



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 2, 2022

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Greetings!

## Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Christmas Message 2021:

**'In the name of these refugees, let us help all refugees'**

A number of years ago I read a book by Roberta Bondi who at that time was teaching at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. The title of the book was "To Love as God Loves." Professor Bondi in that book looked at and examined early Christians. And one of the things she observed was that early Christians saw their vocation of following Jesus as learning how to love as God loves. And that was the title of the book, "To Love as God Loves."

If that is true, as I believe it is, when we look at the New Testament stories of Jesus, and particularly the stories around Christmas, we see early glimmers of Jesus showing us how to love as God loves. The Christmas stories found in Matthew and in Luke, for example, actually show us something about God's way of love.

We all know the Christmas stories, the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes as it's found in Luke's gospel, the baby that's born of Mary, the stories of Mary while she was pregnant meeting her cousin Elizabeth, and the words of the Magnificat—"My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

We know the stories of Mary giving birth in the manger because there was no room for them in the inn, the stories of the shepherds out on the field beholding the angel choir—"Gloria in Excelsis Deo." The stories of a baby born is the story of beauty, a story of hope; for as the Jewish tradition says, every child who is born is a reminder that God is not finished with the world yet. In this case, the baby that was born was named Jesus.

Matthew tells the same story but highlights other dimensions that remind us profoundly of the way God loves. In Matthew's story, the child is born and there is great beauty in it, but there is some difficulty, even in the relationship between Mary and Joseph when they discover that she is with child before they're actually married. But an angel intervenes and tells Joseph in the dream that this child is God's miracle.

And so Joseph accepts his responsibility and cares for Mary and the baby Jesus who is to be born. And all moves along well. And in Matthew's version there is the star, the Magi or the wise men who

## Quick Links

[St. Luke's Church](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island](#)

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[The Anglican Communion](#)

### Stay Connected



come from afar, but then the story takes a dark turn.

And all of a sudden the same beauty that surrounded the birth of a child now is tinged by an ugliness of tyranny, the ugliness of injustice, the ugliness of hatred, the ugliness of unbridled selfishness as King Herod hears rumors of a rival to his throne being born and begins plans to execute children to stamp out his rival. In Matthew, that is the context for the birth of Jesus.

And Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus when he is born are forced to flee as refugees seeking political asylum, eventually in Egypt, because of the wrath of King Herod. They are saved from the destruction, but many do die.

In the late 1930s, The Episcopal Church embarked on efforts to save refugees who were fleeing tyranny, evil, injustice, bigotry, hatred in Europe at the advent of the Second World War. In The Episcopal Church, Episcopalians and many other Christians and Jewish people in the United States and people of goodwill and human decency worked together in a variety of ways to save as many refugees as they could.

And at that time, Episcopalians created this image. And it shows Mary holding the baby Jesus in her arms on the donkey with Joseph walking with them. And as you can see, the sign said, "In the name of these refugees, aid all refugees."

The Christmas stories are reminders that this Jesus came to show us how to love as God loves. And one of the ways we love as God loves is to help those who are refugees, those who seek asylum from political tyranny, poverty, famine, or other hardship.

In the 1930s, Episcopalians did this to love as God loves, and today, ministries like Episcopal Migration Ministries, the work of this church, have helped to resettle some 100,000 refugees as of December 2021. And that work goes on for refugees from Afghanistan and from other places around the world.

The Christian vocation as Jesus taught us is to love as God loves. And in the name of these refugees, let us help all refugees.

God love you. God bless you. And, this Christmas, may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

## This Sunday at St. Luke's

### [The Second Sunday of Christmas](#)

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.

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. Tanya Watt, assistant rector, preaching

Happy New Year!

Sending Blessings From Your St. Luke's Family! Happy New Year!



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.

### **Healing Services Resumes**

Every Tuesday at Noon St. Luke's will be offering a healing service with Eucharist. All are invited to attend. Like for the Sunday services, we ask that you wear your mask.



OR

[Click Here](#) to view our Sunday Bulletin!

