



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

August 6, 2023

In This Issue

[St. Luke's TikTok, Instagram and Facebook](#)

[This Sunday at St. Luke's](#)

[Covid Update](#)

[Summer Office Hours](#)

[Save The Date!](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Treasurer Announcement](#)

[Lunch On The Hill](#)

[Loaves & Fishes](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Help Ukrainian Families](#)

[Dorcas Donations](#)

[Photos Wanted!](#)

[Coffee Hour](#)

[Grief Support Group](#)

[St. Luke's Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Special Days of Thanksgiving](#)

[St. Luke's Choirs](#)

[Big Brothers and Big](#)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

August is synonymous with back to school for our kids, but what if you were an adult, new to this country and school meant an ESL program with a goal of being able to get a job, read a prescription bottle, or take the bus? What if you needed a notebook and pencils but the family budget didn't cover that? That's where St. Luke's comes in. During the month of August, we will be collecting school supplies and distributing them to the men and women in ESL classes at Dorcas International Institute. A description of the project will be in the bulletin.

My husband and I are avid travelers. We love visiting other countries and have had incredible experiences. When we travel, we use guides to help us navigate unfamiliar places. Imagine you are dropped into a country, miles from your original home where the language, food, clothing, social norms and a million other things are totally different. In RI, Dorcas is the guide.

When I retired, and wanted to do some volunteer work, Dorcas seemed like a good fit. They work specifically with people new to the US, allowing me to combine my passions for literacy and other cultures.

I am assigned to the beginning literacy class. My current class is 25-30 adults primarily from the Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Ukraine. They know little or no English, so we start with the ABCs and 1-10. The class covers basic words and concepts. Even though they speak different languages, it is fascinating to see the group work together. I smile when I see my students come into class wearing T shirts with logos for the Red Sox, US TV shows or music groups. I know those clothes often come from the Clothing Collaborative which St. Luke's supports.

One of my students is Razia a woman from Afghanistan, here with her husband and 8 of their 10 children. Their 2 oldest boys are still in Afghanistan and the family is doing all they can do to get them out. The husband worked for the US army and when it became obvious their lives were in danger, they were evacuated. A group of friends and I applied to be their mentors. It takes all 6 of us to do the job. Dorcas helped the husband get a job. He is the only driver in the family, so an important part of our job is logistics, taking them to Drs appts, meetings at the schools, appts with Dorcas, or translating mail from the bank, schools and government. We take them on outings. A day at the splash pad recently was a big hit. Primarily we have become friends. I love it when the kids see us coming and they run to greet us with big smiles.

When my husband and I began looking for a church last fall, we found many things to like at St. Luke's, the preaching, the music, an active, friendly congregation, and well-known outreach ministries. Finding a church with an interest in Dorcas was the icing on the cake. And I do love icing!

[Especially for Children](#)

[Food Cupboard](#)

Quick Links

[St. Luke's Church](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island](#)

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[The Anglican Communion](#)

Stay Connected



St. Luke's TikTok, Instagram and Facebook



Stay up to date with all things St. Luke's, and follow us on **TikTok, Instagram, & Facebook @StLukesEG**

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Feast of the Transfiguration](#)

Click above for the lessons.

7:45 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

10:15 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon and Baptism

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

Summer Office Hours

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



July through Labor Day, Christina will be in the office from 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Thursday.

The office will be closed on Fridays.

Save The Date!

Step Out Step Up!

A Charity Event to Enhance
Spaces for Engaging
Our Community

September 30, 2023
6:00pm - 10:00pm

.....
Potowomut Golf Club
.....

Tickets @\$100 per person

An Evening of
Good Music,
Great Food,
Live & Silent Auction
Festivities &
The Harvest Moon

To register, scan the QR image or see
below for the link to our
EventBrite Registration site



[Click Here](#) To Register At EventBrite!

Adult Faith Formation

**SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS! Join us for dinner and a movie this summer!
Mission: JOY! Finding Happiness in Troubled Times**

Experience the incredible friendship between the Dalai Lama and the late Archbishop Tutu. This film shares the humor and wisdom of two of the world's most beloved icons. Despite their difficult journeys, they made happiness a habit and found joy in adversity and fighting for a better world. Reviewers call this a laugh-out-loud film not to be missed!

We will watch this movie over the three summer evenings listed below, so you can easily join us as your schedule permits.

Meet us in the dining room for some food, a great movie, and a lively discussion. Mark your calendars now for these dates:

Wednesdays - June 21, July 19, August 16, 6:30-8pm

We'll provide the main course, please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able.

[Click Here](#) to sign up!

But even if you didn't sign up and find you can join us, PLEASE DO!

