



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

February 27, 2022

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In July of 2021, despite vaccinations becoming increasingly available, we watched as the Delta variant began giving rise to a renewed surge in Covid infections. (Doesn't that seem like so long ago?) By August of 2021, the Covid Steering Committee at St. Luke's decided it would be best for our most vulnerable members, including our many youth, still unvaccinated, if we returned to wearing masks for worship and suspended coffee hour activities. This decision was made in part because of two critical metrics: the surging cases per one hundred thousand and the escalating statewide test-positive rate. It also was informed by the counsel coming from both the Bishop and the Governor.

At the time, we hoped for a speedy return to greater flexibility regarding our many Covid precautions as soon as Delta subsided and the metrics dictated. And then the Omicron variant surfaced.

Of course, Omicron proved to be even more infectious than Delta. The infection numbers surged higher than ever before, the hospitals once again were filled to capacity, and our activities remained altered because of it all.

Today, finally, after far longer than we imagined, the number of cases per one hundred thousand and the test-positive rates are trending downward. Lagging a bit behind but trending in the same direction are the numbers being hospitalized due to Covid-related complications. All of which has moved our Governor to lift mandates and prompted our Bishop to write clergy saying, he hoped churches would "create a process for returning to our pre-pandemic style of worship by the first week of Lent."

Let me say now, both out of relief and awareness that I will not be able to utter this word come next Wednesday, "Alleluia!"

Last week, the Covid Steering Committee convened to discuss not only the downward trends, but also what we have learned over the months about Covid and about our particular congregation.

We have learned, most importantly, that the vaccines work—thanks be to God! We have learned that masks do help mitigate the risk of infection (even one-way masking) —but they must be worn correctly and not all masks are created equally. We also have learned that, although children can get sick from Covid, thankfully, it is very rare that they get very sick. These learnings come from the reports of a wide variety of sources and a host of medical experts.

Finally, regarding St. Luke's in particular, we have come to believe

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that our vaccination rate surpasses the statewide levels (to be clear, this belief is based more upon conversation and observation than survey).

Given the recent trends and these learnings, the Committee concluded that we are nearing the time when masks might become optional and other activities, like coffee hour and funeral collations, might resume. In terms of the metrics, the feeling was that if cases in Rhode Island per 100,000 could be solidly and steadily below 150, then it would be prudent to drop the mask requirement and reinstitute the chalice.

Admittedly, this number is higher than the current CDC target of 50 per 100,000, but given the vaccine level and infection rates of our particular communities, a statewide number of 150 seemed like the reasonable mark for our threshold. And, of course, all of this based upon the notion that each of you can, without judgement, make decisions to take greater precautions as you so desire.

Anticipating that trends continue in the same direction and at the relatively same rate, I am pleased to announce on Ash Wednesday, March 2, mask-wearing will be optional and the chalice again will be offered at communion. Additionally, coffee hours will resume that Sunday, March 6.

My goodness, I have been wanting to make this announcement for a long time now! This virus has tested our patience at several junctures (and might still again at some other point). Please know, I remain so very grateful that, throughout it all and even when we might not be of one mind, we have stayed respectful and supportive of our communal concerns and values.

Whether you choose to come to church next Wednesday with or without a mask, I look forward to sharing Ash Wednesday and the entire season of Lent with you all.

Peace,
Tim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Last 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.

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

The Rev. Tanya Watt, assistant rector, preaching

Journeying to Easter with St. Luke's

Journeying to Easter with St. Luke's

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

Holy Eucharist
with imposition of ashes
12pm & 7pm

Wednesday Evenings

7pm beginning March 9th

Adult Faith Formation
Book Study via Zoom

*The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus:
What's so Good about the Good News?*
by Peter J. Gomes

