



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

May 1, 2022

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is nothing more meaningful to me than our weekly celebration of the Eucharist. To my understanding, the Eucharist is that experience where God gathers all of God's beloved around the table. It reflects God's unwavering love for us. It captures God's great desire to feed and sustain us for the week which is to come.

All of which is why I am so passionate when I say, "All of you are welcome at the Lord's table."

It's also why I so delight in our "Corporate Communion" celebrations.

For those of you not familiar with these occasions, you should know first that it is our practice at St. Luke's to offer communion to any person—no age or certification required. Just as we begin providing foods to our infant children without their full understanding of the nutritional benefits to their physical health, I believe it appropriate to do the same as it relates to their spiritual health. I also think it important that they never feel turned away from God's family supper. (You should see the eager faces of our youth as they come to the communion rail, and the disappointment for many of them when they are not allowed to receive.) And perhaps most importantly, I have always thought receiving communion is more a matter of the heart than the head, regardless of age.

So, while I certainly respect the different choices parents make regarding when their children might receive communion, I want to be clear, I am happy to share the Eucharist with any child as soon as she/he is able to swallow it!

But all of that said, our corporate communion classes invite 3rd and 4th graders into an intentional time of study and reflection regarding the experience of receiving communion. Research on the stages of faith development suggests that this age provides a perfect time for children both to understand more deeply the meaning of communion and also to appreciate more fully the mystery of our sacramental beliefs. Possessing an amazing capacity for wonder, their imaginings about how Jesus' "real presence" is found in our Eucharist (the Episcopal Church's theology of the Eucharist, in case you didn't know) never ceases to amaze me! Often after meeting with the kids, I think, maybe we should have a similar class for adults too—and let the children present!

Finally, in recognition of the conversations they've shared, we hold a "Corporate Communion Sunday" where the children are invited to stand with me at the altar table as we celebrate the Eucharist. It really

Food Cupboard

is one of my favorite moments of the year, their eyes wide-opened, filled with excitement and pride.

Quick Links

St. Luke's Church

Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island

The Episcopal Church

The Anglican Communion

Stay Connected



Please join me in congratulating Berkeley Baker and Emily Poirier for completing this moment in their faith journeys. Please join me also, in giving thanks for Erica Simo, who has taught this class for several years now, and Therese Deiters Muscat, who makes sure that our children feel well-celebrated upon completion of the class.

As I imagine the joy of this day, I am reminded of one of the things that makes St. Luke's so special: we are a multi-generational community, always ready to celebrate for one another, regardless of age. This Sunday I look forward to seeing your smiling faces in the pews every bit as much as I look forward to being flanked by the smiling faces of Berkeley and Kelsey at the table.

Continued Easter Blessings!
Tim

And frankly, to my way of thinking, the Eucharist is more a matter of the heart than the head for those of any age.

Corporate Communion Celebration

Corporate Communion is a five-week course at St. Luke's for "First Communion". It is a class designed to offer age-appropriate theology, liturgy and tradition for the children in our church family.

These children understand the symbolism and significance of the Eucharist in ways that are often surprising and delightful. Their teacher, Erica Simo, has thoroughly enjoyed this small but mighty class this year. Their innate spirituality is a wonder to behold.

Please join us in praying for and congratulating this year's Corporate Communion class celebrants!

Berkeley Baker
Emily Poirier

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Third Sunday of Easter

Click above for the lessons

7:45am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

10:15am Holy Eucharist with Sermon with Baptisms

We are glad to offer Facebook livestream and YouTube livestream for our 10:15 Sunday services.

To access the livestream for Facebook or YouTube, [Click Here](#) for the link found on our website.

Please contact Mtr. Tanya with any questions at tanya@stlukeseg.org

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

The Rev. Tanya Watt, assistant rector, preaching

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

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)

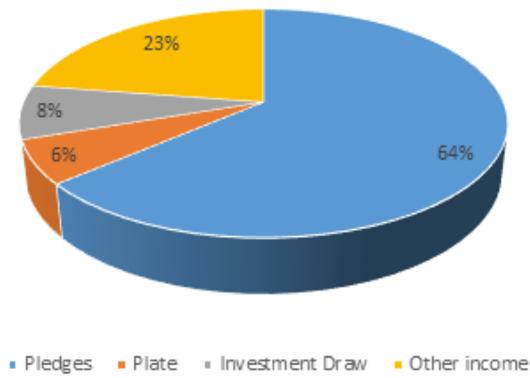
Notes:

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

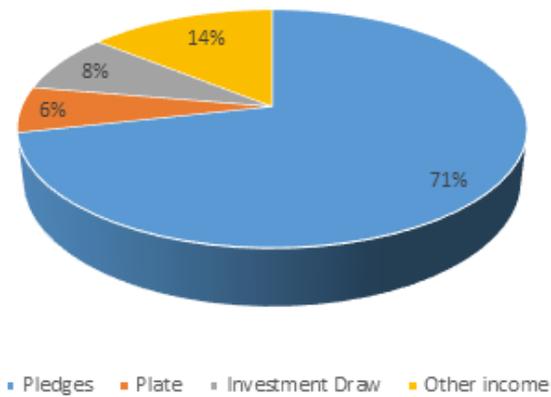
First quarter has come to a close – I'd like to join the leadership team in thanking all of you. Your continued love of this Parish is always amazing!

