



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

June 6, 2021

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Greetings!

It was in the midst of the winter, when Tim and I were coming into the church separately to film our parts for our pre-recorded Morning Prayer service, that I reached a moment when I just couldn't take it anymore. I was preaching into my iPhone, and I told a joke and started laughing by myself in an empty church, and it just felt utterly absurd. I literally sat down and rewrote part of my sermon because I couldn't get over the uncomfortable feeling of watching myself laugh, hearing my voice echo in an empty space, with no one else there.

The church is the building, but it's not just the building. Though I had only spent a few months in the late summer and fall seeing people in person before Covid closed our doors again, I already loved the people I had met and missed the energy of our worship services. Though Tim and I disappeared following services so as not to create a bottleneck at our exit, I still loved the quick snippets of conversation I got to have with people as they were coming and going. Knowing what it felt like for people to be in the sanctuary, even masked and distanced, the emptiness of the sanctuary in the deep winter felt lonely, as though the space itself was longing for people to be gathered back into it.

The darkness can show us the gift of light; loneliness can show us the gift of being together. And what an incredible gift it has been to gather again! To get to hear the choir raising their voices and hearts in song, outside over Pentecost, and in the church last Sunday! As the vaccination rates increase and people feel ready to join us, it has been an utter joy to see the pews fill, this time with more people than we could safely accommodate last fall. I have seen some beloved faces from Zoom in real life for the very first time, I have re-met people I met briefly and then did not see again for five months, I have met people who are ready to return to the building, and I've met people who are crossing our threshold for the first time. The church is practically vibrating with the happy energy of people who are

coming and going, worshipping, singing, tending to our beautiful gardens, engaging in their ministries. I have heard Steve McLoughlin describe it as waking from hibernation- I just love that! I do feel like I'm emerging from a cave and stretching and seeing the sun shine more brightly than it has in a while.

One of the best parts of our regathering, one of the ways the sun has started to shine most brightly, has been the gift of the noise of children in the pews! I love that St. Luke's has so many ways for children to grow in their faith as they grow up in the church. We have some incredible teens in our confirmation class. We just finished year one in a two-year series, and I'm already looking forward to seeing them again next year. This Sunday we get to celebrate two terrific cohorts: our Corporate Communion class and our Rite 13 students. Theresa Deiters Muscat has made the observation that young people are not the future of the church- they are full members of the Body of Christ right now! None of us magically becomes worthwhile at a certain age; we are beloved, made in the image of God, and that is true throughout the entirety of our lives. It is a joy to be able to mark a rite of passage for some of our youngest members this weekend.

Rejoicing in the power of the spirit,
Mtr. Tanya

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Second Sunday after Pentecost

Click above for the lessons

7:45am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

9:00am Holy Eucharist with Sermon and Corporate Communion Celebration

11:am Holy Eucharist with Sermon and Rite 13 Celebration

We are glad to offer a Facebook livestream for our 9:00 and 11:00 Sunday services. To access the livestream, please follow the instructions below:

1. Our Facebook page can be accessed by [Clicking Here](#).
2. You do not need a Facebook account to access this page. If you do have an account, 'liking' our page ahead of the service will allow Facebook to send you a notification when the livestream begins. If you do not have an account, Facebook will ask if you would like to set one up. Simply click the 'x' at the top right corner to close that box or click 'not now'.
3. The livestream will be accessible from St. Luke's Facebook page near the time the prelude begins. If you have liked our page, simply click on the notification you will receive from Facebook when it starts to view the video.

4. If you have not liked our page, you may have to scroll down the page to find the livestream while it is happening due to the way Facebook works. Once the livestream concludes, the video of the service will be available at the top of our page, (so you will not have to scroll to find it).

Please contact our Assistant Rector, Mother Tanya, with any questions. She can be reached at tanya@stlukeseg.org.

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

The Rev. Timothy Rich, rector, preaching

Make A Note! Three Services on Sunday, June 6th

Please help us to celebrate our Youth Groups!

