



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 10, 2021

In This Issue

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

[Pledge Envelopes](#)

[A Note From The Treasurer](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Youth Faith Formation](#)

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

[Happy Birthday](#)

[Birthday Thank You](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Women of Grace](#)

[St. Luke's Choirs](#)

[Big Brothers and Big Sisters Donations](#)

[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 Communion](#)

Stay Connected



Greetings!

Besides the banners and videos, one of the things I love most about our annual commitment campaigns is the focus on faith. We at St. Luke's have a deeper understanding that our giving is born out of our relationship with God and represents an expression of our faith more than most churches I have known in my 27 years of ordained life. I hear this in the two-minute testimonials. I see this in your generosity.

That statement of faith has never been more evident than in the past campaign-both as heard in the moving comments of Charlotte Palmer, Stacey Nakasian, and Ali Poirer, and as captured in the pledge numbers thus far. Amazingly, beautifully, faithfully, 178 members of St. Luke's have pledged an amount of \$432,782 dollars, exceeding by almost every metric our numbers from January 1 of last year! All this as we have endured the strangest and most challenging time in recent memory!

I hear in your pledges, just as I have heard in your many notes, an appreciation for the hard work our staff has done to be "the Church" throughout this pandemic. I hear in your pledges a deep hope that St. Luke's soon will be returning to our more familiar patterns of worship, formation, and service. And I hear in your pledges a renewed recognition that by virtue of our relationships with God and with one another, we can endure all things.

As I pick up my 2021 calendar and begin to imagine what is in store for us, I thank all of you who contributed so much in so many ways in 2020, and I thank those of you, specifically, who have made a pledge for the coming year.

If you have not yet made a pledge, let me issue this one last invitation. Currently, despite painful compromises, the budget we will approve next week projects a deficit, and we need every member, within his or her capability, to help us reduce that deficit.

I ask this of you hopefully, knowing the depth of your faith, the goodness of your heart, and the fullness of your generosity.

The other day, while reading The Book of Joy in anticipation of our next Adult Faith Formation class, I was reminded of a study by research psychologist Sonja Lyubomirsky. "According to Lyubomirsky...", the author writes, "... the three factors that seem to have the greatest influence on increasing our happiness are our ability to reframe our situation more positively, our ability to experience gratitude, and our choice to be kind and generous."

This past year, I have witnessed your great abilities in these three areas and often considered myself blessed to share life with you. While it is impossible to predict fully what 2021 will bring for St. Luke's, I have no doubt, because we will go through it together, the year will include considerable joy.

Epiphany blessings,
Tim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The First Sunday after the Epiphany](#)

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

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

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

It's 2021-- and Time for Joy!

The next adult faith formation offering begins Wednesday, January 13th, as we read The Book of Joy, an account by Douglas Abrams of 5 days spent with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. From these deeply faithful and profound leaders we hear such insights as, "The ultimate source of happiness is within us (His Holiness The Dalai Lama)" and "We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)."

Join us on Zoom Wednesday nights at 7:00PM to reflect on these pearls of wisdom and more.

While the entire book is worth your reading, we will focus our study by reading the section entitled "The Eight Pillars of Joy." Please come to class having read about the first two pillars beginning on page 193.

We hope you'll join us.

Zoom Meeting Information is below. [Click Here](#) to join!

Meeting ID: 846 7270 7828

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.

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

Happy Birthday

Happy 99th Birthday to Margaret (Gram) Pinney!

Margaret's family is asking St. Luke's Community to send birthday cards to help celebrate this special milestone! Her address is 32 Dye Hill Rd., Hope Valley, RI 02832

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.

The next Pastoral Care Meeting will be held on January 13 at 1 pm via Zoom. [Click Here](#) to join!

Meeting ID: 890 9747 8106

Password: 720103

Thank you and stay well.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

Women of Grace

Women of Grace - January 11, 2021

Women of Grace will meet on Monday, January 11, to discuss a reading from Mark Nemo's Finding Inner Courage. Facilitated by The Rev. Pam Gregory, our discussion will focus on insights to and application of spiritual frameworks. Join us in starting off the New Year with inspiration and fellowship.

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. 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 meeting logistics and resources.

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, Canned Fruit, Pasta Sauce

Thank you!

EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

Food Cupboard - Volunteer Opportunity

Recently, due to the cold weather that comes along with the winter months as well as clients physical limitations, the food bank has received several requests for assistance in the delivery of their groceries. At this time this is not a service that is offered. If volunteers are available, we would like to try offering this assistance on limited basis to clients that cannot come in.

This assistance would consist of picking up the grocery order that has been pre-ordered and packed, based on a list provided by the client. When required you would receive a call requesting your assistance in delivering them to the client's home in East Greenwich or nearby. Typically, deliveries will be made once or twice a month. The Food Cupboard is open on Monday, Wed & Friday from 10:30am - 12:00am. Pickup would need to be made during these hours.

Let me know if you would to be part of this outreach. I can be reached at smcloughlin2@aol.com, 401-225-5540, or you can leave a message for me at St Luke's office 401-884- 4116.

Faithfully Yours.
Steve McLoughlin

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