



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

November 5, 2023

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The clergy of the Diocese recently received a message from our bishop that began: "I'm sure that most of you know that anti-racism training has been mandated by General Convention for *'lay and ordained leadership of the Episcopal Church, including all ordained persons, professional staff, and those elected or appointed to positions of leadership on committees, commissions, agencies, and boards'*". Did you know that? Frankly, not the closest follower of General Convention resolutions, I had forgotten.

Ever the obedient priest (☺), yesterday I attended the diocesan all-day anti-racism training. And, I have to admit, the impact was powerful.

Listening to the first video, which presented in one sitting the sweep of our nation's historical efforts to oppress and marginalize first, Africans, and later, other people of color, was stunning if not wholly surprising. I had known that slaves were originally considered property and counted only as a fraction of a whole person. I had known that even after the Civil War, during reconstruction, supposedly freed slaves were granted citizenship but that their rights were contingent upon location and the willingness of whites to honor those rights.

But to hear anew about how African-Americans, after moving west in search of property, had been run off by the western migration of whites, and forced to live in segregated cities; or how the GI Bill was administered in ways such that the African-American vets who were disproportionately given a dishonorable discharge, were ineligible to participate in this offering; or how banks participated in discriminatory lending practices, including "redlining;" all of this left me with a profound awareness of how from one generation to the next this nation's efforts to marginalize have not so much ended but rather morphed. (I offer this conclusion, I hasten to add, without tracing the equally discriminatory laws related to voting, policing, and incarceration.)

And for as sobering as this first video was, I have to say the second video, which traced the Episcopal Church's actions throughout this span of time, was equally disheartening. As the legal church in many of the colonies, the Anglican Church was prominently involved in creating many of the slave codes. And, while it might be unsurprising that southern and confederate churches actively participated in slavery, I certainly was disappointed to learn that the northern churches said little in opposition. Did you know, the Episcopal Church was the only significant Christian denomination prior to the Civil War not to split over slavery—this because the church largely framed the matter as a "political" rather than "moral" question? Here's a quote from our 1856 General Convention: "The Church has nothing to do with party politics; with sectional disputes; with earthly distinctions; with the wealth, the splendor, and the ambition of the world."

Like with our nation's laws, there's more church history I could

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recount. But suffice to say, when it comes to race, the sad truth is the Episcopal Church has not always been on the right side of building God's kingdom. But here we are today, with another General Convention resolution and another opportunity to answer God's call, to live into our baptismal covenant... a covenant that speaks of seeking and serving Christ in all persons... of striving for justice and peace among all people, and of respecting the dignity of every human being.

And to be clear, this covenant is a covenant for all baptized Christians, not just for the "lay and ordained leadership of the Episcopal Church." All of which is why the Adult Faith Formation Steering Committee is committed to offering, each year, a series of anti-racism studies.

**On November 12, I invite you to attend the latest of these offerings. Drawing upon W. Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz's *Do the Work: An Antiracist Activity Book*, we will assemble in the dining room, share a light lunch, and "do the work." The class will run from 11:30-1:00.**

The national church training I attended this week was titled, "Becoming the Beloved Community," this a reference to the vision for community articulated by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the introduction, Isabel Wilkerson is quoted as writing, *"Looking beneath the history of one's country is like learning that alcoholism or depression runs in one's family... You don't ball up in a corner in shame of these discoveries. You don't, if you are wise, forbid any mention of them. In fact, you do the opposite. You educate yourself. You talk to people who have been through it and to specialists who have researched it. You learn the consequences and obstacles, the options and treatments. You may pray over it and meditate over it. Then you work to ensure these things, whatever they are, don't happen again."* (The Origins of Our Discontent)

I hope you will join me in educating myself, in talking with others, and in doing the work to build that Beloved Community and to ensure these things don't happen again.

Peace,  
Tim

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

[All Saints' Sunday](#)

Click above for the lessons.

**8:00 am** Holy Eucharist with Sermon

**10:00 am** Holy Eucharist with Baptisms

We are glad to offer YouTube livestream for our 10:00 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



Covid Update

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

Don't Forget to Fall Back



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.

## Adult Faith Formation

### Adult Faith Formation

The Adult Faith Formation class is reading *Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia For All That Is*. Below is a summary of this wonderful book written by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and prolific author, Sister Joan Chittister, OSB.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams often says that, no matter what, the proper stance of the Christian in the world is one of gratitude. In this book, Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, and Archbishop Rowan Williams offer us a sweeping set of things and circumstances to be grateful for “things for which we can sing alleluia,” “praise and thanks be to God.”

Some are things we naturally feel grateful for: God, peace, wealth, life, faith, and unity. But when these are set alongside other things we would never think to sing alleluia about 'death, divisions, sufferings, and even sinners' we begin to see, as Joan Chittister says in her introduction, that "Life itself is an exercise in learning to sing 'alleluia' here in order to recognize the face of God hidden in the recesses of time. To deal with the meaning of 'alleluia' in life means to deal with moments that do not feel like 'alleluia moments' at all."

