

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

February 18, 2024

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<u>Christ's Community</u> <u>Kitchen Dinner</u> I like to go on journeys. This is a large part of why I go into the back-country to be immersed in a wilderness setting, but also for the journey. I especially enjoy multi-day (or multi-week) trips covering hundreds of miles. There is a sense adventure and excitement around what I might encounter as well as a sense of wonder of what I will be like when I am done. Usually after such trips I am a little thinner and smell pretty bad. In addition, I usually find that I have acquired a deeper self-awareness or had an aha moment on the longer trips. I love the journey.

This might be why Lent is one of my favorite seasons in the liturgical calendar. Lent is a journey. We have 40 days (not including Sundays) to journey to the cross and beyond. We have 40 days to reflect on who Jesus Christ is for us as individuals and as a community. Each Sunday I find a different understanding of who Jesus is which increases my sense of anticipation as we near the cross. Each week I strive to gain a deeper awareness of my own walk with Jesus in my devotions and readings. And when I fully embrace the journey of Lent, on Easter I usually notice that I am different in my faith and self-understanding than when I started the Lenten journey. I find that I have changed.

In last week's article, Fr. Tim shared all the multiple ways that you can engage in Lenten practices through St. Luke's. He reminded us that the more we engage in spiritual opportunities that are a part of Lent the more profound the celebration of Easter will be. I want to fully echo these sentiments. We are starting a journey that has much to offer and many places for us to grow.

Often when going on a journey I have to prepare. I never enter into the wilderness without some sense of where I am going, or without food and water, or without a map and compass, and with lots of planning. I take time to discern what it is I want to do, what I want to see, what the conditions will be like, and have a plan of what each day will look like.

I wonder if this might be a way to approach the spiritual practices of Lent. Instead of just jumping into Lent and seeing what happens, to be deliberate with what it is that you want to do. Maybe the evening Adult Ed is just enough discussion and contemplation that you might need. Maybe the Thursday evening contemplative Eucharist will give you those deeper moments of spirituality that you desire for the season. Maybe you don't need to give up chocolate this year but instead all of the time spent scrolling various social media sites. Make a plan of what you hope to do for the season. Lent is a journey and it is good to have a sense of where it is that you want to go, what it is that you hope to experience, and then to consider what it is that you might need to do to have those moments and experiences. Take some time to consider and prepare for the journey you hope to have this Lent. Schedule the time for prayer and reflection if that is something you want to try. Dust off your Bible so it is ready to be read daily (or weekly). Do what you need to so that you will be ready to enter the wilderness of Lent.

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The Episcopal Church

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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

Technically Lent has already started this week with Ash Wednesday and you may think that it is now too late. Yet we have 40 days total and that is a lot of time. You can jump in any time, you can join the journey at any moment, and it will be worth-while. Even if you are only able to give one focused week for Lent (I recommend Holy Week) it will be meaningful. The journey is ready for you to embrace no matter when you are able to take it.

One other lesson that I have to constantly embrace when I am on a journey. I need to be ready to change and adapt to what actually happens. I may have planned on climbing a mountain, but if a storm is coming and the weather is threatening, I need to change my plans. I may have planned on hiking one particular trail, but if a bear is sitting on that trail before me then I need to change my plans. Or I may just be tired. Or I may just have tried to do too much and need to let go. And that is ok. It is ok to change our plans mid-journey. It is an act of self-kindness to say that daily Bible reading may be too much and it is ok to just read three days a week. We are not journeying through Lent to suffer so much as to wear ourselves out because then we may resent the journey and Easter may feel empty. On every journey we need to be ready to adapt, to change, and to make sure that we take care of ourselves and each other who are journeying with us.

We have started the journey of Lent. I am excited to journey it with all of you, to experience the different moments of spiritual depth and engagement, and to see what changes as we draw near to Easter.

Peace, Jonathan This Sunday at St. Luke's

The First Sunday in Lent 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 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 recently. 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

Fr. Tim Will Be Away

FATHER TIM WILL BE AWAY FROM FEB. 16-26

Father Tim will be away for our Dominican Republic Trip from February 16th-26th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Jonathan Malone by calling our office at 884-4116.

