



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

May 29, 2022

In This Issue

[This Sunday at St. Luke's](#)

[Covid Update](#)

[One Service Only!](#)

[Thank You To Our Teachers!](#)

[Treasurer Announcement](#)

[Adult Faith Formation Book Study](#)

[St. Luke's Spring Concert](#)

[Loaves & Fishes](#)

[Usher Ministry](#)

[Help Ukrainian Families](#)

[Dorcas Donations](#)

[Photos Wanted!](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Coffee Hour](#)

[Grief Support Group](#)

[St. Luke's Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Special Days of Thanksgiving](#)

[St. Luke's Choirs](#)

[Big Brothers and Big Sisters](#)

[Especially for Children](#)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have struggled mightily with what on earth to offer in this week's newsletter. Like many of you, I have been angry and sad, heartsick and grieved at the news of the lives of the children who were killed in their classrooms this week. Crushed that their teachers lost their lives trying to protect them. Haunted by the news that fathers were breaking windows to pull children out of the school building in Uvalde, a place I had not heard of until this week.

It was not until Wednesday night that I read something that made any sense to me at all. You may have heard before that Mr. Rogers, a Presbyterian minister, was once troubled by a disaster he saw on TV as a child, and his mother told him to look for the helpers:

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers – so many caring people in this world."

When I first read these words many years ago, they were a source of great comfort to me. But over time, they have begun to feel too thin, too worn. There are so many disasters, so many times that people hurt one another.

Wednesday, though, I read a reflection that asked that those who had been comforted by Mr. Rogers' words of looking for helpers choose to take the next step and become helpers ourselves. Rather than simply *naming* the people we see doing good things in the midst of sad tragedies, we are asked to *become* the people doing good things in the midst of the sadness around us. We are asked to *be* the helpers.

Being the helpers does not mean that we pretend that something terrible hasn't just happened. Helpers grieve, helpers lament, helpers cry out to God. But helpers do not give in to despair, helpers do not give up in the face of unspeakable evil. Being the helpers means that we maintain our faith, our trust that there is a light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Being helpers means that we offer ourselves to one another, giving the love we have and receiving the love we need.

Our grief is holy, our lament for the unspeakable tragedies in our midst is holy. Let us grieve. Let us lament. And let us be the helpers.

Resources

Food Cupboard

It can be difficult to imagine where to even begin to talk about violence with the beloved young people in our lives. These resources can help:

Quick Links

St. Luke's Church

[Discussing Hate and Violence with Children](#)

Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island

[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)

The Episcopal Church

[How to talk to children about shootings: An age-by-age guide](#)

The Anglican Communion

Blessings and wishes for gentle days ahead,

Mother Tanya

Stay Connected



This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Click above for the lessons

7:45am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

10:15am Holy Eucharist with Sermon and Rite 13 Ceremony

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. Timothy T. Rich, rector, preaching

Covid Update

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

Please [Click Here](#) to view Fr. Tim's message regarding our new 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.

One Service Only

PENTECOST SERVICE!
Wear Red!



Thank You To Our Teachers!

We would like to say thank you to our teachers who volunteered to nurture the faith of our youth over these past nine months!

Nursery

Karen Phelps
Heather Johnson

Godly Play Storytellers and Greeters

Theresa Deiters Muscat
Aileen Sprague
Erica Simo
Lisa Rivard
Jacob Trombino
Kate Goldbitz
Mary Semeraro
Corie Jacaruso

Rite 13

Michael Grady
Stacey Nakasian
Tom Sprague
Allie Poirier

Royal School of Church Music (R.S.C.M)

Geo Borgia
Sally House
Ben Lovejoy
Catherine Pilkington

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)
Total Personal Inc.	\$241,413	\$224,467	\$16,946	\$239,449	\$1,964
Total Other Inc	\$25,419	\$31,731	(\$6,312)	\$82,630	(\$57,211)
Total Income	\$266,832	\$256,198	\$10,634	\$322,079	(\$55,247)
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
Total Expenses	\$244,096	\$248,515	(\$4,419)	\$213,828	\$30,268
Net Income	\$22,736	\$7,684	\$15,052	\$108,251	(\$85,515)
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

