



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 8, 2023

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*In order that an experience have a religious dimension two things are necessary: God who can be encountered directly and a person who is on the lookout for God. – William Barry*

Diane and I spent much of the Monday after New Year's taking down the tree and re-boxing the various Christmas decorations that had adorned our house since Thanksgiving. (And when I say "much of Monday," trust me, given how my wife likes to decorate, the un-decorating took considerable time!) Despite the fact that this annual process is not my favorite thing to do, I have to admit, there's a sense of satisfaction to see things packed away and the house returned to its "normal" state.

As you read this note, the Church's Christmas season will have come to an end. Today (Friday) is the feast day of the Epiphany, and soon the altar guild will begin their annual process of removing our various Christmas decorations.

Long considered one of the holiest days of the Church—traditionally, only Easter and Pentecost are understood to be more significant—the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of God in our world, in our time. This coming Sunday we will hear again of the Magi's visit to Bethlehem, to see this manifestation in the baby born to Mary and Joseph.

But that's not the only manifestation we hear about during the weeks following Epiphany. Two other sacred stories are considered equally vivid manifestations: Christ's baptism at the river Jordan and His first miracle, performed at a wedding in Cana. In these stories, as well as the Magi's visitation, we find powerful signs of God's movement unfolding right before our very eyes.

What a thing!

And for the first time ever, it occurs to me that this post-Christmas stripping, stacking, and storing, all so that our spaces and lives might return to the usual, really does a disservice to our celebration of Epiphany. Instead of looking for signs of God's love made manifest in our world, we go about packing away those signs and working towards a return to "normal."

Now, don't get me wrong. I am not trying to be an apologist for those who leave the tree up until every needle has dropped from its branches. (Not that I am judging any of you who might 😊) But I am wondering if our post-New Year tendency to go back to business as usual doesn't disappoint God at least a bit—a God who is constantly inviting us to live changed lives; a God who never ceases to provide us signs and manifestations of divine love and goodness.

Epiphany, the feast day and the concept, suggests to us that we have had and will have again encounters with the Divine. But in order for these experiences to be complete, as Jesuit priest William Barry writes, we have to be "... on the lookout for God."

**Thanksgiving**

**St. Luke's Choirs**

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**Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island**

**The Episcopal Church**

**The Anglican Communion**

As we clear our mantles, tabletops, and windows of Christmas decorations, may we make space for signs of the Divine in our very midst. And equally important, may we be on the lookout for those signs.

Epiphany blessings,  
Tim

**Stay Connected**



**This Sunday at St. Luke's**

**The Feast of the Epiphany**

Click above for the lessons

**7:45 am** Holy Eucharist with Sermon

**10:15 am** Holy Eucharist with Epiphany Pageant

**We are glad to offer YouTube livestream for our 10:15 am Sunday 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. Timothy T. Rich, Rector, Preaching

**One Service Only**

**ONE SERVICE ONLY**

**Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**@ 9 a.m.**

**Followed by St. Luke's  
188<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

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

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.

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

#### Epiphany Pageant

#### Epiphany Pageant

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:rodney@stlukeseg.org)

## 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 3-5.**

**[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

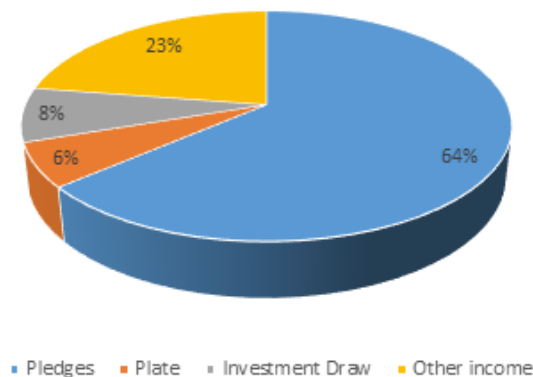
Dec, 2022	2022 YTD	Budget	Var	2021	Var
Pledge Income	\$464,121	\$455,000	\$9,121	\$450,083	\$14,038
Loose Plate	\$62,594	\$40,000	\$22,594	\$44,230	\$18,364
Other Personal Inc.	\$83,493	\$45,367	\$38,126	\$84,654	(\$1,161)
Total Personal Inc.	\$610,208	\$540,367	\$69,841	\$578,967	\$31,241
Total Other 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:

