



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

September 26, 2021

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Greetings!

For me, one of the most difficult classes in seminary was Systematics. The class invites you to engage with the philosophical underpinning of our faith tradition, to read the spiritual giants in our history, and to think about how we understand God and how God moves in our world. I had two very different but incredibly gifted professors for the two semesters of the class. One is a towering intellectual giant herself; but as brilliant as she is, she is equally kind and gentle. Her lectures were always fascinating and she has encyclopedic knowledge of many different topics, allowing her to make connections where none seemed to exist. She has also the unique gift of making others sound smart. I would sometimes spew a half-baked idea in class, and she would say something like: "Ah, yes. It sounds like you would have an affinity for (insert philosopher's name here) who shares your concern about (insert interesting idea I never could have come up with myself here)." We all called her Saint Kate.

My other Systematics professor is the dean of the seminary. His approach was quite different. He would take a very big topic and then offer four different ways of thinking about it. The range spanned from classical/orthodox to way-out-of-the-box Christianity. We were invited to reflect on which of the four resonated most with us, and then we'd have a vote where we had to put our stick in the ground and name our preference. The voting part was always a little hard for most of us - we wanted to keep our options open! - but for Dean Markham, it was important that we could articulate what we believed and why we believed it.

Our final paper with Dean Markham was an essay titled *Explaining the Faith*. We had to revisit the topics we had covered in class in a way that was internally cohesive: evidence for faith, the place of revelation, attributes of God, the doctrine of the Trinity, the nature of the Incarnation, religious diversity, and the doctrine of Providence. It was incredibly intimidating - I felt way out of my league! The intensity of the work made us feel like we better be able to defend our papers until our dying breath. But in our last class, Dean Markham produced a visual map of his own thinking on these topics from ten years ago. Then he produced a visual map of his own thinking on these topics from that year. The maps had changed! We were all shocked! Those maps emphasized an important point: if we are faithfully praying, reading, and learning, the way we think *should* change over time. As our reading from James said last week, wisdom is open to reason. We should be willing to change our minds when presented with compelling evidence. We cannot grow if we are unwilling to learn.

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I've been thinking about this a lot in our Wednesday night Adult Faith Formation class. We're reading Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*. It's a challenging read, and I find myself arguing with him at times, or struggling with ideas I don't quite understand, or cheering when I'm grateful for a point he's made. Often all of this happens over the course of a single page! It's such a gift to get to engage in this struggle, to read a book with a wonderful group where we share our insights and wonderings, name the things we don't agree with, name the things we find life-changing, and grow together. I will not come out of this class the same person who went into it. Rohr names that Christ has been present since before creation and is still present in creation now. I give thanks to God that I get to experience Christ with each of you.

Blessings in this new season,
Mtr Tanya

Kitchen and Dining Room Update

Dear St. Luke's Family,

The kitchen, dining room and elevator renovations are moving along steadily. We have gotten rough-in sign-off from the plumbing and electrical inspectors, and drywall enclosure is now proceeding. In the kitchen, FRP (fiber reinforced plastic) panels are being installed. These wall panels are easily cleanable and meet health code standards.

The kitchen hood has been installed and openings have been cut in walls to allow the large exhaust and make-up air ducts to be connected. No more flimsy fan and floppy louver through a hole in the wall!

The kitchen cabinets are being built by New England Lab in their Woburn, MA, workshop. These are "lab grade" cabinets, which look like regular kitchen cabinets but are of a sturdier, commercial grade construction that will withstand heavy use. They are scheduled to arrive on site October 4th.

The first cabinets to be installed will be the base cabinets inside the kitchen. They will be in an "L-shaped" configuration similar to where the old cabinets were. Once these base cabinets are installed, a whole bunch of work can proceed in short order. First the kitchen flooring will go in -- a slip resistant "safety flooring" especially designed for commercial kitchens. It is a sheet product with heat-welded seams that does not allow dirt and bacteria to collect like normal vinyl floor tile flooring does. And importantly, the flooring curves up the wall and base of the kitchen cabinets in a continuous rounded form. This is called a "sanitary cove base". The rounded shape allows mops to more easily get into these corners and leaves no joint for dirt and bacteria to collect.

Once the kitchen flooring is installed, the equipment, appliances and stainless steel work tables can be hooked up to plumbing and electrical connections that are already in place. This equipment is fabricated and standing by. So, as you can see, the arrival of the kitchen cabinets is the critical path element that will unlock the final work to be done in the kitchen.

