



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

December 25, 2022

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Even though Advent is a season known for darkness, both in terms of daylight and theme, this year's Advent has been filled with a particular abundance of light - and for that I am profoundly grateful!

I am grateful to Steve McLaughlin, Paul Brookes, and a host of volunteers who made December's Lunches on the Hill and CCK so grand. Those experiences provided light and warmth to members of the wider community who live in the shadows year-round.

I am grateful to Judy Horton, her team of wrappers, and all who once again stripped and then populated our Giving Tree. I know because of your efforts and generosity there will be something extra to brighten the celebrations of our area families. (And let me add a thanks to Deb Lukens, who redecorated our tree this week and who, along with her husband, John, is gifting us a new tree for next year!)

I am grateful to Stacey Nakasian and Mike Grady, teachers of our older youth, who organized both a youth cookie bake off and a toiletries collection, all of which fed the spirits of those hungering just to meet their basic needs.

I am grateful to our three choirs, who have spent countless hours rehearsing for their numerous musical offerings. No matter how dark and cold it was outside, the recent Christmas concert filled the church with a brilliant light and sound.

I am grateful to the members of our altar guild who have moved the church through the weeks of Advent and then set us up last Sunday for our coming Christmas celebration. And let me add an additional thanks to Pat Savage, who once again has made sure that we will have poinsettias decorating the church come Christmas Eve.

I am grateful to our staff, who have remained "cheery and bright," despite the constant labors of this season. To Tim Marnane, who worked tirelessly to clean up glitter from the recent Santa Lucia Festival. To Christina Imondi, who has somehow managed to produce the countless bulletins and programs of the season. To Theresa Deiters-Muscat, who has made sure our Godly Play children hear the stories of Advent. To Emma Peterson, our digital evangelism worker, who has produced weekly video reels and posts so that others might see the light that is St. Luke's. And To Rodney Ayers, whose unwavering light brightens the lives of not only the choirs but all of us at St. Luke's. Regardless of the season, St. Luke's would not be possible without them.

Finally, let me say, I am grateful to you. I am grateful for the times you have been a light in the darkness, and for the ways you have not just kept me awake but given me hope. It has been a gift to move through this season with you.

And now, as Christmas comes, may you find new love born into your life in the coming days.

Christmas blessings,
Tim

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Stay Connected



This Sunday at St. Luke's

Christmas Day

Click above for the lessons

10:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist with Sermon

We are glad to offer YouTube livestream for our 4 pm and 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Services.

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. Dr. Jonathan Malone, pastoral associate, preaching on Christmas Day

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.



Office Closed for Christmas
Holiday



December 26 & 27

Join St. Luke's For Advent



Special Services & Events:

Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Family Service with Holy Eucharist at 4:00pm

Service with Holy Eucharist at 7:00pm

Choral Prelude at 10:30pm

with Holy Eucharist following at 11:00pm

Sunday, December 25th - Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist at 10:00am

Sunday, January 1st

A Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy
Eucharist at 10:15am

Sunday, January 8th

Holy Eucharist at 7:45am

Epiphany Children's Pageant at 10:15am

Beginning November 27 and Running Thru December 25

The season of Advent is here! Our St. Luke's Advent Blog is a wonderful resource for prayer and reflection. Posts are written by members of our St. Luke's community and based on the lectionary scripture assigned for each day from the beginning of Advent (November 27th) through Christmas (December 25th). Our faith community is a wonderful treasure, and it is a gift to be able to share this blog with you. Posts can be found on our Facebook Page.



2022 Advent Blog

The Giving Tree

St. Luke's Giving Tree



The Giving Tree committee is very appreciative of our St. Luke's family. This year we had 33 families looking for help with gifts and cards to shop with. You gave so very generously with Stop & Shop, Walmart and Target cards. We had grandmothers who are taking care of grandchildren and two families with handicapped children (one is wheelchair bound). Many of these families are working parents that just do not have any extra cash for the holidays. The St. Luke's family was so very supportive of the Giving Tree committee that we all had smiles on our faces while putting the gifts together!

Once again thank you so much and Merry Christmas to all!

Judy Horton and the Giving Tree Committee

Epiphany Pageant

Epiphany Pageant

Sunday, January 8th, 10:15am

Calling All Children, Teens, And Those Who Are Young At Heart!

All people of St. Luke's from pre-school through high school and beyond are welcomed and encouraged to be part of this year's Epiphany Pageant, the telling of the Christmas Story.

Costumes are provided and there are no lines to memorize!

There will be only one rehearsal for the pageant. It will be on Saturday, January 7, from 10 am - Noon.

A sign-up sheet is available in the Atrium. For more information, please speak with Rodney Ayers at rodney@stlukeseg.org

Adult Faith Formation Book Study

Adult Faith Formation Book Study

Epiphany Book Study to begin January 4

**"When Faith Becomes Sight:
Opening Your Eyes to God's Presence All Around,"**
by Beth & David Boorman.

From p.3 of the Introduction the Boorman's write:

"In short, rather than trying to fit God and life into a system of beliefs, this book suggests that we can find God by paying attention to our own lived experience, that we can, as St. Ignatius said, 'find God in all things.' Not that God CAUSES all things but we can discover God present and available to us in the midst of it all. To do so, what we need most are the eyes to see God."

