



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

May 22, 2022

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Talk about a tale of two cities.

Last Sunday, Tom Sprague, Tanya and I gathered with sixteen teenagers to complete their two-year confirmation course. Each one shared with the group a Biblical verse she or he had selected and memorized, and told us why it was meaningful to them. Then, as we sat outside, basking in the glorious East Greenwich day, enjoying pizza and birthday cake in honor of Lily Messier, the teens, one by one, met with us to discuss whether or not they desired to be confirmed. In advance I had told them I would support either choice; all I asked was that, regardless of their decision, they be able to explain why.

I could not have been more moved and proud of each and every students' response. They were thoughtful, articulate, and respectful—a clear indicator of how far they had journeyed over these past two years. As I drove home that afternoon, I thought to myself, how blessed I am to share church and life with these teenagers.

Also as I drove home, I listened to reports coming from another city, Buffalo, about the efforts of another teenager, who here shall remain nameless. As you all know by now, on Saturday, May 14, an eighteen-year-old White male drove two hundred miles to a carefully selected, predominantly African-American neighborhood, entered a grocery store, killing ten, injuring three others, and leaving an entire community grief-stricken.

Talk about a tale of two cities.

By Monday, authorities had discovered the teen's numerous social media posts detailing his carefully researched plans, including the decision to target a grocery store rather than a church or elementary school—this because of the larger numbers expected to be present at the market. The story chilled my blood.

But then, what made my blood boil was the report regarding the shooter's motivations. In a manifesto obtained by authorities and apparently written by the teenager, he discussed his concerns about the dwindling White population in this country and articulated the conspiracy claims that White elitists are engaging in cultural replacement for political benefits—a theory otherwise known "Replacement Theory."

Lest you think this theory, or some variation of it, is the thinking of the mentally troubled alone, a May 2022 poll by the A.P. found that one third of American adults believed "that an effort was underway

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to replace native born Americans with immigrants for electoral gains.” And none of us should be all that surprised by this finding, given that in recent years US senators and television commentators alike are espousing similar beliefs.

Whether all of this rhetoric and violence is a matter of extremism, mental instability, or evil is a conversation for another place. What I know is that this thinking and the violence that extends from it are antithetical to the Kingdom of God.

Words and ideology shape our communal experience. They can be used to promote compassion, peace, understanding, and life. Or they can be used to promote fear, hate, violence, and death. All of which makes the conversations and considerations of our sixteen confirmation students so crucial.

Over the span of two years, we have talked about a God of love, about a Jesus of compassion, and about a gospel of inclusion. And although moving forward their beliefs about Christianity might vary, I do believe that each of them will be entering adulthood with a shared appreciation for common decency and mutual respect. The language of our faith speaks to this; the ideas of our church promote this.

Last weekend was a tale of two cities. Truth be told, this weekend will be much the same tale. In East Greenwich we will celebrate the efforts and thinking of several teenagers. Whereas in Buffalo, they will grieve the acts and thoughts of one teenager.

But this tale is not done being written. Each of us, you and I, have agency as co-authors with God. In the relationships we share and the language we speak, we add pages to the tale.

This Sunday, I invite you to join me in celebrating our confirmands. I invite you to confirm along with them that “...you will strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being” (BCP p.417). And I invite you to pray for our brothers and sisters in Buffalo (please see the prayer below).

May God forgive us and guide us until the day that our two cities resemble the one Holy City for which Jesus gave his life so many years ago.

Easter blessings,  
Tim

#### **A Prayer for the City of Buffalo**

God of abundant love,  
In the aftermath of another horrific act of violence and racism,  
In which, human lives, sacred and precious, were lost,  
We pray for blessing and healing in the Buffalo community.  
We pray especially for those who lost their lives that day, those who were injured, for their grieving loved ones, and for all who were present during the attack and who are grappling with its aftermath.  
We hold in our hearts all those killed by gun violence and who are victims of racism.

God, wrap your healing love around these individuals and their families and communities, and inspire each of us to act with prophetic love so that racism and violence have no place to grow in this world. Amen.