Thursday Evenings at 6pm

Simple Eucharist
with reflection

Evensong

Sunday, March 27th at 4pm

Follow Our Lenten Blog

<https://stlukeseg.org>

99 Pierce St. | East Greenwich
www.stlukeseg.org

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 10th

Holy Eucharist
7:45am & 10:15am

Monday

Holy Eucharist at 7pm

Tuesday

Holy Eucharist at 7pm

Wednesday

Holy Eucharist at 7pm

Maundy Thursday

Holy Eucharist at 6pm
with supper, foot washing,
& stripping of the altar

Good Friday Two Services

from the Prayer Book at 12pm
with music from Taize at 7pm

Easter Vigil

Holy Eucharist Saturday at 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 17th

Holy Eucharist 7:45am
& with choir, trumpet, and
timpani at 10:15am



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

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!

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

January Month End

Jan - 2022	2022	Budget	Var.	2021	Var.
Pledge Income	\$85,453	\$88,000	(\$2,547)	\$86,734	(\$1,281)
Loose Plate	\$4,777	\$2,000	\$2,777	\$956	\$3,821
Other Personal Inc.	\$8,656	\$4,967	\$3,689	\$11,551	(\$2,895)
Total Personal Inc.	\$98,886	\$94,967	\$3,919	\$99,241	(\$355)
Total Other Inc	\$3,407	\$4,581	(\$1,174)	\$1,155	\$2,252
Total Income	\$102,293	\$99,548	\$2,745	\$100,396	\$1,897
Staff Expenses	\$37,019	\$39,286	(\$2,267)	\$36,053	\$966
Facilities Expenses	\$11,435	\$9,594	\$1,841	\$6,241	\$5,194
Program Expenses	\$1,209	\$2,742	(\$1,533)	\$1,905	(\$696)
Outreach Expenses	\$184	\$200	(\$16)	\$184	\$0
Total Expenses	\$56,509	\$58,479	(\$1,970)	\$52,074	\$4,435
Net Income	\$45,784	\$41,069	\$4,715	\$48,322	(\$2,538)

Notes:

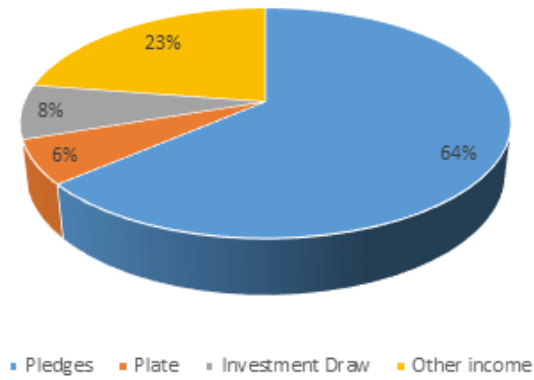
- Sort of lost a Sunday there at the end due to a little snowstorm, but still a good start to the year.

Looking Ahead:

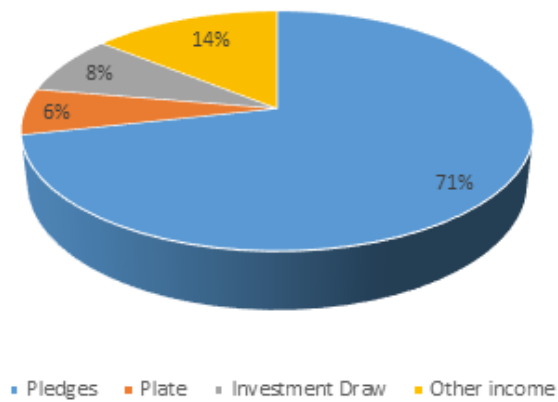
- The new doors at the south end of the building have been ordered.
- New cushions are here!