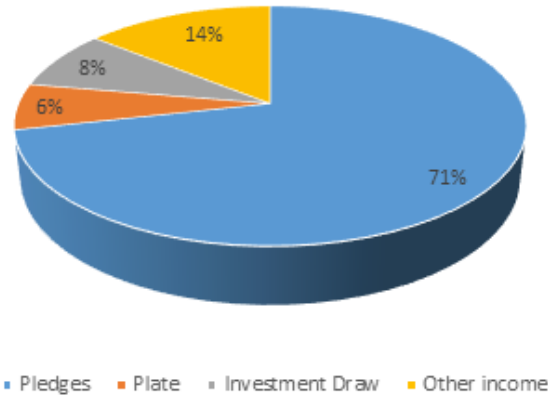
- For the 3 pandemic years, we have a combined loss of \$19,254, or \$6,418 per year
- Expenses are being managed well by all department heads
- Your continued support is deeply appreciated

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

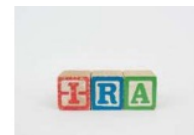


Vanco



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><b>Bill Pay</b> – 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><b>Benefits:</b> 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><b>Zelle Payment</b> – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the <a href="mailto:giving@stlukeseg.org">giving@stlukeseg.org</a> address.</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> 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><b>VANCO Payments</b> – 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><b>Benefits:</b> 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><b>Direct Transfer</b> – 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><b>Benefits:</b> 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.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

There will be a meeting of anyone interested in the Prayer Shawl Ministry. The meeting is on Monday, January 16th, at 10:00 am in the Blackburn Room.

Anyone interested in the ministry but is unable to attend the meeting, please contact Margaret Clifton at [margaretclifton@cox.net](mailto:margaretclifton@cox.net)."

## Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap (TOT) is St. Luke's men's group, who meet monthly for exploration of spiritual and secular topics, occasional service projects and mostly community and conversation. Regardless of the event or topic, TOT is an experience where we all feel connected and uplifted when we leave.

On Sunday, January 15, we plan to revive one of our most meaningful activities – helping with food insecurity in our community, by preparing and delivering a home cooked meal to the residents at The Greenwich Hotel.

We plan to meet in St. Luke's kitchen at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon, assemble and deliver a meal and then enjoy a dinner of reflection and conversation together. All men of St. Luke's are invited to join us. If you would like to participate, text or email Brent Bostick: [brentbostick1@gmail.com](mailto:brentbostick1@gmail.com) or 908-230-7569

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:phbrookes@cox.net)

## Loaves and Fishes

### **Loaves and Fishes**

December was a good month for the Loaves and Fishes Ministry. With your help and the help we receive from St Luke's, we distributed hot food and gift bags which included hats and gloves, heavy duty sweat shirts, a blanket, socks and toiletries. Many of the recipients immediately put on the sweat shirts.

For the January run we would ask that you check your closets for winter coats that you might donate. All sizes are needed for children, women and men. New items would be appreciated but any warm coat will be welcomed.

We will continue preparing 100 bags for Woonsocket and the Hotel in East Greenwich. The details are shown in the SignUp Genius.

**[Click Here](#)** to sign up!

We appreciate all the efforts that are put forth for Loaves and Fishes. As you think about where you could contribute to helping others, we would ask you to consider our ministry. All of your efforts are needed and appreciated such as the items on the SignUp Genius, the preparation at St. Luke's kitchen on the Saturday morning of our run and making the trip to Woonsocket. We do not expect participation in all these phases but many hands do make light work.

Thank you for your generosity and helping those in need.

### **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](mailto:cdsparhawk@gmail.com)

Joyce Harvey: [joyce836@gmail.com](mailto: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

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](http://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](mailto:Emma@StLukesEG.org).

### Pastoral Care

#### Pastoral Care Ministry

**Our next Pastoral Care Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, at 10 am in the Blackburn Room.**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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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