Please join the Adult Faith Formation class in reading this book perfectly suited for Epiphany.

Adult Faith Formation class is held on Wednesdays at 7:00PM. Classes will be held by way of Zoom.

Our reading assignment is Chapters 1-3.

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

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

November Month End

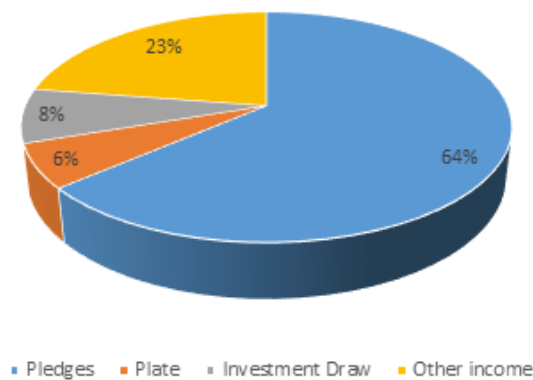
Nov, 2022	2022 YTD	Budget	Var	2021	Var
Pledge Income	\$424,735	\$417,000	\$7,735	\$425,875	(\$1,140)
Loose Plate	\$48,419	\$26,000	\$22,419	\$32,712	\$15,707
Other Personal Inc.	\$69,828	\$26,067	\$43,761	\$61,019	\$8,809
Total Personal Inc.	\$542,982	\$469,067	\$73,915	\$519,606	\$23,376
Total Other Inc	\$130,893	\$80,681	\$50,212	\$122,314	\$8,579
Total Income	\$673,875	\$549,748	\$124,127	\$641,920	\$31,955
Staff Expenses	\$411,673	\$422,158	(\$10,485)	\$405,057	\$6,616
Facilities Expenses	\$214,824	\$109,821	\$105,003	\$93,770	\$121,054
Program Expenses	\$21,412	\$32,258	(\$10,846)	\$17,415	\$3,997
Outreach Expense	\$81,866	\$82,038	(\$172)	\$83,136	(\$1,270)
Total Expenses	\$729,816	\$646,275	\$83,541	\$599,677	\$130,139
Net Income	(\$55,941)	(\$96,527)	\$40,586	\$42,243	(\$98,184)
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: I want to take a moment and offer a sincere thank you to each and every one of you. Your continued loyalty and support of St Luke's seems to never waver. Our finances during the past 3 years of the pandemic have remained relatively strong, and between the kitchen campaign and fund-raising events, we have been able to invest roughly \$800,000 to enhance and maintain this beautiful facility. You are all amazing – and I can't thank you enough.

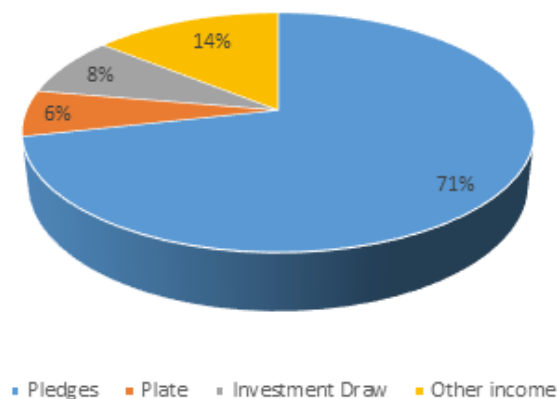
- **Income** – Pledge and Loose Plate income are over budget by \$30,000
- **Expenses** – Overall expenses are actually slightly under budget, when you take out the capital expenses and fundraising investments we've made.
- **Bottom line** – we are \$40,586 ahead of budget. Budgeted loss at years end was \$73,999, so if we can continue the loss will be less (\$33,413)
- **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 \$89,038. (January – November) 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!



Online Banking	Zelle Transfer	VANCO Payment Solutions	Direct Payment From IRA
<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>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>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>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>
No cost to you or the Church.	No cost to you or the Church	Transaction Fees for the Church	No cost to you or the Church

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

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.

Women of Grace

In December WofG focused on nourishing the soul. Our next meeting, Monday, January 2, 2023, we will focus on nourishing the body. How often has that new year's resolution been about taking better care of oneself? I am going to lose weight, I am going to exercise more, I am going to eat better. If you're like me, it happens often. At our January meeting, we will have a presentation by Chris Tarro of Stretch Lab in East Greenwich on the benefits of stretching. Are you looking to increase your range of motion and flexibility? Perhaps reduce muscle and joint pain? Would you like to reduce stress? Stretching tight muscles allows blood and oxygen to flow better helping improve mental clarity and reduce stress. Chris will talk about wellness and how stretching plays an important role keeping the body in balance. Not only might you have the opportunity to experience first hand a stretch or two, he and his colleagues will also demonstrate stretching techniques you can practice at home.

All women are invited so please mark your calendar for Monday, January 2nd. If you are planning to attend, kindly let me know at deblukens73@gmail.com or text, (908) 500-4573 so we can plan accordingly. May God bless....

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

January 30, 2023

From 5-6:30 pm

Please join us for Dinner at St. Luke's Church!

Free Will Offering – All Are Welcome

For information contact Paul Brookes – phbrookes@cox.net

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes

Food for Backpacks!

Our Food for Backpacks ministry is delivering to 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, January 21, 2023 – 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

[Unsubscribe cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org)

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