



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

April 23, 2023

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If you were in church Easter Sunday, then you were a part of the special Easter Q&A sermon. I was amazed by all the index cards submitted and loved the questions I had time to answer! As expected, I couldn't get through them all, and, at the conclusion of the time, I promised I would answer other questions in an upcoming Weekly. So, what follows are a few more answers to questions which appeared on numerous cards.

The question asked most often was, "*What's the Easter bunny have to do with Easter?*" Truly, I received 8 cards with some variation on this theme! Now, I suppose I could say, "Well, when Mary looked into the empty tomb, a bunny came hopping out." But there's no historical record of that. 😊

What historians do note is the association of bunnies with fertility and new life. And since Easter is a celebration of new life, the bunny became a culturally embraced part of Easter. After doing a bit more research I found that, according to some sources, the Easter bunny landed in the United States sometime in the 1700's, as German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania. And ever since that time the Easter bunny stories have reproduced like... rabbits!

Several cards asked, "*Who was the disciple whom Jesus loved?*" Most scholars believe that it was St. John, the apostle and evangelist. Why he referred to himself in such thinly veiled yet boastful terms, I cannot say for sure. Some suggest it was out of modesty—but that hardly rings true to me. He's anything but modest when he notes not once but twice that he outran Peter and reached the tomb first. (That detail always cracks me up.)

The one thing I have read that seemed most meaningful to me was a piece written by Martin L. Smith, a former member of an Episcopal religious order called the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Smith once wrote, "*Perhaps the disciple is never named, never individualized, so that we can more easily accept that he bears witness to an intimacy that is meant for each one of us. The closeness that he enjoyed is a sign of the closeness that is mine and yours because we are in Christ and Christ is in us.*" I don't know if that's true or not, but it works for me!

A few cards wondered about Mary Magdalene, asking, "*Why does she see Jesus first?*" Although I can't say for sure, here are some thoughts that make sense to me. First of all, Jesus had a very special and intimate relationship with Mary Magdalene. Recall that Mary is traditionally remembered as anointing Jesus' feet not long before he is arrested. Second, Jesus often indicated that he came first for those marginalized by the powers-that-be. Certainly, Mary, as a woman, represents the marginalized. Third, in some accounts of the crucifixion, Mary is described as standing by the cross. Clearly, she was a woman of great courage and commitment. Finally, and perhaps most simply, I would say, because she was the one who showed up at the tomb... and Jesus rewards those who show up.

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Stay Connected



Lastly, let me respond to the many people who asked, “*How do we keep Easter alive today—especially when fewer and fewer people are coming to church?*” I love this question! It speaks to the challenge of making Easter a living celebration and not just a story from long ago.

I think the answer to this question includes several pieces. First, we have to know what the story means... to us and for others. To me, it means that God lives. That there can be joy after grief, hope after despair, life after death. To me it means that God loves. God loves all of us... even if we have denied God, even if we have run away from God, even if we have done violence to God. God will forgive us and love us even still. And to me it means that the power of God and goodness are stronger than the forces of evil and hate, even when any single moment suggests otherwise.

Second, once we know what Easter means, we have to be willing to tell others about it. Thousands of years ago, Mary was brave enough to run back to the disciples and tell them about the risen Lord. I can't believe they were an easy crowd for Mary. Besides being a bunch of men, they were a group consumed by fear and grief, the memory of Jesus' crucifixion seared into their minds. Nevertheless, she found the courage and words to tell them. We too need to find the courage and words as well.

And beyond words to tell, we need to find the ways to show. We need to act based upon the meaning and mystery of Easter. We need to act differently than if Easter had never happened. We need to act in ways that reveal and make true again and again all that Easter promises. Absent these actions, the resurrection of Jesus is just an interesting story—but not a story nearly as sweet as the Easter bunny.

So, there you have it—a little more of our Easter sermon, a few more answers to your many questions. I still have a stack of question cards yet unanswered. Which only seems fitting, since there are still so many questions related to Easter that remain unanswered.

But, as I have said on more than one occasion, I love it that we can ask our questions together, search for answers together, and, in this case, celebrate Easter together.

Thank you for making my Easter so blessed.

Easter blessings to you.
Tim

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Third Sunday of Easter](#)

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 am Sunday Service. Please [Click Here](#) to worship with us via YouTube.

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

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, Pastoral Associate, Preaching

Covid Update

St. Luke's Has Shifted to a Mask At Your Own Discretion Practice

SAVE THE DATE!

September 30, 2023

St. Luke's Dinner Dance

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

The Adult Faith Formation classes have resumed on Wednesdays, starting April 19, with two nights of brief videos (the 2nd night being April 26) by noted religious leader and author Rob Bell. On the 19th we viewed Bell's video entitled "Rhythm."

On the 26th we will view his video, "Dust." Here's what he says about this video:

2. NOOMA "Dust" (008 Rob Bell)

"Believing in God is important, but what about God believing in us? Believing that we can actually be the kind of people we were meant to be. People of love, compassion, peace, forgiveness, and hope. People who try to do the right thing all of the time. Who act on the endless opportunities around us every day for good, beauty, and truth. It's easy for us to sometimes get down on ourselves. To feel 'not good enough' or feel like we don't have what it takes. But maybe if we had more insight into the culture that Jesus grew up in and some of the radical things he did, we'd understand the faith that God has in all of us."

Please join us at 7:00PM - Wednesdays - by way of Zoom - for the video showing and the rich conversations sure to follow.

