



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 3, 2021

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Stay Connected



Greetings!

I received a Christmas package from my mom and stepdad today, a week after Christmas. Mom mailed it on December 7th, but this is 2020, and so a card from my cousin in Hawaii took only five days to make it to Rhode Island but a small package from Arizona took 21 days to make a shorter journey. Inside the package were two sweet cards with some spending money, and a tiny package wrapped up tight with my name on it. Curious, I unwrapped the package to find a USB drive. My husband loaded the drive onto our computer to find neatly organized files of pictures from over the last 25 years.

I could hardly catch my breath as we opened the pictures from my high school graduation. There I was, standing with my grandpa who had traveled by train from North Carolina to New Mexico to attend my graduation. Grandpa was in the middle of chemotherapy, and he was too fragile for air flight. He and Grandma insisted they would be there, so they made the journey by train instead. We had driven a couple of hours to pick them up from the train station, and when he came down the stairs I didn't recognize him. Grandpa had always had thick, wavy, shiny hair. The chemo had taken that from him. We had no way of knowing it at the time, but less than six months later the cancer would take him from us. Those pictures from graduation carry joy and grief; I was too young and too full of...being 18 years old...to understand that it would likely be the last time I would see him. I wish I had treasured those moments more when I was in the midst of them. But that grief and regret taught me to not take for granted those moments in life that we can't get back.

A friend posted a request on Facebook today that we would share something good that happened this year. He's a Marine Corps veteran who is learning how to manage severe PTSD. He earned his JD this year and is studying for the bar exam. He is a dedicated husband and dad. He is a living example of the power of acknowledging pain and grief without becoming defined

by it. I read some of the comments his friends shared: some met educational goals, some met health goals, some are just glad that they've made it through the year. One of his friends got engaged. One opened a new business. One figured out how to make his business work even through lockdowns.

Looking at the joys his friends shared, I was reminded of something I once read: we become aware of those things to which we give our attention. If we want the world to be more beautiful, we should turn our attention to the beauty of the world. When we're aware of the world's beauty we share it with others, and the world becomes more beautiful simply because we've paid attention to what was already there. If we want the world to become more peaceful, we should give our attention to the peace in the world, and then share that peace with others. If we want to hear good news, we should do as my friend did and ask what good things are happening in the lives of those we care about.

Grief and regret can be teachers in our lives; we may not welcome them, but we can learn from them. 2020 has given us much to grieve and much to regret. I hope we can confront our grief and learn from it. I hope, too, that when you reflect on the year that is past you can also name something good that happened, something that brought you joy, something that changed for the better.

When I look for joy in this year, I don't have to look far. 2020 is the year that brought me to St. Luke's, a community full of faithful people seeking to love God and love one another. Thank you for being a source of light and hope to me in this year. I can't wait to share 2021 with you.

Blessings,
Tanya

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Second Sunday of Christmas](#)

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.

Eddy Lopez, preaching

Sunday Social Hour

[Virtual 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: 821 2523 6736
Passcode: 852310

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

Pledge Envelopes

If you have requested pledge envelopes,
they are located in the atrium.

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.

Epiphany Pageant

Epiphany Pageant

The Second Sunday of Christmas would usually feature our beloved Epiphany Pageant. While we are unable to safely mount it this year, I invite you to revisit the delightful offering from last year's cast:

[Click Here!](#)

I'm already looking forward to bringing back this wonderful tradition next year!

Enjoy!

Rodney

Christmas Blog

12 Days of Christmas Blog!

Our cup is truly running over, and the enthusiasm for our Advent Blog has spilled over into the season of Christmas. During the 12 Days of Christmas, we have the opportunity to hear from members of our faith community as they reflect on the scripture for the day.

[Click Here](#) to view our Christmas Blog!

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



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

Birthday Thank You

A Birthday Thank You from Tom Greene

Dear St. Luke's Family,

Thank you so much for the many cards and good wishes I received for my 90th birthday. I've lost count of how many cards came to my mailbox, but I am filled with gratitude for each of them.

I look forward to the time when we can all gather in person to worship at our beloved church, and I can thank you in person.

In the meantime, I wish you good health, and all good things in the New Year.

With deep appreciation,
Thomas Casey Greene

Pastoral Care

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.

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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