



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

August 22, 2021

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Greetings!

A little less than a week ago, Diane and I were hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park. While the altitude left me a bit short of breath, it was the vista that left me breathless. From our position on a plateau, some 11,000 feet high, we could see snow covered peaks and green, verdant meadows. That view, accompanied by the barking of nearby coyotes, reminded me of the expansiveness of God's creative works and moved me to say a short prayer. I thanked God for the awesome-ness of creation and the gift (the privilege, really) to enjoy it all in that moment.

Then, within the span of 24 hours, I listened to reports of an earthquake in Haiti and the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Images of rescue workers pulling bodies from the rubble in Haiti and of desperate Afghani citizens clinging to airplane wings moved me to a very different kind of prayer. And as Diane and I flew home Monday (easily and safely), I was reminded yet again of the privilege we enjoy.

If you are anything like me, then perhaps you feel a bit overwhelmed by these recent global events. It can be easy to move on to other news stories, forgetting the pain and suffering of our global neighbors or at least concluding there is little we can do in response to their trials.

And yet, I believe we all need to stay mindful of the fact that those in Haiti and Afghanistan are indeed our neighbors. Our Christian faith invites us to think in this way, to bear one another's burdens, as Christ once bore our burdens.

So what might we do? Well, to begin with, keep informed, do not simply turn your attentions to pre-season football or end of summer cookouts. Continue reading the latest from these two countries.

For example, as of today, the death count in Haiti

Episcopal Diocese of
Rhode Island

The Episcopal Church

The Anglican
Communion

Stay Connected



has topped 2,000 women, men, and children. And, according to one news source, while the US has evacuated 6,000 individuals from Afghanistan since Saturday, there remain 10,000-15,000 US citizens along with an estimated 50,000-65,000 Afghani partners and family members still seeking to escape the country's dangers.

Second, consider whether you might contribute to the Episcopal Church's ongoing rescue and relief efforts. If you'd like to assist the work in Haiti, log on to the Episcopal Relief and Development site at <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>. Likewise, the Episcopal Migration Ministries, the refugee resettlement and migration ministry of The Episcopal Church, is currently working in partnership with the U.S. government to assist Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders with resettlement and direct services through a network of 12 affiliates across the U.S. If you'd like to support their efforts, you can make a donation online at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/> or donate by mail, sending checks to:

DFMS-Protestant Episcopal Church US
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

(Include Episcopal Migration Ministries and Afghan SIV's in the memo line.)

Finally, we can hold these people in our prayers. Make no mistake, prayer is one of the central acts that binds one to another and reminds us that we all are God's beloved children.

Here is a prayer offered recently by our own Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, on behalf of the peoples of Afghanistan:

Eternal God, hear our prayer for the peoples of Afghanistan. There is a profound humanitarian crisis. Countless people, mostly women and children, are now fleeing and vulnerable. The lives of many are now endangered. The hopes of many are forgone. Send your Spirit, Lord, to rally the resolve of the nations of the earth to find pathways to save human lives, protect human rights, and to resolve the hardships of those seeking refuge, asylum, and safety. Hear our prayer for the peoples of Afghanistan. This we pray as followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

It was a grand vacation Diane and I enjoyed last week, visiting not just a glorious part of the country but also family and friends-- including the Potters! I was reminded in our time with Al and Linda how, whether

near or far apart, we truly are knit together by the God who has created us and the Jesus who still informs us. Let us be particularly mindful of this truth as we consider not only the blessings and beauties we might enjoy, but also the pains and struggles of those around the world.

Peace,
Tim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Click above for the lessons

7:45am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

10:15am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

We are glad to offer a Facebook livestream for our 10:15 am 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 T. Rich, rector, preaching

St. Luke's Sunday Social Hour

St. Luke's 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 the meeting! See below for Meeting ID and Password that will be needed to join.

This information will also be posted on our Weekend Invitation to Worship!

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!

SignUpGenius is no longer necessary!

When not totally shut down for in-person worship this past year, the SignUpGenius helped us remain compliant and safe upon our return to in-person worship.

Beginning June 20, parishioners will no longer be required to "sign-up" to attend either the 7:45am or 10:15am services.

Hallelujah!

