



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

April 3, 2022

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Every week, it seems, the news or the “universe” or the Holy Spirit provides me a new focus for my Lenten reflections. I never cease to be amazed by what can happen when I am actually paying attention! ☺

On Monday, as I sat enjoying a cup of tea, Aaron David Miller, an American Middle East analyst and former Department of State worker from 1978-2003, came on the news to discuss his recent Tweet where he wrote, “Never again is ever ever again.” In his comments he went on to suggest, “The International community has failed to even try to prevent any of the planet’s genocides.” And he concluded by saying there has been a real gap between words and actions, and we have a moral decision to make: do we risk lives to save the people inside Ukraine?

His comments left me wondering, what should we do? And while I realize there is no simple answer, there also is no denying the gap between our words and actions. Nor can we deny that we have a moral decision to make.

Thoughts about that gap and the moral element of our engagement were still in my mind two days later when I read an essay in *Time* Magazine. The piece, offering commentary on the recent passage of a Florida bill banning public schools from teaching kindergartners through third grade about sexual orientation or gender identity, was written by Kristen Arnett, an author and self-identified member of the LGBTQ community. Titled “What happens when you can’t say gay?” she discussed powerfully the suffering of youth who are “denied the language necessary to their continued survival and growth.”

“All those times I cried myself sick and prayed for death, I needed the words,” she explained. And then she went on to say about the bill, “It is a disconnect of morality; a space where the people who most need assistance are shunted to the side, left voiceless.”

And there it was again—the framing of a discussion as a moral matter and the suggestion that there is some gap or disconnect between words and actions. As I sat down that day to say my Lenten prayers, I could not avoid reflections about my moral life and about where there too might be gaps or disconnects between my words and actions.

Here we are, past the midway point of Lent. I have spent much of the time thus far reflecting upon my relationship with God. But now, I think, the Spirit nudges me to consider not what I say when in the

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comfort of my prayer chair but more what I do when I am participating in this complicated and challenging world in which we live.

Every decision I/we make has a moral component. To what degree is there a disconnect between the words we speak in church and the decisions we make in the world?

While the answers might seem daunting and weighty for you and me to consider, we must never forget that for some our answers are nothing less than a matter of life and death.

Tim

Financial Town Hall This Sunday!

Please join us this Sunday at 9 AM in the Dining Room for a presentation on St. Luke's Finances.

Questions we are looking to answer include:

1. Have we been good stewards of the finances?
2. What does the parish need to realize fully our mission?
3. How do we get there?

Each year, after the commitment campaign, the Finance Committee drafts a budget that tries to match the resources with the needs of the Parish. Each month the Treasurer reports the results vs this budget and a year over year comparison. And while the Parish has been able to work within this model, it doesn't tell the full story.

While we responsibly budget our expenses to within a small variance of our income, we aren't able to budget to match where the parish aspires to be. As one example, Fr. Tim alluded to the gap between our current and ideal staffing levels in the annual meeting.

We also need to answer other questions, such as:

1. Are we maintaining our physical plant adequately?
2. Are our programs able to perform at the high level we expect?
3. Are we managing our endowment in a responsible way?
4. What affect would additional revenue have on our apportionment and outreach?

We hope you will join us for the conversation.

This meeting is also available via Zoom. [Click Here](#) to join!

Zoom Info Is Below:

Meeting ID: 876 0875 1573
Passcode: 637432

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Fifth 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 [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 Peirce 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 Taizé 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

Easter Memorial Flowers



EASTER Flower & Music Memorials

Names Must Be Submitted
To The Office On Or Before
April 3, 2022



Checks should be made payable to St. Luke's Church, Indicating "Flower Memorials" or "Music Memorials". Suggested Donation is \$10 per name. Email requests to cimondi@stlukeseg.org, drop checks in the Sunday Offertory, bring by the Office, or Drop in the Mail to: 99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE/DINNER

April 14 @ 6 pm

It's Happening!!

The Maundy Thursday service with supper will be happening this year! You can sign up by [Clicking Here](#) for Sign-Up Genius, at our website (stlukeseg.org), you can call the office, or on the sign-up board located in the atrium, but please do sign up (we need to know how many will be coming in order to prepare ample food).

For those of you new to St. Luke's, this evening begins with the liturgy of the word in our dining room and includes a simple supper-- all this before we move to the sanctuary for the ritual foot-washing, final pre-Easter Eucharist, and stripping of the altar. Although many depart the sanctuary in silence and darkness, people also are invited to remain and pray before the large, wooden cross placed just in front of the high altar.

Besides the power of this beautiful service, Maundy Thursday will be our first time gathering for a meal in the new dining room. Please join us for this very special night!

ALSO, Sign up for THE WATCH in the atrium, by using Sign-Up Genius (The Watch is included in the Sign-Up Genius link above) or email cimondi@stlukeseg.org with the time slot you would like to participate in between 9 pm and midnight.

How You Can Help!

