopal Diocese and Big Brother Big Sister of Rhode Island. It will serve as a collection point for community donations of clothing, shoes and other cloth items. Please drop off your bagged items at your convenience.



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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cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>
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East Greenwich, RI 02818

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