

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

March 6, 2022

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Coming from the Roman Catholic Church, there were many things about the Episcopal tradition that took some getting used to. At the very first service my husband and I attended at Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix, Canon Debbie Noonan celebrated the Eucharist. Tim, my husband, was all- hooray! A woman celebrated the Eucharist! And I was all- mmm hmmm, a woman celebrated the Eucharist. We don't even know what just happened up there.

Then there was the first annual meeting we attended. The happenings of the church were made public, and people asked intelligent, thoughtful questions that required intelligent, thoughtful answers. That the budget of the church was made public shocked me. As a Catholic, I had never seen a church budget before. That people were asking the priest direct questions seemed rude. I didn't realize how deeply I had absorbed the idea that priests ought not be questioned.

Over time, I have come to appreciate that in the Episcopal Church we affirm the dignity of every human being. We believe that living faithfully means that we are open to how the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst. We understand that people from all walks of life are called to ordained ministry, and we affirm the ministry of all the baptizedeach of us is called by God to be who God created us to be. We are called together as the Body of Christ, which means that we are called to love one another. Loving one another means wanting the best for one another. We should know what is going on in our community, we should be able to ask questions. Accountability and transparency are crucial to our health as a community.

Our liturgy is our communal worship, our shared thanksgiving to God. As a new Episcopalian at Trinity, I learned that the Book of Common Prayer was an important part of the Elizabethan Compromise. When her brother Edward VI was in power, Queen Elizabeth I had seen people burnt at the stake for being Catholic; when her sister Queen Mary was in power, she saw people burnt at the stake for being Protestant. For her, our common worship was more important than adhering to a common dogma. As we pray and worship together, so we are the Body of Christ together.

The Book of Common Prayer makes our pattern of worship public. Anyone can pray Morning and Evening Prayer. Anyone can lead others in Morning and Evening Prayer. Anyone can pray along as Fr. Tim or I lead the Eucharistic Prayer. Our common worship, the worship we share together, binds us together in community. Our current Book of Common Prayer was approved in 1979. Some people still call it the *new* Book of Common Prayer (our previous one being from 1928). But for the record, I was born in 1979. So...not so

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new. One of the things I love about our Book of Common Prayer is that it *has* changed over time. There are important elements to our Eucharistic Prayers, but so long as those elements are there, we can pray the Eucharistic Prayer in different ways. Over the last several Sundays, our Eucharistic Prayer was from <u>Enriching our</u> <u>Worship</u> (EOW). EOW is a supplement to our Book of Common Prayer. It is a resource available for us to use to experience new ways to pray together and encounter our liturgy with fresh eyes and ears.

During Lent, you'll notice some changes to our liturgy that come from EOW. If you were with us on Ash Wednesday, you probably heard the readings end with: "Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People" instead of "The Word of the Lord." As Episcopalians, we believe that the Holy Spirit continues to speak through our sacred scripture. The scripture is alive! Even the parts of the Bible that are difficult, or that we wish weren't there, can speak a word of life to us today. Saying: "Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people" acknowledges that the Spirit continues to reach through time and space to speak to us in our scripture.

You'll notice that our Nicene Creed is also a little different. Instead of calling the Holy Spirit "He", this Creed speaks the Holy Spirit as "Who". If you look at our Rite I Eucharist in the Book of Common Prayer, this pronoun is there too. The Greek can be translated either way, so both are faithful ways of saying the creed. For us, it is a reminder that God is beyond gender. In this version of the creed, we also name that Jesus was incarnate and made "human" instead of "man". Naming Jesus as human allows us to experience his incarnation in a fuller way. It is the unique claim of our faith that God dwelled on the earth as one of us, fully human.

