



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

November 21, 2021

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Greetings!

You've seen the banners. You've gotten the letters. I hope you've watched the video. What Gives? *St. Luke's Gives*. A clever play on words and an answer to a weary question that is never far from our lips these days. A simple, straightforward message to this year's Commitment Campaign. Or so I thought ...

Because then there's that corollary to the tagline ... *Because of you*. *St. Luke's Gives. Because of you*. The first few times I read it, I thought I got it. Pretty familiar. And a sound basis. Because you give to St. Luke's, St. Luke's can give to others. We are a member-supported organization and that's how our church keeps operating. It takes all of us, and so because of your part in giving, it works. This is not a new concept to most of us. We understand that this is a part of what we do as a community committed to one another. And we do it willingly. Faithfully. After very personal consideration and conversation with God. And out of gratitude for the resources we have been given. Not out of mere obligation.

We're all used to being called upon to give of ourselves. There is nothing we wouldn't do for our children. We give to our families and friends. We expend a huge amount of ourselves for our employers and our careers. We understand that we have a social contract with one another and give to our government and our community. And we understand Christ's broad definition of who our neighbor is, and give to the farthest reaches of the world -- often when calamity strikes. We give. We give. And we give. Of our time, our money, our attention, our devotion, and our love. So when we hear "St. Luke's Gives. *Because of you*.", we get it.

But there is another clever wordplay in this corollary that went right by me the first few times. When it did hit me, the message was all the more powerful and profound. This is no small surprise, as it comes from the brilliant minds of our very own John and Rob Walsh, who themselves give so freely of their professional marketing talents. *Because of you* means not only "because you give", it also means "because you need". You, yes you, are also the target of St. Luke's giving. We have a harder time recognizing our need than we do giving, don't we?

But St. Luke's, our beautiful community, is here to give to you too. I hope that you have found that to be true, and that you allow St. Luke's to support and enrich your life. I know I have. In more ways than I realized until I stopped to think about it.

St. Luke's has given me a community. It has given me some of the

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dearest friends I have ever had. And a broad family connection to all of you. It has given me opportunity to serve others through leadership positions within the church and feeding ministries beyond -- allowing me to exercise the muscles of my faith. St. Luke's has nourished my mind through the thoughtful preaching of our clergy and through deep explorations of life and faith in our Adult Faith Formation classes. It has soothed and inspired my soul through a most wonderful music program. Music speaks where words cannot, and the music at St. Luke's reaches into the deepest parts of my being. It makes my heart strings strum with the resonance of the Divine. St. Luke's restores me on a weekly basis and brings me into God's presence in a way that I just cannot do on my own. St. Luke's does it for me. It fills so many core needs in my life. I am a grateful recipient of all that our church has to offer. St. Luke's gives because of *my* needs too.

How has St. Luke's met your needs? How has St. Luke's given to you? Is there a part of your life that St. Luke's can make better, richer, more fulfilling? We are here for you. We are here for each other. So please consider making a pledge to support St. Luke's in 2022 so that we can continue to give, *to you and through you*.

Gary Schweizer,  
Senior Warden

## This Sunday at St. Luke's

### [The Last 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](mailto:tanya@stlukeseg.org).

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

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, rector, preaching

Thanksgiving Eve Service



## St. Luke's Commitment Campaign

**All year long, St. Luke's gives to you and through you to help others. So please make a pledge for 2022. It's a gift you can see and feel making a difference every day.**



## Reopening Announcement

### **St. Luke's has Reopened!**

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.

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!**

## Blessing Of Our Dining Room

### Blessing of Our Dining Room

Hail, glad festival day! We have a kitchen and dining room opening date!  
**Sunday, December 5, 2021 !!**

And, to mark this joyous occasion, we are honored to have Bishop Knisley preach and preside over the 7:45 am and 10:15 am services. Immediately following the 10:15 am service, we will all go down to the kitchen and dining room, where Bishop Knisley will offer a blessing upon our newly renovated facilities. This will be a wonderful family event as we gather around our new kitchen -- like all families do. We hope you will join us!

## Kitchen Shower

### We're Having a Kitchen Shower – Come Fill Our New Cupboards!

As we prepare to unveil our brand new kitchen, join us to make sure it is well-equipped!

From spatulas to cutting boards and bowls and dishes, we'll do the heavy lifting, purchasing all the items ahead of time. All you have to do is select the items you would like to contribute to our kitchen.