Many blessings,
Mike

2021 St. Luke's Income Mix



2022 Projected St. Luke's Income Mix



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>Online Banking 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. 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. No cost to you or the Church.</p>	<p>Zelle Transfer Zelle Payment – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the giving@stlukeseg.org address. 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. No cost to you or the Church</p>	<p>VANCO Payment Solutions 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 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 Transaction Fees for the Church</p>	<p>Direct Payment From IRA 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. 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. No cost to you or the Church</p>
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Adult Faith Formation Lenten Book Study

Adult Faith Formation Lenten Book Study

"Jesus came preaching, but the church wound up preaching Jesus. Why does the church insist on making Jesus the *object* of its attention rather than heeding his *message*? (The late) Harvard minister, Peter J. Gomes, believes that excessive focus on the Bible and doctrines about Jesus have led the Christian church astray. To recover the transformative power of the gospel Gomes says we must go beyond the Bible and rediscover how to live out Jesus' original revolutionary message of hope. "

(Gomes writes,) "... *Hope is not merely the optimistic view that somehow everything will turn out all right in the end if everyone just does as we do. Hope is the more rugged, the more muscular view that even if things don't turn out all right and aren't all right, we endure through and beyond the times that disappoint or threaten to destroy us.*"

This Lent, I hope you'll join me and others in reading Peter Gomes' *The Scandalous Gospel*, beginning Wednesday, March 9, at 7:00PM. All classes will run by way of Zoom, Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30.

Click Here to join the meeting! Zoom information is below:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469
 Passcode: 427552

I look forward to sharing this part of my Lenten journey with you all.

Lenten blessings- Tim

St. Luke's Lenten Blog

St. Luke’s Lenten Blog

The season of Lent has traditionally been one of reflection and repentance. Repentance, *metanoia* in Greek, literally means a physical turning around; as Christians repentance is the call to turn back to our God who loves us. As we experienced together last year, our St. Luke’s Lenten 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 Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, and will go through Easter Day. Posts will be available on our website and on our Facebook page.

We are in need of writers! You don’t need to be an expert or even have experience writing about Scripture; just an open heart and willingness to share. If you would like to write a short (1-3 paragraph) reflection for our blog, please email Mtr Tanya at tanya@stlukeseg.org, and she will send you a set of daily readings and more detailed instructions.

Youth Faith Formation

Snow Tubing At Yawgoo Has Been Rescheduled

The Youth of St. Luke's are invited to go **Snow Tubing at Yawgoo!** Snow tubing is apparently a very popular activity during this season of Covid when we all want to be outside, so we've needed to exercise some flexibility in our date. Please **contact Mtr Tanya at tanya@stlukeseg.org** if you would like to join us. We will keep a list of people who are interested in going and send out a group email as soon as we're able to confirm a date and time.

Stacey Nakasian, Youth Group Leader extraordinaire, is looking forward to a fun-filled time together! **All youth are invited**; for children younger than middle-school aged, parents are required to join the group for the entire duration of the afternoon.

The **cost is \$30 per person**. Please do not let cost keep you from joining the fun! If you need financial assistance, please let Mtr Tanya know.

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 Godly Play Room. 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.

GODLY PLAY NEWS FLASH!!!

*After two years of not being able to learn, listen, wonder, play, and feast in the St. Luke's Godly Play Room, we are ...**ARE YOU READY???***

Going back into the circle on our prayer puffs in the Godly Play Room!!!

I wonder who will be there to see some of the changes...

We are looking forward to seeing you there this Sunday at 10:10!

*Blessings to you,
Your Storytellers and Greeters*

Corporate Communion

Corporate Communion

Dear Parents,

The Corporate Communion program at St. Luke's is about to begin! It is open to all children in the 3rd and 4th grades.

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 1991 *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 bench marks for participation in the Eucharist.

Corporate Communion is a remarkable communion instruction, *not preparation class*. It is designed to offer age-appropriate theology, liturgy and tradition to children. **Children are not the future of the church, they are the church today.** This class honors their full membership in the Body of Christ, and equips us grownups for the vows we made at their Baptism that we would support them in their life in Christ.

Corporate Communion classes at St Luke's will begin at 9am and will meet on following dates:

3/20 Meet and Greet/Sharing a Meal

3/27 Storing Telling

4/3 These Holy Things

4/10 Church tour with Father Tim

4/24 These Holy Things/Praying Together/Angel

4/30 Rehearsal 11:00 - 12:00 and Ice Cream Social at St Luke's

5/1 Corporate Communion Celebration at the 10:15 Service

We will meet in the Blackburn Room and will practice social distancing.

