



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

May 2, 2021

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Greetings!

I know I've written before about how much I love our confirmation class. We have a great group of teens, and every week we're challenged to think more deeply about our theology. Last week we talked about pain, and how pain can be transformed into purpose and even power. Our Christian faith is driven by this: we know the crushing pain of Good Friday, when we remember that the Messiah was brutally put to death, *and* we know that the death of Jesus is not the final word. The tomb is empty! Jesus Christ is resurrected, and we are called to be people of that resurrection; we proclaim that new life can emerge from the most unexpected places. There are so many times that this pattern is replicated in our own lives; there is pain and there is grief, but that pain and grief is not the final word. Our pain can become a source of transformative power when it is grounded in a sense of faith and hope that comes from knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

As I prepared for our confirmation class, I thought of Philonise Floyd, George Floyd's brother. It's hard to imagine his grief. His big brother, the patriarch of his family, was brutally killed by another man. Nothing, no amount of money, no guilty verdict will bring his brother back. In an [interview with the Washington Post](#), Philonise shared his sadness in learning about all of the hardships his brother had privately endured: an unending grief over the loss of their mother, an addiction to painkillers, an overdose that he struggled with just two months before his death. In the interview, he wonders if he could have done more to help his beloved brother. That grief is so deeply personal. But that terrible grief is not the final word in his story.

The interviewer spent time with the family during the Chauvin trial, and he noticed that Philonise is now stepping into the role of patriarch. When some family members could not bear to be in the courtroom because of the terrible weight of the testimony they were hearing, Philonise took their seats. Sometimes he could not stop

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crying, but he was present. When he speaks to reporters, he has begun to situate his deep personal grief in a much bigger story, a story of injustice in America, of the many times that racism has claimed the lives of our brothers and sisters but there were no video cameras to capture the moments and so their families did not see justice. His pain is something he never would have chosen, but his pain is driving him and giving him purpose. He stood with Daunte Wright's mother, the mother of the Black man who was shot by a police officer just miles away from the courtroom. Philonise lamented Daunte's death, and then he said: "...we will fight for justice for this family, just like we are fighting for our brother." Then he turned to our common humanity, saying: "In times like these, people need hugs. People need to be given love."

In his book *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, Bishop Curry reminds us that: "God may be the source of love, but people are often the vessels." It felt like Philonise was speaking straight from the heart when he sought both justice and love. His brother is more than a symbol, he was a man whose life did not need to end in the terrible way it did. Daunte Wright's mother was thrust into the spotlight in her moment of deepest grief. Her son was not just another Black man killed by police. He was her boy. And as she grieves, she needs love. Love that is present with her in her pain, love that does not abandon her, love that wants the best for her. That is the love of God, the love that we are freely given and called to freely share with one another.

Pain can be transformative. It can open in us wells of compassion and generosity as we become more empathetic. Pain can show us our limits and make us aware that everyone has them. Pain can motivate us to try to rectify wrongs, to try to make the world more just and fair. When we love one another through our pain, that pain can become a source of community and deep friendship. Our God knows our pain intimately. We are never alone or abandoned in our grief; God is always with us. Let us walk gently with one another, encouraging one another, seeking the best for one another. Let us share the transformational love of God with one another, the love that amplifies our joy and carries us through our pain.

Blessings,
Mtr. Tanya

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Fifth Sunday of Easter](#)

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 10:15 Service:

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. Tanya Watt, assistant 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 our 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 May 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 worshippers 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!

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

The Adult Faith Formation Group is reading *Love Is the Way*, by our presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry. About this book the Archbishop of Canterbury writes, "Drawing on his own life and experiences, (Curry) shows us that time and time again, when love is threatened by circumstances-- be it poverty, racism, violence, injustice, or the abuse of power-- that same love has the power to shine through."

Come and celebrate the Easter season with us by reflecting upon the power of this love to change our lives.