We are 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!

What's On Your Mind?

What's On Your Mind?

The summer is about to come to an end and Kick-Off Sunday is fast approaching, so I want to know what's on your mind?

On August 29, we'll share in a Q&A Sermon. Come prepared with your questions about church, scripture, or current affairs and I'll do my best to answer them.

I'm looking forward to the exchange!

Tim

Summer Office Hours

CHRISTINA'S SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

July through Labor Day, Christina will be in the office from 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Thursday.
The office will be closed on Fridays.

Treasurer's Note

From the Treasurer

July Month End

	2021 YTD	Budget	%	2020 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$294,610	\$270,000	109.11%	\$252,380	\$42,230
Loose Plate	\$18,032	\$10,800	166.96%	\$11,289	\$6,743
Other Personal Inc.	\$47,068	\$37,383	125.91%	\$33,718	\$13,350
Total Personal Inc.	\$359,710	\$318,183	113.05%	\$297,387	\$62,323
Total Other Inc	\$100,696	\$108,341	92.94%	\$77,956	\$22,740
Total Income	\$460,406	\$426,524	107.94%	\$375,343	\$85,063
Staff Expenses	\$256,610	\$261,568	98.10%	\$238,959	\$17,651
Facilities Expenses	\$53,307	\$68,998	77.26%	\$66,400	(\$13,093)
Program Expenses	\$12,584	\$21,375	58.87%	\$12,911	(\$327)
Outreach Expenses	\$9,160	\$8,078	113.39%	\$5,089	\$4,071
Total Expenses	\$379,375	\$406,626	93.30%	\$379,573	(\$198)
Net Income	\$81,031	\$19,899	407.21%	(\$4,230)	\$85,261

Your continued support of St. Luke's has kept us on track. All this AND the capital campaign for the kitchen is a tremendous testament to all of you - the Parishioners that make it all happen. I Join Fr. Tim and Mtr. Tanya and the leadership team in thanking each and every one of you!

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Here are some other options available if you would like to donate to St. Luke's!



Online Banking	Zelle Transfer	VANCO Payment Solutions	Direct Payment From IRA
<p>Bill Pay – with online bill pay, you add St. Luke’s Church as a payee, enter our address of 99 Peirce St. East Greenwich, RI 02818 and schedule your payment.</p> <p>Benefits: Ease of use – if you already use online bill pay, then you are familiar with making payments this way. You can schedule single payments, or set up regular payments in advance.</p> <p>No cost to you or the Church.</p>	<p>Zelle Payment – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the giving@stlukeseg.org address.</p> <p>Benefits: Ease of use – if you already use Zelle, then you are familiar with making payments this way. This only makes one payment at a time, so you have to initiate each payment.</p> <p>No cost to you or the Church</p>	<p>VANCO Payments – With VANCO payments, you create your individual account on the VANCO site, set up how you want to pay, and the funds are deposited in the Church’s account</p> <p>Benefits: If you like points or miles, then this is your site! VANCO is the only option that accepts credit cards. Like Online Banking, you can set up recurring payments or make single payments</p> <p>Transaction Fees for the Church</p>	<p>Direct Transfer – If you are 70 ½ or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA.</p> <p>Benefits: Any funds paid this way are not reported as taxable income to you. You can make your entire yearly pledge with one payment, help satisfy your required distribution, and incur no tax on the income.</p> <p>No cost to you or the Church</p>

Pledge Envelopes

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

Adult Faith

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation will resume on Wednesday, September 15th, at 7pm via Zoom.

Our book for this season is *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality can Change Everything we See, Hope for, and Believe* by Richard Rohr. Rohr reminds us that "one God created all things", and he invites us to "reopen [the] ancient door of faith with a key, and that key is the proper understanding of a word that many of us use often...That word is *Christ*." Please join us as we explore our faith in Christ more deeply.

Please read the Foreword, "Before We Begin", and Part 1, Chapter 1: "Christ is not Jesus' Last Name" in anticipation of our first class.

[Click Here](#) to join the meeting! Zoom Meeting Information is below:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469
Passcode: 427552

Youth Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation

"Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding." Proverbs 3:13

We are looking forward to an exciting year of Faith Formation at St. Luke's! Our first Sunday in class together will be September 19th. Every year our hearts are warmed as we watch your children grow in height and spirituality.

