



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

December 13, 2020

## In This Issue

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

[St. Luke's Zoom Christmas Party](#)

[Celebrate Christmas With St. Luke's](#)

[A Note From The Treasurer](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Youth Faith Formation](#)

[Advent Blog](#)

[Advent Resources](#)

[Blue Christmas Service](#)

[Christmas Flower and Music Memorials](#)

[St. Luke's RaiseRight Program](#)

[Theology on Tap](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[St. Luke's Chimes](#)

[St. Luke's Choirs](#)

[Happy 90th Birthday](#)

[A Special Thank You](#)

[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](#)

Greetings!

St. Luke's Advent blog is such a blessing to me! As I sit to write this blurb, I have just read Paul Brooke's touching reflection. Much to my delight Paul referenced one of my most beloved scripture verses. "But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." I've loved this verse ever since hearing it quoted in the early 80s movie Chariots of Fire (now if that doesn't date me quite a bit!). When I was a teenager, my mother made me a beautiful framed cross-stich of this verse complete with a noble eagle. Since then, this piece of artwork has always hung in a special place, now my St. Luke's office. Stop by sometime to see it!

Advent is a time of waiting, and this year all the more so. I know we're all nervously awaiting vaccines and longing for less anxious days. The above snippet of the scripture is the final verse of perhaps my favorite book and chapter in the Bible, Isaiah 40. This chapter begins with the hopeful words "Comfort, comfort ye my people," words that Brad Logan sang so exquisitely from Handel's Messiah just this past Sunday.

Usually the thing that gives me the most comfort at this time of year is making music together with our amazing choirs. We should have been spending weeks rehearsing and preparing for Advent Sundays, the East Greenwich town tree lighting, a big Christmas concert, Christmas Eve, Lessons and Carols, and our treasured Christmas Pageant. Alas for this particular year, all that has been suspended for obvious health safety reasons. Yet in the midst of everything, we are still experiencing a powerful Advent, and I look forward to celebrating Christmas together, albeit virtually. But there will still be music!

Soloists and a few small groups are busy videoing for our remaining two Advent Sundays, two Christmas Eve services, and the two Christmas Sundays following.

## The Anglican Communion

### Stay Connected



There will be special music and also familiar carols for you to join in singing. And this year St. Luke's is honored to enjoy the world premier performances of two pieces by Cindi and Ben Lovejoy: Come Holy Light on Advent One, and, yet still to come, In Our Midst on Advent Four.

Beginning this Saturday, you'll even be able to hear a St. Luke's Christmas concert that was performed live in 2018. All of our choirs will be heard. I am so grateful to Deborah Collins for her monumental efforts to rework the archival video and bring it to us all anew.

As we wait and seek comfort this Advent and Christmas, I pray these various musical offerings may help us experience and proclaim "O tidings of comfort and joy." As Paul Brookes said, "Be encouraged. We'll be soaring again soon." I'll leave you with a phrase sung at the concert: "Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide." This gives me some comfort, and I hope it does the same for you, too.

To enjoy the Christmas Concert this Saturday as of 5 pm, [Click Here!](#)

Peace,  
Rodney

## This Sunday at St. Luke's

### The Third 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. Tanya Watt, assistant 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!

Look for the Zoom invite in next week's invitation to worship!

## Celebrate Christmas With Us!



## Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

Join Us in Virtual  
Worship, Reflection,  
and Song

[www.stlukeseg.org](http://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

## 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: 896 9347 8901

Password: 879379

## 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.

## 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@stlukese.org](mailto:tanya@stlukese.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](http://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



## 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.

## Christmas Flower and Music Memorials

### Christmas Flower and Music Memorials

As in years past, we invite you to remember loved ones this Christmas season by making a memorial gift to St. Luke's. Although services will be different in this time of COVID, by your generosity, they still will include the beauty of both music and flowers. Simply make out your check to St. Luke's Church and let us know both how you would like it directed and for whom your contribution has been given. Please submit names to the office by Sunday, December 13.

Suggested donation for the Poinsettias and Music Memorials is \$10 per name. You can email names to Christina in the office at [cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org) or [Click Here](#) to fill out our Christmas Memorial form and mail or drop off with your check to St. Luke's.

Thank you for your generosity. May your loved ones continue to rest eternal with the communion of saints and may God bless you in the weeks to come.



## 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 ...



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

### Theology on Tap Holiday Service

While TOT won't be able to meet this year for our traditional face to face Eucharist, we will still be meeting via Zoom on Tuesday Dec 15 at 7:00pm. Father Tim will be presiding over a special service we've designed to bring us together to appreciate the warmth and fellowship during the holiday season.

[Click Here](#) for the Zoom link. ID and Passcode are below:

Meeting ID: 938 9066 8175

Passcode: 316950

We'll send the Service bulletin and instructions out prior to Tuesday and, if you are not on the TOT distribution list and would like to attend, please contact Brent Bostick (908-230-7569 or [brentbostick1@gmail.com](mailto:brentbostick1@gmail.com) )

## 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](mailto: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

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

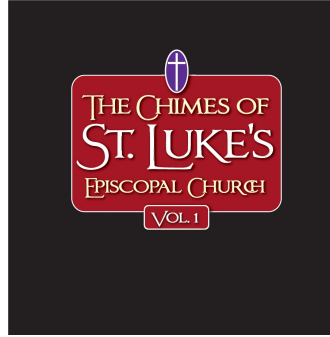
## St. Luke's Chimes

### 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](mailto: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!

## Happy 90th Birthday!

### HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY, TOM GREENE!

Many of us know Thomas Casey Greene, Jr., a lifelong resident of Warwick, living at Forge Farm, the birthplace of his famous ancestor, Gen. Nathanael Greene. Though Tom was born in Boston in 1930, he has resided at the family homestead ever since.

We also know that Tom is an accomplished musician in his own right, classically skilled at the organ, piano and harpsichord. In times past, he assisted with our choirs, and played for services on the organ. Nowadays, when we are open for worship, Tom customarily sits in the pew beneath the Casey family plaque on the north aisle, ponders the sermons carefully, and especially delights in the music, both instrumental and vocal.

Tom does not have access to a computer or cell phone, so he counts on snail mail and telephone conversations to stay in touch with what's going on at St. Luke's. Therefore, his parish family is in a position to surprise him with birthday cards! He'll mark his 90th birthday on December 15th, so please mail your well wishes to:

Thomas Casey Greene  
40 Old Forge Road  
Warwick, RI 02818

Thanks so much for your thoughtfulness as we celebrate our newest Nonagenarian!

Laura Sullivan

## A Special Thank You

### A Special Thank You!

We would like to send out a special thank you to Cindi and Ben Lovejoy for providing us with our lovely prelude "Come Holy Light" this past Sunday! We look forward to another piece by this amazing duo on the 4th Sunday of Advent entitled "In Our Midst". We would also like to thank them for the beautiful wooden heart distance markers along our sidewalk entering the church. Thank you Cindi and Ben!

## 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

St. Lukes Episcopal Church | (401) 884-4116  
[cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org) | <http://stlukeseg.org>  
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