As in recent months, the class will meet over Zoom on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30PM. Please read Chapter 10 in preparation for our first meeting. And, as always, expense should be no obstacle to participation. If you need assistance in acquiring the book, let Tim or Tanya know.

We look forward to sharing the discussions with you!

Please [Click Here](#) to join! Please see below for meeting information:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

Gift From Episcopal Charities

St. Luke's Receives a Gift from Episcopal Charities Now Fund!

Many of you have participated in the Episcopal Charities campaigns in years past. Historically, St. Luke's has been one of the largest contributors to this diocesan effort, which raises funds from diocesan contributions to support a host of state-wide, non-profit programs.

In response to the pandemic, Episcopal Charities began the "Charities Now" Fund to distribute aide quickly to church-based feeding ministries. At the end of March, St. Luke's was the beneficiary of this outreach, receiving a \$1,000 donation to support the resumption of our feeding ministries.

Let us give thanks for the generosity of our fellow Episcopalians and this diocese. Let us keep our various feeding ministries in our prayers. And let us always be mindful of those near and far, hungry for both food and love.

Treasurer's Announcement

	2021 YTD	Budget	%	2020 YTD	Var.
Pledge Income	\$201,135	\$188,000	106.99%	\$183,625	\$17,510
Loose Plate	\$7,439	\$7,400	100.53%	\$9,078	(\$1,639)
Other Personal Inc.	\$30,875	\$22,233	138.87%	\$26,592	\$4,283
Total Personal Inc.	\$239,449	\$217,633	110.02%	\$219,295	\$20,154
Total Other Inc.	\$82,630	\$87,945	93.96%	\$13,623	\$69,007
Total Income	\$322,079	\$305,578	105.40%	\$232,918	\$89,161
Staff Expenses	\$145,450	\$149,019	97.61%	\$147,448	(\$1,998)
Facilities Expenses	\$31,454	\$41,663	75.50%	\$46,621	(\$15,167)
Program Expenses	\$6,498	\$12,750	50.96%	\$8,227	(\$1,729)
Outreach Expenses	\$2,137	\$737	289.96%	\$737	\$1,400
Total Expenses	\$108,251	\$74,777	144.77%	\$234,578	(\$126,327)
Net Income	\$108,251	\$74,777	144.77%	(\$1,600)	\$109,851

We've had another good month. May we pray it continues.

Notes:

- Big Sister Bin brought in \$206.40!
- We have rented out a parking space for \$75 monthly to a local neighbor - \$450 pre-paid
- Quarterly water bill was down over 50% - no idea why, other than the dehydrated staff

Again, we give all of you our continued thanks for all the blessings you share!

Peace and Grace,
Mike

Pledge Envelopes

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

Corporate Communion

Corporate Communion Program

The Corporate Communion program at St. Luke's is about to begin.

Children understand the symbolism and significance of the Eucharist in ways that are often surprising and delightful. It is no wonder that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me!"

Since the 1991 *Prayerbook*, our church has lived into the theology that Baptism is full initiation into the Body of Christ, moving away from the idea that Confirmation and "understanding" are the bench marks for participation in the Eucharist.

Corporate Communion is a remarkable communion instruction, not preparation class. It is designed to offer age appropriate theology, liturgy and tradition to children.

Children are not the future of the church, they are the church today. This class honors their full membership in the Body of Christ, and equips us grownups for the vows we made at their Baptism that we would support them in their life in Christ.

Corporate Communion classes at St. Luke's will begin at 9am and will meet on the following dates:

5/2 Meet and Greet/Sharing a Meal

5/9 Story Telling/These Holy Things

5/16 Church Tour with Father Tim

5/23 These Holy Things/Praying Together/Angel

6/5 Rehearsal 12:00-1:00 and Ice Cream Social at St. Luke's

6/6 Corporate Communion Celebration at the 10:15 service

We will meet downstairs in the dining room and will practice social distancing.

Please contact me at theresa@stlukeseg.org for a registration form or call me at 415-233-0761 if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings,
Theresa Deiters Muscat

St. Luke's Yard Sale

ST. LUKE'S YARD SALE



Save the
Date!