In addition to our regular service at 7:45, we will be celebrating our Corporate Communion service at 9:00 am and our Rite 13 service to at 11:00 am! There will be no 10:15 service. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Reopening Announcement

St. Luke's is Reopening!

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

[Click Here](#) to view Father Tim's Reopening Letter!

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

[Click Here](#) to view our 7:00/9:00 Sunday Bulletin Celebrating Corporate Communion!

[Click Here](#) to view our 11:00 Sunday Bulletin Celebrating Rite 13!

Treasurer's Note

From the Treasurer

We continue to beat the budget and last year's numbers.

	2021 YTD	Budget	%	2020 YTD	Var.
Pledge Income	\$235,664	\$216,000	109.10%	\$208,756	\$26,908
Loose Plate	\$10,237	\$9,200	111.27%	\$10,008	\$229
Other Personal Inc.	\$38,561	\$26,117	147.65%	\$30,218	\$8,343
Total Personal Inc.	\$284,462	\$251,317	113.19%	\$248,982	\$35,480
Total Other Inc.	\$85,190	\$90,493	94.14%	\$68,789	\$16,401
Total Income	\$369,652	\$341,810	108.15%	\$317,771	\$51,881
Staff Expenses	\$182,775	\$186,256	98.13%	\$173,904	\$8,871
Facilities Expenses	\$36,186	\$49,716	72.79%	\$51,974	(\$15,788)
Program Expenses	\$9,998	\$15,625	63.99%	\$10,662	(\$664)
Outreach Expenses	\$4,970	\$5,000	99.40%	\$4,721	\$249
Total Expenses	\$272,489	\$292,597	93.13%	\$280,588	(\$8,099)
Net Income	\$97,163	\$49,214	197.43%	\$37,183	\$59,980

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

We look forward to resuming our Adult Faith Forum this **Wednesday at 7:00 pm via Zoom**. Our book study will be on **Henri Nouwen's *Following Jesus: Finding Our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety***. One reviewer notes: "...this book will not only soothe your soul, but also reinvigorate your faith." For our first meeting this Wednesday, June 9th, please read the Introduction and Chapter 1. In the Introduction, you'll find the following beautiful prayer:

Dear Lord,

Be with me today. Listen to my confusion and help me know how to live it. I don't know the words. I don't know the way. Show me the way. You are a quiet God. Help me to listen to your voice in a noisy world. I want to be with you. I know you are peace. I know you are joy. Help me to be a peaceful and joyful person. These are the fruits of living close to you. Bring me close to you, dear Lord. Amen.

You may purchase the book at your local bookstore or online. Expense should be no obstacle to participation -- if you need assistance in acquiring the book, please let Tim or Tanya know. We look forward to seeing you then!

Click Here to join the meeting! Zoom information is below:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

Pledge Envelopes

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

Theology on Tap - Invitation

The men of Theology on Tap (TOT), who have been meeting virtually for the last 15 months, have decided to emerge from their cocoons and renew our fellowship, face to face. It should be an informal discussion that everyone will feel welcome. You are invited to join us in our first in-person meeting, outdoors, in the St. Luke's Courtyard at 7:00 pm, Monday, June 7th.

If you are interested and have questions, please feel free to contact Brent Bostick at brentbostick1@gmail.com or 908-230-7569.

St. Luke's Bag Lunches for Buddies

St. Luke's Bag Lunches for Buddies

**We are in need of volunteers for our Friday delivery next week!
Please let us know if you would like to help!**



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

**Our next Pastoral Care Meeting will be held on June 9 at 1 pm
at St. Luke's Blackburn Room**

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 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

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:

Kidney beans, cannellini beans, baked beans, pasta sauce, rice/pasta sides, ramen noodles, cooking stock, canned pineapple, hash, chili, yellow cake mix, Italian or ranch dressing, ketchup, juice (64 oz), crackers, cookies and mayonnaise.

Thank you!

EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

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cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>
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