You'll also notice that, in our Nicene Creed from EOW, we say that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father, instead of from the Father and the Son. Saying "The Father and the Son" is called the filioque, and it was added by the Western Church in the Middle Ages. It was not part of the original Nicene Creed, which emphasized the fullness of each member of the Holy Trinity. The filioque was one of the major reasons for the schism between the Western and Eastern Churches. When we say the Nicene Creed in this way, it is a reminder that the nature of the Trinity remains a mystery, and there is more than one right way of entering into that mystery.

Finally, you'll notice that our Confession is different: "God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen." This confession draws our attention to a few important things. First, when we oppose God, when we choose against God, that is the very nature of sin. Second, when we repent of the evil in our world, we name the social nature of sin. God has commanded us to love God and love our neighbor, but so much of our world, our economy, is built on the exploitation of others. We know that slave labor is still involved in producing much of what we consume. We know that others are hurt by actions taken on our behalf. During Lent, this confession helps us to reflect on the fullness of what separates us from being the people God has called us to be.

Lent is a time of repentance and reflection, a time to acknowledge those things that have taken us away from who God has called us to be, a time to turn back to God who loves us beyond what we can imagine. The language of our worship is meant to help us as we grow together in love and faithfulness. I am so grateful to share this season with you as we walk the road together.

Lenten Blessings, Mtr Tanya

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The First Sunday in Lent

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 <u>Clicking Here</u>.

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 <u>tanya@stlukeseg.org</u>.

<u>Click Here</u> to download a copy of the parish prayer list.

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, 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 Peirce St. | East Greenwich www.stlukeseg.org

Covid Update

St. Luke's Has Shifted to a Mask-Optional Practice

Click Here to view Fr. Tim's message regarding updated COVID protocols.

Our Healing Service Has Resumed

Every Tuesday at Noon St. Luke's will be offering a healing service with Eucharist. All are invited to attend.

Treasurer's Notes

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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

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From the Treasurer

January Month End

	2022			2024	
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:

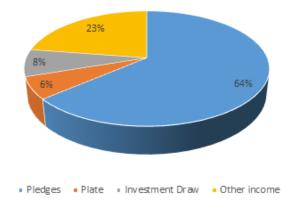
· Sort of lost a Sunday there at the end due to a little snowstorm, but still a good start to the year.

Looking Ahead:

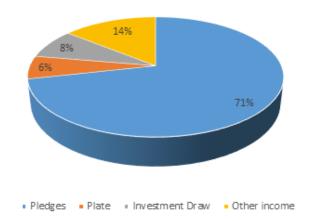
- The new doors at the south end of the building have been ordered.
 New cushions are here!

Many blessings, Mike





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!



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. Please read the introduction and chapter one in preparation for the first class. All classes will run by way of Zoom, Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30.

<u>Click Here</u> 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.

Our St. Luke's Lenten Blog is a wonderful resource for prayer and reflection during the season. 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 has begun, with posts available on our website and Facebook page.** The blog will go through Easter Day.

We would love for you to contribute a post to our blog! 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, please email Mtr Tanya at <u>tanya@stlukeseg.org</u>, and she will send you a set of daily readings and more detailed instructions.

Godly Play

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 3^{rd} and 4^{th} 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

Women of Grace

Women of Grace

March 14th Meeting

The WoG will be meeting in-person this month in our new dining room! Please mark your calendars for **Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m.** and plan to join us then.

If you are finding it hard to shelve all those books you read during COVID, you will be happy to hear that our program for March is a **book exchange/share!** Each person is asked to bring one or two of your favorite books to exchange with WoG and fuel our winter/spring reading. In addition, if you recall, we are pursuing a mini-library-mailbox project for St. Luke's. To stock the mini-library, please scan your shelves for books suitable for spiritual reflection, prayer, or faith formation at all age levels and bring those along too!

One more thing -- please remember to respond to Nora Hall (<u>norarhall@gmail.com</u>) about your ideas or suggestions regarding the WoG gournet dinner contribution for St. Luke's May 9th Community Embrace Golf Classic at Potowomut Golf Club. We will review suggestions and finalize a plan at the end of our March 14 meeting.