We will be holding showers on two days, on the day of the blessing, **December 5**, and the Sunday after, **December 12**, following both services. The shower will be held in our new dining room space.

Hope you can join us!



**From the Treasurer**

October Month End

Oct-21	2021 YTD	Budget	Var	2020 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$389,596	\$361,000	28,596	\$345,903	\$43,693
Loose Plate	\$29,184	\$18,000	11,184	\$16,323	\$12,861
Other Personal Inc.	\$57,436	\$48,483	8,953	\$53,967	\$3,469
Total Personal Inc.	\$476,216	\$427,483	48,733	\$416,193	\$60,023
Total Other Inc	\$121,882	\$129,338	(7,456)	\$93,137	\$28,745
Total Income	\$598,098	\$556,821	41,277	\$509,330	\$88,768
Staff Expenses	\$368,262	\$374,411	(6,149)	\$348,809	\$19,453
Facilities Expenses	\$89,517	\$94,873	(5,356)	\$98,363	(\$8,846)
Program Expenses	\$16,129	\$32,000	(15,871)	\$19,745	(\$3,616)
Outreach Expenses	\$9,714	\$8,631	1,083	\$11,883	(\$2,169)
Total Expenses	\$550,708	\$576,496	(25,788)	\$557,669	(\$6,961)
			0		
Net Income	\$47,390	(\$19,675)	67,065	(\$48,339)	\$95,729

October Notes

Income is down slightly for the month:

- Pre-Paid pledges earlier in the year means a little less income at the end
- Parking lot rental income came in late
- We did receive \$450 van parking and \$246 from the Big Sister Bin
- Bought a new computer for Youth Faith coordinator (Theresa)

No other expenses to note.

Grace and Blessings,  
Mike**Vanco and PayPal QR Codes If You Would Like To Donate**

Vanco


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



<p><b>Online Banking</b>  <b>Bill Pay</b> – 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.  <b>Benefits:</b> 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.  <b>No cost to you or the Church.</b></p>	<p><b>Zelle Transfer</b>  <b>Zelle Payment</b> – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the <a href="mailto:giving@stlukeseg.org">giving@stlukeseg.org</a> address.  <b>Benefits:</b> 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.  <b>No cost to you or the Church</b></p>	<p><b>VANCO Payment Solutions</b>  <b>VANCO Payments</b> – 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  <b>Benefits:</b> 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  <b>Transaction Fees for the Church</b></p>	<p><b>Direct Payment From IRA</b>  <b>Direct Transfer</b> – If you are 70 ½ or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA.  <b>Benefits:</b> 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.  <b>No cost to you or the Church</b></p>
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## Adult Faith Formation

### Adult Faith Formation

**The AFF class has begun reading Barbara Brown Taylor’s *Learning to Walk in the Darkness*.** In this book Taylor writes, "Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me-- either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out. (But) I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one conclusion. I need the darkness as much as I need light."

About the author, Time magazine writes, "Few souls are as synched to the world's mysteries as Barbara Brown Taylor's... Taylor writes spiritual nonfiction that rivals the poetic power of C.S. Lewis and Frederick Buechner."

Please join the AFF class as she guides us through a spirituality of the nighttime and teaches us how to find God even in darkness.

Please read Chapter 2 in preparation for the next class to be held on December 1.

**[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.

### Advent and Godly Play

Advent, (from Latin *adventus*, “coming”), in the Christian church calendar, **the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.**

No doubt your children are in fact already 'preparing' for Christmas in their own sweet way. 'Christmas' is usually their answer to the question, "What is your favorite holiday?" While it is often difficult to keep in mind during holiday celebrations, lights, shopping; the season of Advent is a very holy time.

The next few weeks in Godly Play we will be focusing on Advent. The children will each receive a very special package that was handmade especially for them. It is their first Christmas gift this year. Ask them about it..invite them to teach you about Advent. We really look forward to seeing you children each Sunday, these next Sundays will be especially meaningful. we hope to see them!



"God of hope, I look to you with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for your word and keeping to your precepts. My hope is in you." ~ Matthew Kelly

### **Fun Facts...**

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A **Lutheran** minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath.

The four weeks Advent is broken down into four themes. These themes are represented by the four candles on the Advent wreath.

1. Hope or promise
2. Preparation or faith
3. Joy

### **An Advent Prayer**

Prayer is a wonderful way to help cut away from distractions of the season and open your heart to prepare for the joy and hope of Christ's birth. Here is a sample prayer to use during the season to focus your heart and mind for the birth of Jesus Christ.

