



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

December 6, 2020

In This Issue

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

[Sunday Social Hour](#)

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

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Youth Faith Formation](#)

[Advent Blog](#)

[Advent Resources](#)

[Giving Tree](#)

[Christmas Flower and Music Memorials](#)

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

[Women of Grace](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[St. Luke's Chimes](#)

[Looking for Readers](#)

[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](#)

[The Anglican](#)

Greetings!

The altar guild put up the Advent wreaths around church last week and I was nearly overwhelmed by a wave of emotion-or perhaps better said, emotions.

I love the blue we recently adopted for Advent, and seeing that blue on the wreaths and pulpit hanging warmed my heart. Immediately I was reminded of Kay Carlson, who enabled us to purchase the new blue vestments in loving memory of her husband, Bob.

And yet, just a few moments later, as I lit the large Advent wreath for the first time, I felt a now familiar melancholy that often attends so many of my moments of prayer and worship. Oh, how I miss sharing those moments with all of you.

To be sure, I do believe we are still worshipping together, sharing in moments of prayer and song. But there's no denying, it's not the same. I miss your faces (even mask-covered); I miss your voices; I miss the energy and warmth and light that exudes from your mere presence.

This is an Advent like no other-the darkness seems deeper, the yearning for light seems deeper, too.

But there have been glimpses of light already-have there not? Ariel's solos brightened last Sunday's worship. Every day your blog writings are my morning light. And contributions to the Giving Tree ministry flood in, suggesting that the darkness of this pandemic cannot eclipse the brilliance of your generosity.

I want to say again that our sacred stories, as well as our personal stories, reveal time after time that God's light can-- and does-- penetrate any darkness.

I feel moved to remind you of this in part because of the current season we are enduring. And, truth be told, in part because I must announce that St. Luke's will

Stay Connected



remain closed for in-person worship throughout the month of December. The entirety of our beloved Advent and Christmas traditions will be available only online.

But, rest assured, we will continue these traditions.

On December 12 by 5:00PM we will post on line our much-loved Christmas concert. Deborah Collins has edited a video recording of the 2018 concert, and I have every expectation that it will get my toe tapping and my heart pounding as it has in year's past.

On December 24, by Noon we will post a Christmas Eve service planned especially for the children and their families. With music provided by members of the St. Cecilia choir, a dramatic reading of O Zoom All Ye Faithful, and an illustrated telling of the nativity story, I trust young and not as young alike will feel the "merry" in their Christmas worship.

And finally, again by Noon December 24 we will post a second Christmas Eve celebration, this one based upon the Christmas Lessons and Carols service of our Episcopal tradition. Like the service we typically have enjoyed the 1st Sunday after Christmas, this Lessons and Carols will include some of our favorite hymns and a handful of anthems (newly recorded) sung by choir members. But also, to these pieces, we will add my Christmas sermon because... well... I can't NOT preach on Christmas Eve, now can I?!

You'll receive email invites to these special offerings in the days before, just as you do for each of our Sunday services. So please stay tuned!

Will our remembrances and celebrations of the Nativity be as in past years? Admittedly, no. And truth be told, I expect I will feel some melancholy about that. But I also trust that I will feel great joy, too-- joy as I imagine watching, singing, praying, and celebrating "alongside" you all.

You know, it occurs to me that we just might discover something very special in this crazy time of COVID. We just might find that celebrating Christmas does not so much require Jesus to be born in to our churches. What it most requires, rather, is that we allow Jesus to be born into our hearts.

Advent Blessings,

Jim

The Second 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

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: 867 0659 8842

Password: 370893

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

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ST. LUKE'S

Celebrate Christmas With Us!



Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

**Join Us inVirtual
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*

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: 883 3479 4509

Password: 640711

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 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

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)

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 Saturday, December 12.

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 or [Click Here](#) to fill out our Christmas Memorial form and mail or drop off with your check to St. Luke's.

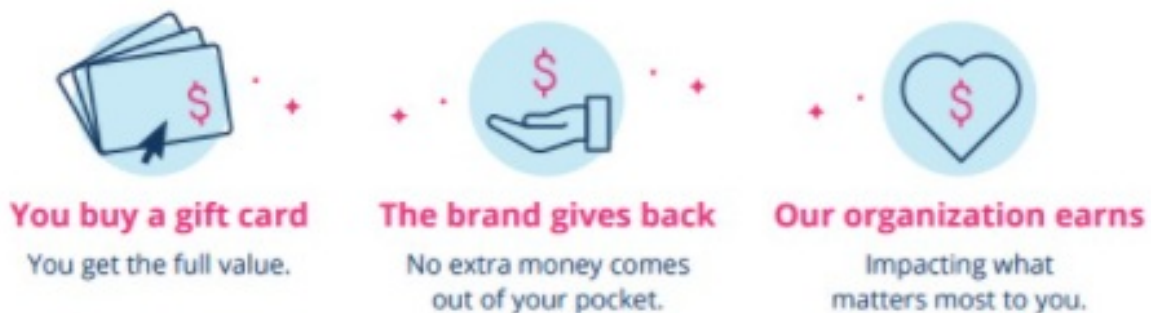
Thank you for your generosity. May your loved ones continue to rest eternal with the communion of saints and may God bless you in the weeks to come.



St. Luke's 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.



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

Women of Grace

Women of Grace - Sheer Poetry!

Women of Grace will meet on Monday, December 7, for an evening of poetry! For this meeting, Donna Leite, Jen Cormier, and Jen's co-blogger, Lori Ayotte, will lead the group in the creation of a community poem. This activity is based on Rachel Martin's Morning Edition piece 'If The Trees Can Keep Dancing, So Can I,': A Community Poem to Cope in Crisis . So, please, join us and energize your inner lyrical spirit!

Women of Grace meets once a month via Zoom. Each gathering opens with prayer and a period of fellowship, followed by the evening's discussion, and ends with a prayer or reflection. December's prayer volunteer is Laura Sullivan - thank you, Laura! We start at 7pm and promise to say our final AMEN by 9pm! Details for linking via Zoom and any additional information for the discussion will be emailed to the WOG list the week prior to the meeting. If you are not currently on our mailing list, please email Deborah Collins (collinstn01@gmail.com) to add your name and email address and receive updates on meetings.

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

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.

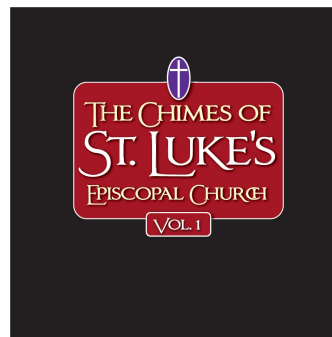
Thank you and stay well.

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 to obtain a copy. There is no set price--rather, a donation to St. Luke's would be gratefully accepted.



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 if you're willing to share in this important ministry.

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 | <http://stlukeseg.org>
99 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818