



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 17, 2021

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Stay Connected



Greetings!

I love Facebook memories. It's kind of nice to be reminded of the things I thought were important enough to record one, three, or five years ago. Facebook recently reminded me that this time in 2018, I was in the Holy Land. It seems like yesterday and like a lifetime ago. That two-week trip formed and transformed me in ways I couldn't have imagined. From seeing the holy sites to walking where disciples and even Jesus himself tread, it was a remarkable trip.

One of the cool things about the trip was being on the Sea of Galilee. So much of Jesus' ministry took place along that shore. My classmates and I got to go on a ship that was made to look like a ship from Jesus' time, and we sailed on a glasslike sea, looking at a coast that is largely the same coast Jesus saw, staring at a blue sky, reflecting on our journey. Two years before, my husband had made the same trip with his seminary classmates, but when they got to the seashore, they couldn't even leave the bus. As they sat in their seats and stared out their windows, an enormous storm came rushing down Mount Tabor to the Sea of Galilee, and a sea that had been placid a moment before began roiling and enormous waves began to crash into each other. He left that day with a new appreciation for how quickly the sea could change and how the disciples, many of them experienced fishermen, could have been so terrified when a storm unexpectedly churned the water beneath them.

I thought about that story as I was reading the New York Times a day or two ago and saw this:

"Margaret Kibben, the chaplain of the House of Representatives, opened a day of business Monday morning with this prayer: The events of last week - the destruction, the damage, and the deaths of our fellow Americans - are deeply disturbing. The seeds of discontent were sown across our country, and we have reaped the whirlwind. Almighty God, speak into this

storm."

What a powerful prayer, I thought. Almighty God, speak into this storm. I wasn't familiar with The Rev. Margaret Kibben, and I thought she might have been a guest chaplain, but when I looked her up I learned that she became the new chaplain of the House of Representatives following The Rev. Pat Conroy's retirement. Wow, I thought, what a time to begin a new job. Then I read more: she's a retired Rear Admiral, previously serving as chief of Navy chaplains and as a chaplain in the Marine Corps. She's probably seen a storm or two. She probably knows what it means to be faithful when the seas begin to churn and the wind comes racing down the mountain.

"Almighty God, speak into this storm." Her prayer has stayed with me, and I wondered about the God who spoke and stilled the waters, the God who spoke light and life into being. I wondered what God would speak into this storm, and my heart already knew the answer: Do not be afraid. It is what Jesus says to the disciples when they are on their ship and the sea is churning. Do not be afraid. In the Gospel of John, we hear Jesus say: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." This peace of Christ which we are given is not peace because of the world, but peace in spite of the world. Jesus lived in a time of deep political turmoil, of zealots and emperors, of the wealthy and powerful brutally oppressing the poor and powerless. That world existed before and after Christ.

But God became incarnate anyway, not waiting for us to get it right or for peace to exist before God would come to us. God came anyway. God walked among us and showed us how to love one another with the love God has for us. And Jesus gave us his peace, a peace that exists in spite of the world around us, a peace that calls us to live as children of the light, a peace that tells us: Do not be afraid.

Whatever today brings, let us remember that we carry the peace of Christ with us. On Sundays when we gather together for Eucharist, we share the peace of Christ with one another. We can share that peace with one another every day. It is that peace that dwells within us, telling us: "Take heart. Do not be afraid." The tumult of this world ebbs and flows, calms and swells, but the peace of Christ is eternal. Almighty God, speak into this storm.

The Peace of Christ be with you always. Let us

share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Blessings,
Mtr Tanya

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Second 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

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: 836 1511 2270

Passcode: 819273

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.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

It's 2021-- and Time for Joy!

The next adult faith formation offering has begun 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 pillars 3 and 4.

We hope you'll join us.

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

Meeting ID: 833 7776 2654

Password: 515388

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@stlukeseg.org or 684-2844.

St. Luke's RaiseRight Program

New Bonuses for You and St. Luke's!

The New Year and final weeks of the football season present new opportunities to shop safely and earn bonuses for St. Luke's! Purchase RaiseRight ecards and gift cards now to lock in bonuses for upcoming special occasions and football game-days. For example, every Wednesday this month, your purchases can earn increased bonuses on a surprise brand - just check the app for this, game-day and other special offers. With new bonuses every week, there are ample possibilities ...



11%



16%

TALBOTS
Established 1977

13%



10%



12%



14%

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.



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

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 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!

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:

Canned mandarin oranges, canned pineapple, chicken and beef stock, hash, kidney beans, Italian dressing, ranch dressing, vegetable oil, regular instant coffee, and beef and chicken gravy.

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

St. Lukes Episcopal Church | (401) 884-4116
cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>
99 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818

