



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 31, 2021

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Greetings!

Joy is the happiness that does not depend on what happens. It is the grateful response to the opportunity that life offers you at this moment.

- Brother Steindl-Rast, as referenced in
The Book of Joy

Each January, as we approach our annual meeting, I feel a sense of joy stirring within me. And the above quote really puts its finger on why. Every year, I find myself immensely grateful for the life and opportunity we share.

In truth, no prior year has tested the first part of Steindl-Rast's observation quite like this past year. What happened throughout 2020 was not easy; yet even as I am relieved to see the year come to an end, I am struck by the happiness and joy which filled so many of these past twelve months. Yes, we weathered trials from separation to loss (in many forms) which made our hearts ache. But even as these struggles presented themselves, we still found moments of joy to help us endure.

Which is why I am looking forward to our annual meeting. It provides us an opportunity to reflect, to take note of our accomplishments as well as to make note of our challenges. Besides doing the business of being the church—we will elect officers, vestry members, and delegates, and we will review our 2021 budget—we also will do the work of being God's people-- in this time, this moment. We will pray and we will imagine; we will care for one another and listen to one another; and we will focus our attention and energies not just on what has been, but on what might be... what might be for us as a community of people whom we know and love, and what might be for others whom we do not know but are called to serve.

Like most things these days, the meeting will be part familiar and part unique. The familiar things will



include opening comments from me and important reports from our treasurer and other select committees. The unique aspect of it all is that we will gather by way of Zoom. You should have received a Zoom invite through Constant Contact last Sunday, the 24th, and you'll find the invite again in the following pages of this Weekly. If you haven't received the invite, please give the office a call at 884-4116.

I know throughout the past year you have heard the phrase "... now more than ever..." well, more than ever. But I think it's applicable again here. Now more than ever, the joys of the church, the challenges to the church, and the possibilities for the church need to be understood and celebrated. So I do hope you will attend this year's annual meeting. It begins Sunday at 11:00AM and will conclude no later than 12:15.

2021 is filled with opportunity and I am grateful for the chance to respond to it with you all. Together, may we know that peace of God which passes all understanding and a joy "... that does not (simply) depend upon what happens."

Peace,
Jim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Click above for the lessons

Streaming Service of Morning Prayer.

Watch our worship service this weekend on our [Website](#), [Facebook](#) or on [YouTube](#).

[Click Here](#) to download a copy of the parish prayer list.

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, rector, preaching

St. Luke's 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: 889 7757 6106

Passcode: 860459

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

The 186th Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church January 31, 2021 - 11:00AM

The annual meeting is an important way to bring the parish together, review the work of our many ministries, share our accomplishments, and sharpen our focus for the upcoming year. It is also the time when we review our annual budget and elect officers, new Vestry members and Delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

In addition to the usual vestry slate, we also will be electing officers. The nominees for officers are: Gary Schweizer - Warden, Bill Warburton - Junior Warden, Michael Sullivan -Treasurer, and Deborah Collins - Clerk.

With the blessing of the Bishop, St. Luke's Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom in the spirit of good faith. We ask all parishioners to mark their calendars and join on Zoom, **Sunday, January 31, at 11am.** Meeting information is below:

[Click Here](#) to join St. Luke's 186th Annual Meeting!

Meeting ID: 889 1632 7934

Passcode: 029141

[Click Here](#) to view St. Luke's Annual Report!

[Click Here](#) to view our Annual Meeting Agenda!

Meet Your New Vestry Members



Sally House - Vestry

About ten years ago I arrived at St. Luke's to check out the choir, which a friend had told me was good. Throughout my life the choir has been the central focus of any church I attended: Congregational as a child and young adult, Methodist for most of my adult life, and Unitarian for a few years. The doctrines and liturgy mattered less than the music-until I discovered that St. Luke's and the Episcopal church's three legged stool allowed my questions and deepened my understanding of and need for a solid framework of faith. Now St. Luke's has given me much more than music and a spiritual foundation. It has given me a home and a caring family, and I am honored to be able to give back by being a member of the vestry.

In my previous life before I retired and moved back to the east coast, I was an elementary school counselor/child development specialist in Oregon where I lived for 32 years. I taught child development at Lewis and Clark for two summers, and was active in the Oregon Counseling Association and the Oregon School Counseling Association. I held various volunteer positions with AFS and the Girl Scouts which allowed me to travel throughout the state. While a large part of my heart still resides in Oregon, my daughter and two grandchildren now keep me firmly

rooted in Rhode Island.

Again, I am honored to serve on the vestry and will do my best to carry out St. Luke's mission and welcoming spirit.



Holly O'Brien - Vestry

I have been a member of St. Luke's since 2013 and I am an active volunteer for the Godly Play Program. I am a graduate of the University of Rhode Island where I studied Textiles and Fashion Design, joined Sigma Kappa sorority and met my husband, Andrew. We now live in Wakefield with our two lovely children, Sloane and Parker, and our adorable dog, Indiana. I am a Product Manager for office products and unofficial party planner for all! Whether at the office, a committee meeting or a family dinner, I try to bring humor, fun and a sprinkle of organization.



