



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

November 13, 2022

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When I was serving a church in Pennsylvania I heard a sermon that has stuck with me for some time. I and other pastors were invited to attend a gathering at a local Christian college where the administration was encouraging students to be involved with a church in the neighborhood. I was thrilled that the school administration was encouraging college students to wake up early on a Sunday morning, venture off campus, and get involved with a local congregation. I know it is a big ask for college students to be involved in a church and every help we could get was appreciated.

It was at this gathering that one of the professors preached a sermon that has stayed with me. I don't remember the scripture that he was preaching from, but I remember the line – "the Church is God's Plan A. And if that doesn't work, the Church is God's Plan B. And if that doesn't work, the Church is God's Plan C." The professor was saying that the church, the local church, was God's plan for changing and being present in the world. This has stuck with me as a reminder of how important local congregations are. It is not mission boards or denominations that change the world or that impact the hearts of those who are hurting, but people in local churches. In my time as a pastor I have been reminded of this again and again. I have seen local churches really shine through their involvement and connection with individuals and communities. I have seen the Gospel lived in a true and authentic way through the local church. I have seen this happen at St. Luke's.

Yet to think that the local church is God's Plan A, B, and C is daunting. There have been times when I have found myself sitting in long meetings about paint colors or parking issues that I have wondered if God might go a different and perhaps more effective way. There have been other times when I have read in the news about churches and denominations that are mired in scandal and I wonder if maybe God should find a different way to be present in the world. Is the local congregation really the best way for the Gospel to be shared and lived in the world?

When the local church falls, it is painful.

Yet when the local church shines, it is brilliant even if only a handful notice.

As I have noticed the pledge campaign for this season, I have been thinking about that sermon I heard a while ago, that the Church is God's Plan A, etc. You make St. Luke's possible. There is such wisdom in reminding all of us that the local church cannot happen without the support, engagement, and commitment from all of its members. A church does not run on the labors of a few or the resources of a handful. It is each and every person, no matter how young or old, that makes the presence of the local church possible in the community.

So think about this – St. Luke's is a part of God's Plan A to share and spread the Gospel in the world and this means you all are invited

Thanksgiving

St. Luke's Choirs

Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Especially for Children

Food Cupboard

to be an active part of God's actions and movement in the community. You make worship, service, community, and more possible. And, in an amazing twist on what we expect, you make God's presence in the world possible. You are God's Plan A, B, C, and more. This is amazing. This is humbling. This is part of the beauty of being a part of a local congregation.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone
Pastoral Associate

Quick Links

St. Luke's Church

Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island

The Episcopal Church

The Anglican Communion

Stay Connected



This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Twenty-third 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 YouTube livestream for our 10:15 Sunday Service.

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

[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.

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

October Month End

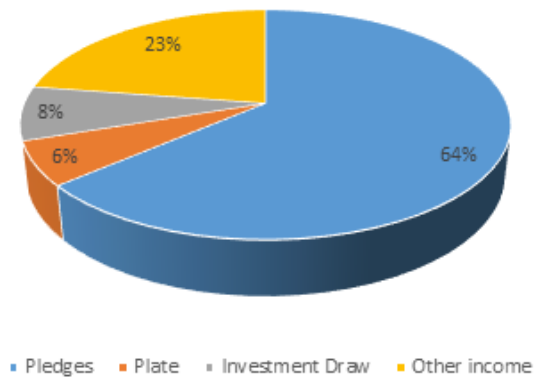
Oct, 2022	2022 YTD	Budget	Var	2021	Var
Pledge Income	\$386,266	\$387,000	(\$734)	\$389,596	(\$3,330)
Loose Plate	\$43,468	\$23,000	\$20,468	\$29,184	\$14,284
Other Personal Inc.	\$69,558	\$25,967	\$43,591	\$57,436	\$12,122
Total Personal Inc.	\$499,292	\$435,967	\$63,325	\$476,216	\$23,076
Total Other Inc	\$74,817	\$77,531	(\$2,714)	\$121,882	(\$47,065)
Total Income	\$574,109	\$513,498	\$60,611	\$598,098	(\$23,989)
Staff Expenses	\$376,709	\$386,220	(\$9,511)	\$368,262	\$8,447
Facilities Expenses	\$153,538	\$101,227	\$52,311	\$89,517	\$64,021
Program Expenses	\$19,040	\$29,517	(\$10,477)	\$16,129	\$2,911
Outreach Expense	\$75,180	\$68,322	\$6,858	\$9,714	\$65,466
Total Expenses	\$624,315	\$592,143	\$32,172	\$550,708	\$73,607
Net Income	(\$50,206)	(\$78,644)	\$28,438	\$47,390	(\$97,596)
Capital Expenditures Sewer Lining	\$55,000			Includes 65,000 PPP Money	
Fund raising Proceeds Used: New South Door AC in Choir Loft, Computer Network, New Auditorium Floor, Parking Lot Seal/Stripe	\$43,475				

Notes:

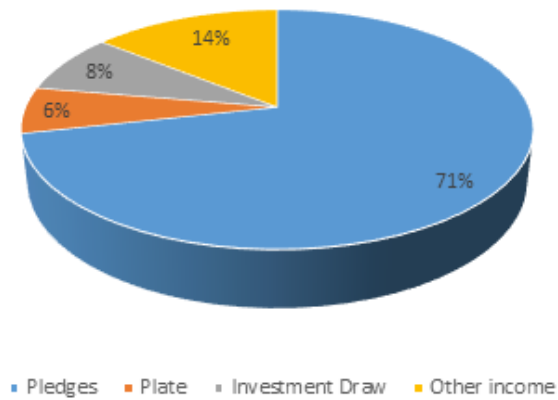
- **Income** – We beat budget by roughly \$5,700 in October
- **Expenses** – We’ve now spent \$47,479 of the fund raising money with the parking lot, leaving \$4,760. We have received a gift of \$500 towards the parking lot cost which will bring the remaining funds to \$5,260. Staff expenses and Program expenses continue to be under budget, while the facilities expenses struggle.
- **Bottom line** – we are \$28,438 ahead of budget. Budgeted loss at years end was \$73,999, so if we can continue the loss will be less (\$45,561)
- **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 \$80,944. (January – October) 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



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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No cost to you or the Church</p>
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IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions



Give to St. Luke's Through Your IRA

Did You Know?

The IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows for direct gifts to St. Luke's Church through your IRA:

- An easy way to make a gift or fulfill your pledge from your IRA
- A tax-free rollover is excluded from your gross income
- A great way to meet your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) at 72 years of age

The Rules of IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions:

- It must be from an IRA (other retirement accounts are not eligible)
- Transfers must go directly to St. Luke's from your IRA
- You must be 70 ½ at the time of your gift
- Your total IRA gifts cannot exceed \$100,000

To Learn More

- Consult with your financial advisor or attorney
- Contact Michael Sullivan, St. Luke's Treasurer, by email at treasurer@stlukeseg.org

Advent Blog Series – 2022

Beginning November 27 and Running Thru December 25

In what has become a tradition at St. Luke's, parishioners are invited to read, reflect, and write on daily readings. Interested in writing an Advent blog?

Contact Christina Imondi at cimondi@stlukeseg.org



2022 Advent Blog

Adult Faith Formation Book Study

Adult Faith Formation Book Study

OUR ADVENT BOOK STUDY TO BEGIN A BIT EARLY!

SCARRED BY STRUGGLE. TRANSFORMED BY HOPE

Everyone goes through times of pain and sorrow, depression and darkness, stress and suffering. It is in the necessary struggles of life, however, that we stretch our souls and gain new insights enabling us to go on. Building on the biblical story of Jacob wrestling with God and on the story of her own battle with life-changing disappointment, **Sister Joan Chittister** deftly explores the landscape of suffering and hope, considering along the way such wide-ranging topics as consumerism, technology, grief, and the events of September 11, 2001.

We struggle, she says, against change, isolation, darkness, fear, powerlessness, vulnerability, exhaustion, and scarring; and while these struggles sometimes seem insurmountable, we can emerge from them with the gifts of conversion, detachment, faith, courage, surrender, limitations, endurance, transformation, and (perhaps most important) hope. Each of these struggles and gifts is discussed in a chapter of its own. Meant to help readers cope with their own suffering and disappointment, *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope* is, in Sister Joan's words, an anatomy of struggle and an account of the way hope grows in us, despite our moments of darkness, regardless of our regular bouts of depression. It is an invitation to look again at the struggles of life in order that we might remember how to recognize new life in our souls the next time our hearts turn again to clay.

Neither a self-help manual nor a book offering pat answers, but supremely practical and relevant, this book will richly reward those readers seeking solace in the empathic, wise, and accessible meditations of a fellow struggler.

Please join the Adult Faith Formation class, beginning November 9 at 7:00PM. Classes will be held by way of Zoom.

Our reading assignment is Chapters 4 & 5.

[Click Here](#) to join the Zoom Meeting! Meeting info is below:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

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.

St. Luke's New Directory

Dear Church *family*,
It's time for a New Directory!



Thank you for your enthusiastic response!

The good news is that we have booked all but three photo sessions between Nov. 29 and Dec. 1 ... but wait, it is not too late!

Friday, December 2 has now been added to accommodate even more sessions! Please visit the online portal (see details below) or sign-up Sunday after the 7:45am or 10:15am service to reserve your photo session if you haven't already.

St. Luke's Church Directory will not be complete without YOU!!

Scheduling Online:

1. Go to www.ucdir.com (or scan the QR code below) and click on the box labeled "Photography Appointment Scheduling Login".
2. In the Login box, enter **ri101** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field.
3. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more persons in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots.

Note: The online portal is closed Sunday between 7am and noon while in-person scheduling takes place at the church.

Questions? Please contact:

Deborah Collins 401-864-4116 collinstn01@gmail.com

Jan Burch 401-529-8918 jburch1608@yahoo.com



*Gathering families,
Connecting generations.*



Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap

Our Next Meeting will be November 14 @ 7:00pm

All men of St. Luke's are invited

St. Luke's Men's group – Theology on Tap will be meeting in the Dining Room. You are invited to join us on for conversation and community.