As per our usual 7:00-9:00 p.m. schedule, we will open with some time to greet and chat, share an opening prayer, then move into discussion of our various contributions and plans for the free library. **In the meantime, we need volunteers for refreshments and a prayer volunteer**. Please respond via email or phone to Deborah Collins (collinstn01@gmail.com; 401-885-4116) to confirm your attendance, or to be added to our mailing list. This will help ever so much in planning our evening together.

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



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.

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Contact Marcia Gladue (marciagladue@gmail.com), Mimi West (mimiwest@aol.com), or Corie Jacaruso (coriemaloney@hotmail.com) to discuss ideas for the Silent Auction. They will be present in the atrium on two Sundays, March 20 and April 1, from 9-11:30am to receive your contributions. Nothing should be left in the office.

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

Our Pastoral Care Ministry will be meeting on Wednesday, March 9, at 10 am in the Blackburn Room.

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. <u>Click Here</u> for our Prayer List Request Form.

Thank you and stay well.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is Back!

We are pleased to announce that Coffee Hour is back! As Covid restrictions are being lifted somewhat, we feel it's the right time to bring back Coffee Hour.

We need your help! There is a quarterly sign-up sheet posted across from the office under our beautiful mosaic. Both services have spots to sign up to host a Sunday. We will continue to host in the atrium until our kitchen is ready. Our sexton makes the urn of coffee in the morning. The host provides juice, creamer for the coffee (although powdered coffee creamer is available in a pinch), and some baked goods of some sort. All supplies like cups, napkins, sugar, utensils are all located in the cupboard in the Blackburn Room. There are a few platters you can use to put goodies on. A table is set up in the atrium with a tablecloth on it. Afterwards, we ask that the coffee urn be washed out and set out to dry in the sink area of the Blackburn Room.

You can host with a friend, you can host with your kids, you can host solo - it's a wonderful way to be part of our St. Luke's hospitality – welcoming new faces and encouraging us all to reconnect in person after so many months of being apart. Jesus equated our love for each other and our neighbors with our love for Him. "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Thank you for your help making St. Luke's a loving and welcoming space!

In His Service, Tracy Sampson (10:15am service) 401-447-0472 Marcia Gladue (7:45am service) 401-241-1821

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 3 rd 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!)

Internet Safety Tips

INTERNET SAFETY

Tips for staying safe & secure online



USE STRONG PASSWORDS

-Use a unique password for <u>each</u> of your most sensitive accounts (think email or banking)

-Use a long passphrase such as the title of the last book you read; add in punctuation for extra security. For example:

ILoveGoingtoStLukes143!

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-Don't include personal information in your password

SHARING ON SOCIAL

-Never share sensitive information on social media - it's not just your friends out there!

-Don't add people to your network if you don't know them in real life -Avoid questionnaires, "free giveaways", and contests - these are typically designed to elicit sensitive information

TRUST BUT VERIFY

-Always trust your gut!

-Never be afraid to independently verify a request; especially when it's financial.....call the sender directly using a number that you have or that you look up online

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

Be cautious of any email or text that: -Tries to create a sense of urgency or instill fear

-Uses a generic greeting or closure -Contains an unexpected link or

attachment

 Includes a request for private or sensitive information

KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFO PRIVATE

-Never enter financial information on an insecure website (look for the padlock or "https://" -When signing up for something online, read the terms & conditions, If it's free, your data is usually the cost!

COMMON CYBER SCHEMES

The following themes are commonly used by attackers: -Romance scams -Tech support -Grandparent scam (posing as a relative looking for financial assistance) -Government impersonation

-Sweepstakes/charity/lottery

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, <u>please</u> <u>complete this form</u>. An appropriate thanksgiving will be included during the prayers.

Any questions? Please email Christina (<u>cimondi@stlukeseg.org</u>) 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 **<u>Click Here!</u>**

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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