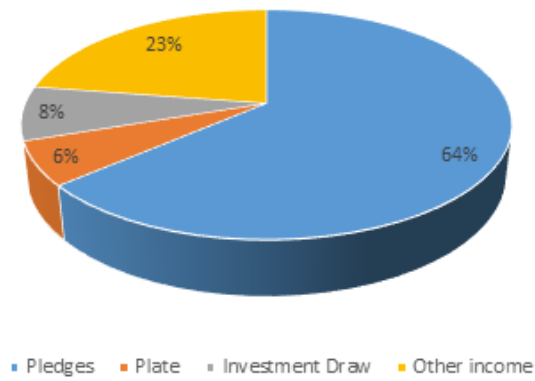
- o Utilities up \$3,756
- o Property – new repairs for heating in auditorium of \$3,600 uncovered more work of almost \$10,000 that will be needed
- o Fire panel replacement will be \$2,200
- o Parking lot sealing/stripping has been put on hold
- o At this point the expected property cost will be around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

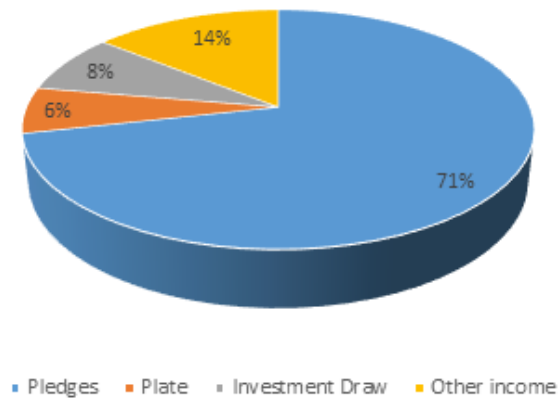
If you take off the \$65,000 in PPP money from last year's income, we would be roughly \$10,000 ahead of last year. But we were also closed last year until mid-March, and operated at a somewhat reduced capacity after that. So all that means is the pandemic is making any meaningful analysis somewhat difficult.

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



PayPal

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



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

Adult Faith Formation invites you to Sabbath in the Summer

Over this summer, Adult Faith Formation invites you to join us as we read from *Sabbath: Finding rest, renewal, and delight in our busy lives* by Wayne Muller. We will meet for dinner and discussion from 6:00pm - 8:00pm in the dining room on June 15th, July 20th, and August 17th. You're invited to bring a dish to share as we reflect together on a chapter and practice from the book. You're asked to read the chapter (3-5 pages) and spend time on the practice before coming together.

June 15th: "*It is Good*"

July 20th: "*A Life well Lived*"

August 17th: "*The Pursuit of Happiness*"

As we orient our lives following the intensity of the pandemic, join us as we reflect on how we can honor our need for rest, re-creation, and renewal. We look forward to sharing this time with you!

St. Luke's Spring Concert



St. Luke's Episcopal
Church Presents

A Spring Concert

How Can I Keep From Singing

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, 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 28th.

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!

Usher Ministry

St. Luke's Usher Ministry

**Ushers are needed for both the 7:45 and 10:15 services.
Additional information on requirements is detailed below.**

Please reach out to Steve McLoughlin or any of the ushers if you would like to know more or would like to be an usher. 401 225 5540 /smcloughlin2@aol.com

Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. ... It's good work you're doing, helping these travelers on their way, hospitality worthy of God himself! (3 John, vs 5-6)

Our Mission

The usher ministry offers the hospitality of Christ to people who come to worship, to collect and secure the gifts of the people, and to assure the order, comfort, and safety of the congregation. Making St Luke's an inviting place to worship.

Talent

Must like meeting and greeting people.
The ability to be friendly while dignified and appreciative of the setting.
Attentiveness to needs and poise in the unexpected.

Time Involved

Usher teams serve on a rotational basis about every 4 -5 weeks.
Ushers may specify a preference for 7:45 am, 10:15 am, services.
Arrive 30 minutes before service

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.

Dorcas Donations

Dorcas Donations

We are now collecting donations for our Dorcas Ministry! We are looking for sportswear. 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.

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, June 18, 2022 - 10 am!)

St. Luke's Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Special Days of Thanksgiving

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

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

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

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

St. Luke's Choirs

St. Luke's Choirs Sing for You!

As a special gift from the Canterbury, St. Cecilia, and Angel Choirs to our St. Luke's family and friends, choir members compiled a special 'arrangement' of "How Can I Keep From Singing". The music is from an American folk song originally composed by Baptist minister Robert Wadworth

Lowry in 1868 with the four-part arrangement published by Jeffrey Honoré in 1991. The choirs performed this piece at their 2019 Spring Concert and happily recreated that performance in this video (also available on St. Luke's website and Facebook page).



Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Big Brothers and Big Sisters Donations

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



Especially for Children

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

Food Cupboard

Greetings from our Food Cupboard!

We are reaching out to update you on some of our needs during this challenging time. Our thoughts

and prayers are with all of our families that they are able to stay healthy and safe.

Please consider donating these items:

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

Thank you!

EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

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

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