TOT is a casual group of St. Luke's men, who enjoy meeting 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

Dear Parish Family,

On behalf of Women of Grace, I thank all who donated items to the making of the blessing bags. On Monday night we gathered to decorate and then fill the bags with essential items. I am thrilled to say we created and filled 24 bags!!! The photo speaks for itself. So much fun and for such a worthy cause. God is indeed shining in all of you!

Hugs,
Deb



Lunch on the Hill

Welcome Back – “Lunch On The Hill”

Matthew 25:35

I was hungry and you gave me food,

I was thirsty and you gave me drink,

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.....

Prior to shut down due to Covid, Saint Luke's "Lunch on the Hill" offered lunches every Wednesday to our surrounding community with a focus on the clients of the Food Pantry. **"Lunch On The Hill" has resumed lunches on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday every month.**

You may recall that in the past lunches had been provided by local restaurants with sides being provided by the host Church. Due to the current economy and shortage of labor, we will be moving ahead with a combination of lunches provided by a restaurant and lunches prepared in Saint Luke's Community Kitchen.

Saint Luke's/ EG Food Pantry will provide lunch on the 2nd Wednesday. Saint Luke's will prepare Sandwiches, sides, salads, desert etc. The EG food Pantry will assist in providing food to prepare.

Our Lady of Mercy (OLM)/ Wild Harvest will provide lunch on the 4th Wednesday. Wild Harvest will provide sandwiches and soup or a side. OLM will provide additional sides, salad, desert etc.

We are excited about resuming our outreach to our community and support to our neighbors.

Saint Luke's Here's how you can help:

Volunteers (3 or 4) from 9:30 to 12:30 needed to assist in preparation and serving of lunch on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Donations of deserts, baked goods, fruit by 10:00 am on the second Wednesday of the month.

For more information on how you can be part of this outreach ministry you can contact:

Steve McLoughlin
smcloughlin2@aol.com, 401 225 5540

CCK Dinners

Christ's Community Kitchen

St. Luke's Church Dining Room

November 28

From 5-6:30 pm

Thanks to Tio Mateo's for preparing our dinner!

Dinner will include grilled chicken and pasta in a cream sauce with salad.

Free Will Offering – All Are Welcome

For information contact Paul Brookes – phbrookes@cox.net

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes

We are most appreciative of your responses to the October SignUp Genius. Your efforts resulted in a successful run and bag and clothing distribution at Woonsocket and the Hotel in East Greenwich.

Your commitment has encouraged us, and for November 19 we will return to offering hot food; hot dogs, cheese burgers, coffee and hot chocolate. We will also be offering peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. This is a meaningful manpower commitment, and we hope that we will have your continued support. The details are found in the SignUp Genius.

[Click Here](#) to sign up!

The forthcoming colder weather brings an increased need for blankets, sleeping bags and tent shelters. We currently have Undie Sunday, and your positive responses have encouraged us to have a twin blanket Sunday. If we could gather fifty fleece-type twin blankets, new or in good used condition, it would contribute to better sleeping conditions for the Homeless in Woonsocket.



**Donate one fleece per parishioner and
“keep ‘em warmer this winter”**

As the weather turns cold, St. Luke’s parishioners can make a difference. Purchase/donate one fleece throw to be distributed on our November Loaves & Fishes run to Woonsocket. Individuals living outside could really use our help. Drop off your fleece throw to Christina by November 18.

When using the SignUp Genius, it would be most helpful if you indicate the quantity you will be donating.

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

Thank you.

Food for Backpacks!

Our Food for Backpacks ministry made its first delivery last week to 17 East Greenwich food insecure families. The appreciation and gratitude was deeply felt by both the receiving and the giving. For many of the families weekends are especially difficult as school breakfasts and lunches are not provided. Our first team of volunteers all expressed it was a moving experience, were grateful to participate, and are excited to continue the service. If you are already on the volunteer list, we will be contacting you as we developed a rotating schedule. If you’re not on the list and would like to know more about it or would like to join with us, please contact:

Caroline Sparhawk : cdsparhawk@gmail.com
Joyce Harvey: joyce836@gmail.com



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!

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

Dorcas has temporarily suspended their collection of donations.

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, November 19, 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 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!

As we head into fall the shelves are getting bare as the need goes up. We've seen more than a 50% jump in client visits the last two months over the first seven months of the year.

Always on our list of needs are Luncheon Meat, Hash, Beef Stew, Chili, Hearty Soups, Canned Chicken, Canned Tuna.

Needed this month: Oatmeal, Ramen Noodles, Baked Beans, Sugar, Flour, Ground Coffee, Cereal, Canned Peaches, Pasta Roni side dishes, Chicken/Beef Stock, Chicken/Beef Gravy, Peanut Butter, Jam/Jelly, Vegetable Oil and Flour.

Thank you!
EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

St. Lukes Episcopal Church | 99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

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