In this series of reflections it becomes clear that singing "alleluia" is not a way to escape reality but receptivity to another kind of reality beyond the immediate and the delusional, of helping us understand what is now and what is to come.

**For November 8, please read the essays on Death and Future.**

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

### You're Invited!

**The next in-person Adult Faith Formation class will be on November 12.**

The Adult Faith Formation Steering Committee is committed to offering, each year, a series of anti-racism studies. On November 12, you are invited to attend the latest of these offerings. Drawing upon the book by W. Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz, *Do the Work: An Antiracist Activity Book*, we will assemble in the dining room, share a light lunch, and “do the work.” The class will run from 11:30-1:00.

Please join us!

**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   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Bill Pay</b> – with online bill pay, you add St. Luke's Church as a payee, enter our address of 99 Peirce St. East Greenwich, RI 02818 and schedule your payment.</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> Ease of use – if you already use online bill pay, then you are familiar with making payments this way. You can schedule single payments, or set up regular payments in advance.</p> | <p><b>Zelle Payment</b> – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke's Church by using the <a href="mailto:giving@stlukeseg.org">giving@stlukeseg.org</a> address.</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> Ease of use – if you already use Zelle, then you are familiar with making payments this way. This only makes one payment at a time, so you have to initiate each payment.</p> | <p><b>VANCO Payments</b> – With VANCO payments, you create your individual account on the VANCO site, set up how you want to pay, and the funds are deposited in the Church's account.</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> If you like points or miles, then this is your site! VANCO is the only option that accepts credit cards. Like Online Banking, you can set up recurring payments or make single payments</p> | <p><b>Direct Transfer</b> – If you are 70 ½ or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA.</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> Any funds paid this way are not reported as taxable income to you. You can make your entire yearly pledge with one payment, help satisfy your required distribution, and incur no tax on the income.</p> |
| No cost to you or the Church.   | No cost to you or the Church  | Transaction Fees for the Church  | No cost to you or the Church  |

Choral Evensong





# CHORAL EVENSONG



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**  
**4:00 PM**



*The combined choirs of  
Grace Church, Providence and  
St. Luke's Church, East Greenwich  
sing music of William Byrd, Bernard Rose, Sir John Stainer,  
and Sir C. Hubert Parry's magnificent coronation anthem "I was glad".  
A reception follows in The Pavilion.*



**GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE**  
300 Westminster Street • Providence • RI • 02903  
401-331-3225 • [www.GraceChurchProvidence.org](http://www.GraceChurchProvidence.org)

## Kristallnacht Candlelight Vigil

### Kristallnacht Candlelight Vigil

**November 9, 2023 @ 7 pm**

East Greenwich Clergy will lead this annual solemn  
remembrance for our community.

All Are Welcome!

Westminster Unitarian Church  
119 Kenyon Avenue, East Greenwich, RI

Calling All Veterans of the Armed Services

## Calling All Veterans of the Armed Services

Each year Rocky Hill Country Day School holds a Veteran's Day Ceremony to honor past and current members of our armed services. The ceremony, to be held November 9, is 30-40 minutes in length, run by the middle school students, and recognizes each veteran by name, rank, and the branch of service in which they served. If you have any questions, you can ask Tim. If anyone veteran is interested in attending, please write Mike Jedrey at [mjedrey@rockyhill.org](mailto:mjedrey@rockyhill.org).

### Theology on Tap

#### Theology on Tap

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

Veteran's Day Commemoration - Mon Nov 13 - St. Luke's Chapel 7:00PM - Mark your calendar!

Jack Newton as agreed, once again, to host the November TOT meeting in the St. Luke's Chapel. As our resident historian, Jack tells a wealth of stories about the origin and history of our Chapel and the heroes and ordinary citizens of East Greenwich during WWII. Please join us for an intellectual and spiritual experience.

All men of St. Luke's are invited to join us.

If you would like to participate, email  
Bill Warburton: [bill.warburton@cox.net](mailto:bill.warburton@cox.net)

### Women of Grace

#### Women of Grace

Women of Grace will be meeting Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, at St. Luke's dining room.

In honor of our veterans, especially our women, we will be viewing *Her Way, Her Story: World War II*. It is a documentary about women who served in uniform or were "Rosie the Riveters" at home during the war. A conversation will be facilitated by Roger Cichy. No doubt this will be a very interesting evening as we highlight the important role women played during that time.

As usual, some fellowship will precede the viewing of the documentary. Feel free to bring a savory, sweet, or a beverage to share. An RSVP will be very helpful in setting up for the evening. Please reach out to Deb Lukens, 908-500-4573.

### 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!

## **Pastoral Care**

### **Pastoral Care Ministry**

**Our next Pastoral Care Meeting will be held on November 8 at 10 am in the Blackburn Rm.**

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, 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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