



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 14, 2024

## In This Issue

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

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

[Covid Update](#)

[One Service Only](#)

[Pledge Envelopes](#)

[Adult Faith Formation](#)

[Treasurer  
Announcement](#)

[Theology on Tap](#)

[Christ's Community  
Kitchen Dinner](#)

[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](#)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Next week begins an eight-day period considered the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.” Did you know there was such a week?

First established in 1908 by a Franciscan Friar, the evolution of this week has had a host of twists and turns, with various understandings emerging across regions, traditions, and denominations. Today it is an international celebration, although it is celebrated at different times depending upon whether one lives in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere. (Now there’s some irony for you.)

I, for one, am both moved and dismayed by the week.

I am moved by the ecumenical effort, by the call to engage one another with mutual respect. I love praying with and for my Methodist or Roman Catholic or, even Baptist, (☺), friends. For at least a week it seems we are able to focus on that which joins us as opposed to those things that separate us. And I have to believe that makes God smile.

But I am dismayed because of the prevailing denominational turf battles that seem so contrary to Christ’s prayer. *“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one,”* (John 17:21) Jesus prays, not long before his death. Don’t get me wrong; I know that our worship, our theology of the eucharist, and our polity are important, but really, are they more important than Jesus’ last wish for us before his death—not to mention than our shared love for a Christ whose love was so wide and inclusive?

Last week a lovely moment of Christian unity took place in our sanctuary. As we gathered to celebrate the life of Jim McGuire, I was assisted by Fr. Ricard, of St. Gregory’s, and Pastor Jonathan. For the sake of honoring a faithful man, an Episcopal priest, a Roman Catholic priest, and a Baptist pastor stood together. The significance was not lost on several in attendance, who approached me after the service to say what a lovely sight it was.

If we can stand together in times of death, why, I wonder, can’t we stand together more often in times of life?

One of the things I love about St. Luke’s is that we long have had a culture of respect and collaboration when it comes to other denominations. CCK, Lunch-on-the-Hill, and the Food Pantry all represent ecumenical efforts. I believe these ministries make God smile, too.

As you move through the coming days, I invite you to learn more about the Week of Christian Unity by clicking on the following [link](#).

Consider also the chosen theme for 2024: *“You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself... Go and do likewise.”* (Luke 10:27).

[Thanksgiving](#)

And finally, won't you please join me in this prayer:

[St. Luke's Choirs](#)

**United in Your Love**

[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](#)

Almighty God, who are mother and father to us all,  
Look upon your planet Earth divided.  
Help us to know that we are all your children,  
That all nations belong to one great family,  
And that all of our religions lead to you.  
Multiply our prayers in every land  
Until the whole Earth becomes your congregation,  
United in your love.  
Sustain our vision of a peaceful future  
And give us strength to work unceasingly  
To make that vision real.  
*- Helen Weaver*

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**

[The Second Sunday after the Epiphany](#)

Click above for the lessons.

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

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

We are glad to offer YouTube livestream for our 10 am Holy Eucharist 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**

**Please be informed a number of adults in the congregation have tested positive for Covid this week. We recommend that you consider masking**

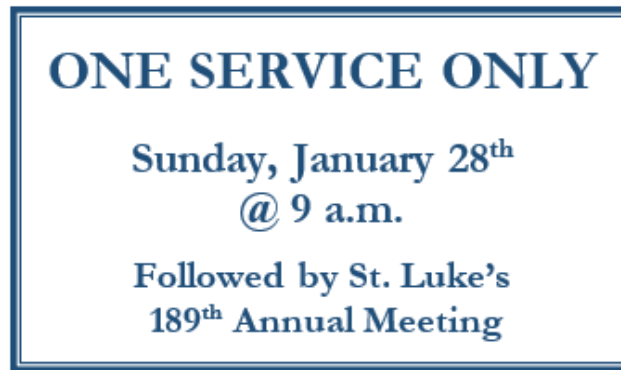
**if you are to attend services this Sunday.**

**Please make whatever decision that is best for you.**

---

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

### One Service Only



### Pledge Envelopes

If you have requested pledge envelopes, they are located in the atrium.

### Adult Faith Formation

#### Adult Faith Formation Book Study

**January Comparative Religion Class  
January 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and February 4<sup>th</sup>**

This adult education offering will serve as opportunity to dip our toes in the water, exploring points of intersection and difference between the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We'll cover three broad themes, the role of scripture, creation narratives, and stories of salvation, while also exploring avenues for future exploration and discussion.

