



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

November 19, 2023

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Dear Friends,

This Sunday, we will celebrate your participation in St. Luke's 2024 Commitment Campaign. If you have not yet submitted your 2024 pledge card, you may bring it Sunday and submit it during the service. If you have made your pledge – thank you! Regardless, everyone will be provided with a “celebration card” to submit during the service.

Given that we have one service only this Sunday (remember, it's at 9am!), this will be a special day indeed to bring our entire community together and reflect on our life as a people of faith. Inspired by the campaign's theme of Experience the Divine, we have learned over the past two months how many of you experience the divine in both your daily life and, more specifically, through St. Luke's. Parents spoke to finding the divine through watching their children grow and develop, finding support through Godly Play, Angel Choir, and interactions with other families and children. Over and again, many of you described finding the divine in gathering together, making community, and having that feeling of belonging as others welcomed you, interacted with you, and shared their faith through worship, prayers, and fellowship.

That profound sense of having this place where we can attest to our individual fallibilities and be comforted, accepted, and restored, where we can journey with others who are seeking God's presence and find those moments of the divine together ... well, that and similar sentiments have been repeated comments in a number of our witnesses.

Where do we find the divine at St. Luke's? It's in the people; we are a family, St. Luke's is home. So many of you spoke of St. Luke's as home -- spiritually and personally. It is a place to gather, to connect, to comfort each other, and to participate in making this home a place where 'all are welcome'. Last Sunday, Corie Jacaruso, in her witness message, cited the ministries at St. Luke's as 'lifelines', serving not only those of us who worship here but also those beyond our walls who have been tethered by those lifelines. They, too, find St. Luke's a home where they are fed, comforted, and accepted.

As hosts of this home, you have contributed so much to making it a place of love. As with our own homes, we are called to care for, maintain, and nurture our households so that we may continue to gather, belong, and grow into the future. As one parishioner stated in their witness video, they feel an obligation to give back from what they have because this church does not belong to them alone but to God and it needs to be there for the next generation.

During this commitment campaign, we are reminded of the call to support or, more specifically, invest in the legacy of this community. Invest in the leadership – clergy and staff, who make worship and formation so rich for us. Invest in the daily maintenance and upkeep of this campus where we glorify and make community together. Invest in the resources that feed our faith formation, music ministries, outreach and service ministries, pastoral care, community

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**The Anglican  
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**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 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Click above for the lessons.

**9:00 am** Holy Eucharist with Sermon

engagement, and fellowship within and outside our walls; altogether, making this home a place of inclusion, a place to safely question and joyously praise, a place that will be there for the community and for generations ahead of us.

We are so very thankful for all you do to make St. Luke's the vibrant, loving community it is. This year's commitment campaign called us to experience the divine. In doing so, the stories that were shared powerfully demonstrated how this community reveals and reflects the divine both individually and collectively.

So, what more can you do in response to this campaign? As most of you know, St. Luke's resources have been challenged by the impact of the pandemic, repeated deficit budgets (which you have helped to mitigate), increased costs and, as a result, continued understaffing. As we continue efforts to stem this trend, we urge you to think boldly about your response to this campaign. We ask that you faithfully consider your commitment to this home and pledge generously for St. Luke's continued growth and mission to embrace all God's people.

And then, please join us for a celebration of it all this coming Sunday.

Yours in Christ,

Bill Warburton, Senior Warden and Deborah Collins, Junior Warden

We are glad to offer YouTube livestream for our 9:00 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

One Service Only



Celebration Sunday Brunch

### Celebration Sunday Brunch

**Sunday, November 19, Following 9:00 Service**

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, St. Luke's will be hosting a Celebration Sunday Brunch to conclude our 2024 Commitment Campaign!

Please mark your calendars to join your family and friends for this special occasion!

No need to bring anything except your appetite and a spirit of celebration. We look forward to sharing this wonderful meal with our St. Luke's Family!

Please [Click Here](#) to sign up through Sign-Up Genius or sign up on the Sign-Up Sheet in our Atrium.



Happy Thanksgiving!



## Thanksgiving Eve Service



## Installation of our New Rugs

### Installation Of Our New Rugs!

We are happy to let everyone know that we will have our new rugs installed next week from Wednesday through Friday! While we might expect to have some slight compromises when entering the building, we will still be open, and are looking forward to the end result! Thank you in advance for your patience with this process.

## Covid Update

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

## Advent Blog Series

### Advent Blog Series – 2023



## Beginning December 3 and running through December 25

In what has become a tradition at St. Luke's, parishioners are invited to read, reflect, and write on daily readings. Interested in writing an Advent blog? Contact Christina Imondi at [cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org)



Click on the QR code above, visit our Advent Blog Series 2023 page (<https://stlukeseg.org/advent-blog-2023>), and subscribe for automatic email notifications when new blogs have been posted! Previous blog subscribers are automatically signed up.

## Stained Glass Book Sale

### Stained Glass Window Books

Have you ever asked, how can I give to St. Luke's Church and get something in return?

By purchasing "The Stained Glass Windows of St. Luke's Church" book at \$20, you will help care for and maintain the windows of St. Luke's every year!