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



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 Book Study

Adult Faith Formation 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.*"

As we journey through Easter, I hope you'll join me and others in continuing to read Peter Gomes' The Scandalous Gospel. Please read Chapter 8 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 continuing to share this with you all.

Easter blessings- Tim

Safe Church Training

Safe Church Training: Registration Now Open

Diocesan Safe Church Trainers will conduct this important training in-person for lay leaders and church staff on Saturday, May 14th, at St. John's in Barrington, RI, from 9am to 12:30pm. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

Universal training is required for church employees, volunteers working with youth, home visitors and church leaders including vestry members, volunteer program leaders and Altar Guild. Certification of training shall be renewed every three years.

The obligation to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being is binding for all the baptized. This Safe Church Training session will show with best practices and policies, how to help keep church safe for children and our vulnerable populations.

[Click Here](#) to register.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap (TOT) Meeting – Monday, May 2 @ 7 pm

All men of St. Luke's Are Invited

We're back! In person!

St. Luke's Mens' group – Theology on Tap: With Several months of Zoom meetings behind us, we are resuming in-person TOT meetings, in the new Dining Room. You are invited to join us on Monday, May 2 @ 7 pm for conversation and community.

TOT is a casual group of St. Luke's men, who enjoy meetings 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 get added to the email distribution list, contact Brent Bostick at 908-230-7569 or brentbostick1@gmail.com.

Women of Grace

Women of Grace – May Meeting

Our next meeting is set for Monday, May 16 -- please mark your calendars! If you are a fan of Anne Lamott's books, you will enjoy this next session. Laura Sullivan will lead us in a discussion of Lamott's *Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage*. Many of us know of this author and her previous works, including the best-selling *Help, Thanks, Wow; Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith*; and *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope; Hallelujah Anyway*. Known for her pragmatic perspective, plucky faith, and pithy questions, Lamott encourages us to see the Grace within the challenge, affirm ourselves, and maintain a prayerful perspective. If you are inclined to read the book before our meeting, *Dusk, Night, Dawn* is a fairly short read (208 pages) and is available on Amazon.com or ThriftBooks at <https://www.thriftbooks.com/>

Once again, we will meet in St. Luke's dining room starting at 7:00pm with greetings, introductions, and refreshments. After an opening prayer, we will launch into our discussion and complete the evening gathering at 9:00pm. **In the meantime, we need volunteers for opening/closing prayers and 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.

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes Run

In March we had a strategy session with Father Tim to brainstorm ideas on how we could carry out our mission during the time when the traditional food truck run to Woonsocket was on hold. The reason for the hold was not having people to serve because the State offered shelter and food to the homeless during the pandemic. The State's homeless support was scheduled to end on March 31st but has been extended to June 30th. Our planning session concluded by stating that we would continue to support the people at the East Greenwich Hotel with twenty sandwich bags per week. We also will continue with the Women's Shelter in Woonsocket as well as Dorcas by providing for the refugees they support.

For our run on April 30, 2022, Father Tim has asked that the current confirmation class assemble and deliver the contents for the bag lunches for the East Greenwich Hotel. The items needed per bag are detailed on the SignUp Genius.

Our friends at the Woonsocket Women's Shelter have asked if we might be able to provide window fans to help keep rooms cooler in the upcoming months. New or gently used window fans can be dropped off at the St. Luke's atrium. We hope to deliver twenty fans by the end of April or beginning of May. A suggested fan is a Penguin 9" twin window fan available locally or online for approximately \$40.00.



Dorcas, www.diiri.org, has asked if we could assist in helping with the Afghanistan relocations in the Providence area. They could use men's and women's toiletries, cleaning products, summer clothing for children, men and women, including sneakers and flip flops. Further details are on the SignUp Genius. [Click Here](#) for our April sign-up.

The donations for the Women's Shelter and Dorcas can be dropped off at St Luke's atrium any time up to noon on April 30th. Your generosity is most appreciated and allows us to continue helping those in need. Thank you.

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!

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.

Community Embrace Golf Classic



Community Embrace Golf Classic, Dinner & Auction

.....
Potowomut Golf Club
.....

**Thanks to you, the Community Embrace event
is completely sold out! We will be sharing news of
the event and memories of the day later in May.**

THANK YOU!!!

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, May 21, 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 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.



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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