Here's what we need your help with:

- Set up Dining Room lead by Arlene Serdakowski – 5 helpers from 9:30 – 11:30
- Kitchen Preparation of food and plating lead by Fran Gammell-Roach – 6 helpers from 3:00 – 5:00
- Serving Dinner and Beverages – Our Vestry will be serving at 6:00 until we process to the Church
- Kitchen & Dining Room Cleanup lead by Paul Brookes immediately following the service – 2 kitchen helpers and 4 Dining Room helpers

You can sign up to help at Sign-Up Genius by [Clicking Here](#), call the office, or sign up in the atrium. Any questions, please contact me: Lois McLoughlin, Committee Lead, Maundy Thursday Dinner, Loisann21@aol.com

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

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

March Month End

March 2022	2022 YTD	Budget	Var	2021 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$163,853	\$148,000	\$15,853	\$153,246	\$10,607
Loose Plate	\$14,091	\$5,600	\$8,491	\$3,463	\$10,628
Other Personal Inc.	\$14,519	\$8,800	\$5,719	\$21,426	(\$6,907)
Total Personal Inc.	\$192,463	\$162,400	\$30,063	\$178,135	\$14,328
Total Other Inc	\$22,123	\$26,915	(\$4,792)	\$81,604	(\$59,481)
Total Income	\$214,586	\$189,315	\$25,271	\$259,739	(\$45,153)
			\$0		
Staff Expenses	\$114,832	\$118,991	(\$4,159)	\$108,888	\$5,944
Facilities Expenses	\$34,256	\$33,877	\$379	\$24,675	\$9,581
Program Expenses	\$4,356	\$8,225	(\$3,869)	\$5,402	(\$1,046)
Outreach & Appor.	\$20,527	\$20,574	(\$47)	\$23,790	(\$3,263)
Total Expenses	\$173,986	\$181,768	(\$7,782)	\$162,754	\$11,232
Net Income	\$40,600	\$7,547	\$33,053	\$96,984	(\$56,384)

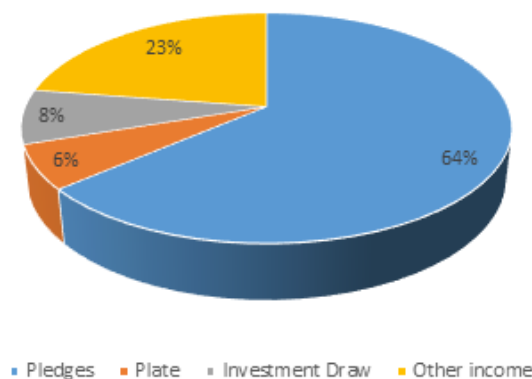
Notes:

- Income is continuing its strong trend
- Expenses for the most part are in line and under control
- Utilities are roughly \$3,500 over budget

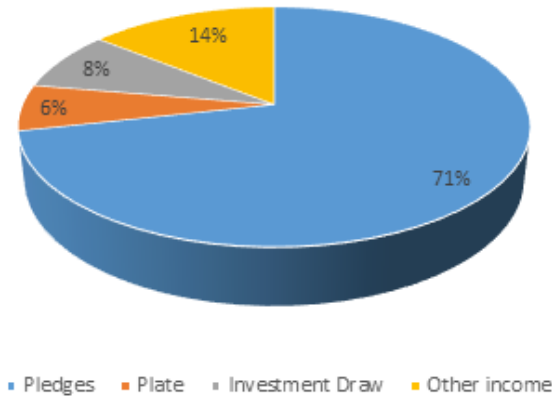
First quarter has come to a close – I'd like to join the leadership team in thanking all of you. Your continued love of this Parish is always amazing!

Peace and Grace,
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



PayPal

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



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.

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

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

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

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*. Please read Chapter 5 in preparation for our next class.

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

Youth Faith Formation

Youth Group Heading to the Dunk to Cheer on the Providence Bruins!

Our Youth Group, grades 6-12, is heading to the Dunk on April 3rd to cheer on the Providence Bruins! Tickets are \$24 and can be purchased **[Here](#)**. (We've got a group of seats reserved together, thanks to Anna Pilkington!) Parents are welcome to join us. We'll meet in the parking lot at St. Luke's at 2:45 and drive in together. Join the fun!

(And please don't let the cost keep you from joining us! Reach out to Mtr Tanya at tanya@stlukeseg.org if financial assistance is needed.)

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. Our wonderful writers reflect on a theme, phrase, or even word that has struck them in a particular way. **Our blog is available on our website and Facebook page.** The blog will go through Easter Day.

