



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 7, 2024

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

One of the things I appreciate most about St. Luke's is that our congregation so fully honors and celebrates the youth of the parish. (Frankly, we are in the minority that we even have so many youth to honor and celebrate.)

Throughout the year we heartily enjoy numerous services which focus on our youth, including the Corporate Communion Celebration, Rite 13, and Confirmation, just to name a few. Truly, it is as much a joy for me to watch the faces of the adults in the pews as it is to celebrate those occasions with our children.

Once again, this coming Sunday, the youth of St. Luke's will help animate our celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. I must tell you, our Epiphany pageant is one of my favorite Sundays of the year. Some youth will serve as narrators, some will dress as sheep, some will play the parts of the Holy Family. And, to give credit where credit is due, some of our pageant talent will come from members of the parish who are, shall we say, more young at heart than young in years. 😊 I love it all.

It seems so fitting that we journey to church to focus our attention on the children. After all, the Feast of the Epiphany is a story about the magi who journeyed far just to look upon a child. In both their travels and ours, I do believe we find signs of the Holy being born into the world. Our children possess a spark of that holy, our children provide hope in troubled times, our children are born out of love, much the same as the baby found by the magi thousands of years ago.

I hope you will join me in making the trek this Sunday. I hope you will come and see the familiar and yet still remarkable signs of God, present and active in our very midst. And I hope you will find yourselves, like those first magi, "overwhelmed with joy." (Matthew 2:10)

Epiphany blessings,
Tim

P.S. Below you will find a beautiful prayer I discovered years ago. I invite you to pray it in the coming days, as you pause and consider anew the Epiphany.

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Stay Connected



St. Luke's TikTok, Instagram and Facebook



Stay up to date with all things St. Luke's, and follow us on TikTok, Instagram, & Facebook @StLukesEG

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Epiphany of our Lord](#)

Click above for the lessons.

8:00 am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Epiphany Pageant

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

A Prayer for the Feast of the Epiphany

I wonder sometimes
If one of the stars that lit Abraham's night
Was the one that led the Magi to Jesus.
A dark canvas speckled by the most generous brush—
What an improbable promise to an old man.
But our God has never been daunted by the unlikely, the impossible.
What a sight for the Magi, too,
A baby resting on hay, his cries mingled with braying and bleating.
I like to think they heard in those everyday sounds a holy chorus,
Saw in that noisy tableau a Creator serenaded by His creation,
All of it embodied, enfleshed—
All of it good.
And when we've left our gifts for this implausible King,
May we, like the Magi, go home by another way—
Having encountered the holy,
May we protect it, guard it,
Trail its light behind us wherever we go.
A sacred arc transposed from heaven to earth,
May we ourselves become the star,
Leading the way to Emmanuel.
Amen.

— Cameron Bellm



spirit &
verse



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**

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 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

[f](#) [ig](#) [dj](#) @stlukeseg

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.

Pledge Envelopes

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

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 10, please read Chapter 5 and Epilogue.

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

January Comparative Religion Class

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.

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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Women of Grace

Women of Grace

January 8, 7 pm, at St. Luke's Dining Room

Women of Grace will welcome in the new year with a discussion on *When God Winks*. Is there more to coincidence than meets the eye? Are those random events that happen in your life coincidence or are they winks, meaning a signal or message from a higher power?

Please join us January 8th, 7:00pm, in St. Luke's Dining Room where we will share coincidences in our lives and explore whether they are "God Winks".

All women are welcome. Feel free to bring a savory or sweet to share. Kindly RSVP to Deb Lukens, deblukens73@gmail.com, or 908-500-4573.

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
2nd 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 4th 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 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 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 January 10 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

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 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.



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>
99 Peirce Street
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