In the meantime, the suspended acoustic ceiling system, recessed down lights, bench wood cladding, dining room cabinetry, and new doors will all be installed in the month of October. The elevator lift installation is complete and awaiting final inspection. I still can't give you an exact full completion date, but we anticipate to be mostly

done by the first week of November. October is truly the final big push.

As we look forward to completion, we will be restocking the kitchen with some key cookware, utensils and other items that were just too worn out to make the cut as we packed up the old kitchen. In addition to our core Kitchen Improvements Committee team, Sue Clement will be joining us to put on a “kitchen shower” for those who may wish to help with the purchase of these items. For those of you who are newer to St. Luke’s, Sue and her late husband Ron were the driving force in establishing and running the CCK feeding ministry at St. Luke’s for many years. A memorial fund and last year’s golf tournament fundraiser were both created in Ron’s name, and we are so grateful to have Sue’s involvement in this new chapter of our kitchen. Thank you, Sue!

We WILL have an opening celebration. And it WILL be a wonderful family celebration for our church and supporters. So please stay tuned for when that will be as we begin this final push to completion. And as always, thank you for being a partner in turning our shared vision of a new and vibrant kitchen and dining room into reality.

Peace,
Gary Schweizer

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Eighteenth 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 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!

Reopening Announcement

St. Luke's is Reopening!

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

[Click Here](#) to view Fr. Tim's message regarding updated COVID protocols.
As of Sunday, August 1, we have resumed our mask-wearing and contact tracing practices.

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!

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

Aug-21	2021 YTD	Budget	Var	2020 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$331,226	\$294,000	37,226	\$290,437	\$40,789
Loose Plate	\$20,868	\$12,000	8,868	\$12,965	\$7,903
Other Personal Inc.	\$50,776	\$41,067	9,709	\$39,941	\$10,835
Total Personal Inc.	\$402,870	\$347,067	55,803	\$343,343	\$59,527
Total Other Inc	\$103,220	\$110,890	(7,670)	\$84,334	\$18,886
Total Income	\$506,090	\$457,957	48,133	\$427,677	\$78,413
Staff Expenses	\$293,954	\$299,099	(5,145)	\$275,931	\$18,023
Facilities Expenses	\$63,715	\$76,652	(12,937)	\$71,434	(\$7,719)
Program Expenses	\$13,300	\$24,250	(10,950)	\$14,594	(\$1,294)
Outreach Expenses	\$9,345	\$8,263	1,082	\$11,514	(\$2,169)
Total Expenses	\$434,478	\$461,528	(27,050)	\$436,575	(\$2,097)
			0		
Net Income	\$71,612	(\$3,571)	75,183	(\$8,898)	\$80,510

August results continue to be strong as the leadership team has continued to restrain spending as we work our way through these difficult times. And meanwhile, all of you have shown your continued support for which we express our humble thanks for all you do!

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>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>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>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>
No cost to you or the Church.	No cost to you or the Church	Transaction Fees for the Church	No cost to you or the Church

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation has resumed on Wednesdays 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 we believe 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. You can see Richard Rohr speak about his book at the [video](#) posted by the Center for Action and Contemplation.

Please read Chapter 3 in preparation for our next class.

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

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

Nursery and Godly Play

Nursery

We are happy to welcome your children back! Our nursery has reopened for both services. Please sign-up on our Sign-Up Genius page found [Here](#). We are limited to six children per service.

Godly Play

Godly Play has begun!

We're excited to welcome your children! We have two sessions: 9:30 and 10:15 in the auditorium. To join us, you need to complete two steps:

1. Please complete the youth registration form [Here](#) or pick up a hard copy form from the atrium at the church.
2. Please sign up for the dates your children will attend using our Sign-Up Genius - [Click Here](#).

Questions? Contact Theresa Deiters, Director of Youth Formation, at (415) 233-0761.

Youth Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation - UPDATE

"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! Every year our hearts are warmed as we watch your children grow in height and spirituality.

We will offer two sessions: We will meet at 9:30 **upstairs in the Auditorium**, and we will also have a second session that will meet at 10:15 **upstairs in the Auditorium**.

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 register, please complete the form located [Here](#). We will also have forms available in our atrium, in our classrooms and on our website.

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!

Corporate Communion

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 1979 *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 benchmarks for participation in the Eucharist. The book we use is an *instruction not preparation* book. It offers age-appropriate theology, liturgy, and tradition to children.

The Corporate Communion program at St. Luke’s is offered each Spring. It is generally for children in the 3 or 4 grade. It is a 6 week class that takes place on Sunday’s, from 9:30-10:10. CC culminates with a celebration on the last Sunday at the 10:15 service. The instructor, Erica Simo has taught the program for many years. She is kind, insightful and faithful. The children are given an instruction book called *This Bread and This Cup*, a personal journal and a beautiful gift is presented to them on the last Sunday of the program.

