



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

December 17, 2023

In This Issue

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

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

[Covid Update](#)

[Christmas Office
Hours](#)

[Join Us For Advent!](#)

[Giving Tree](#)

[Hanging of the Greens](#)

[Christmas Concert](#)

[Advent Blog Series](#)

[Stained Glass Book
Sale](#)

[Epiphany Pageant](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Treasurer
Announcement](#)

[Christ's Community
Kitchen Dinner](#)

[Lunch On The Hill](#)

[Loaves & Fishes](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Help Ukrainian
Families](#)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Please join us this Sunday at 4 pm for our annual Joyous Christmas concert! The program will feature the St. Cecilia Choir, the Canterbury Choir, and the Amigos, all joining forces to provide a holiday treat for the whole community.

I'm thrilled that our own parishioners Patricia and Roger Cichy will also be offering their abundant musical talents. Did you know that Pat is a professional oboist and Roger is an Emmy award- winning composer and an instrumentalist as well? The choirs are looking forward to singing Roger's gorgeous anthem *Shepherds' Song*. Together, Pat and Roger will play *Wintersong* for Oboe and Soprano Saxophone. And earlier in the program Pastor Jonathan Malone will join Pat in an oboe and bassoon duet, *Noël: Joseph est bien marié*.

Truly offering something for everyone, this concert is a wonderful opportunity to invite someone new to experience the warmth, welcome, and joyous spirit of the St. Luke's community. Please come and invite family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy this musical afternoon celebrating the beauty of the season. A Christmas cookie reception will follow the concert, adding a final sweet note to the experience!

Peace,
Rodney

[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
Sisters](#)

[Especially for Children](#)

[Food Cupboard](#)

Quick Links

[St. Luke's Church](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of
Rhode Island](#)

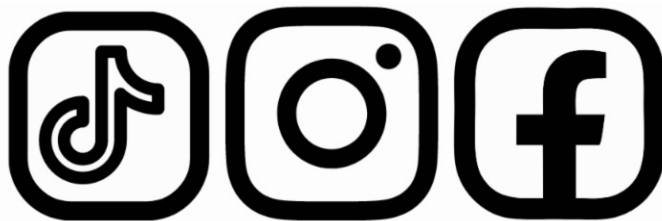
[The Episcopal Church](#)

[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 Third Sunday of Advent**](#)

Click above for the lessons.

8:00 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

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

Covid Update

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

Christmas Office Hours



Office Closed for
Christmas Holiday



December 25-27

Join Us For Advent!

Join the ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Faith Community for the season of Advent,
beginning on Sunday, December 3rd



Sunday, December 17th

Christmas Concert at 4:00pm

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Advent Service with Eucharist at 9:00am
Family Service with Holy Eucharist at 4:00pm
Service with Holy Eucharist at 7:00pm
Choral Prelude at 10:30pm with Holy Eucharist
following at 11:00pm

Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist at 10:00am

Sunday, December 31st

A Service of Lessons and Carols with
Holy Eucharist - One service at 10:00am




Sunday, January 7th

Holy Eucharist at 8:00am
Epiphany Children's Pageant at 10:00am

Join us for worship on Sunday mornings
at 8:00am and 10:00am



99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818 | (401) 884-4116

   @stlukeseg

The Giving Tree



We want to thank the congregation for taking the tags off the Giving Tree. When you return the gift card, please give the card with the tag attached to Christina in the office or mail the card to the church. With the gift cards, families can purchase gifts and/or food for the holiday. We have received calls from twenty families with children. They are asking if we can give them some help this Christmas season. Our prayer is that we can help them. You may also simply write a check to St. Luke's and reference "The Giving Tree" on the memo line. Thank you for helping spread the Spirit of Christmas!

Sincerely,
Judy Horton, Sue Clement, Lois McLoughlin, Mimi West, Nora Hall, Ruth Batchelor,
Helen Biancani, and Deb Lukens

Hanging Of The Greens



Christmas Concert



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



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?



Epiphany Pageant

Epiphany Pageant

Sunday, January 7th, 10:00am

Calling All Children, Teens, And Those Who Are Young At Heart!

All people of St. Luke's from pre-school through high school and beyond are welcomed and encouraged to be part of this year's Epiphany Pageant, the telling of the Christmas Story.

Costumes are provided and there are no lines to memorize!

There will be only one rehearsal for the pageant. It will be on Saturday, January 6, from 10 am - Noon.

