



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

April 30, 2023

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” – Hebrews 13:2

Recently there have been at least three different shootings that happened because someone made a mistake. On April 13, in Kansas City, Missouri, a Black teenager was shot trying to pick up his brothers and went to the wrong house; he is recovering from serious injuries. On April 15, in upstate New York, a young woman who was a passenger in the car, was shot because they were turning around in a driveway; she died from the gun wounds. On April 18, outside of Austin, Texas, two teenage girls (cheerleaders) were shot because one of them tried to get in the wrong car by accident; both are recovering. It was a rough stretch of days.

There are multiple commentaries about these events looking at them as isolated moments or a part of a trend, and these commentaries are written by individuals much more articulate and insightful than I am. It is an important national conversation that we need to have.

As a Christian, in response to these events, I have been drawn to the radical nature of hospitality and what it means to welcome a stranger. In all these moments, although they were brief, the victims were strangers, in an unknown space (a door-front, a driveway, a car). In these moments the shooters had an opportunity to display even the least sense of hospitality but did not. And I wonder if this is becoming the norm. I wonder if the reaction of shooting first is becoming the common practice in our society. What has happened to hospitality?

I believe that as Christians, our sense and call for hospitality is radical. It is radical because it means that we always start by giving people the benefit of the doubt. It is radical because it means we open ourselves up to people we do not know. It is radical because it means sharing our resources without knowing if we will ever get them back. It is a risk to welcome in the stranger. It is a risk to show hospitality.

Yet we have the example of scripture. Of Abraham and Sarah welcoming the travelers. Of the widow and her son who welcomed Elijah in a time of drought. Of the Holy Family welcoming the Magi. Of Mary and Martha welcoming Jesus into their home. And there are so many more. The passage from Hebrews tells us to assume that the stranger we bring in could be a messenger from God. It is calling us to again and again assume the best of the person we do not know.

And I could go on, referencing the call to love our neighbor as ourselves, referencing the Good Samaritan, etc. We are called as individuals and as institutions to offer radical hospitality.

In a time of mistrust and exclusion, I hope we can be a people of radical hospitality in sharing and showing the love of Christ to the world. I hope we can show what it means to take a risk and offer a moment of humanity, decency, and God's love.

Sisters

Especially for Children

Peace,
Pastor Jonathan Malone

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 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. Timothy T. Rich, Rector, Preaching

Covid Update

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

Save The Date!

SAVE THE DATE!

September 30, 2023

St. Luke's Dinner Dance

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

Join the Adult Faith Formation class on Wednesday, May 3, as we resume reading, "When Faith Becomes Sight." This book proved so rich and appealing that we were only able to complete Parts One and Two in the previous reading. Back by popular demand, we will pick up the book at Part Three, Looking Within.

Please read chapters 11 and 12 for May 3. And know, even if you were not able to read the previous two parts, you can easily pick up the book at Part Three.

Classes are held by way of Zoom on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30. Please join us!

