



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

July 17, 2022

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Diane and I went into countless churches, cathedrals, and basilicas during our time in Barcelona and the southern coast of Italy because, well, that's what church geeks do when traveling (I'm speaking of me not her, to be clear), and, in Europe, there seemed to be one at every turn. They were, each in their own way, stunningly beautiful and a testimony to centuries of architectural and artistic genius.

In Barcelona we first toured the Cathedral, a massive, imposing structure dating back to 1298. With gargoyles on the main facade and side chapels lining the interior, this gothic design stood in striking contrast to our next stop, Barcelona's most dramatic if not beloved church, La Sagrada Familia. You should Google this because words cannot do it justice. About La Sagrada, I will simply say this: it is Spain's most visited site, and as the crown jewel of architect Antoni Gaudi, every inch of its facade tells part of Jesus' story and every view in its interior inspires awe.

From Barcelona we flew to the Amalfi Coast and once again found ourselves exploring churches hundreds of years old, dedicated to one saint or another. Many of them featured works of art that you might expect to find in some museum. Often the soaring ceilings were adorned in gold.

In each place we visited, usually after walking around to take in all the beauty, Diane and I would kneel in prayer. Now you might expect these sacred spaces to elicit deep and profound prayers, but I have to say, for me, they did not. In fact, in many ways I struggled to pray at all. At first, I chalked it up to the crowds moving throughout the church. But then, even when we prayed in places mostly empty, I had similar difficulties.

Finally, as we sat in one basilica, underneath a dazzling gold-adorned dome, in front of an exquisite altar and bejeweled chancel, I realized something. Although these many places were undeniably glorious, I did not sense God's nearness while in them.

And as this awareness dawned on me, two questions came to mind. First, I wondered whether these churches, cathedrals, and basilicas were for God's glory or the glory of the various artists. And second, I wondered, at the time of construction, how many of the local citizens might have been fed or cared for had the church's resources been used differently?

Later, sharing these questions with my wife and feeling like a bit of a killjoy, I did find myself able to appreciate both the beauty of these spaces and the centuries of prayers that had been spoken in them. But

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Quick Links

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at the same time, I also felt stirring inside me an even greater appreciation not only for the relatively simple beauty of St. Luke's, but more especially for you, the people of St. Luke's. Your faith, your prayers, your joys, and your struggles, they are for me the materials of my most beloved cathedral. And in our shared life, I experience a profound sense of God's nearness.

I am grateful for my time in the sacred spaces of Barcelona and southern Italy. I am grateful for the time I have shared with you these past ten years. And I am grateful for the prospect of sharing still more time with you in the years to come.

I hope to see you Sunday!

Peace,
Tim

Stay Connected



This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost](#)

Click above for the lessons

7:45 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

10:15 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

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

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-Optional 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.

Summer Office Hours

**CHRISTINA'S SUMMER
OFFICE HOURS**



July through Labor Day, Christina will be in the office from 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Thursday.

The office will be closed on Fridays.

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

June Month End

| June | 2022 YTD | Budget | Var | 2021 | Var |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|---------------------------|------------|
| Pledge Income | \$254,316 | \$262,000 | (\$7,684) | \$265,360 | (\$11,044) |
| Loose Plate | \$28,856 | \$13,900 | \$14,956 | \$14,302 | \$14,554 |
| Other Personal Inc. | \$44,783 | \$19,900 | \$24,883 | \$42,984 | \$1,799 |
| Total Personal Inc. | \$327,955 | \$295,800 | \$32,155 | \$322,646 | \$5,309 |
| Total Other Inc | \$46,850 | \$53,065 | (\$6,215) | \$99,371 | (\$52,521) |
| Total Income | \$374,805 | \$348,865 | \$25,940 | \$422,017 | (\$47,212) |
| | | | | | |
| Staff Expenses | \$233,747 | \$238,550 | (\$4,803) | \$220,107 | \$13,640 |
| Facilities Expenses | \$82,662 | \$63,735 | \$18,927 | \$49,060 | \$33,602 |
| Program Expenses | \$11,997 | \$18,550 | (\$6,553) | \$10,822 | \$1,175 |
| Outreach Expense | \$47,748 | \$40,890 | \$6,858 | \$48,924 | (\$1,176) |
| Total Expenses | \$376,228 | \$368,583 | \$7,645 | \$330,227 | \$46,001 |
| | | | | | |
| Net Income | (\$1,422) | (\$19,718) | \$18,296 | \$91,790 | (\$93,212) |
| Capital Expenditures Sewer Lining | \$55,000 | | | Includes 65,000 PPP Money | |
| Golf Tour. Funds Used: New South Door AC in Choir Loft | \$12,857 | | | | |

Notes:

· **Income** – Pledge Income has fallen behind slightly – not alarming, but bears watching. Rental income is better, but still down. We have received some gifts and fund raising, so total income is \$25,940 (7.4%) ahead of budget.