[Click Here](#) to join the meeting with Zoom Information below:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

Corporate Communion

Dear Parents,

Corporate Communion is open to all children in the 3rd and 4th grades.

Children understand the symbolism and significance of the Eucharist in ways that are often surprising and delightful. It is no wonder that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me!"

Since the 1991 *Prayerbook*, our church has lived into the theology that Baptism is full initiation into the Body of Christ, moving away from the idea that Confirmation and "understanding" are the bench marks for participation in the Eucharist.

Corporate Communion is a remarkable communion instruction, *not preparation class*. It is designed to offer age-appropriate theology, liturgy and tradition to children. **Children are not the future of the church; they are the church today.** This class honors their full membership in the Body of Christ, and equips us grownups for the vows we made at their Baptism that we would support them in their life in Christ.

Corporate Communion classes at St Luke's will be held at 9:15am to 10:10am on the following dates in the Blackburn Room on the first floor:

4/23 Storing Telling
 4/30 These Holy Things
 5/7 Church Tour with Father Tim
 5/14 These Holy Things/ Praying Together/Angel
 5/20 Rehearsal 11:30-12:30 & Ice Cream Social at St. Luke's
 5/21 Corporate Communion Celebration at the 10:15 Service

Please contact me at theresa@stlukeseg.org for a registration form or call me at 415 233 0761 if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings,
 Theresa Deiters Muscat

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

March Month End

Mar-23	2023 YTD	Budget	Var	2022 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$153,292	\$151,000	\$2,292	\$163,853	(\$10,561)
Loose Plate	\$11,192	\$11,600	(\$408)	\$14,091	(\$2,899)
Other Personal Inc.	\$7,328	\$5,200	\$2,128	\$14,519	(\$7,191)
Total Personal Inc.	\$171,812	\$167,800	\$4,012	\$192,463	(\$20,651)
Total Other Inc	\$24,067	\$26,050	(\$1,983)	\$22,123	\$1,944
Total Income	\$195,879	\$193,850	\$2,029	\$214,586	(\$18,707)
			\$0		
Staff Expenses	\$109,859	\$114,941	(\$5,082)	\$114,832	(\$4,973)
Facilities Expenses	\$34,034	\$41,593	(\$7,559)	\$34,256	(\$222)
Program Expenses	\$4,684	\$7,719	(\$3,035)	\$4,356	\$328
Outreach Expenses	\$25,727	\$25,774	(\$47)	\$20,527	\$5,200
Total Expenses	\$174,304	\$190,027	(\$15,723)	\$173,986	\$318
Net Income	\$21,576	\$3,823	\$17,753	\$40,600	(\$19,024)

Notes:

- March income was pretty much spot on (98.8%) – 1st quarter income was over budget by \$2,029
- Compared to 2022, we are a little behind - \$5,000 of that is Curate funding we no longer receive and pledge and loose plate are good to budget, but behind last year's numbers.
- Expenses are \$15,000 under budget, and in line with 2022 spending.
- Net income is \$17,753 ahead of budget

Peace and Grace,
 Mike

[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. 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. 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 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. No cost to you or the Church</p>
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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

A heart felt thank you to Fr. Tim who facilitated a lively discussion on the communication styles of men and women at our Women of Grace meeting Monday night. It was a joint meeting with Theology on Tap, and as you might imagine informative with lots of laughter as well. Thank you to all who attended. It was a great night of fellowship and fun.

Again, thank you Tim for your well-planned presentation on the heels of holy week and on your day off!

SAVE THE DATE!



*Seeking Peace: Strength Through
Serenity*

Women's Retreat offered by
Women of Grace

Saturday - May 20, 2023

Registration 8:30am

Retreat 9:30am to 5:00pm

Rocky Hill Country Day School

530 Ives Road, East Greenwich, RI

Please join us as we gather as friends, hear teachings, reflect, walk in nature, and practice a form of spiritual yoga to stir both our minds and bodies. Most importantly share how we, as women, find solace and strength in the awareness of what God gives us all - a quiet place.

Registration fee \$40. Kindly RSVP to
deblukens73@gmail and registration information
will follow.



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

April 24, 2023

From 5-6:30 pm

Please join St. Luke's for dinner!

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



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!

Seeds of Hope

You're *Invited* to the 8th Annual

Seeds of
HOPE

An evening to *benefit* the Interfaith Counseling Center

Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Finn's Harborside

38 Water Street, East Greenwich, RI

Tickets, Sponsorship Opportunities & Donations:

<https://interfaithri.org>

<https://givebutter.com/SOH2023>

Interfaith
Counseling
Center

1520 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02905
(401)461-5234

EAST GREENWICH E-WASTE RECYCLING & PAPER SHREDDING DAY

Presented by:



**Saturday
April 22nd
9AM-NOON**



New England Tech

**1 New England Tech Blvd
East Greenwich, RI**

**DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD FOR THE
RI COMMUNITY FOOD BANK WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED!**

To benefit: **ScallopTown Park
Beautification
Project**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Harry Waterman
401-515-2011 ext.1004
harryw@cartridgeworldri.com**

*Suggested donation: \$5 per box of paper (\$15 max) • \$1 per e-waste item (\$10 max)

*Pick up available (e-waste only) from 4/17 to 4/21 (contact above) charges may apply

Sponsored by:



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 is now accepting a limited number of gently used items. These include: Shoes and sneakers; XS, S, M, and L sweatshirts; and men's clothing in XS, S, and M sizes. New underwear and socks are also requested. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

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 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, (May 27, 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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