Please contact me at Theresa@stlukeseg.org for a registration form or call me at 415 233 0761 if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings,
Theresa Deiters Muscat

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes

Covid continues to challenge us to find ways to provide service to those in need. We are currently looking for new ways to achieve our mission of preparing and delivering food and clothing to those in need.

For now we will continue to bring bag lunches to the West Warwick site and our neighbors at the East Greenwich Hotel.

For our run on February 26, 2022, we will be asking for 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.

[Click Here](#) to sign up for our February run!

Our efforts at the Women's Shelter in Woonsocket have been well received and most helpful to their residents. The good news is that they continue to receive assistance from many sources and currently do not have any requests for us for the month of February. 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!

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap

Monday, February 28, at 7 pm – All men of St. Luke's are invited to a Zoom meeting this month.

St. Luke's Men's group – Theology on Tap – have decided that we'll shift our meeting plans and meet via zoom for another month, while this wave of Covid passes. We don't expect this to last long, but want to be careful and prudent about everyone's health. Hopefully this will be the last remote meeting.

This month you are invited to join us via zoom on Monday, February 28, at 7 pm, for conversation and community. I plan to send a written piece out to those on the distribution list, for discussion.

TOT is a casual group of St. Luke's men, who enjoy meeting monthly for occasional service projects, guided discussions and mostly good conversation and fellowship. Everyone is welcome and we all leave feeling enriched.

If you have questions, suggestions, or want to be added to the email distribution list, contact Brent Bostick at 908-230-7569 or brentbostick1@gmail.com

[Click Here](#) to join our meeting! Meeting information is below:

Meeting ID: 868 5317 2100

Passcode: 411079

Ways to Support Community Embrace Golf Classic

Community Embrace Golf Classic

...
Potowomut Golf Club

...
Monday
May 9, 2022



SAVE THE DATE ... And Get Involved!

- Contribute to the Silent Auction
- Connect us with or be a Sponsor
- Share the date and ask your friends and neighbors to sign up for a day of golf and/or dinner, and auction surprises

*To learn more about the tournament, please scan the QR code below or go to:
<https://communityembracegolfclassic.eventbrite.com>*



*Please contact Tournament Co-Chairs: Bill Warburton (bill.warburton@cox.net)
or Jon Jacaruso (jonjacaruso@live.com) to help with sponsors or learn more
about the event.*

.....

*To support the Silent Auction, contact Marcia Gladue
(marciagladue@gmail.com), Mimi West (mimiwest@aol.com), or Corie Jacaruso
(coriemaloney@hotmail.com) to discuss your possibilities.*

Photos Wanted!

Photos Wanted!

Do you have photos of St Luke's church or at any events that we have hosted? As we work to increase our digital footprint, we would love the opportunity to share photos from our parishioners on our social media and communication channels. If you have photos that you'd like to share with us, please email them to Emma Peterson, our Social Media Specialist & Digital Evangelist, at Emma@StLukesEG.org.

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

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour

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

Grief Support Group



Grief is hard work!

It is even more difficult when we feel like we need to figure it out all on our own!

But ...

We Need Not Walk Alone!

St. Luke's has just started a Grief Support Group for Widows and Widowers.
If your spouse has died within the last few years, this group is for you!

Please join us in the Auditorium on the 3rd Saturday each month at 10 am and let's navigate through this challenging journey of grief together!

I work as a Bereavement Specialist for Southcoast VNA and a large portion of what I do is to facilitate Grief Support Groups.

I am so very grateful for the opportunity to facilitate a group with my St. Luke's family.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

Nancy Arnold - nancearnold@yahoo.com
(Our next meeting of the group will be Saturday, February 19, 2022 - 10 am!)

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) 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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