



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

February 7, 2021

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Greetings!

Our liturgical calendar continues to move forward, and we are nearing the season of Lent. In the service for Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, our Book of Common Prayer reminds us that we all have the need to continually renew our commitment to repentance and faith. Because of this, we are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." The Greek word for repentance, metanoia, means a conversion of heart. Metanoia is about reflection and transformation, something beautiful and holy to which we all are called. Repentance is always met with abundant grace and mercy from our God who loves us and knows each of us by name. There is never a moment in which we do not need that grace and mercy, and we are always called to share that grace and mercy with others as freely as it has been given to us. This coming season invites us into deep reflection and transformation in a special way.

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. Ostensio 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?

This season invites us into deep reflection and contemplation. We will get to learn from the wisdom and insight of our community members through our parish **Lenten blog**, which will run from Ash Wednesday through Easter. Following the pattern of our Advent and Christmastide blogs, each post will offer a reflection on the scripture readings for the day and be accompanied by a picture. We are seeking writers, so if you'd like to participate, please reach out to me!
(tanya@stlukeseg.org)

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.* Jesus understands. Thanks be to God.

Finally, 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. Compline is a meditative night prayer that marks the closing of the day, and our prayer service has been crafted specifically with children in mind. 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 spiritual practice. (And we promise to be done no later than 7:30!)

Whether we are apart or together, we are members of the Body of Christ, and I am so grateful to be walking this path of faith with each of you. I look forward to our shared Lent. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions: tanya@stlukeseg.org

May God bless and keep you.

Warmly,
Mtr Tanya

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Fifth 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!

Pledge Envelopes

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

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!

Thank You Letter

Thank You Letter Showing The Impact Of Your Generosity



CENTRAL FALLS FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY FOUNDATION
30 Washington Street
Central Falls, RI 02863
(401) 226-0764 Fax (401) 226-0764
FSSFOUNDATION@CFHOUSING.ORG

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
99 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818

January 26, 2021

Dear Reverend Rich:

The Central Falls Family Self-Sufficiency Foundation would like to express sincere gratitude to St. Luke's Episcopal Church for **making a special collection on our behalf during the holidays**. We are moved by the generosity of your congregation.

In 2019, the Foundation created a food pantry program in response to the hunger and food insecurity so prevalent in the city of Central Falls. The pantry offers food and other basic necessities for anyone struggling with lack of proper nutrition and hygiene products. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the food pantry program grew considerably in order to assist Central Falls residents to the highest degree. In 2020, we were privileged to deliver over **10,000** pounds of food to our most disadvantaged Central Falls community members.

In our efforts to prevent homelessness, we've been able to provide rental assistance and hotel vouchers to struggling residents. Our newest endeavor allows Central Falls residents access to the COVID-19 vaccine through administration of clinics within the city.

On behalf of the Foundation's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers –THANK YOU for your commitment to supporting "good work". And thank you for helping the FSS Foundation continue to serve the people of Central Falls.

Sincerely,

Bridgett M. Duquette
Executive Director
The Central Falls Housing Authority
The Central Falls Family Self-Sufficiency Foundation
30 Washington Street
Central Falls, RI 02863
(401) 244-7402 Tel/Fax

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,
Mark & Susan Cordle, Deborah Collins & Jeremy Stowe
Your Faithful RaiseRight Project Team

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Ministry

The next Pastoral Care Meeting will take place on February 10 at 1 pm via Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 815 0533 2586

Password: 875054

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

cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>
99 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818

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