



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 29, 2023

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

According to Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reportedly said, "*For where two or three are gathered in my name I am among them* (Matthew 18:20)." I consider this one of His most significant and life-giving promises.

Think about it. We do not have to wonder if Jesus is with us. We do not have to do something special to bring about Jesus' presence. We don't even have to pray to make sure He is there (although our prayers do help us better attend to Him in our midst). All we have to do is gather, in His name, and He will be there among us.

That's quite some promise.

This Sunday we will gather in His name. We will celebrate the Eucharist, as we do each and every Sunday. But then, after, we will adjourn to the dining room for our Annual Meeting, where we will celebrate the many times and many ways Jesus has been with us and has worked through us this past year. We will enjoy a brunch; we will enjoy one another's company; and we will be in the company of Jesus, too.

One of the many reasons I feel so fortunate to be at St. Luke's is that our Annual Meetings really are celebrations of life. Sure, we do the "business of the church." We elect vestry members. We review finances. We discuss mission and strategic plans. But in all our work, whether it be easy or hard, there always is a spirit of hope, an awareness of blessings, a commitment to facing our future with faith. And there always is a sense that Jesus is among us.

As in past years, our conversations will include both a look back and a turn to the future. We will give thanks for the accomplishments and people that made 2022 so rich. And we will focus our attention on the mission and money matters that will be a part of 2023. We will talk about our expanding efforts in "digital evangelism" and ministry with youth. We will discuss the latest developments regarding the Tiffany window. We will reintroduce our planned giving opportunity, specifically in the form of the Eldredge Society.

These items represent one way of capturing the substance of our Annual Meeting. Or, I could sum up our time together this way: We will pray. We will eat. We will talk. We will laugh. We will work. We will imagine. We will sing. We will celebrate.

And there is no doubt in my mind that Jesus will be among us. I hope you will be with us too.

Peace,
Tim

**Special Days of
Thanksgiving**

St. Luke's Choirs

**Big Brothers and Big
Sisters**

Especially for Children

Food Cupboard

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 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Click above for the lessons

9:00 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon - **Annual Meeting to Follow at 10:30 am**

We are glad to offer YouTube livestream for our 9:00 am Sunday Service.

To access the Livestream for YouTube, [Click Here](#).

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

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, Rector, Preaching

One Service Only

ONE SERVICE ONLY

Sunday, January 29th
@ 9 a.m.

Followed by St. Luke's
188th Annual Meeting in the
Dining Room

St. Luke's Annual Report

St. Luke's Annual Report

A limited number of Annual Reports are available in hard copy under the mosaic in the atrium and at the back of the church. More hardcopies will be available at the meeting on Sunday, January 29th.

[Click Here](#) to view St. Luke's Annual Report.

Journey Through Lent Blog Series

Journey through Lent Blog Series – 2023

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22nd,
and running thru Easter, April 9th

In what has become a tradition at St. Luke's, parishioners are invited to be our blog authors as they reflect and write on our daily scripture readings.

Become a Lenten Blog Writer

Interested in writing a Lenten blog?
Contact Christina Imondi at cimondi@stlukeseg.org

Subscribe to the Lenten Blog Series

To receive daily email notifications of daily blog posts, subscribe by clicking on the QR code below and entering your email address on the 2023 Lenten blog page.

Or go to <https://stlukeseg.org/lenten-blog-2023>



2023 Lenten Blog

FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG
WITH THE BLESSING OF CANDLES FOR CANDLEMAS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2023 ~ 4 PM

Grace Church in Providence ~ 300 Westminster Street



The combined choristers of
Grace Church, St. Luke's Church, East Greenwich,
and St. Paul's, Fairfield, CT will sing music of
Johannes Eccard, Richard Ayleward, Charles Wood,
Samuel Sebastian Wesley, and others.

Under the direction of British conductor,

Dr. Barry Rose, OBE,

former Director of Music of
St. Paul's (London), Guildford,
and St. Alban's Cathedrals.

A reception follows in The Pavilion.



Pledge Envelopes

If You Have Requested Pledge Envelopes,
They Are Located In The Atrium.

