



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 9, 2022

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Greetings!

*Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break, and all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."- L.R. Knost*

I write this note on the Feast Day of the Epiphany.

While many in our culture today consider Epiphany as the sign that it's time to take down a wilting Christmas tree, for the ancient church, Epiphany meant so much more. The Feast of the Epiphany reminded all Christians to consider the many signs that God had been born into our world.

Of course, the greatest of these signs was the baby, Jesus, lying in a manger, discovered first by the shepherds and then by the Magi. (We heard the story of the Magi just last Sunday.)

You know, in the same way that it is important we understand the shock of lowly shepherds being the first to hear of Jesus' birth, it's important for us to appreciate the scandal that magi feature so prominently in the revelation of this good news.

Like in the case of the shepherds, over time the Magi have had their identities rewritten and glorified—including the notion that they were actually kings (They were not!). In reality, the magi of Jesus' time were considered sinners, pagan astrologers with crazy beliefs. Rather than reading the Torah they read tea leaves; rather than following the commandments they followed stars.

But in the case of Matthew's story, how fortunate, how blessed were they to have a bright light they might follow! It was this light that guided their long and improbable journey. It was this light that led them to Jesus. And it was this light that helped them to discover the new and unimaginable thing that God was doing.

For the Magi, the epiphany in Jesus was a revelation of the depth and breadth of God's love for all of humanity. In their visit with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, they discovered that God's love for creation was so deep that God was willing to walk among us, struggle among us, suffer among us. In being invited to make that visit, they learned that God's love for humanity was so wide as to include the religious and skeptics, the rich and poor, the magisterial and the magi.

All of this promise and hope revealed in the birth of a baby. All of

Stay Connected



this promise and hope discovered because the Magi followed the light of a guiding star.

I also write this note on January 6, the one-year anniversary of an attack on our Capitol.

Many in this country still feel as if we are walking in the shroud of darkness that produced such an unimaginable event. Some are searching desperately for signs of love, kindness, civility and hope to be born anew. And I imagine at least a few of us are looking up into the heavens for a star or light that might provide us such a sign. All of this is understandable, especially given the trauma and trials we have endured these past twenty four months.

But let me suggest, the heavens might not be the place for us to begin our search.

In reading author Louise Penny's recent newsletter I came across these words from L.R. Knost: *"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break, and all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."*

How apt her words for a time when much in the world seems broken and when much of our days seem dark. But more than that, how fitting her words as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.

The Jesus story promises that God loves "intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally." The Feast of the Epiphany reminds us that God will provide us signs which reveal this promise. If we are to find a light to give us direction and hope, then maybe we should not look up. Maybe we should not look even to others. Maybe we should begin our search by looking in the mirror!

After all, each of us is created in God's image. Each of us carries a spark of the holy. Each of us is filled with the Holy Spirit.

And just one more thing. If the face you see looking back at you seems like an unlikely or inadequate source of light, remember, the shepherds and magi were hardly believed to be the likeliest persons to bear the good news of Jesus into a time filled with great darkness.

Epiphany blessings,  
Tim

## This Sunday at St. Luke's

### [The First Sunday after the Epiphany](#)

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. Timothy T. Rich, rector, preaching

## 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.

### **Here Is The Sunday Bulletin QR Code:**



OR

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

One Service Only

**ONE SERVICE ONLY**

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



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.</p> <p><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@stluke.org">giving@stluke.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>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</p> <p><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.</p> <p><b>No cost to you or the Church</b></p>
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## 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

## 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 a 10:15 session 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.

## Loaves and Fishes

### Loaves & Fishes

Covid has made our society adapt to many changes, and the year 2022 is proving to be no different. The mission of our Loaves and Fishes ministry is to prepare and deliver food and clothing to those in need. We adapted our work in 2021 and after a delayed start, were able to do that work with your generous assistance. In 2022, we need to continue in that vein.

For our run on January 22, 2022, we will be asking for forty bag lunches to be prepared at your home and delivered to St Luke's by 12:00 PM on that date. The SignUp Genius details the needs for each bag. These bags will be delivered to the West Warwick site and our neighbors at the East Greenwich Hotel.

[Click Here](#) to sign up for January!

Our efforts at the Women's Shelter in Woonsocket have been well received and most helpful to their residents. As we have seen throughout this past year, many people have offered support to such organizations and the Women's Shelter finds that they do not have any requests for us for the month of January. We will continue to be in touch with them for their future needs. Your generosity is most appreciated and allows us to continue forward. Thank you.

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)*

Pastoral Care

**Pastoral Care Ministry**

Our next Pastoral Care meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 12, at 10 am via zoom.

**Click Here** to join the meeting. Here is the meeting information:

Meeting ID: 815 0533 2586  
Passcode: 875054

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

### Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour has been put on hold for the moment with hopes of returning soon.

### 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!

### 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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