"In what turned out to be their last time together, we trace the epic life stories of these Nobel Peace Prize winners as they faced oppression, exile, death threats, cancer, and more – unbowed and still laughing. They are opposites in many ways, yet their friendship shows us that our shared humanity is bigger than our differences. Their life stories remind us that JOY is an inside job, that JOY and pain are inseparable, and that deep connection is one of the secrets to JOY!" Missionjoy.org

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

July Month End

July, 2023	2023 YTD	Budget	Var	2022	Var
Pledge Income	\$303,162	\$288,000	\$15,162	\$293,562	\$9,600
Loose Plate	\$24,423	\$26,900	-\$2,477	\$31,395	(\$6,972)
Other Personal Inc.	\$22,007	\$14,550	\$7,457	\$68,871	(\$46,864)
Total Personal Inc.	\$349,592	\$329,450	\$20,142	\$393,828	(\$44,236)
Total Other Inc	\$51,757	\$55,067	(\$3,310)	\$48,987	\$2,770
Total Income	\$401,349	\$384,517	\$16,832	\$442,815	(\$41,466)
Staff Expenses	\$255,180	\$268,245	(\$13,065)	\$273,144	(\$17,964)
Facilities Expenses	\$70,330	\$85,360	(\$15,030)	\$113,197	(\$42,867)
Program Expenses	\$16,953	\$20,110	(\$3,157)	\$12,381	\$4,572
Outreach Expense	\$65,501	\$66,726	(\$1,225)	\$54,496	\$11,005
Total Expenses	\$407,964	\$440,441	(\$32,477)	\$453,391	(\$45,427)
Net Income	(\$6,616)	(\$55,924)	\$49,308	(\$10,577)	\$3,961

Notes:

Income

- Total Income is \$16,832 over budget – most of the overage can be found in the personal pledge category. We are seeing an overall trend of families being current on their pledges, while others are paying in full early. The former trend is likely due to 63% of the payments using some form of online giving, while the latter trend is the increase in IRA QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution). The number of families taking advantage of that has more than tripled!

Expenses

- Expenses are under budget by \$32,477. Much of that is the unfilled position for youth and family ministry (Now filled, welcome Amy!) and the pending project work (new flooring in the 1st floor hallways and new windows in the choir room).

Other thoughts

- We have been blessed with some outstanding staff members here at St. Luke's, and I know we appreciate all of them. A few years back, we made a commitment to fully staff the Parish. We agreed that we need two full time clergy, a full time Parish Administrator, a Minister of Music, a youth and family minister and a full time sexton. What would that mean in dollars? A full time clergy, thru the end of July, would have incurred \$54,174 in expenses. If you back out what we paid Jonathan (assuming we wouldn't have both), it's an additional \$38,864. A full time sexton would have cost \$30,082 thru July 31. If you back out what we've paid in sexton expenses, it would be an additional \$22,149. And had Amy been employed the full year, it would represent an additional \$10,743, for a total net cost of \$71,756. To do that thru pledging alone, it would mean an additional 21% or so. The past several years have been relatively flat in terms of pledge income:

Year	Pledge
2016	\$ 497,457
2017	\$ 496,221
2018	\$ 471,406
2019	\$ 458,863
2020	\$ 419,726
2021	\$ 458,111
2022	\$ 466,186
2023	\$ 470,000

As you know, the leadership team is actively working on alternative ways to raise income, and our endowment should see a significant increase if the Tiffany window is sold. But the core support belongs to us. I feel this congregation has always supported the Parish, and I am truly humbled at times in viewing this generosity first hand. So I will leave it here for your consideration.

Peace and Grace,
Mike

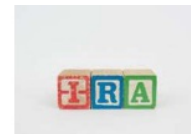
Vanco and PayPal QR Codes If You Would Like To Donate



Vanco



Here are some other options available if you would like to donate to St. Luke's!



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

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

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves And Fishes

Despite a hot and humid July summer day we were greeted by forty people in Woonsocket followed by about ten more who came before we left. An interesting side note that happens almost every month, once we have distributed any extra bags and are getting ready to leave someone shows up looking for a bag. More often than not, a person who has an extra bag will offer it to that person. A great example of concern and generosity for others. We will continue with 100 bags, twenty for the Hotel in East Greenwich and the remainder to Woonsocket. The offerings will be cheese burgers, hot dogs, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and the regular other items included in the bag are shown in the SignUp Genius. It is appreciated if all donations can be in the St Luke's kitchen by 10:00 AM on August 19th. **If you are dropping off items before August 19th, please mark them for Loaves and Fishes.**

In signing up, there is no expectation that one person needs to fulfill the total amount of a particular item. When using the SignUp Genius, **please indicate how many of an item you will be donating.**

With the warmer weather we will be asking only for mid weight socks and women and men's underwear and tee shirts. The details are shown in the SignUp Genius.

[Click Here](#) to sign up!

Your generosity is most appreciated. It allows St Luke's to continue helping those in need. Thank you.

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!

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

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

School Supplies needed for Adult ESL Students

During the month of August, we will be collecting school supplies for the men and women in ESL classes. Most of them arrive in RI unable to speak or write English, so these classes are key to getting jobs and becoming self-sufficient.

In the atrium, there will be a basket with plastic bags and a list of supplies attached. Purchase the supplies and return the filled bag to the basket. Easy!

We are looking to fill 30 bags, but whatever we collect will be used.

For more information contact Cathi Sloan at cathisloan@gmail.com or Nancy Rudicil at aer39th@netzero.com

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.

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, September 19, 2023 – 10 am, after summer break)

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 summer, the shelves are getting bare as the need goes up.

Needed this month: Cans of Hash, Chili, Spam, Beef Stew, Hearty Soups, Ravioli, Jelly/Jam, Mashed Potatoes, Cans and Jars of Pasta Sauce, Ground Coffee, Large Bottles of Juice, Vegetable Oil, Cans of Beef and Chicken Gravy, Cereal, Pancake Mix, Peanut Butter, and of course Monetary Donations are always welcome.

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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