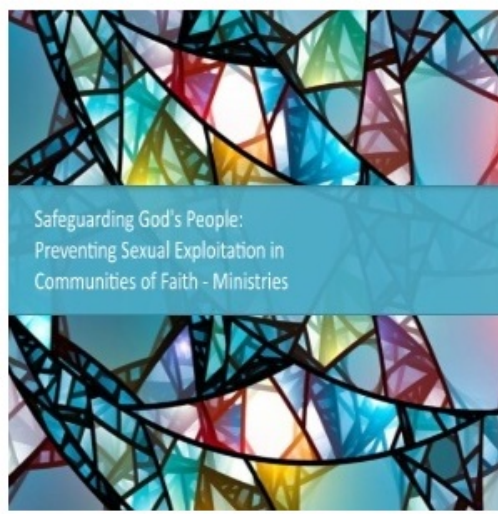
Safe Church Training

Safe Church Training

Safe Church Training is a required certification program for clergy, all licensed lay ministers including Licensed Eucharistic Visitors, vestry members, employees, and those who volunteer in programs for children and youth. This training is also *recommended* for all lay people in leadership positions. The program is grounded in our call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.

If you need to complete Safe Church training, you have two options: you may complete it online or Mtr Tanya is offering an in-person session for those would prefer to go through the online modules together. We will meet on Saturday, April 2nd from 10am - 1pm in the Blackburn Room. There are six modules that must be completed. Depending on how much time it takes, we may schedule a second session.

If you wish to attend, please contact Mtr Tanya at tanya@stlukeseg.org.



Loaves and Fishes

Loaves & Fishes

Undie Sundays!

As things start to improve around the state, the community we serve is in need of certain items, so we will be reinstating “UNDIE SUNDAYS”. On the first Sunday of every month we are calling on your generosity to provide us with new underwear and socks for men and women. You can leave these items in the church atrium where a basket will be provided in front of the office. Thank you!

Women of Grace

Women of Grace

Hello Women of Grace,

Our next meeting is set for Monday, April 4 -- please mark your calendars! We are excited to welcome The Rev. Susan Carpenter as presenter and worship officiant for the evening. Susan is the former Rector of St. Thomas, Greenville, and served more recently as Congregational Development Consultant for the RI Episcopal Diocese. Presently, Susan is the Priest-in-Charge at the Church of the Holy Cross in Middletown. A frequent visitor to the Celtic Abbey in Iona, she will introduce us to the Celtic worship tradition and then lead us in a service. The following is a brief description of what we can look forward to...

The Celtic Worship Service is drawn from the liturgical traditions of early Celtic Christians from Ireland and the Isle of Iona, off the coast of Scotland. Iona is one of the key places of continuing Celtic traditions. In the sixth century A.D., St. Columba, an Irish monk at the time, set about converting pre-Christians in Scotland and Northern England to the Christian faith. In time, he founded the Celtic Abbey of the Isle of Iona, thought to be the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland.

The Rev. Susan Carpenter will lead us in a Celtic worship service for our April meeting. In his book, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, The Rev. John Phillip Newell, former warden of the Iona Abbey, discusses how the early Celtic Christians valued “listening for the Sacred deep within ourselves, with one another, and within the body of the earth for the beat of the Sacred Presence.” Thus, our service will begin with a time of silence in community with others. This candle-lit evening service balances a mix of music and periods of silence to provide a place to listen to God. The atmosphere will be one of stillness and calm.

Our plan is, again, to meet in the new dining room starting at 7:00pm with greetings, introductions, and refreshments. The Rev. Carpenter will then lead the service. As usual, we promise to complete the evening gathering at 9:00pm. **In the meantime, we need volunteers for refreshments!** Please respond via email or phone to Deborah Collins (collinstn01@gmail.com; 401-885-4116) to confirm your attendance and that of any guests, or to be added to our mailing list. This is always such a help

in planning our evening together.

Gardens and Grounds

Gardens and Grounds

Gardens and Grounds will be having a Spring Clean-up day on Thursday, April 7, from 9 am-Noon. We will be sprucing things up in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Bring your rakes, bring your shovels, trowels! All are welcome to join us as we care for God's creation and make our ground a welcoming place for all. Questions: Cindi Lovejoy benem@cox.net

Help Ukrainian Families

Help Ukrainian Families

As we pray for an end to violence and for those fleeing Ukraine, please also pray for Episcopal Relief & Development and other ecumenical agencies working to respond to the current crisis. Specific needs will change as the crisis evolves. As of right now, there is a need for cash, blankets and hygiene supplies. Let's support Episcopal Relief & Development as they help families fleeing the violence. Visit episcopalrelief.org for more information.

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.

.....

*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

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 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 Blackburn Room 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, April 23, 2022 - 10 am!)

East Greenwich Recycling Day

EAST GREENWICH E-WASTE RECYCLING & PAPER SHREDDING DAY

Presented by:

East Greenwich
Chamber of Commerce



Rotary
Club of East Greenwich



Saturday
April 23rd
9AM-NOON

New England Tech

1 New England Tech Blvd
East Greenwich, RI



To benefit:



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Harry Waterman
401-515-2011 ext.1004
harryw@cartridgeworldri.com

*Suggested donation: \$5 per box of paper (\$15 max) • \$1 per e-waste item (\$10 max)
*Pick up available (e-waste only) from 4/18 to 4/22 (contact above) charges may apply
*Donations of non-perishable food for the RI Community Food Bank will also be accepted!

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, & 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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