A sign-up sheet is available in the Atrium. For more information, please speak with Rodney Ayers at rodney@stlukeseg.org or Amy Weigand at amy@stlukeseg.org.

Adult Faith Formation

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 January 3, please read Chapter 4.

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

November Month End

Nov, 2023	2023 YTD	Budget	Var.	2022 YTD	Var.
Pledge Income	\$423,404	\$430,000	(\$6,596)	\$424,735	(\$1,331)
Loose Plate	\$36,623	\$42,400	(\$5,777)	\$48,419	(\$11,796)
Other Personal Inc.	\$59,712	\$40,950	\$18,762	\$69,828	(\$10,116)
Total Personal Inc.	\$519,739	\$513,350	\$6,389	\$542,982	(\$23,243)
Total Other Inc.	\$80,524	\$84,333	(\$3,809)	\$130,893	(\$50,369)
Total Income	\$600,263	\$597,683	\$2,580	\$673,875	(\$73,612)
Staff Expenses	\$402,123	\$421,499	(\$19,376)	\$411,673	(\$9,550)
Facilities Expenses	\$135,531	\$129,726	\$5,805	\$214,824	(\$79,293)
Program Expenses	\$25,690	\$32,152	(\$6,462)	\$21,412	\$4,278
Outreach Expense	\$99,790	\$101,078	(\$1,288)	\$81,866	\$17,924
Total Expenses	\$663,893	\$684,454	(\$20,561)	\$729,816	(\$65,923)
Net Income	(\$63,630)	(\$86,771)	\$23,141	(\$55,941)	(\$7,689)

Notes:

Income:

- Pretty much on budget for the year. We had some designated gifts for sound system enhancements and new windows in the choir room.

Expenses:

- Almost all the improvements have been made and paid for. (New carpets look so nice!) Over all expenses still slightly under budget for the year.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all who attended our Financial Town Hall on the 3rd. We felt the general consensus of the room was an overall willingness to overcome the financial challenges presented. (Treasurer's side note – I think you are all amazing!)

Peace and Grace,

Michael Sullivan

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</p> <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>No cost to you or the Church.</p>	<p>Zelle Transfer</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>No cost to you or the Church</p>	<p>VANCO Payment Solutions</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>Transaction Fees for the Church</p>	<p>Direct Payment From IRA</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> <p>No cost to you or the Church</p>
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Christ's Community Kitchen Dinner

Christ's Community Kitchen

St. Luke's Church Dining Room

December 18, 2023

From 5-6:30 pm

St. Luke's is hosting a wonderful chicken parmesan dinner in our Dining Room!

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 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

November was the largest turnout this year, we gave away 100 bags and the tent city continues to grow. For December we are increasing the bag count to 130 with 20 bags 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 December 16, 2023. If you are dropping off items before December 16, 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 and hats and gloves. Hoods are always a helpful addition. If clothing donations could be delivered before December 16, it would be appreciated and please leave them by the Parish office.

[Click Here](#) to sign up!

If you are not receiving the SignUp Genius in your e-mail and would like to do so, please send an e-mail to: saintlukesfeedingministry@gmail.com

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 **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

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 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.

We are also seeking volunteers to deliver clothing to the Dorcas clothing collaborative in Providence. Please contact Nancy Rudicil for more information.

Questions - please ask Nancy Rudicil (aer39th@netzero.com) or Cathi Sloan (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.

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
December 23, 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

St. Luke's Food Cupboard

For several years, the Food Cupboard has benefited by receiving donations from Stop and Shop on Frenchtown Rd. These donations include meat, milk and dairy products, bread and other items that are pulled from the shelves before their use by dates expire. Stop and Shop would like us to pick up three times a week rather than the one time we currently do. We would like to put together two more teams to pick up Wednesdays and Fridays. The pickups would be done around 8:15 AM allowing time to get to the Food Cupboard and weigh, count and restock the items before the Food Cupboard opens at 10:30. Chris will train each volunteer and each person will have about 15 minutes training by computer. We need volunteers who can lift 45 pounds and who can commit to the early pickup time each week for an hour or so.

This is a critical program for the Food Cupboard, and we would really appreciate anyone who is willing to help as a volunteer! Please help so we can continue to benefit from this program. Anyone interested should call Chris or Steve Bartlett 401 885-5889 or chrisbartlettri@gmail.com or dufferdogri@gmail.com

Thank you!

Chris and Steve Bartlett

St. Luke's Episcopal Church | (401) 884-4116
cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>
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