MAY

—
22

—
2021

**7AM TO
NOON**

St. Luke's is taking part in the Annual Hill & Harbor Yard Sale!

We are looking for donations of gently used items such as toys, books, DVD's, clothing, tools, sporting equipment, home goods, small working appliances or electronics, and furniture.

Drop off dates/times for donations:
Sunday, May 16 - 8AM to Noon
Monday, May 17 -- 4PM to 6PM
Tuesday, May 18 -- 4PM to 6PM

How else can you help?

VOLUNTEER ... to sort/price items or work the day of the sale.

VOLUNTEER your truck for clean-up and clear-out!

[Click Here](#) to volunteer online via Sign-Up Genius or contact Jon Jacaruso at jonjacaruso@live.com

Pentecost Is Coming

Pentecost is Coming!

Pentecost Sunday tells the story of the disciples who came together, who received the Holy Spirit as fire and who told the story of Jesus and God's love. We read that the Holy Spirit descended as a dove and has, by tradition, become not only a symbol of the Holy Spirit but of peace. We, too, will come together on Pentecost Sunday, both virtually and in person. We will hear the story and, in the chaos we feel in our present world, we will look for peace.

Building on our tradition, we would like to create a pathway of peace for those who enter for Pentecost services, but we need some help. Available in the office are kits to make Origami Doves. If we all make a few, we should reach our goal of 100 to fly over our hearts for Pentecost Sunday!

If you are able to help, please pick up a kit, make the doves (they are easy), and return the doves to church by May 20. If you need more visual instructions, you can go to

<http://www.tavinsorigami.com/origami->. This is a video step by step direction for the traditional Origami Dove.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me, Cindi Lovejoy, at benem@cox.net.

St. Luke's RaiseRight Program

More Spring Bonuses for You and St. Luke's!

Get ready for graduation season and raise funds for St. Luke's!

Party planning, gift buying, outfit shopping - there's plenty to do before graduation season begins. Get gift cards to make your prep more impactful.



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

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap

Thanks to Rob Walsh for leading our last meeting using his reflection on "What is Free Time?" and prompting a really thoughtful discussion with the guys. We all benefited!

Our next TOT meeting will continue to be on Zoom on next Monday, May 3 @ 7:00pm.

Rather than arranging a program this time, I thought it would be fun to just talk about whatever is on your mind . . . sort of "Open Mic Night"

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

Meeting ID: 932 3259 3177

Passcode: 035516

Women of Grace

Women of Grace - Listening Hearts Discussion on May 10th

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 10 at 7pm - please mark your calendars! The Rev. Pam Gregory will lead us in a discussion of the Listening Hearts program for lay discernment. Based on the book Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community by Suzanne Farnham, the program provides "simple reflections and exercises drawn from scripture and from Quaker and Ignatian traditions, to help make the spiritual practice of discernment accessible to everyone, not just clergy". New or used copies of the book can be purchased online or in bookstores. For our May 10 discussion, you only need to read through page 67.

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!

If you are not currently on our mailing list or if you need help finding the book, please email Deborah Collins (collinstn01@gmail.com).

St. Luke's Bag Lunches for Buddies



When was the last time you lovingly packed a bag lunch for your kids? Yesterday? Yesteryear?

Well, St. Luke's has begun a new "feeding ministry" to make 30+ bag lunches weekly and deliver them to Community Care Alliance in Woonsocket, a day shelter located just around the corner from our Loaves & Fishes truck run stop (on hold during the COVID pandemic).

If you would like to participate in this outreach to our friends in need, [Click Here](#) for our SignUpGenius where you will find all the details.

And, thanks in advance from the many folks we help nourish and who help nourish us, spiritually.