*(author unknown)*

## This Sunday at St. Luke's

### The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Click above for the lessons

**7:45am** Holy Eucharist with Sermon

**10:15am** Holy Eucharist with Sermon and Confirmation

**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](mailto:tanya@stlukeseg.org)

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

The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, preaching

## 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

### From the Treasurer

April Month End

	2022 YTD	Budget	%	2021	Var
Pledge Income	\$195,733	\$198,000	(\$2,267)	\$201,135	(\$5,402)
Loose Plate	\$21,347	\$10,100	\$11,247	\$7,439	\$13,908
Other Personal Inc.	\$24,333	\$16,367	\$7,966	\$30,875	(\$6,542)
<b>Total Personal Inc.</b>	<b>\$241,413</b>	<b>\$224,467</b>	<b>\$16,946</b>	<b>\$239,449</b>	<b>\$1,964</b>
Total Other Inc	\$25,419	\$31,731	(\$6,312)	\$82,630	(\$57,211)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$266,832</b>	<b>\$256,198</b>	<b>\$10,634</b>	<b>\$322,079</b>	<b>(\$55,247)</b>
Staff Expenses	\$154,079	\$158,844	(\$4,765)	\$145,450	\$8,629
Facilities Expenses	\$52,098	\$43,322	\$8,776	\$31,454	\$20,644
Program Expenses	\$7,092	\$12,317	(\$5,225)	\$6,498	\$594
Outreach Expenses	\$30,827	\$34,032	(\$3,205)	\$30,426	\$401
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$244,096</b>	<b>\$248,515</b>	<b>(\$4,419)</b>	<b>\$213,828</b>	<b>\$30,268</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$22,736</b>	<b>\$7,684</b>	<b>\$15,052</b>	<b>\$108,251</b>	<b>(\$85,515)</b>
Capital Expenditures					
Sewer Lining	\$55,000			Includes \$65,000 PPP	

Notes:

Income -

Pledges are down slightly, but loose plate continues to over perform  
Easter was \$6,609 – slightly over last year

Expenses -

Facilities expenses still over

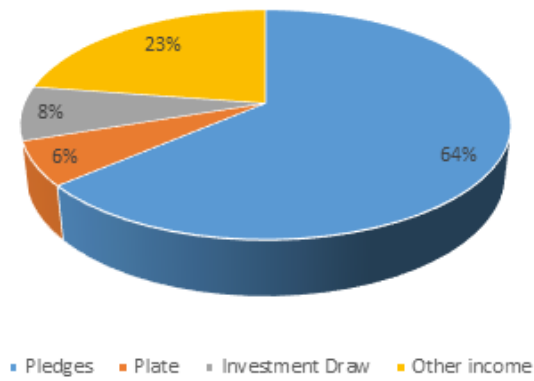
- o Utilities up \$3,756
- o Property – new repairs for heating in auditorium of \$3,600 uncovered more work of almost \$10,000 that will be needed
- o Fire panel replacement will be \$2,200
- o Parking lot sealing/stripping has been put on hold
- o At this point the expected property cost will be around \$3,800 over budget for the year, along with utility overages

Overall, we're still ahead of the budget bottom line by \$15,052. Hard to say if the economy is affecting our income – we are definitely seeing it hit our expenses, though.

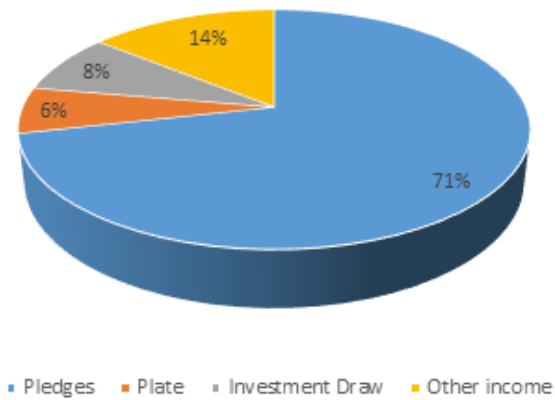
If you take off the \$65,000 in PPP money from last year's income, we would be roughly \$10,000 ahead of last year. But we were also closed last year until mid-March, and operated at a somewhat reduced capacity after that. So all that means is the pandemic is making any meaningful analysis somewhat difficult.

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><b>Online Banking</b>  <b>Bill Pay</b> – with online bill pay, you add St. Luke’s Church as a payee, enter our address of 99 Peirce St. East Greenwich, RI 02818 and schedule your payment.  <b>Benefits:</b> Ease of use – if you already use online bill pay, then you are familiar with making payments this way. You can schedule single payments, or set up regular payments in advance.  <b>No cost to you or the Church.</b></p>	<p><b>Zelle Transfer</b>  <b>Zelle Payment</b> – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the <a href="mailto:giving@stlukeseg.org">giving@stlukeseg.org</a> address.  <b>Benefits:</b> Ease of use – if you already use Zelle, then you are familiar with making payments this way. This only makes one payment at a time, so you have to initiate each payment.  <b>No cost to you or the Church</b></p>	<p><b>VANCO Payment Solutions</b>  <b>VANCO Payments</b> – With VANCO payments, you create your individual account on the VANCO site, set up how you want to pay, and the funds are deposited in the Church’s account  <b>Benefits:</b> If you like points or miles, then this is your site! VANCO is the only option that accepts credit cards. Like Online Banking, you can set up recurring payments or make single payments  <b>Transaction Fees for the Church</b></p>	<p><b>Direct Payment From IRA</b>  <b>Direct Transfer</b> – If you are 70 ½ or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA.  <b>Benefits:</b> Any funds paid this way are not reported as taxable income to you. You can make your entire yearly pledge with one payment, help satisfy your required distribution, and incur no tax on the income.  <b>No cost to you or the Church</b></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*. You're welcome to join us at any point. Please read the concluding chapter 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

## Youth Faith Formation

### St. Luke's Youth Group!

6th - 12th graders are invited to join us on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00 as we create fused glass night lights at *Create! Color Art Studio* .