PreK-2nd Grade will meet at 10:15 downstairs in the Godly Play Room. Please try to be there by 10:05. Children will join their parents in our 10:15 service before Eucharist, at the Peace.

3rd - 5th Grade will meet 9:30 - 10:10 downstairs in the Godly Play Room. Please try to get them

there by 9:25 so we can start on time.

6th - 8th Grade will meet 9:30 - 10:10 upstairs in Room 9 with leaders Mike Grady and Stacey Nakasian.

9th - 11th Grade will meet 9:30 - 10:10 upstairs in Room 7 with leaders Tom Sprague and Ali Poirer.

There is no registration fee! We are looking for some new Godly Play storytellers and greeters this year. If you'd like to learn more about serving in that ministry, please contact Theresa Deiters Muscat, our Director of Youth Faith Formation, at (415) 233-0761.

To help us as we prepare for the upcoming year, please complete the form located [here](#) or look for a paper form coming in the mail to you soon. We will also have forms available in our atrium. Our faith teaches us to care for the most vulnerable among us, and in keeping with that we will be observing CDC, State, and Diocesan guidelines to keep our classes as safe as possible.

Please contact Theresa at the number above or Mtr Tanya at (401) 684-2844 with any questions or concerns. We look forward to growing in our faith together!

Let's Get Movin'

Let's Get Movin'

We've heard from many of you that you'd like to see the pew cushions returned to the sanctuary. Although we continue to explore options for replacing these 20 plus-year-old cushions with new cushions, we've decided that for the short-term we'll bring the old ones back.

So, on September 4 at 2:00 we're having a moving party! We need as many movers as possible to help return the cushions to the pews. Please consider spending an hour or two helping out-- because, as you know, many hands make for light work.

I hope to see you then.

Much thanks,
Tim

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Volunteers

People don't come to coffee hour just for a cup of joe; they want a human connection, something we all have missed during the pandemic! Here's a place where we build community one cup at a time.

We need your help! Father Tim would like to resume Coffee Hour. For now, we are only offering coffee and juice- no food.

As usual, our sexton, Tim, will set up the coffee urn in the morning. The Coffee Hour host simply needs to set up the coffee "station" with cups, sugars, creamer and napkins. These supplies (except the creamer) are all kept in the armoire in the Blackburn Room. There will be a table set up in the narthex near the stairs where you can set up a juice "station" with small juice cups and napkins. Tablecloths can be found in the armoire also.

So, the host would bring half and half as well as some type of juice. Everything else is

provided. After the 10:15am service's coffee hour, the urns would need to be cleaned out and stored in the Blackburn Room and you would need to ensure that coffee grounds go in the trash.

Please consider signing up for an upcoming Sunday so we can properly extend our hospitality and reconnect. Christina put the sign-up sheet on the wall across from the office. You can sign up at church or call Christina in the office at 401-884-4116 and she'll add you to the list.

We look forward to seeing you all soon,

Tracy
401-447-0472

Marcia
401-241-1821

Seeking Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Seeking Lay Eucharistic Ministers!

Reopening the church has been such a joy! As we continue to move closer to our normal pattern of worship, we look forward to returning to the communion rail during the Eucharist. Part of that move will include welcoming Lay Eucharistic Ministers back to the altar to help in the distribution of communion. Serving as a LEM is a simple but gratifying way of participating in feeding the gathered Body of Christ during our worship services. If you have any questions about this ministry, please talk with Fr. Tim or Mtr. Tanya. If you're interested in joining our list of volunteers, please let Christina know! (cimondi@stlukeseg.org).

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes - August 28 Run

As we continue our efforts to sort out the best ways for Saint Luke's Loaves & Fishes ministry to serve our neighbors and community, we will be focusing our efforts on specific locations. This allows us to continue our outreach and service while being considerate of the precautions needed due to the ongoing presence of Covid and its variants.

For our Loaves and Fishes run on August 28, we will be collecting "Back to School" items for the Family Shelter in Woonsocket. We will also be providing bagged lunches for the residents. This shelter operates under the umbrella of Community Care Alliance and offers transitional housing for families. There are 57 current occupants, 27 of which are school-aged children.