Tracy Sampson - Vestry

My husband, Dave, along with our two children, Lindsey and Travis, arrived in Rhode Island with the Navy in 2006 after a tour in Naples, Italy. Our family lived in North Kingstown for over 13 years, where I worked at Wickford Middle School as the building substitute teacher. I was involved with the PTOs at the middle and high schools when the kids were students there. Our family also hosted Filippo, a foreign exchange student from Italy, for the year in 2012. This led me to get involved with AFS as a host family and then as a liaison for host families and the hosted students. Dave and I are now empty-nesters and enjoy all outdoor activities like hiking, cycling, camping- along with good wine and cooking good food. I now work at Sweet Berry Farm in Middletown which is feeding my soul in many ways.

Upon moving to Rhode Island, our family had to find a new church family. Relocating in July and finding a church "in full swing" was difficult to find, because folks were at the beach! We attended St. Luke's one Sunday, greeted by Evelyn Brchan, who immediately took us under her wing. We knew right away that St. Luke's was THE ONE. The breadth and depth of commitment to serving both inside our walls and the greater community is amazing. I've been a choir parent when Lindsey sang in the choir. I have been involved with our feeding ministry, Mobile Loaves and Fishes. I headed up the Coffee Hour for a few years- took a break- and now I'm co-coordinator with Marcia Gladue. My husband and I joined the usher ministry a couple of years ago.



Bruce Stevens - Vestry

My wife and I moved to East Greenwich with our two young children in 1975. Being cradle Episcopalians, we joined St. Luke's shortly after our arrival.

I grew up on Long Island, New York. I attended public schools and after graduation from high school attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. My professional degree was earned at Thomas Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia in 1968,. After additional training and service in the Navy, we settled in Rhode Island where I worked in the Radiology Department at St. Joseph's Hospital until 2002, at which time I began doing temporary work at hospitals in several different states until 2012.

I remember being active in our local parish as a child. My brother and I sang in the Junior choir and were active in the Youth group, and I was an acolyte. My wife Carol was also active in the parish, and during high school we developed a close relationship that eventually led to an enduring love, and marriage after college. We have benefited from membership in St. Luke's in multiple ways over the years. We both sing in the choir, and I served on the Vestry when Al Burns was Rector, and took an active part in training our acolytes for many years, as well as serving on the Properties Committee.

East Greenwich News - Covid Vaccine Appointments For General Public

EAST GREENWICH NEWS

Article on Covid-19 Vaccination Appointments

EG to Start Vaccinating People 75 & Up

By Elizabeth McNamara and Laura Weick

First order of business: Vaccination for the general public is here! But, it will be slow going and, in East Greenwich, the town will reach out to you if you are one of those to receive a dose.

The state announced this week it is releasing 5,170 vaccine doses for the general public - the first such distribution - and 70 of those doses are going to residents of East Greenwich, Town Manager Andy Nota said Thursday.

The clinic already established at Swift Community Center will serve as the place of distribution (POD) for these additional vaccinations starting Monday afternoon. The clinic will receive 1,230 total doses of vaccine for the seven communities it serves: Coventry, Cranston, East Greenwich, Exeter, Warwick, West Greenwich, and West Warwick.....

[Click Here](#) to view the rest of the article!

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

Lent Blog

Lent Blog

Seeking writers! As we approach Lent, we look forward to continuing our seasonal blog series where members of our community share their reflections on the day's scripture readings. If you would like to participate, we would love to hear from you! Whether you have written before or want to try it out for the first time, this is an opportunity for us to walk the road of Lent together even while we are physically apart. We were blessed by the thoughtful insights and wisdom shared by our parish during our Advent and Christmastide blogs, and we are eager to hear from you as we approach this new season. Please contact Mtr Tanya if you'd like to join in: tanya@stlukeseg.org.

Women of Grace

Women of Grace - February 1, 2021

Women of Grace will meet on Monday, February 1, at 7:00pm. In recognition of the advent of Black History Month, our discussion will focus on the writings of influential Black American writers and leaders, including Isabel Wilkerson, Howard Thurman, Amanda Gorman and Mary McLeod Bethune. Almost 90 years separate the influential works and leadership of Thurman, Bethune and Wilkerson, with Gorman ushering in a new generation of hope and courage. Join us in hearing their voices and learning from their message.

Women of Grace meets once a month via Zoom. Each gathering opens with prayer/reflection and a period of fellowship, followed by the evening's discussion, and ends with a prayer or reflection. We start at 7:00pm and end no later than 9:00pm. Details for linking via Zoom and any additional information for the discussion will be emailed to the WOG list. 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.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

It's 2021-- and Time for Joy!

We are reading *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 7 and 8.

We hope you'll join us.

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

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

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@stlukeseq.org or 684-2844.

St. Luke's RaiseRight Program

February Bonuses for You and St. Luke's!

Chocolates for the kids, flowers for your significant other, a cup of coffee for a dear friend. Do all your Valentine's Day shopping using gift cards that double the love by giving back to St. Luke's. Also, check out the extra bonuses during Random Acts of Kindness Week (Feb. 13 -19). Purchase RaiseRight ecards and gift cards now to lock in bonuses for everyday purchases, game days and special occasions!



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

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Clothing 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.



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

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East Greenwich, RI 02818