**Classes will be in-person from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm on the following three Sundays: January 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and February 4<sup>th</sup>. Pizza or roll-ups will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share.**

### Treasurer's Notes

#### From the Treasurer

December Month End

Dec, 2023	2023 YTD	Budget	Var	2022 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$480,648	\$470,000	\$10,648	\$464,121	\$16,527
Loose Plate	\$47,736	\$48,000	(\$264)	\$62,594	(\$14,858)
Other Personal Inc.	\$73,409	\$57,800	\$15,609	\$83,493	(\$10,084)
Total Personal Inc.	\$601,793	\$575,800	\$25,993	\$610,208	(\$8,415)
Total Other Inc	\$102,282	\$106,750	(\$4,468)	\$154,980	(\$52,698)
Total Income	\$704,075	\$682,550	\$21,525	\$765,188	(\$61,113)
Staff Expenses	\$443,855	\$459,912	(\$16,057)	\$447,111	(\$3,256)
Facilities Expenses	\$149,771	\$146,674	\$3,097	\$227,388	(\$77,617)
Program Expenses	\$33,742	\$37,475	(\$3,733)	\$29,374	\$4,368
Outreach Expense	\$115,345	\$114,666	\$679	\$93,344	\$22,001
Total Expenses	\$742,713	\$758,727	(\$16,014)	\$797,261	(\$54,548)
Net Income	(\$38,638)	(\$76,177)	\$37,539	(\$32,074)	(\$6,564)

### Notes:

Well, I think my message for November was “let’s finish strong.” And we did.

#### Income:

- Pledge – closed out \$10,648 over budget.
- Other Personal Income – also over budget by \$15,609 – much of this was the donor specific gifts for sound system and windows. The Diocese sent \$497 as part of revenue sharing.
- Loose plate recovered in December to almost hit budget. I suspect the favorable weather that allowed us to hold all services helped.

#### Expenses:

- Staff expenses were under by \$16K – mostly due to the six months of having the youth leadership position unfilled and not having a sexton.
- Facilities were off, but that was the technology budget bearing the costs for the sound system upgrades (see note in income section above).
- We haven’t been billed by RI Energy for the main gas service since July (we have two bills, the small one for the kitchen hot water boiler does come in). They put a new meter on in June, and that’s when the trouble started. My best guess is we owe \$5K - \$6K. We’ve called them, but still no resolution.

Bottom Line - \$38.6K loss, roughly half what we budgeted for. \$20K has already been transferred from the DIT, so we will take the remainder in January.

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
<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

## Theology on Tap

### Theology on Tap

#### Upcoming January & February Meetings

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.

**January TOT – Monday, January 22, 2024, 7:00 pm in church Dining Room** - Pete Haynsworth has offered to lead a discussion and share thoughts on the notion of Church Sustainability.

**February TOT – Monday, February 26, 2024, 7:00 pm at Varnum Armory** - Harry Waterman has arranged for a private tour for TOT- We'll discuss the details and make plans to include everyone at the January 22 meeting.

If you would like to participate, contact Brent Bostick: [brentbostick1@gmail.com](mailto:brentbostick1@gmail.com) or 908-230-7569

Thanks, Brent

## Christ's Community Kitchen Dinner

### Christ's Community Kitchen

**St. Luke's Church Dining Room  
January 29, 2024**

**From 5-6:30 pm**

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

Please join us!

Free Will Offering – All Are Welcome

## Lunch on the Hill

### 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....*

#### **“Lunch On The Hill” Offers Lunches On The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays Every Month**

Saint Luke's/ EG Food Pantry provides lunch on the 2nd Wednesday. Saint Luke's prepares sandwiches, sides, salads, dessert etc. The EG food Pantry assists in providing food to prepare. Olive Garden provides delicious soups to supplement our meals on both Wednesdays.

Our Lady of Mercy (OLM)/ Wild Harvest provides lunch on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Wild Harvest provides sandwiches and soup or a side. OLM provides additional sides, salad, dessert etc.

Our lunch guests have grown to see our gathering as a warm community of support during tough times as well as celebration of good times together. The “Community /Family” we provide is possible because of all the wonderful people that volunteer and support this outreach.

#### **Saint Luke's Here's how you can help:**

Volunteers (3 or 4) from 9:30 to 12:30 needed to assist in the preparation and serving of lunch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Donations of desserts, 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

December concluded a successful year for the St. Luke's Loaves and Fishes Team and it is due to your contributions and participation that we achieved this success.

For January we are asking for gently used coats for women and men. While we may have some warm temperatures right now, there will be a cold period and those coats would be put to good use.

For January we will maintain the bag count at 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 Sign-Up Genius. **It is appreciated if all donations can be in the St Luke's kitchen by 10:00 AM on January 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are dropping off items before January 20<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 Sign-Up Genius, **please indicate how many of an item you will be donating** .

With the cold weather coming there is a great need for winter socks for men and women. If clothing donations could be delivered before January 20<sup>th</sup> it would be appreciated and please leave them by the Parish office.

[Click Here](#) to sign up!

If you are not receiving the Sign-Up Genius in your e-mail and would like to do so, please send an e-mail to: [saintslukesfeedingministry@gmail.com](mailto:saintslukesfeedingministry@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](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 **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!

**Our next Pastoral Care Meeting will be held on February 14 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.

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](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  
January 27, 2024 – 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](mailto:chrisbartlettri@gmail.com) or [dufferdogri@gmail.com](mailto:dufferdogri@gmail.com)

Thank you!

Chris and Steve Bartlett

St. Luke's Episcopal Church | (401) 884-4116  
[cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org) | <http://stlukeseg.org>  
99 Peirce Street  
East Greenwich, RI 02818

[Unsubscribe cimondi@stlukeseg.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!