Here is the list of the School & Lunch supplies needed:

27 Backpacks with a notebook, pencils, colored pencils, pencil sharpener and eraser (no crayons please)

10 infant bibs

5 boxes of magic erasers (to get marks off walls)

Women's and men's underwear - all sizes but especially Large and XL

57 bagged lunches (detail in SignUpGenius)

[Click Here](#) to contribute to the effort using SignUpGenius or you can drop off donations at the church office. Your ongoing support of this ministry is appreciated.



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

Episcopal Charities

Episcopal Charities 2021: **Loving Those "Cheerful Givers"!**

This past Spring, the Bishop kicked off the 2021 annual Episcopal Charities campaign with his letter of Hope. In it he quotes from the liturgy of our Morning Prayer:

*Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Hope, the Bishop says, has manifested itself this year in multiple ways, - from the widespread availability of virus-fighting vaccines, to economic help for small businesses and the unemployed, to fair and equitable treatment for all. This year, gifts to Episcopal Charities are providing hope to Rhode Islanders, now with two options:

First, the traditional Episcopal Charities' **Annual Fund**, which provides agencies with sustainable, program grants, distributed yearly.

Next, to **Charities Now**, the immediate-needs arm of Episcopal Charities. Launched last year, gifts continue to help feeding ministries in our Episcopal churches. Like many other Rhode Island non-profit agencies, this new initiative was bridging the gap during challenging times.

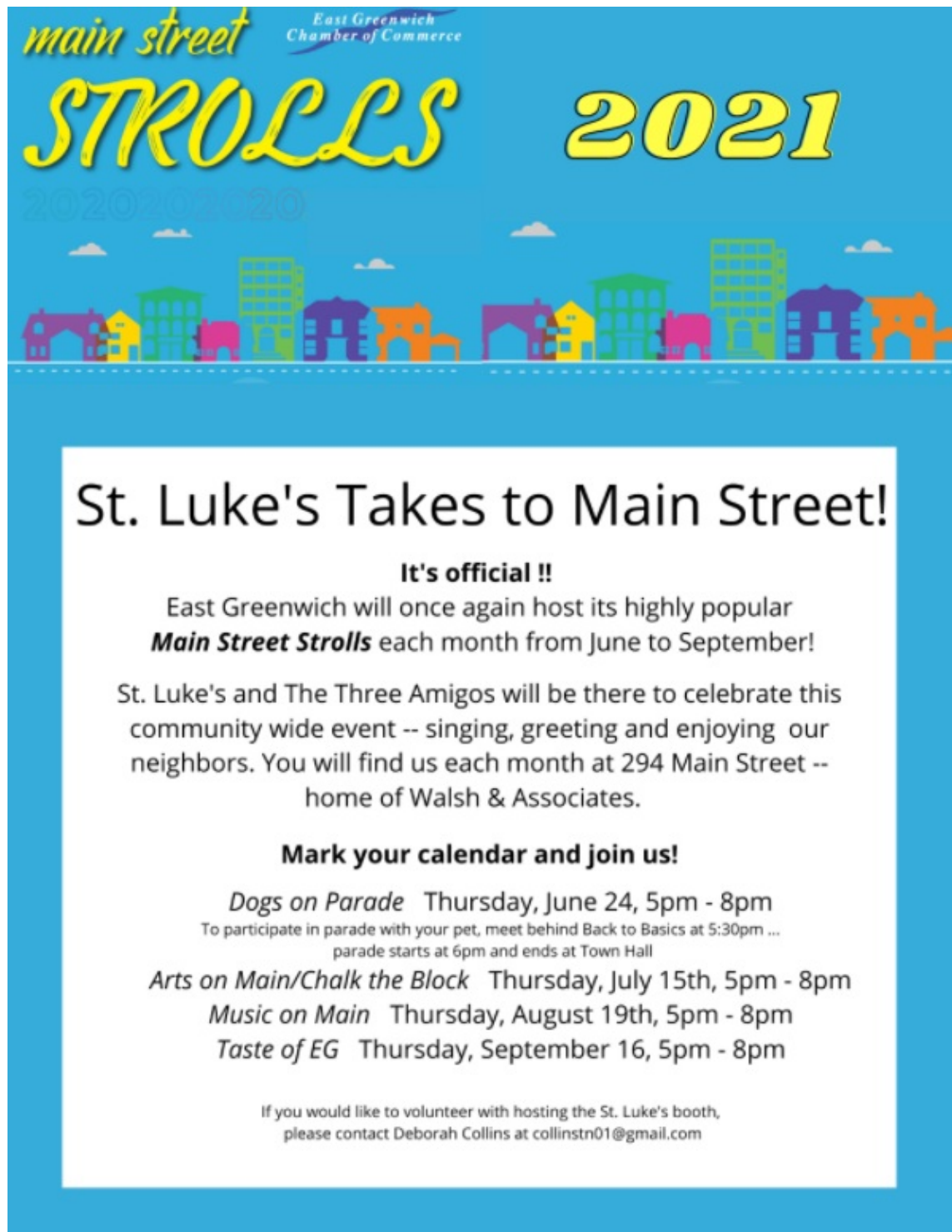
Now, in Summer, the needs continue for Rhode Islanders, even as, *especially as*, we are again in the midst of a resurgence of COVID-19 and the Delta variant. If you've recently received a message from our Diocesan office of Charities, we are reminded, in the words of St. Paul, that *each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Your gift makes a difference! To make that difference, or for more information, go to Episcopalri.org. You may also send your check to Episcopal Charities, 275 North Main Street, Providence 02903. Please indicate in the memo section of your check if you are giving to the Charities Annual Fund or **Charities NOW**.

