



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

February 28, 2021

In This Issue

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

[Lent Blog](#)

[Kid's Compline Service](#)

[Pledge Envelopes](#)

[Covid Vaccine Update](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Youth Faith Formation](#)

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

[Women of Grace](#)

[Theology on Tap](#)

[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!

When?

How many times is that the first word to come out of our mouths these days? It might be followed by a variety of questions, but "when" seems to be the start of so many conversations.

When will I get the vaccine? When will we all be vaccinated? When will this pandemic be over? When will things return to normal-whatever "normal" is? If you find yourself asking any of these things, know you are not alone. I ask one or more of these questions almost daily.

Recently, the "when" asked of me most often is, "When will we return to in-person worship?"

If you heard my little "teaser" last Sunday, then you know I was hoping we would resume in-person worship come the first Sunday in March. But sadly, now, I believe we should wait. Yes, things are much better. Yes, more and more parishioners are getting the vaccine. All of that is movement in the right direction.

But, here's what gives me pause. To begin with, while we are solidly below the "red line" and our own threshold in terms of the "test positive" rate, we are below neither the state red line nor our own slightly higher threshold in terms of cases per 100,000.

And, in fact, when you examine these metrics relative to East Greenwich, North Kingstown, and West Warwick, you see that EG is actually performing worse than the state average, in terms of cases per 100,000. NK is doing a bit better and WW is about right on par.

Second, although I don't want to put too much stock in any one day, yesterday's numbers were not indicative of continuing the downward trend.

Finally, it seems to be a matter of time (if that

time has not already come) before the new variant now causing a spike in NYC makes it way to RI. Margaret Clifton, a member of our re-opening committee and the director of the RI Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education, suggests we will know better about the impact of this variant in another week or two.

So, here's how we will proceed. We will look at the weekly numbers which come out every Tuesday for the next two Tuesdays (i.e., 3/2 and 3/9). And then, if the statistics continue to improve (or even remain stable), we will plan a date for resuming in-person worship.

To be honest, this is not what I was hoping to write just a few days ago. I, like many of you, am eager to resume worshipping in-person. But this virus cares not at all about my impatience. Nor, frankly, does it care that we are now in the middle of Lent. The decisions we make regarding worship must be driven by this reality, as well as care and concern for all of you.

"When," a word which practically lives in the forefront of my mind. As in, "When we can safely open our doors for worship, it will be a good day!" And even more, "When we all can feel safe returning to church, it will be an Easter day, regardless of the time of year!"

Lenten blessings,
Tim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Second Sunday in Lent

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. Tanya Watt, assistant rector, preaching

Lent Blog

Lent Blog

Seeking writers! This Lent, we are 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. Please contact Mtr Tanya if you'd like to join: tanya@stlukeseg.org

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

Kid's Compline

Kid's Compline Service via Zoom

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

Compline is a 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 an 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

COVID-19 Updates: Football, Volleyball Get Green Light For March

by Elizabeth McNamara | Feb 25, 2021

DEM Director Janet Coit announced Thursday there will be abbreviated high school football, girls volleyball and unified volleyball seasons this year - with precautions - with games held March into April. All three sports normally run in the fall but were not allowed this past fall due of the higher virus risk level last September.

Coit's announcement, made at Thursday's weekly COVID-19 press conference, comes amid a passel of positive local news about dropping COVID-19 rates and related hospitalizations, improved vaccination rates, and even a \$64 million FEMA grant to help the state and cities and towns distribute vaccines....

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

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation - Wednesday Nights at 7 pm

We are 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. Please read Chapter 3 in preparation for our discussion.

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

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

Spring Bonuses for You and St. Luke's!

Add new colors, fits and patterns to your wardrobe this spring. Purchase RaiseRight ecards and gift cards to shop trending styles for the whole family and raise money for St. Luke's!



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

Women of Grace

Women of Grace

Our next meeting of Women of Grace is just around the corner - Monday, March 1 at 7pm ! Our speaker will be Doreen Putnam (www.dcputnamconsulting.com), a professional consultant, educator and trainer in the area of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. To prepare you for her presentation, Doreen provided this summary of what she plans to share with us...

What I Still Don't Know About Alzheimer's and Dementia

Unless you have had a loved one or someone you know who has had Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, you may still in 2021, have questions about these diseases. We will be talking about some basic understanding about dementia as well as the "10 Warning Signs" -- risk factors for all of us and what physically happens to the brain. Bring any specific questions you may have.

This is a topic of great interest to many of us, our families, and our friends. With that, Doreen encourages you to invite others to join us who might benefit from this presentation and discussion.

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 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. *Or, as Doreen suggests, if this topic specifically appeals to you, just email Deborah that you want to attend and Zoom info will be forwarded to you.*

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap

The men of TOT plan to meet virtually on Monday, March 1, at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

We are looking forward to reconnecting for some camaraderie and conversation. Please join us via Zoom.

[Click Here](#) to join the meeting!

If you'd like to join us and are not getting TOT emails, contact Brent Bostick at brentbostick1@gmail.com or 908-230-7569 and he'll get you added to the list.

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 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

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

Copyright © 2020. All Rights Reserved.