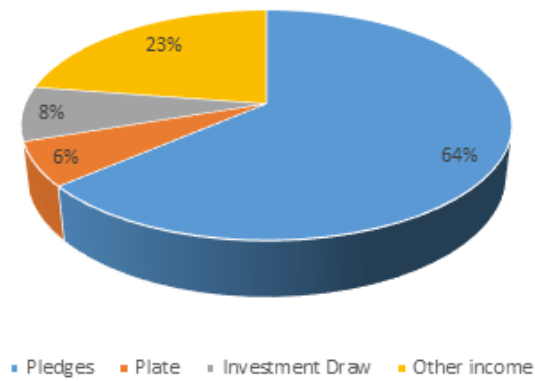
· **Expenses** – We’ve spent \$12,857 of the golf tournament money, so that has been brought into the P&L as noted. Another \$3,865 of the boiler repairs have been made (total to date \$7,430). Staff expenses and Program expenses are under budget by a total of \$11,356 (4.4%) while Facilities expenses are over budget by \$18,927 (28.7%). Total expenses are over budget by \$7,645 (2.1% - this includes the \$12,857 of spending from the golf fund raiser)

· **Bottom line** – We are \$18,296 ahead of budget. Budgeted loss at years end was \$73,999, so if we can continue the loss will be less (\$55,703)

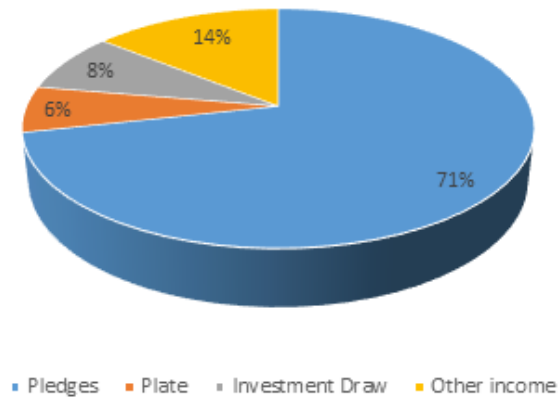
· **Ideal Staffing** – If St. Luke’s were staffed at the level we discussed at the town hall meeting in April, it would have meant an additional \$54,604 (January – June) in expenses.

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> |
|--|---|---|--|

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 continue to 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 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.

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!

Safe Church Training

Safe Church Training

Do you serve or hope to serve in a ministry with our youth or as a pastoral care visitor? Do you want to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister? If the Holy Spirit is nudging you, we want you to join in one - or more than one!- of the many ministries at St. Luke's!

So that we can maintain a safe environment for all of the beloved members of our community, Safe Church training is required of all of our lay volunteers. Please be in touch with Mother Tanya (tanya@stlukeseg.org) if you need to complete Safe Church training. You can complete it online on your own, or you can join us in the Blackburn Room on Saturday, July 16th, from 1-4 as we work through the online modules together.

Job Opening

Job Opening - Part-time Coordinator for Youth and Family Programs

While it is Fr. Tim's policy not to hire parishioners, if you have any friends who may be interested, please let us know.

St. Luke's Church, an inclusive, thriving, multi-generational, and joy-filled church, located in the heart of East Greenwich, is looking for a part-time program coordinator (15-18 hours per week) to expand our ministries with youth and their families.

Essential hopes and expectations include oversight of our youth faith formation offerings (curriculum selection and preparation, teacher recruitment and support), enhanced activities of a fledgling youth group, weekly communication with parents regarding how they might further their children's faith formation at home, and the development of a one-week summer Vacation Bible School.

Additional responsibilities include regular collaboration with the ministry team, the creation of seasonal offerings, assisting the rector with confirmation classes (February through May), and planning for our every-other-year mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Appropriate candidates must have a love for youth, and a comfort and familiarity with the Christian tradition. Experience working in a youth-related setting a must; a background in education is helpful but not required.

