



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

February 14, 2021

In This Issue

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

[Ash Wednesday](#)

[Lent Blog](#)

[Kid's Compline Service](#)

[Pledge Envelopes](#)

[Covid Vaccine Update](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Youth Faith Formation](#)

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

[Pastoral Care](#)

[St. Luke's Choirs](#)

[Big Brothers and Big Sisters](#)

[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!

"Here we are in the name of Jesus! In the name above all names!" the woman declared. "We pray that you provide all of us with courage and strength to represent you," the man prayed. "God wins!" the sign read.

All of this sounds like good stuff, doesn't it? Sentiments we Christians can cheer. Except the woman announcing her arrival "in the name of Jesus" was livestreaming herself entering the Capitol along with other insurrectionists. And the man praying for "courage and strength to represent God" was a member of the Proud Boys, a white nationalist group, preparing to lead the attack. And the sign announcing "God wins" was being held by the now infamous shirtless, horn-wearing man who invaded the Senate chamber. So it turns out, not such a good moment for Christians after all.

I read all about these individuals in an article entitled, "Capitol violence brewed by nationalism, conspiracies, and Jesus." Lest you think this article was published by some anti-Christian rag, I assure you, it was not. Rather I came across it in the latest Christian Century magazine, a biweekly journal with the tag line, "Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully." Hard to complain about that.

Actually, I was not surprised to read any of what they reported. I had heard on the news much the same in the days following January 6th. And in truth, I had heard a similar suggestion from a number of my friends, none of whom, I hasten to add, know much about the Christian faith.

Now, I know and you know that the words and actions of those so-called Christians who stormed the Capitol could not differ more from the words and actions of the Jesus whom we follow. But sadly, there are many today who are unable to make such a distinction. Oh, they might not wonder if we were actually in the mob

storming the steps, but they might wonder, even if to themselves, how or why we would describe ourselves as Christians when many of those climbing through the shattered Capitol windows identified themselves the same way.

Which speaks to a big, big problem we have. How do we signal to friends and strangers alike exactly what it means to us to be Christian?

Next week is Ash Wednesday, a day many of us will walk around with a mark that announces to all whom we see, "I am a Christian." And that day begins our long journey through Lent which, among many things, invites us to reflect upon just what kind of Christian we might be.

I do believe there has never been a more important time to make that announcement not just with conviction but with gentleness, kindness, and love. And as we hope to emerge come Easter from both chaos and COVID, there has never been a more meaningful Lent to reflect upon the very substance of our Christian life.

I hope you will join me in bearing the mark of the cross on Ash Wednesday. (Please see below for information regarding the many ways you might do so.) I hope you will join me in "... the observance of a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance." (BCP p. 265)

And I pray that the Christian witness we provide in the coming days will be illuminating to our friends and strangers, constructive for our country, and pleasing to our Lord and Maker.

Peace,
Tim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Last 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

Ash Wednesday

[Ash Wednesday Service](#)

Please [Click Here](#) to view our virtual Ash Wednesday Service

and [Click Here](#) to view our Ash Wednesday Bulletin!

This year, **Ash Wednesday is February 17**. Though our church service for the day will be online, we will be offering multiple opportunities for you to receive the imposition of ashes. Ashes, made from the burning of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday, signify our mortality and our repentance. As the ashes are imposed, we are reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. This life is not permanent, and Lent reminds us of the greater life to which we are all called.

We will be outside at St. Luke's on Ash Wednesday from 7:30-8:30am, 12:00-1:00pm, and 5:30-6:30 to pray with you and impose ashes. Receiving ashes will only take a few minutes, and you are welcome to remain in your car if you would like. Receiving ashes does not require a priest, and this year we are also offering small kits with ashes that you can either pick up at the church beginning on February 11 or that we can mail to you. The kits will include a small bag with ashes that have been blessed and a prayer that you can say as you make the sign of the cross on your own forehead or on those who share your home with you. If you would like to receive the kit via mail, please contact the church office to let Christina know.

You can also make your own ash for imposition of ashes. While it would be wonderful to use palms from Palm Sunday for this, during this time of pandemic, ashes from other sources are okay too. You can also choose to simply mark the sign of the cross on your forehead without ashes. If you choose to make your own ashes, make sure that the time is prayerful for you and other members of your household. The Reverends Jennifer McNally & Anna V. Ostenso Moore suggest this prayer and questions for reflection: *Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: May these ashes [or this action] be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.* When making the sign of the cross on your forehead, or the forehead of a family member, you can say, *Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* After the cross is marked, offer your own prayer to God. Is there anything you would like to let go of and place in God's hands? What does it mean to you to be claimed as God's own, in life and in life beyond life?

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

Please [Click Here](#) to view our Lent Blog beginning Ash Wednesday!

Kid's Compline

Kid's Compline Service via Zoom Beginning February 18 at 7 pm

We will be offering a new family friendly prayer service in the spirit of compline on Thursday nights at 7:00 via Zoom, beginning on February 18, crafted especially with children in mind.

Compline is a meditative night prayer that marks the closing of the day. During Lent, we are invited to consider giving something up or picking something up, and this is an opportunity for

families to pick up a spiritually enriching practice. (And we promise to be done no later than 7:30!)

[Click Here](#) to join the service! Meeting information is below:

Meeting ID: 838 6319 3679

Passcode: 136624

Pledge Envelopes

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

Covid Vaccine Update

EAST GREENWICH NEWS

Updated Article on Covid-19 Vaccination Appointments

Vaccine Info for EG, Warwick, WW, NK, Coventry, WG & Exeter

by Elizabeth McNamara | Jan 31, 2021

We know many people are eager to learn more about how they can sign up for the vaccine. Right now, supplies are very limited and there are no active appointments available. That will be changing and each city and town is handling the process differently. Because our readership extends beyond the Town of East Greenwich, we have compiled information about how neighboring cities and towns are handling the vaccine process along with EG's plan. We will be updating this as more information is available. If you have additional information, please let us know!

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

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

**Our Lenten Adult Faith Formation series will be on our regular schedule,
(Wednesday night at 7:00), beginning on Ash Wednesday.**

We will be reading *Seven Last Words: An invitation to a deeper friendship with Jesus*, by Fr. James Martin. Even the titles of the chapters are a source of comfort: *Jesus Understands the Challenge of Forgiveness*, *Jesus Understands Doubts about the Afterlife*, *Jesus Understands a Parent's Love*, *Jesus Understands Feelings of Abandonment*, *Jesus Understands Physical Pain*, *Jesus Understands Disappointment*, *Jesus Understands Self-Offering*.

What wonderful news! Jesus understands. We hope you will join us as we dive more deeply into this welcome invitation.

[Click Here](#) to join the meeting! Log-In information is below:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Password: 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@stlukese.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,

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!

Big Brothers and Big Sisters

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:

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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