St. Luke's Journey To Easter

JOIN THE ST. LUKE'S FAITH COMMUNITY AS WE JOURNEY TO EASTER

All are welcome to join us at St. Luke's Episcopal Church as we journey through Lent. Come experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

Ash Wednesday - February 14th

Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes 12pm & 7pm

Wednesday Evenings at 7pm beginning February 21st

Adult Faith Formation Book Study via Zoom, "Another Story Must Begin: A Lent Course Based on Les Miserables" by Jonathan Meyer

Thursday Evenings at 6pm Simple Eucharist with reflection

Evensong Sunday, March 10th at 4pm



St. Luke's Episcopal Church 99 Peirce Street East Greenwich, RI 02818 401.884.4116

HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Palm Sunday - March 24th Holy Eucharist 8am & 10am

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Holy Eucharist at 7pm

Maundy Thursday - March 28th Holy Eucharist at 6pm with supper,

foot washing, & stripping of the altar

Good Friday - March 29th (Two Services)

from the Prayer Book at 12pm with music from Taize at 7pm

The Great Vigil of Easter -March 30th

First Eucharist of Easter at 7pm

Easter Sunday - March 31st

Holy Eucharist at 8am & 10am, both with choir, trumpet, and timpani



St. Luke's Annual Report

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St. Luke's Annual Report

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 are available on our website and you can also <u>Click Here</u> to view our Annual Report.

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

<u>Journey through Lent</u> <u>Blog Series – 2024</u>

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

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.

Become a Lenten Blog Writer

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

Subscribe to the Lenten Blog Series

To receive daily email notifications of daily blog posts, subscribe by clicking on the QR code below and entering your email address on the 2024 Lenten blog page. Or go to <u>https://stlukeseg.org/lenten-blog-2024</u>



Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation Book Study

Join Us for a Lenten Study Like No Other

Another Story Must Begin is an original Lenten course based upon the film, the novel, and the stage adaptation of Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*. Through discussion of some of the themes and principal characters of this epic narrative, the course explores the grace of God alongside our imperfect state and opportunities for redemption. It asks us to reassess what we can do with our lives, both for ourselves and for those around us.

The study will begin Wednesday, February 21, and run for 5 successive Wednesdays with a cost of \$7 for the study guide. Each class will take place on Zoom, from 7:00-8:30. Please join us!

<u>Click Here</u> to join! Zoom Meeting Information is below:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469 Passcode: 427552

If you wish to participate, please see Tim on Sundays or Christina during the week and they will provide you the study guide.

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

January Month End

January	2024	Budget	Var.	Ann. Budget
Total Income	\$91,908	\$98,629	(\$6,721)	\$716,650
Total Expenses	\$64,129	\$66,176	(\$2,047)	\$767,967
Net Income	\$27,779	\$32,453	(\$4,674)	(\$51,317)

Notes:

Income:

• Small miss in Rental income of \$500.

 \cdot We normally receive about \$4,000 in prior year pledge payments, but it seems everyone was pretty much paid in full in December, so that was a \$3,200 miss.

 \cdot The DIT moved to a new investment firm in December, and they have changed the dividend payment months. We budgeted for a dividend payment for December (4th Qtr.), but didn't receive one.

Expenses:

- The gas company finally billed us for the July December time frame \$5,835
- · Electric bill was \$500 higher than expected

Peace and Grace, Mike

Vanco and PayPal QR Codes If You Would Like To Donate



Vanco



PayPal

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 Payment – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke's Church by using the giving@stlukeseg.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

Zelle Transfer

VANCO Payment Solutions

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 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

Transaction Fees for the Church

Direct Payment From IRA

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 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

St. Luke's Live Stream Ministry

We have a busy year ahead and would love to invite volunteers to help operate our live stream videos that are posted on St. Luke's YouTube channel. If you are comfortable with computers and setting up camera shots, we need YOU!

Please contact Deborah Collins (<u>collinstn01@gmail.com</u>) if interested and we will get you trained and online shortly. In the meantime, check out St. Luke's videos at: <u>https://www.youtube.com/@StLukesEG/streams</u>

St. Luke's Church Directory

St. Luke's Church Directory – A Great Way to Connect!

Our 2023 Church Directory was distributed last year, and we have shared access to the mobile version of the directory to all households listed in the directory. As we move forward into 2024, we would love to add the many new households who have graced our pews since December 2022. So, we invite all newcomers who are not currently in our directory to contact us, confirm their household information, and share a photo so that we may add you to the mobile directory. Being able to remind ourselves of that nice person we met last Sunday...or at a church brunch, or at one of our concerts, is one of the primary benefits of the directory and we hope all will participate.