Rob Walsh

Handmade Crosses

Handmade Crosses

Hi, my name is David Clifton. I have grown up here at St. Luke's. From being in the choir, to being part of the youth group, to going to ECC for many years, and to be able serve as an Acolyte on the alter. And through it all was my family (mom, dad, and 2 sisters) and my St. Luke's family (too many of you to list by name). When my dad passed away in 2018, I came to ask GOD and my St. Luke's family for support. That is when Fr. Tim, Fr. Dante, and our Deacon Christine became part of my family. And it was and still is being very supportive.

I took dad passing very hard, so to help myself get through that time, I had to put my creative mind to work. I had to find something that I could do. So I went to the internet, and starting looking at things that I could make. One thing caught my eye, it was a cross. Not an ordinary cross, but a cross that was made out of something that I had seen all the time growing up. The cross was made out of horseshoe nails. Yes, I said horseshoe nails, the nails that are used to put shoes on horses. The cross was called a "Disciple's Cross", it looked nice but I knew that with a

little bit of extra work, I could make it something that dad would like. So, I got some supplies and I made two prototypes. I took them to church and showed them to the Deacon (who loved them) and who (at the time) 'BLESSED' them. I gave one to mom and I took the other one. At that time, I asked the clergy if they wanted one and what color(s) they wanted it to be. Now that is when things started to take off, the Deacon said that having the acolytes make their own cross would be another way to teach them about 'HOLY WEEK'. So a workshop was setup one Sunday after church and all of the acolytes each made their own cross. On Palm Sunday of 2019, Fr. Tim 'BLESSED' the acolytes' crosses and the crosses were then passed out to the acolytes. And it was a very nice site, to see something that I had helped the acolytes make, in the memory of dad, being wore around the necks of the acolytes on Easter Sunday 2019.

Every now and then, I end up making one for a friend of the family, or for a birthday present for a member of the church. Well, now I am writing this to ask any member of my church family, if they would like me to make them a cross. I have included a photo of a finished cross along with a QR code that you can scan to send me an email. Now Mother Tanya and the other Fr. Tim, have become part of our family and I have already made, had 'BLESSED', and delivered their crosses.

God be with you,
David

This Cross Belongs to Our Bishop



St. Luke's Feeding Ministries

St. Luke's Feeding Ministries Update!

Like most other things, Covid restrictions have had an impact on the usual rhythm on Christ Community Kitchen (CCK), Lunch on The Hill (LOTH) and Loaves and Fishes (LFRI). Throughout the year the leadership of the feeding ministries have been collaborating in finding new ways to help our community and those in need. March was a very active month.



St. Luke's parishioners also provided support to the Sayles Street Shelter. A site that we have had a long relationship with through our LFRI runs. The shelter offers transitional housing along with a wide range of services and life skills training such as parenting support, employment training, GED, mental health and substance abuse counseling. Saint Luke's delivery of diapers, pull-ups, brushes, men's socks and deodorant, baby lotion, shampoo and kids' hair ties was deeply appreciated by those in the Shelter.

Our Feeding Ministries collaborated to provide sorely needed toiletries to the Community Care Alliance Program in Woonsocket. This non-profit program recently opened a drop-in center called Safe Haven. The center is located around the corner from the bus stop, a cornerstone of our monthly LFRI run for years. When they reached out through LFRI, we provided cases of toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, shampoo, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene, hand towels, sanitizer, and wipes. Those who delivered the donations were inspired to see the wonderful work being done by Safe Haven and happy to reconnect with some of our LFRI friends.

Moving forward we are exploring how to build on these efforts with a vision of establishing ways of continuing our support on a regular basis. Keep an eye out for ways that you can be a part of these outreach efforts. As details are available, we plan on reaching out through SignUpGenius for your help.

If you would like additional information, feel free to reach out to the Feeding Ministries through the office.

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:

Jello Pudding Mix, Flour, Coffee, Cookies, Juice, Spices, Potato Salad, Scalloped Potatoes, Potatoes Au Gratin, Corned Beef Hash, Chili, Spam, Italian Dressing, Oil and Crackers.

Thank you!

EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

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

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