

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

January 21, 2024

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week, from Sunday through Wednesday, my wife and I were stranded in Nashville, Tennessee. The snow and cold from this week's storm had overwhelmed the airport, and flight after flight was cancelled. For those days our home was a Holiday Inn Express near the airport. While it was an inconvenience for Rebekah and I (We had food, shelter, computers, each other, and really were fine.), it was a very stressful time for so many people, especially for people working behind the scenes at the airlines, the hotels, and everywhere else.

This was not a major tragedy for us. We did not lose anything and we were not harmed in any major way. Yet it was stressful. As flights were getting cancelled again and again, I did witness some anger and frustration. A small mob of people trying to get to Boston let loose a number of explicative laden questions and curse words when they were told their flight was cancelled. I saw remnants of the same kind of spirit that threw tea from ships into the harbor. That was a tense moment. But it was not the totality of our experience. For the most part, I saw compassion, empathy, and a realization that we are all in the same situation.

In the time we were in the Nashville airport hotel limbo, Rebekah and I shared meals with strangers, chatted with folks on the elevator, and got to know the stories of people we will never see again. People were helping each other, sharing with each other, and looking out for each other. There was something good and hopeful about the experience.

Sometimes I wonder what the Kingdom of God will look like. Not just what heaven will look like, but what it will be like when Jesus returns, when all is right in the world and we are all living in a way that God desires. I hope and pray that the realization of the Kingdom won't occur in the surreal landscape of a Holiday Inn Express near the airport. But I do hope and trust that it will have the echoes and subtext of humanity and compassion that Rebekah and I witnessed these past couple of days. A humanity that comes from a place of knowing that we are all in the same situation, and we are all struggling and living together.

There is something wonderful about worship and about being a part of a worshipping community. We enter the doors of the sanctuary (or connect online) with a story, an experience, a life that we have been trying to live. For some, it may have been a great week. For others, it may have been a week of pain and hurt. But during worship we all are drawn to engage in the same text and participate in the same prayers. We all are invited to pray for individuals, to offer thanks, and to share our confession. While our lives will vary from week to week, we are all in the same situation as we work and find our way through life. And when we approach the communion rail there is no better reminder that we are all living life together. In worship, we are reminded that we are all living the same life together, and from that place we approach and receive communion. In communion, we find compassion, humanity, and especially, love. Maybe that is a glimpse

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Stay Connected







St. Luke's TikTok, Instagram and Facebook



This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Third Sunday after the Epiphan y

Click above for the lessons.

8:00 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon 10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

and a taste of the reality of the Kingdom of God.

From Sunday to Sunday, I try to remember that no matter what I am working through, everyone I encounter is also working through something. We are all in this thing called life together. I hope I can take my experience of being stranded in Nashville into my life of faith so that I might see and show the Kingdom of God in even the most absurd places. After all, we are all in this together.

Peace, Jonathan We are glad to offer YouTube livestream for our 10 am Holy Eucharist Service. Please <u>Click</u> <u>Here</u> to worship with us via YouTube.

<u>Click Here</u> to download a copy of the parish prayer list.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, Pastoral Associate, 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

ONE SERVICE ONLY

Sunday, January 28th @ 9 a.m.

Followed by St. Luke's 189th Annual Meeting

There will be no Godly Play or Youth Faith Formation on January 28

St. Luke's Annual Meeting Service and Report

St. Luke's Annual Meeting Service And Report

As has become our custom on the occasion of the Annual Meeting, we will have a Q&A Sermon to provide parishioners the opportunity to ask questions about the life of the church.

In addition, a limited number of the Annual Reports are available in hard copy under the mosaic in the atrium and at the back of the church. Electronic copies will be available on our website and in our weekly announcement. More hardcopies will be available at the meeting on Sunday, January 28.