Covid Update

Adult Faith Formation Book Study

Adult Faith Formation Book Study

**"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 9-10.

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

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

December Month End

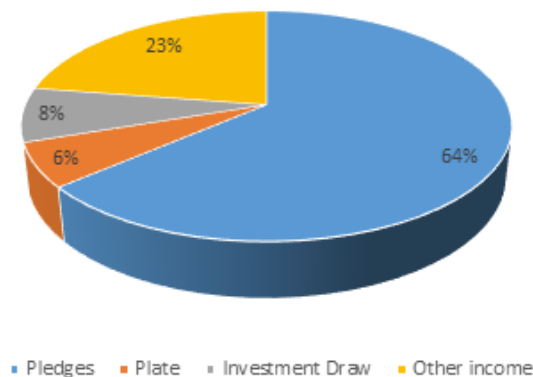
Dec, 2022	2022 YTD	Budget	Var	2021	Var
Pledge Income	\$464,121	\$455,000	\$9,121	\$450,083	\$14,038
Loose Plate	\$62,594	\$40,000	\$22,594	\$44,230	\$18,364
Other Personal Inc.	\$83,493	\$45,367	\$38,126	\$84,654	(\$1,161)
Total Personal Inc.	\$610,208	\$540,367	\$69,841	\$578,967	\$31,241
Total Other Inc	\$154,980	\$100,981	\$53,999	\$140,662	\$14,318
Total Income	\$765,188	\$641,348	\$123,840	\$719,629	\$45,559
Staff Expenses	\$447,111	\$460,282	(\$13,171)	\$443,900	\$3,211
Facilities Expenses	\$227,388	\$124,110	\$103,278	\$108,974	\$118,414
Program Expenses	\$29,374	\$37,100	(\$7,726)	\$27,938	\$1,436
Outreach Expense	\$13,448	\$14,000	(\$552)	\$13,498	(\$50)
Total Expenses	\$797,261	\$715,388	\$81,873	\$674,277	\$122,984
Net Income	(\$32,074)	(\$74,040)	\$41,966	\$45,352	(\$77,426)
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:

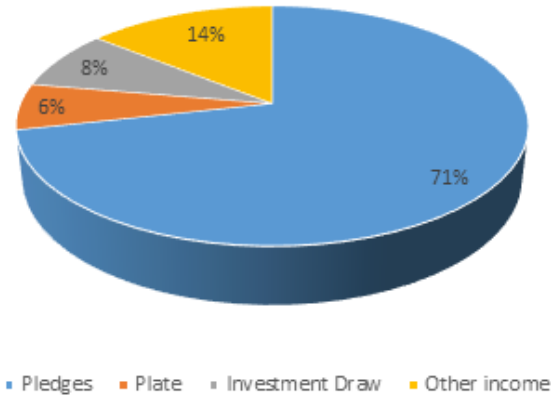
- For the 3 pandemic years, we have a combined loss of \$19,254, or \$6,418 per year
- Expenses are being managed well by all department heads
- Your continued support is deeply appreciated

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

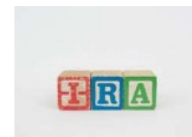


Vanco



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

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

Women of Grace

Dear Women of Grace,

Our next WofG meeting is Monday, February 6th, 7:00pm in the dining room at St. Luke's. This time of year as daylight begins to last longer, I begin thinking of warmer temperatures and an abundance of sunshine. It is also when I get excited for spring's arrival and the opportunity to get my hands into the dirt. This month WofG is fortunate to have Karen Asher, a past president of Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, speaking on native plants. What better way to beautify our environment by designing our gardens and focusing on preserving and protecting our native plants. I understand Karen is an awesome speaker and brings a wealth of knowledge.

All women are invited to join. Please RSVP if you are able to attend to deblukens73@gmail.com or text (908) 500-4573. Since we gather for a few minutes of fellowship before the presentation, you are welcome to bring a savory or sweet to share.

Grace and Peace,
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

January 30, 2023

From 5-6:30 pm

The First Baptist Church of East Greenwich will be hosting dinner at St. Luke's!

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, February 18, 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

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

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