Our children are not the future of the church, they are the church of today. If you are interested in signing up for this program for the Spring of 2022, please feel free to reach out to me. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and add your child’s name to the class list.

Blessings,
Theresa Deiters Muscat
415 233 0761

Blessing Of The Animals!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 3, 2021

Academy Field Behind Swift Gym

Holy Eucharist at 10:15

Blessing of the Animals at 11:00

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR BOTH!

Bring a chair or blanket!

Mask required if unvaccinated.



Calling All Singers!

Calling All Singers! Come sing in a choir!

Our choirs resume after Labor Day. Have you considered participation in one of our choirs for you and/or your children? St. Luke's supports an active choral ministry, and new members of all ages are invited to sing. **We will be following current CDC and state guidance for Covid safety protocols.**

Contact Rodney Ayers, Minister of Music, for more information (rodney@stlukeseg.org)

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Angel Choir

PreK - 2nd Graders - Wednesdays at 4:30pm - beginning September 15

St. Cecilia Choir
3rd-12th grade Choristers - Fridays at 4pm - beginning September 10

Canterbury Choir
Adult Choir - Thursdays at 7:30pm - beginning September 9



Celebration of a New Ministry

*The Wardens, Vestry, and Congregation of
Trinity Church*

*cordially invite you to attend
the Celebration of a New Ministry
at which*

The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely

Bishop of Rhode Island

Will institute

The Rev. Timothy J. Watt

As the Rector of the Parish



The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi [Observed]

*Your prayers and presence are requested
at the service and reception
on Saturday, the 2nd of October,
two thousand twenty-one,
at six o'clock in the evening*

One Queen Anne Square, Newport, Rhode Island

Clergy are requested to wear white stoles

Reception to follow

RSVP 401-846-0660 or cdias@trinitynewport.org

Women of Grace – Ready for Fall!

The WoG planning group has come up with an amazing set of topics to start off our new year of gatherings! Meetings will take place in person on the first Monday of each month. Each meeting runs from 7pm to 9pm including some social time, a topical discussion, and spiritual reflection or prayer. Topics for this fall include:

October 4 - Poetry Revisited: Jen Cormier will share a composite of our offerings from last December for a Women of Grace poem. We will not only enjoy the creation that Jen has produced, but will reflect on what has happened in our lives and through WoG in the past year.

November 1 - Prayer Practices: Mother Tanya will guide us in an Examen, a practice developed more than 400 years ago by St. Ignatius Loyola to encourage prayer-filled mindfulness. Mtr. Tanya will also share a variety of different, creative, reflective prayer practices and resources that we might incorporate into our own or our families lives.

December 6 - Housing and Our Neighbors: Susan Aitcheson, head of the East Greenwich Affordable Housing Commission, will discuss new affordable housing opportunities in the East Greenwich area. How might churches come together to welcome and support our new neighbors? Perhaps an ecumenical effort can be produced through our discussion.

After the new year, we have at least three additional topics in the works:

- Iona - The Early Christian Story - an evening of Celtic worship and exploration
- Being Easter People - discussion of Anne Lamott's *Dusk, Dawn, Light*
- Book Exchange! - bring books to share with each other and the community

While we currently plan to meet in-person over the next several months, we will resort to Zoom sessions and/or hybrid in-person Zoom attendance in accordance with ongoing safety/health concerns and the nature of a given topic or presentation. Details for each meeting will be sent to the WoG email list a week to 10 days prior to each meeting. If you are interested in participating in Women of Grace, please send your email information to Deborah Collins at collinstn01@gmail.com. See you soon!

The WoG Planning Group: Ellen Abell, Donna Dufault, Nora Hall, Laura Sullivan, Pam Gregory, and Deborah Collins

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

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes

We'd like to thank everyone who donated supplies and food to this month's Loaves and Fishes run to the Family Shelter in Woonsocket. The meals, backpacks with school supplies, underwear, and other supplies were very much appreciated by the shelter. It felt great to help the people there who are in such desperate need. Keep your eye out for plans for our next run on September 25th. The shelter staff identified a need in the future for bath towels, facecloths, and used DVD players. We couldn't continue this mission without your support."



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 RaiseRight Program

Fall Back Into Your School Routine And Raise Additional Funds For St. Luke's!

From packing lunches to buying new clothes and fueling early mornings with much-needed coffee, your school routine is ramping up. Use RaiseRight E-cards to purchase all the things your family needs and raise additional funds 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

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).



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

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