Other important qualities and attributes include:

- Creativity
- Good sense of humor
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Flexibility
- A demonstrated capacity to work well with others
- An energetic and energizing disposition

The weekly hours are flexible, although presence most Sunday mornings is required. With the exception of a Vacation Bible School, Faith Formation classes pause from June through August, allowing for 6 weeks of vacation time.

Gardens and Grounds

Gardens and Grounds

Psalm 24:1 tells us that “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof”. Our grounds are a reflection of the fullness God has blessed us with. We are called to care for those blessings. Come join us as we care for God’s creation in a ministry that reaches out to our community by providing a place of peace, a place of solace, a place of joy for all. Gardens and Grounds will be gathering for weeding, clearing and snacking on Thursday, July 21, from 9 am-Noon. Bring your rakes, bring your shovels, bring your trowels! All are welcome to join us as we care for God’s creation and make our grounds a welcoming place for all. Contact Jack Newton (jncn10954@verizon.com) ; Cindi Lovejoy (benem@cox.net).

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves & Fishes Run

June 18th was our first truck run in more than two years and we were happy with its success. We visited three different locations in Woonsocket and people remembered us and the truck. They offered to help spread the word that we would be back on July 16th.

With the ending of State housing assistance in June 2022 many of the people with whom we interacted are now living in the woods or other outdoor places. They identified the need for blankets, flat sheets and sleeping bags. The details are provided on the SignUp Genius.

We hope that you can join us on Saturday morning, July 16, 2022, at 10:30 am to prepare the bags for Woonsocket and the East Greenwich Hotel and participate in the run. For more information on the role of Loaves and Fishes please visit their web site: <https://www.lfri.org/our-mission/>

For now, we will focus our efforts on Woonsocket as the Women’s Shelter and Dorcas have both said they have no immediate needs but will advise us when their situation changes.

Here is a link to the July sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EA8AF2CA7FDC34-saint5>

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 **summer 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!

Episcopal Charities

Episcopal Charities 2022

***“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”
- 1 John 3:18***

Bishop Knisely, **in his recent letter to the Diocese**, began with this compelling quote from the First Letter of John, as he reported on the ongoing efforts of Episcopal Charities in Rhode Island. As we know, the pandemic disrupted many of the ways we met with and supported each other, as worrisome data and precautionary measures restricted the one-on-one sharing and gathering we all value so much as we minister to each other.

Nevertheless, the many agencies and ministries that rely on grants from Episcopal Charities and Charities NOW have continued their work, because of, and in spite of, the effects of the pandemic. Now, as we know, the impact of inflation has added to the challenges. So many in our community struggle daily to provide for their families, find affordable healthcare, or simply fill the gas tank to drive to food pantries, meal sites, or other destinations for assistance.

Enclosed with the Bishop’s letter was a list of **2021 Episcopal Charities Grants**, detailing the many non-profit agencies, church-based feeding ministries, community agencies and Diocesan-sponsored programs that received assistance from either an annual grant, or an immediate Charities NOW emergency grant. Each of those agencies, in their application for a grant, was asked to include a sponsorship letter from a parish in the Diocese. St. Luke’s is listed four times as a sponsoring parish, and additionally for our ongoing feeding ministries, - clearly another indicator of our commitment to serving the community, and our ongoing support of Episcopal Charities.

Many of these agencies, and likely even more, will be submitting applications for 2022 grants. Those requests can only be honored only as far as the generous support we can provide through Episcopal Charities.

St. Luke’s continues to be a leader in outreach and service to the community, which we do in so many ways, including our gifts to Episcopal Charities. Please consider how your generosity can make a difference to our neighbors in need, by **making your gift online**, or by mailing a check to Episcopal Charities, 275 North Main Street, Providence 02903. For more information, please log in **episcopalri.org/**

Thank you for your continued faithfulness.

Pam Dresselhouse & Laura Sullivan
Episcopal Charities Co-Chairs

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 no longer accepting donations. We will resume in September. 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, July 16, 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!

During the summer months, donations to the Food Cupboard usually fall off. At the same time, the need remains high. Please consider donating these items:

Oatmeal, baked beans, pasta sauce, canned potatoes, mashed potatoes, coffee, canned chili, crackers, beef & chicken gravy, canned peaches, pears and mandarin oranges, beef & chicken broth, Italian dressing.

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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