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

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

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

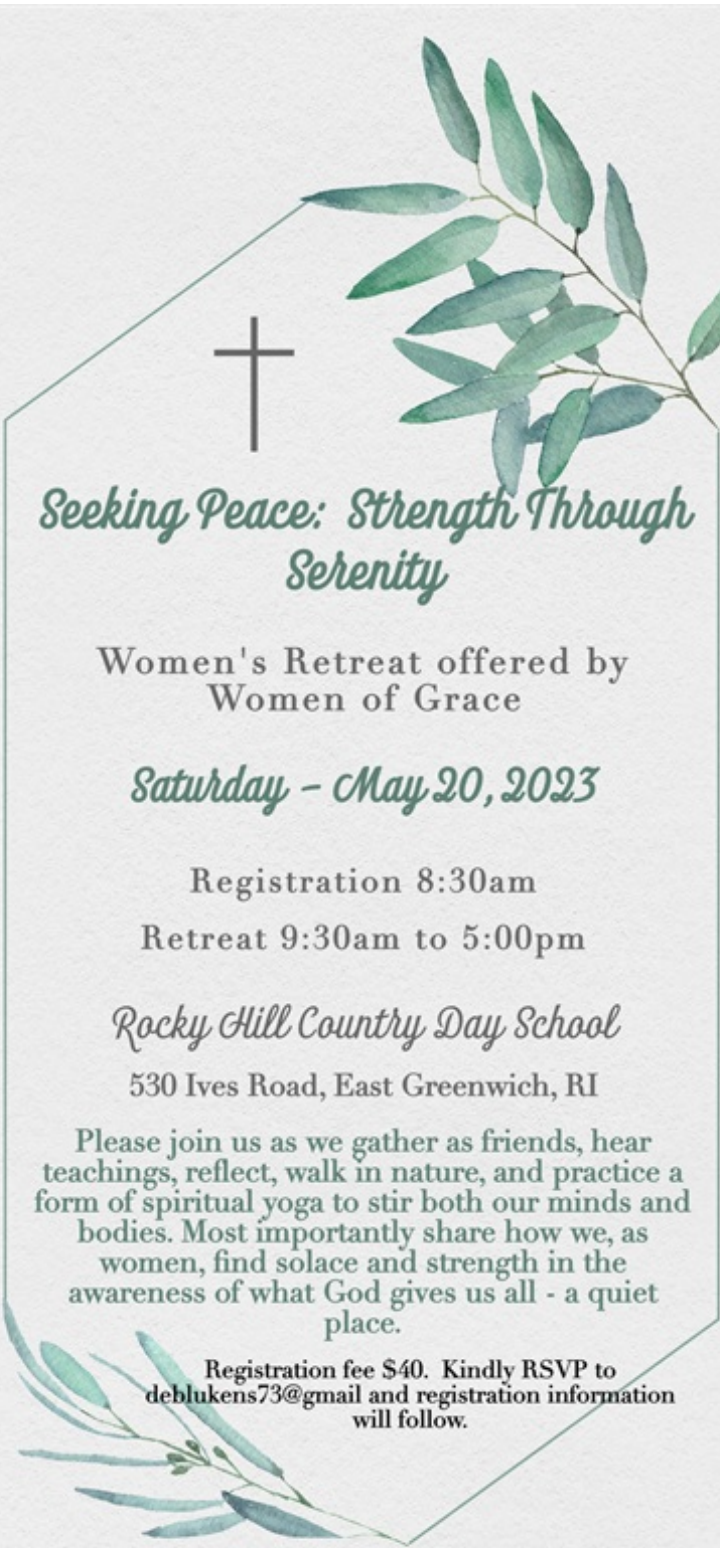
An energetic and energizing disposition

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

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.com and registration information will follow.

Theology on Tap

Monday, May 15, at 7 pm, @ Dining Room

All Men of St. Luke's are Invited!

If you would like to reconnect with church friends or meet some new ones, we would love to have you join us for the next TOT meeting, **Monday, May 15, at 7 pm, in the Dining Rm.**

We will be discussing an interesting NYT article entitled: *"Why is it so Hard for Men to Make Close Friends?"* This should be a lively conversation. Perhaps you will think about the following question as a starter and share your thoughts about it at our meeting: *"When you think back to your best friend(s) in college, the military, your job or your neighborhood, in a single sentence, what was it about him/them that you appreciated most?"*

TOT is a casual group of St. Luke's men, who enjoy meeting monthly for occasional service projects, guided discussions and mostly good conversation and fellowship. Everyone is welcome and we all leave feeling enriched.

If you have questions, suggestions, or want to get added to the email distribution list, contact Brent Bostick at 908-230-7569 or brentbostick1@gmail.com

Thanks,
Brent

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

May 29, 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

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!

Seeds of Hope

A flyer for the 8th Annual Seeds of Hope event. The flyer features a green leafy border. At the top, it says "You're Invited to the 8th Annual". Below that is the "Seeds of HOPE" logo, where the word "HOPE" is in large, purple-outlined letters, and a green plant with leaves and purple flowers is integrated into the letter "O". Underneath the logo, it says "An evening to benefit the Interfaith Counseling Center". The date and time are "Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM". The location is "Finn's Harborside, 38 Water Street, East Greenwich, RI". It lists "Tickets, Sponsorship Opportunities & Donations:" with two links: <https://interfaithri.org> and <https://givebutter.com/SOH2023>. At the bottom right, it has the "Interfaith Counseling Center" logo and address: "1520 Broad Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02905 (401)461-5234".

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

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. We are in need of XS, S, and M summer clothes for men and women. 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 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, (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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