



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

April 4, 2021

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Stay Connected

Greetings!

One of the gifts of our soft reopening is that confirmation classes have begun. We are able to meet largely in-person, with a virtual option available, and it has been a joy to spend time with some of the teenagers in our church. The auditorium is set up with chairs spread out in a large circle, and the windows are open, so it is always a little chilly. We're all wearing our masks, which means I've had to meet everyone multiple times before I could be sure who they were, but they've humored me as I've learned. Our curriculum is called Confirm, not Conform, and our first classes have been centered around thinking through what we believe, not as a church, but as individuals. Most of us know that this is a lifelong process- as we grow and gain life experiences, our beliefs sometimes change.

In one of my systematics classes in seminary, where we think through theology and philosophy, my professor showed us a diagram he'd drawn of his beliefs ten years ago, and then a diagram he'd drawn of his beliefs that year. His core commitments remained the same, but many of the beliefs around those core commitments had changed. He explained that one of the marks of a thoughtful, engaged life is that we adjust our beliefs as we learn and grow. It was quite a relief, to be honest. We don't have to have everything figured out, and it is okay if we change our minds as we encounter compelling arguments we hadn't considered before.

In our most recent confirmation class at St. Luke's, we talked about heresy, those beliefs that are strongly at odds with established customs or points of view. We talked about heresies that have turned out to be the truth, like the Earth revolving around the sun and not vice versa, and we talked about heresies that have been utterly rejected by the Church, like saying that Christ was only human or only divine and not both. Our conversation moved to how Jesus was considered heretical by some in his own time, befriending sinners and outcasts, healing on the sabbath, teaching with



authority. As we reflected together during our class, I was reminded of the debt that I owe the women who came before me who, though called heretics by some, insisted that their call to ordained ministry was real. Because of their persistence, I am able to live into my vocation today.

In my earlier faith life, when I asked questions I was often shut down by people who would tell me, in one form or another, that my question was heretical. It was a way to bring the conversation to an end, like a door slamming shut. For them, there was one right way of believing, and it was important to firmly close any doors that veered from that one right way. In the Episcopal Church, we have core commitments, and then we have a lot of variation in belief around those core commitments. Rather than emphasizing one right way, we emphasize the importance of praying and worshiping together. As we pray and worship together, so we are the body of Christ in the world together. Questions are okay, and we are invited to journey together as we grow in faith and love.

As we have walked through Holy Week, I have reflected a lot on the idea of heresy, on how Jesus lived in a way that was often utterly at odds with the system of belief for his time, of how the King of Creation took the form of a slave, the lowest of all stations in the Roman empire. In one of our Passion narratives, he is found dining at the house of Simon the leper, an act that would have been considered horrific to some. And then the most horrifying act of all, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. In Jesus' time, it was unimaginable that the Son of God would be someone who could die, and even more unimaginable that he could die in such a brutal way. The idea that the messiah could die strongly went against established beliefs, perhaps it was such a heresy that few could believe it to be true.

On this Good Friday, I invite you to sit with me in the discomfort of knowing that our Messiah utterly upended the order of his time, radically loving, forgiving, and healing those he encountered, and ultimately died for those acts. There is a King who could have saved himself but chose instead to submit to God the Father, loving us to the end, knowing that the truth would set us free.

Blessings on this holy day,
Mtr. Tanya

Click above for the lessons

Streaming Service of Morning Prayer:

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

Livestream In-Person Services:

Our Livestream In-Person Services are also available on our Facebook Page. You don't have to have a Facebook account to join us. [Click Here](#) to access our page. If you have a Facebook account and you like our page, (click the button with the "thumbs up"), you'll be notified when our livestreams begin. It is our shared prayer and worship that binds us together as the body of Christ in this world, and we look forward to you joining us!

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

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, rector, preaching

St. Luke's Easter Social Hour

Virtual Easter 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!

Reopening Announcement

Father Tim Announces Our Reopening!

We are so excited to welcome everyone back to St. Luke's!

Please [Click Here](#) to read Father Tim's Reopening Letter to the parish!

[Click Here](#) to view Father Tim's video message!

To Sign Up for Sunday Services using Sign-Up Genius, please
[Click Here!](#) for our April Sign-Up Genius

We will also be using a QR Code for our Sunday Bulletin which can be scanned by using a SmartPhone! This will give worshipers the option to view our bulletin on their phone during Sunday Service or to print the bulletin and bring it to the church.