For those of you currently listed in the directory AND who have yet to access the mobile version, it is not too late! Unique identifiers were sent to all listed households last September. If you have lost your identifier code, let us know and we will resend it to you. If you have your identifier but lost the instructions ... see below. Finally, it is not too late to add a picture to your listing – the more we have, the better to connect with each other. If you have any questions -- please contact Jan Burch (jburch1608@yahoo.com). Looking forward to seeing your faces in the directory!!

myUCD App Start Guide

Download The App From The App Store or Google Play



• With your smart phone touch the App Store icon for your type of phone (Apple Store -or-Google Play) then search for: **'Universal Church Directory'**

The App is called myUCD

2

Enter Your Family's UNIQUE IDENTIFIER

• A **Unique Identifier** was sent to the heads-of-household whose email was listed.

• Enter unique Identifier

 Click on the "GET" -or-"INSTALL" button

installing, click "OPEN"

• When the App has finished

 Click on the gray "Download My Church Directory" button (there may be a few seconds delay)

*If you did not receive an email please see your church administrator

3

Begin Using Your Church App Features

- Video link
- Email the church
- Call the church
- Church announcements
- Calendar of events
- Online giving

- Link to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Staff contacts
- YouVersion Bible App

• Directory of all members *Some features may -or- may not be available for your church

myUCD Desktop Directory

1. Go to directory.ucdir.com

2. Enter unique identifier and hit GO

3. Prompts will apprear to create your own Username & Password.

4. Click on 'CREATE ACCOUNT'

2020 HOW TO GUIDE - END USER

Women of Grace

Women of Grace

In the month of February, TOT has invited WofG to partake in their February 26th meeting at the Armory Museum on Main Street in East Greenwich at 7:00pm. The museum houses memorabilia from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars including writings, apparel and artillery. The cost is \$15 per person. If you are interested, kindly let Harry Waterman know by calling/texting (401)743-4569.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap

Upcoming February Meeting

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.

February TOT – **Monday, February 26, 2024, 7:00 pm at Varnum Armory** - Harry Waterman has arranged for a private tour for TOT. We will meet in the dining room of St. Luke's at 6:30pm and walk to the Armory via Peirce Street to the Town Hall to Main Street (weather permitting).

The cost of the event is \$15/person , which is a bargain . . .thanks Harry!

Payment should be made as soon as possible to Harry Waterman or by writing a check to: Varnum Continentals, Inc. or cash in the amount of \$15.00.

You can go on-line to the website: Varnum Armory - Museum tours and pay using your credit card. <u>https://varnumcontinentals.org/make-a-donation/</u> Just go to the donation tab and say the \$15.00 donation is from the St. Luke's Church group on February 26.

You could also call or text Harry with any questions or requests at 743-4569.

Thanks, Brent

Christ's Community Kitchen Dinner

Christ's Community Kitchen



St. Luke's Church Dining Room February 26, 2024 From 5-6:30 pm

St. Luke's is hosting a wonderful Shepherd's Pie 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 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 2^{nd} 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

The January run took place with temperatures in the mid-teens and many clients were significantly underdressed. Consequently, gently Used Coats, Sweatshirts, Fleeces, Hats and Gloves are in great need this month. Please consider donating any winter gear as many of our neighbors in Woonsocket were without them on our last run. If you are dropping off items before February 17th, please mark them for Loaves and Fishes and leave them by the Parish office.

If you do not have a used item and would like to make a donation we can recommend two businesses that have affordable clothing. They are Job Lot, <u>https://www.oceanstatejoblot.com/</u> and Savers, <u>https://stores.savers.com/ri/warwick/savers-thrift-store</u>. There are many other businesses that are in the same category but these have been helpful for us.

For February 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 SignUp Genius. It is appreciated if all donations can be in the St Luke's kitchen by 10:00 AM on February 17th.

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**.

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: <u>saintslukesfeedingministry@gmail.com</u>.

Your generosity is most appreciated. It allows St Luke's to continue helping those in need.

Thank you.

COATS, HATS, AND GLOVES NEEDED URGENTLY!

Due to the frigid weather many of the people seen on our last run were without coats, hats, and gloves. We are desperate to help alleviate this situation. We greatly appreciate anything you can do to help.



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 : <u>cdsparhawk@gmail.com</u> Joyce Harvey: <u>joyce836@gmail.com</u>



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 March 13 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. <u>Click Here</u> 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 <u>episcopalrelief.org</u> 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 February 24, 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!

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

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