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.  
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.  
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,  
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.  
The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.  
You came as a baby born in a manger.  
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,  
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.  
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,  
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.  
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.  
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."  
"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.  
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.  
Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.  
Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.  
Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.  
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.  
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.

#### **In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush .**

This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.  
Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.  
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.  
Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.  
~Renee Swope, "The Manger of My Heart"

I send you blessings for this Thanksgiving and always,  
Theresa Muscat

## Advent Blog

### **St. Luke's Advent Blog**

It's hard to believe, but the season of Advent is nearly here! As we experienced together last year, our St. Luke's Advent Blog is a wonderful resource for prayer and reflection. Posts are written by members of our St. Luke's community and based on the lectionary Scripture assigned for the day. Writers reflect on a theme, phrase, or even word that has struck them in a particular way. Our blog begins on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28<sup>th</sup>, and will go through Christmas Day. Posts will be available on our website and on our Facebook page.

Our faith community is a wonderful gift, and we look forward to sharing the thoughts and insights of our writers during the season.

## The Giving Tree



Our Giving Tree last year was a huge success thanks to all of your kindness and generous donations. We would like to help our neighbors again this year with your help.

The year 2020 was very different for The Giving Tree but it worked. The decision has been made again this year to provide families with Walmart and/or Stop & Shop gift cards. Last year we helped 18 families!

We are asking parishioners to purchase these cards and either drop them off to Christina at the office or mail them to St. Luke's by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and support as we help families truly in need!

Sincerely,  
Judith M. Horton and Committee

## Loaves and Fishes

### Loaves and Fishes

Our Loaves and Fishes ministry has been modified due to COVID but we have connected with two organizations, Help the Homeless and the Woonsocket Transitional Family Shelter, to offer lunches, requested items, and support.

There will be one monthly sign-up genius to outline the needs for both of these missions. If you are new to this ministry, there are multiple ways to get involved, including donations, food prep, and going on the runs.

Here is a link to the November sign-up genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EA8AF2CA7FDC34-saint>

#### **Help the Homeless:**

On November 27th we will be providing bagged lunches to West Warwick and our neighbors residing in the East Greenwich Hotel. You can donate supplies, assemble lunches starting at 11 am that day or drive up to the West Warwick site to deliver.

#### **Woonsocket Transitional Family Shelter:**

On November 22nd the requested supplies of new twin blankets and gloves/hats will be delivered to the shelter. These are outlined on the sign-up genius as well. If you have donations, please drop them off right outside the church office by November 21st.

We will be looking to provide Christmas bags to the children and residents of this shelter and to West Warwick in December and will be including more information once we confirm the needs.

Questions? Please contact us at [saintlukesfeedingministry@gmail.com](mailto:saintlukesfeedingministry@gmail.com) or by calling the church office. Thank you for your continued support and dedication!

## 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

## Afghan Evacuees

### **Afghan Evacuees Arriving Soon**

In the coming weeks Rhode Island will welcome around 50 Afghan families who were evacuated when the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan. Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island is coordinating their placement, but finding suitable and sustainable housing for so many newcomers at once is proving very difficult in our extremely tight housing market. Here's how you can help!

- Do you know of any low-cost rentals?
- Are you a realtor, or do you know any realtors specializing in rentals who could be on the lookout for suitable properties?
- Do you have a vacant property, in-law apartment, garage apartment, etc., that you could spare for a time?

If you have any hot leads, please contact Ann Rheault, 401-218-2383 or [annrheault@gmail.com](mailto:annrheault@gmail.com) and I will pass them on to our contact at Dorcas.

Stay tuned for more ways to help out.

For more info visit [diiri.org/proudly-welcoming-all-to-rhode-island](http://diiri.org/proudly-welcoming-all-to-rhode-island).

## Dorcas Donations

### **Dorcas Donations**

We are now collecting donations for our Dorcas Ministry! We are looking for better sportswear and clothing suitable for job interviews. Please drop off in the atrium under the mosaic and label as Dorcas. Thanks so much for 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.

## St. Luke's RaiseRight Program

### Embrace The Fall Season And Raise Additional Funds For St. Luke's!

Fall is officially here; the season of warm drinks, cozy sweaters and home-made comfort food. Use RaiseRight E-cards to purchase all the things you need to embrace the season 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](mailto: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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