Pledge Envelopes

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Potowomut Golf Tournament

May 6, 2024

Journey Through Lent Blog Series

Journey through Lent Blog Series - 2024

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14, and running thru Easter, March 31

In what has become a tradition at St. Luke's, parishioners are invited to be our blog authors as they reflect and write on our daily scripture readings. Delivered directly to your inbox each morning, the blogs are also posted daily on our website.

Our Blog is a gift that the members of St. Luke's give to each other!

Interested in writing a Lenten blog? Contact Christina Imondi at cimondi@stlukeseg.org

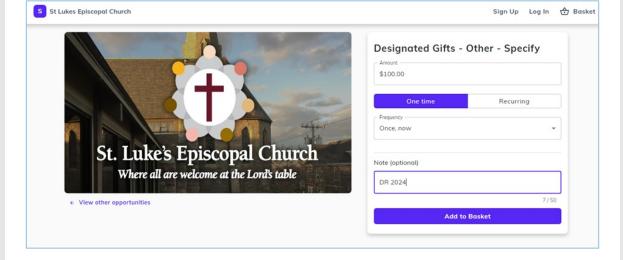
Confirmation Class Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

Confirmation Class Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

The Confirmation Class of 2024 is asking for your help with travel costs associated with their upcoming mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Donations can be received in a multiple of ways:

- 1. Buy tickets for the February 10th Italian Dinner at St Lukes!
- 2. You can write a check and deliver it to the parish office. **Important**, please indicate in the memo field or separate note that this is for the **2024 DR Trip**!
- 3. You can also donate online using the St. Luke's website https://stlukeseg.org/
- a. Go to Stewardship and Giving
- b. Giving / Vanco
- c. Click Designated Gifts Other Specify
- d. Enter the amount, click 'one time donation', indicate in the **notes** section that your donation is for the 2024 DR Trip (**this is an important step**) and then click 'add to basket'. Click on the basket and enter your credit card to complete.

Online Donation



We are thrilled to go back to the Dominican Republic after an extended pause caused by the pandemic. Thank you in advance for supporting this important youth ministry.

Please contact Tom Sprague with any questions <u>Tsprague72@gamil.com</u>

Italian Dinner Given By St. Luke's Confirmation Class

Join us for an Italian Dinner at St. Luke's on Saturday, February 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Food will be prepared and served by teens traveling to the DR next month.

Tickets \$25 - With Cash Bar Of Beer And Wine

Proceeds to support DR Trip and Mission!

Festal Choral Evensong

FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG WITH THE BLESSING OF CANDLES FOR CANDLEMAS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3^{RD} , $2024 \sim 4:00 \text{ PM}$

Grace Church in Providence ~ 300 Westminster Street



The combined choristers of

Grace Church (Providence), St. Luke's Church (East Greenwich), and St. Paul's Church (Fairfield) will sing music of Thomas Tallis, Herbert Howells, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, Alan Gray, and others.

Under the direction of British conductor,

Dr. Barry Rose, OBE,

former Director of Music of St. Paul's (London), Guilford, and St. Alban's Cathedrals. A reception follows in The Pavilion.



Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation Book Study

January Comparative Religion Class January 21st and February 4th

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 14th, 21st, and February 4th. Pizza or roll-ups will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

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





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









Online Banking

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.

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.

No cost to you or the Church.

Zelle Transfer

Zelle Payment - with Zelle payment transfer. you can add St. Luke's Church by using the ikeseg.org address. 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.

No cost to you or the Church

VANCO Payment Solutions

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

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

Transaction Fees for the Church

Direct Payment From IRA

VANCO Payments - With VANCO payments, 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. Benefits: Any funds paid this way are Benefits: If you like points or miles, then this 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

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 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 chicken stir-fry 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 nd and 4th 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 th 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 2nd 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 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 gentle 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 20th. If you are dropping off items before January 20th, 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 20th 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

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

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 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 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, <u>please</u> <u>complete this form.</u> 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!**

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St. Lukes Episcopal Church | 99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

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