It has been said that St. Luke's has the finest collection of stained-glass windows in the state of Rhode Island!

Members of the Pastoral Care Committee and volunteers will be at the tables in the Atrium selling these books following both services starting November 26 through December 17th.

Why not gift a book for you and one for a favorite friend at Christmas?



### Adult Faith Formation Book Study

Join us for a soul journey as we read *Surrender to Love* by David Benner, PhD. Wednesdays during Advent and Christmas at 7pm by Zoom. We will meet November 29, December 6 and 13, and January 3 and 10.

This book explores the themes of love and surrender as the heart of Christian spirituality. Reflecting on Scripture and Christian tradition, Dr. Benner shows how God invites us to trust fully in God's perfect love. God is love, and God wants us to live in this love. *Surrender to Love* will lead us to an unexpected place, where yielding to God frees us to become who God created us to be.

God doesn't want us to respond out of fear or obligation. Rather, God invites us to enter into an authentic relationship of intimacy and devotion as God calls us to move beyond obedience—by surrendering to love.

David Benner, PhD, is an internationally known psychologist whose work has been directed toward facilitating a journey of awakening and transformation. This book focuses on living the spiritual journey in a deeply human way and the human journey in a deeply spiritual way.

**For November 29, please read Preface and Chapter 1.**

Class discussions will be by way of Zoom on Wednesdays, running from 7:00-8:30. Please join us!

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

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469

Passcode: 427552

## Treasurer's Notes

### From the Treasurer

October Month End

Oct, 2023	2023 YTD	Budget	Var	2022 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$385,567	\$390,000	(\$4,433)	\$386,266	(\$699)
Loose Plate	\$31,225	\$38,000	(\$6,775)	\$43,468	(\$12,243)
Other Personal Inc.	\$52,910	\$40,450	\$12,460	\$69,558	(\$16,648)
Total Personal Inc.	\$469,702	\$468,450	\$1,252	\$499,292	(\$29,590)
Total Other Inc	\$76,460	\$80,067	(\$3,607)	\$74,817	\$1,643
Total Income	\$546,162	\$548,517	(\$2,355)	\$574,109	(\$27,947)
Staff Expenses	\$364,638	\$383,185	(\$18,547)	\$376,709	(\$12,071)
Facilities Expenses	\$100,630	\$118,953	(\$18,323)	\$153,538	(\$52,908)
Program Expenses	\$22,946	\$28,579	(\$5,633)	\$19,040	\$3,906
Outreach Expense	\$91,218	\$92,490	(\$1,272)	\$75,180	\$16,038
Total Expenses	\$579,432	\$623,207	(\$43,775)	\$624,315	(\$44,883)
Net Income	(\$33,270)	(\$74,691)	\$41,421	(\$50,206)	\$16,936

## Notes:

### Income:

- We are within 0.4% of budget for total income
- Let's end strong!

### Expenses:

- Choir room window replacement has been completed (Parishioner gift paid for most of this cost)
- The new 1st floor carpeting for the hallways and staircase has been selected and should be installed by the end of November for a rough cost of \$18,000.
- Sound system upgrades to add some new microphones and equipment has been installed. (Parishioner gift will cover all of this cost)

Many thanks for your continued support!

Mike

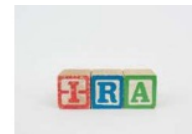
## Vanco and PayPal QR Codes If You Would Like To Donate



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
<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. <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.	<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. <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.	<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 <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	<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. <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.
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

Christ's Community Kitchen Dinner

## Christ's Community Kitchen

St. Luke's Church Dining Room  
November 20, 2023  
From 5-6:30 pm

St. Luke's is hosting a meatloaf dinner prepared by  
The United Methodist Church of East Greenwich! Please join us!

Free Will Offering – All Are Welcome

## 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

## Loaves and Fishes

### Loaves And Fishes

The October run was once again on a rainy day but we still had fifty or more people waiting for our arrival. There is a growing tent city where we distribute the food and that brings more new faces. The people are always appreciative of our being there and especially so on a rainy day. It is hard to see them take the bags and go back to wet, soggy tents.

For November we will maintain our bag count at 120, with 20 going to the Hotel in East Greenwich. The offerings will be cheeseburgers, 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 November 18th. If you are dropping off items before November 18<sup>th</sup> 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 cold weather coming there is a great need for warm sweatshirts or fleece, either new or gently used. Hoods are always a helpful addition. If clothing donations could be delivered before November 18<sup>th</sup> it would be appreciated and please leave them by the Parish office.

[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](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!

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

### 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 Intentional Institute is looking for **children's clothes** for the refugee families they serve. Many of them come from warm weather climates, like Africa and Central America and they find our winters pretty harsh. Even in summer they are often seen with heavy coats.

As you are cleaning out your closets and making room for winter clothes, please be on the lookout for children's clothing in good condition. You can drop them off in the donation box in the atrium.

Thanks in advance.

Questions - please ask Nancy Rudicil ([aer39th@netzero.com](mailto:aer39th@netzero.com)) or Cathi Sloan ([cathisloan@gmail.com](mailto:cathisloan@gmail.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](mailto: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 4th 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  
November 25, 2023 – 10 am**

## **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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