## Epiphany Pageant Update

### THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT HAS BEEN CANCELLED

After much conversation and a careful review of the latest COVID statistics, we have decided to cancel this year's Christmas pageant. While this decision comes with considerable disappointment, it also comes out of our driving concern for the most vulnerable in our parish, in this particular case, our children.

Thankfully, now that most of our children are able to be vaccinated, I no longer have grave concerns regarding their health risks if attending church services. However, mindful of the quarantine consequences for anyone testing positive, the last thing I want to do is inconvenience children and parents as they begin the 2022 school year. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, we will not be gathering them to perform in a pageant. It is with sincere hope and expectation that we might once again enjoy our cherished Christmas pageant in 2023.

Christmas Blessings,  
Tim

## Treasurer's Notes

### From the Treasurer

November Month End

Nov-21	2021 YTD	Budget	Var	2020 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$425,875	\$398,000	27,875	\$383,778	\$42,097
Loose Plate	\$32,712	\$21,000	11,712	\$17,960	\$14,752
Other Personal Inc.	\$61,019	\$52,217	8,802	\$64,165	(\$3,146)
Total Personal Inc.	\$519,606	\$471,217	48,389	\$465,903	\$53,703
Total Other Inc	\$122,314	\$132,186	(9,872)	\$110,133	\$12,181
Total Income	\$641,920	\$603,403	38,517	\$576,036	\$65,884
Staff Expenses	\$405,057	\$411,943	(6,886)	\$384,676	\$20,381
Facilities Expenses	\$93,770	\$101,056	(7,286)	\$102,289	(\$8,519)
Program Expenses	\$17,415	\$34,875	(17,460)	\$21,825	(\$4,410)
Outreach Expenses	\$9,898	\$8,816	1,082	\$12,067	(\$2,169)
Total Expenses	\$599,677	\$629,927	(30,250)	\$607,610	(\$7,933)
			0		
Net Income	\$42,243	(\$26,525)	68,768	(\$31,575)	\$73,818

November financials were on budget setting us up for a strong finish to the year.

I join the entire leadership team in thanking you all for your continued support. I personally think you are all amazing!

Michael Sullivan  
Treasurer

### Vanco and PayPal QR Codes If You Would Like To Donate



Vanco



PayPal

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><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.</p>	<p><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.</p>	<p><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</p>	<p><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.</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

### Pledge Envelopes

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

### Adult Faith Formation

#### Adult Faith Formation

**The AFF class is 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 6 in preparation for our next class.

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

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

## Youth Group (6th-12th Grades)

### **St. Luke's Youth Group is heading to the Dunk on January 9th for a Providence Bruins hockey game!**

The game starts at 3:05. We'll meet at St. Luke's at 2:00. Tickets are \$10, and you must reserve your spot no later than Tuesday, January 4th. RSVP to Mtr Tanya: [tanya@stlukese.org](mailto:tanya@stlukese.org). Cost should not keep anyone away; please be in touch with Mtr Tanya if you need assistance.

## 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
4. Love or adoration

### **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**

The season of Advent is here! 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 each day from the beginning of Advent (November 28th) through Christmas (December 25th). Our faith community is a wonderful treasure, and it is a gift to be able to share this blog with you. Posts can be found on our [Facebook Page](#).

## Save The Date!



Community Embrace  
Golf Classic

SAVE THE DATE!

And Help Prepare for our  
SILENT AUCTION!

.....  
Potowomut Golf Club

.....  
MONDAY,  
MAY 9, 2022



*How might you make the auction a HUGE success? Do you have tickets to a sports event, concert or the theater that you can contribute? Or possibly, if you have a family cottage, would you be willing to donate a week or weekend? Or, a special item that could be included in our auction? The Silent Auction will take place during the dinner directly following the golf.*

.....  
*For further information, contact  
Golf Tournament Co-Chairs:  
Bill Warburton (bill.warburton@cox.net)  
Jon Jacaruso (jonjacaruso@live.com)*

## 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

## 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.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

## 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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