We will meet at the studio, which is located at the Salt Pond Plaza, 91 Point Judith Rd., Unit D-3, in Narragansett. If you need assistance coordinating transportation, please let Mtr Tanya know. We anticipate spending about two hours together at the studio and everyone will leave with their creation!

Cost is \$23, but don't let the cost keep you from joining the fun! If you need assistance, reach out to Mtr Tanya. **Reservations are required. Please RSVP to Mtr Tanya ( [tanya@stlukeseg.org](mailto:tanya@stlukeseg.org)) by the end of the day on Wednesday, May 18th.**

## St. Luke's Spring Concert



St. Luke's Episcopal  
Church Presents

# A Spring Concert

## *How Can I Keep From Singing*

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Featuring the Canterbury Choir,  
the St. Cecilia Choir, the Three Amigos,  
& a variety of soloists



Sunday, June 5, 2022 at 4:00 pm



99 Peirce Street  
East Greenwich, RI 02818



Loaves and Fishes

### Loaves & Fishes Run

For May we will provide bag lunches to our neighbors at the East Greenwich Hotel. The Women's Shelter in West Warwick needs assistance with window fans, baby wipes and diapers. Dorcas, [www.diiri.org](http://www.diiri.org), has asked if we could assist in helping with the refugees that they serve.

For our run on May 28, 2022, we will be asking for bag lunches to be prepared at your home and delivered to St Luke's Atrium by 12:00 PM on that date. The SignUp Genius details the needs for each bag lunch, the Women's Shelter and the items for Dorcas. [Click Here](#) for the May SignUp Genius Link!

The donations for the Women's Shelter and DORCAS can be dropped off at St Luke's atrium any time up to noon on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Your generosity is most appreciated and allows us to continue helping those in need.

Thank you.

## 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](http://episcopalrelief.org) for more information.

## Dorcas Donations

### Dorcas Donations

We are now collecting donations for our Dorcas Ministry! We are looking for seasonal items, spring/summer. Please drop off in the atrium under the mosaic and label as Dorcas. Thanks so much for your support!

## 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!)

### **St. Luke's Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Special Days of Thanksgiving**

Would you like to celebrate your birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special day with St. Luke's?

We are compiling a list of parishioners' birthdays, anniversaries, and other important dates. If you would like to have a thanksgiving offered during the weekly Prayers of the People, **please complete this form.** An appropriate thanksgiving will be included during the prayers.

Any questions? Please email Christina ( [cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org)) or call the parish office (401-884-4116). Happy Celebrating!

### St. Luke's Choirs

#### **St. Luke's Choirs Sing for You!**

As a special gift from the Canterbury, St. Cecilia, and Angel Choirs to our St. Luke's family and friends, choir members compiled a special 'arrangement' of "How Can I Keep From Singing". The music is from an American folk song originally composed by Baptist minister Robert Wadworth Lowry in 1868 with the four-part arrangement published by Jeffrey Honoré in 1991. The choirs performed this piece at their 2019 Spring Concert and happily recreated that performance in this video (also available on St. Luke's website and Facebook page).



### Big Brothers and Big Sisters

#### **Big Brothers and Big Sisters Donations**

In our continuing efforts to be a good neighbor and serve our local community, we have added a new addition to the St Luke's parking lot! The clothing bin is a result of joining in a new partnership between the Episcopal Diocese and Big Brother Big Sister of Rhode Island. It will serve as a collection point for community donations of clothing, shoes and other cloth items. Please drop off your bagged items at your convenience.



Especially for Children

To watch Godly Play online please [Click Here!](#)

## Food Cupboard

Greetings from our Food Cupboard!

We are reaching out to update you on some of our needs during this challenging time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our families that they are able to stay healthy and safe.

Please consider donating these items:

Kidney beans, cannellini beans, baked beans, pasta sauce, rice/pasta sides, ramen noodles, cooking stock, canned pineapple, hash, chili, yellow cake mix, Italian or ranch dressing, ketchup, juice (64 oz), crackers, cookies and mayonnaise.

Thank you!  
EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

St. Luke's Episcopal Church | (401) 884-4116  
cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>  
99 Peirce Street  
East Greenwich, RI 02818

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