Historically, St. Luke's has been one of the largest contributors to Episcopal Charities, and we are so grateful for your continued generosity. As of June 30, 2021, 51 of you have contributed \$11,465 to Episcopal Charities. As we keep all these nonprofit agencies and ministries in our prayers, let us always be mindful of those in need of food, support, love...and HOPE!

Pam Dresselhouse & Laura Sullivan
Episcopal Charities Co-Chairs

Main Street Strolls

The poster features a blue background with a row of colorful, stylized buildings at the bottom. The text is primarily in yellow and white. At the top left, it says 'main street' in a cursive font, followed by 'East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce' in a smaller font. The main title 'STROLLS 2021' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the title, the dates '2020-2021' are faintly visible. The central text is white on a white rectangular background, announcing the return of the event and listing specific activities and dates for 2021.

main street East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

STROLLS 2021

2020-2021

St. Luke's Takes to Main Street!

It's official !!

East Greenwich will once again host its highly popular **Main Street Strolls** each month from June to September!

St. Luke's and The Three Amigos will be there to celebrate this community wide event -- singing, greeting and enjoying our neighbors. You will find us each month at 294 Main Street -- home of Walsh & Associates.

Mark your calendar and join us!

Dogs on Parade Thursday, June 24, 5pm - 8pm
To participate in parade with your pet, meet behind Back to Basics at 5:30pm ...
parade starts at 6pm and ends at Town Hall

Arts on Main/Chalk the Block Thursday, July 15th, 5pm - 8pm

Music on Main Thursday, August 19th, 5pm - 8pm

Taste of EG Thursday, September 16, 5pm - 8pm

If you would like to volunteer with hosting the St. Luke's booth,
please contact Deborah Collins at collinstn01@gmail.com

St. Luke's RaiseRight Program

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

Enjoy the rest of summer and raise funds for St. Luke's!

Make the most of the final month of summer. Whether you're squeezing in another trip, home project or party with friends, buy everything you need with e-cards from RaiseRight and raise money for a cause you care about.



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 Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Special Days of Thanksgiving

St. Luke's Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Special Days of Thanksgiving

Would you like to celebrate your birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special day with St. Luke's?

We are compiling a list of parishioners' birthdays, anniversaries, and other important dates. If you would like to have a thanksgiving offered during the weekly Prayers of the People, **please complete this form**. An appropriate thanksgiving will be included during the prayers.

Any questions? Please email Christina (cimondi@stlukeseg.org) or call the parish office (401-884-4116). Happy Celebrating!

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

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