We will provide hard copies as well.

Here Is The Sunday Bulletin QR Code:



OR

[Click Here](#) to view our Sunday Bulletin!

Holy Week Schedule

JOURNEY WITH US TO EASTER AT ST. LUKE'S HOLY WEEK 2021

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 28 • 7:45AM & 10:15AM
OR WATCH OUR VIRTUAL SERVICE

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST

MARCH 29 - 31 • 7PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY EUCHARIST & STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

APRIL 1 • 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY
TRADITIONAL SERVICE FROM THE
BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

APRIL 2 • 12NOON

GOOD FRIDAY
TAIZÉ SERVICE

APRIL 2 • 7PM

EASTER DAY SERVICES

APRIL 4 • 7:30AM IN CHURCH
9:00AM BEHIND SWIFT GYM
(BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR OR BLANKET)
11:00AM IN CHURCH
& LIVESTREAMED

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS SEATING IS LIMITED

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR SERVICES USING SIGNUP GENIUS ON OUR WEBSITE

HOLY WEEK SERVICES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED

& AVAILABLE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

99 PEIRCE ST. • 401.884.4116 • WWW.STLUKESEG.ORG

Lent Blog

Lent Blog

Members of St. Luke's are offering wonderful reflections on scripture readings for each day of Lent. They are posted to our **Exploring Your Faith** webpage and **Facebook**. Our blog offers the opportunity to walk the road of Lent together even while we are physically apart.

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

Kid's Compline

Kid's Compline Service via Zoom

Resuming on Thursday, April 8, at 7:00 pm, we are offering a family friendly prayer service in the spirit of compline, crafted especially with children in mind. Compline is a night prayer that marks the closing of the day. It's great to have the chance to pray and think about scripture together, and we'd love to have you join us!

[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.

Treasurer Announcement

From The Treasurer!

	2021 YTD	Budget	%	2020 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$113,826	\$116,000	98.13%	\$105,827	\$7,999
Loose Plate	\$1,549	\$3,600	43.03%	\$5,597	(\$4,048)
Other Personal Inc.	\$15,737	\$10,592	148.57%	\$15,198	\$539
Total Personal Inc.	\$131,112	\$130,192	100.71%	\$126,622	\$4,490
Total Other Inc	\$66,437	\$70,097	94.78%	\$4,255	\$62,182
Total Income	\$197,549	\$200,289	98.63%	\$130,877	\$66,672
Staff Expenses	\$72,533	\$74,795	96.98%	\$73,072	(\$539)
Facilities Expenses	\$13,231	\$19,170	69.02%	\$27,545	(\$14,314)
Program Expenses	\$2,489	\$5,750	43.29%	\$4,054	(\$1,565)
Outreach Expenses	\$1,769	\$369	479.40%	\$184	\$1,585
Total Expenses	\$105,403	\$113,400	92.95%	\$122,169	(\$16,766)
Net Income	\$92,146	\$86,889	106.05%	\$8,708	\$83,438

With a big thank you to all of you, we've had a strong start to 2021. Throw in the PPP loan and controlled spending, and we're right where we should be.

And can you sense the change in seasons? Optimism is in the air!

The weather is warming up, the vaccines are being rolled out, and we will be worshipping together on March 21.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Women of Grace - April 12th Meeting Features Sacred Harp Music

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 12, at 7pm - please mark your calendars! We are excited to welcome Sally House and her daughter Kelly, who will be sharing their experience with and knowledge of Sacred Harp music. Sacred Harp, or shape-note music, is deeply rooted in American history, originating in New England between the late 1700s and early 1800s and carried on to the South. Please be sure to join us and invite friends to hear and learn about this inclusive form of singing and its resurgence today.

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 and posted in the St. Luke's Weekly 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.

Theology on Tap

Theology On Tap

The men of TOT plan to meet virtually on **Monday, April 5, at 7 pm**. Mark your calendars! We are looking forward to reconnecting for some camaraderie and conversation.

Click Here to join our meeting! Please find meeting information below:

Meeting ID: 939 3309 6043

Passcode: 694680

If you would 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.

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

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!](#)

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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