



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

June 16, 2024

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Days after last Sunday's party and celebration, Diane and I are still smiling and still searching for the words to express our profound gratitude. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate, but nonetheless, "thank you" I will say....

Thank you to the team of former and current wardens who designed and presided over Sunday's gathering. It was perfectly planned in every way. I cannot imagine how many hours were devoted to planning the night, but I can guess at the thoughtfulness that went into it all. Thank you, dear wardens. I have always felt so blessed to lead alongside you. Sunday night represented yet another blessing.

Thank you to the staff who stood on stage behind Diane and me. I know that took a fair amount of courage for several of you! So often you have stood not behind but rather alongside me, as we have worked to serve St. Luke's. You all have been the best partners in ministry I could have imagined; you have made me a better minister; and you have made St. Luke's a better church.

Thank you to the ministry leaders who stood in front of Diane and me. The hours you have spent exercising your ministries have made a difference in the life of the church and the lives of so many throughout Rhode Island. And the hours you spent at church this past Sunday night will forever make a difference in my life. As I think I said last Sunday (honestly, it remains a bit of a blur), the most important thing I have contributed over the years to our many ministries has been to say, "Sure—go with that!" and then stay out of the way. It has been your dedication, your talents, and your faith which have made our ministries so successful, and I have loved watching each minute of it all.

Thank you to the countless hands who volunteered last Sunday night—some I saw running food and pouring drinks, some I never saw, either because you were working downstairs in the kitchen, or because, as the night wore on, you shooed Diane and me away so that you might complete the considerable clean-up. I was particularly touched to see numerous of our youngest members working so hard. (If you're a parent of one such teen, please share with her/him my thanks—and please resist asking them, "Why don't you work like this around the house?" 😊)

Thank you to the Amigos and other singers who serenaded Diane and me with a beautiful re-write of *We are the World*. Bruce Dearnaley: I have no doubt, you made Michael Jackson proud. And all you singers: you sounded even better than the Grammy collection of performers who laid down that original track.

Thank you, really, to the many who attended—especially when you could have been elsewhere enjoying such a beautiful summer's night. Truly, I was humbled by the numbers. I am sorry I did not get to speak with each of you—but your presence was such a gift.

And just as the presence of so many parishioners was a gift we will cherish forever, to those who were not able to attend, yet contributed to our departing purse, please know, we were equally humbled and awed by your

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generosity, as well. I suppose we should not have been all that surprised, given that we have witnessed the depth and breadth of your generosity over the span of these last twelve years. Yet still, for a moment, as we stood on that stage, we were left breathless and speechless.

Honestly, even as I reread this letter, I still feel I can't find the words to adequately express the extent of my/our appreciation for Sunday night. Nor is there any way to fully sum up the twelve years we have shared. You have been home to Diane and me. You have been family to Diane and me. You have given such joy to Diane and me. And while all that is about to change, what won't ever change is that you always will be beloved to Diane and me.

Diane and I have shed a fair amount of tears these past several weeks (with likely more to come this Sunday). But like the waters of baptism, they are tears which serve as an outward and visible sign of love, and they are tears which will bind us together forever.

Meister Eckhardt once wrote, *"If the only prayer you ever said in your whole life was 'thank you,' that would suffice."* I hope that is true. Whether it is or not, please know, in the years to come, I will say a prayer of thanks every time I hear of you and the marvelous movements of St. Luke's. Especially, I hasten to add, when I hear of the next rector whom you will call. I have no doubt you and that rector will partner for another blessed chapter of life. Just as I know that priest will soon be similarly thankful, learning that she/he is the luckiest priest in the Church!

Gratefully yours,
Tim

Quick Links

[St. Luke's Church](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island](#)

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[The Anglican Communion](#)

Stay Connected



St. Luke's TikTok, Instagram and Facebook



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

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost](#)

Click above for the lessons.

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

Nursery Opens at 7:45 am

Godly Play and Youth Faith Formation classes begin at 9:45 am. Godly Play and Youth Faith Formation classes have ended and will resume in September.

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

Summer Office Hours



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

July through Labor Day, Christina will be in the office from 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Thursday.

The office will be closed on Fridays.

Transition - What's Ahead?



St. Luke's transition to a new Rector ...

We have confirmed an Interim Rector starting July 1!

The Rev. Pam Gregory & Pastor Jonathan Malone will lead services on June 23 and June 30.

Please feel free to reach out to your wardens and vestry as you have questions.

Fr. Tim's Announcement

- March 1: Wardens met with Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew to review transition process
- April 14: Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew met with Parish to preach, pray and conduct Town Hall
- April-May: Prayer team began drafting prayer to share in June
- Mid-May: Wardens and vestry began review of Interim candidates
- May-June: Communications team starts website review and Search site
- Overall transition process estimated to be 12-18 months, more to come ...



The Transition Begins

- May 26: Sr. Warden confirms selection of Interim Rector
- June 23 & 30: Paster Jonathan & The Rev. Pam preach/officiate -- Transition Prayer begins
- July 7: Interim Rector's first service at St. Luke's
- Mid-fall: Interim & Wardens make recommendations to Diocese regarding transition timeline
- Late fall: Diocesan-led History Event with parish
- Late fall/early winter: Profile and Search Committees established
- Winter: Diocesan-led small-group parish conversations to inform church profile ...



We are here



The Search Begins

- December/January: A national search will be initiated
- Rector applications will come from the national church to the Diocese; the Diocese vets and sends qualified applicants to our Search Team and vestry
- More to come as the search process commences ...

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

May Month End

May	2024 YTD	Budget	Var.	Ann. Budget
Total Income	\$349,133	\$315,746	\$33,387	\$716,650
Total Expenses	\$319,954	\$321,374	(\$1,420)	\$767,967
Net Income	\$29,179	(\$5,628)	\$34,807	(\$51,317)

Notes:

We continue to perform well against the 2024 budget.

- Income is \$33,387 ahead, of which \$32,407 is pledge income.
- Expenses are slightly under budget overall.

Thank you for all you continue to do!

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
<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. 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>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.</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 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>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.</p>
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

2024 GloriDays



2024 GloriDays

June 21 - 23, 2024

Camp 7th Heaven Exeter, RI



Did you know that this past January, Amy Weigand celebrated 5 years breast cancer-free? To celebrate this important milestone, she will be walking in GloriDays June 21-23, a 44-mile walk in Exeter, RI, to raise money for the Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation. Gloria Gemma was a crucial part of her recovery through surgery, chemo, radiation, and today! They have

provided classes, meals for her family, and emotional encouragement every step of the way. By raising funds, she will pass along similar support for other Rhode Island families dealing with a breast cancer diagnosis. If you would like to donate to help fund her walk, please follow this link: <https://gloriagemma.rallybound.org/2024-gloridays/AmyWeigand> or contact Amy directly at amy@stlukeseg.org Thank you!

St. Luke's Live Stream Ministry

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

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. We would love to add the many new households who have graced our pews since December 2022...and, update information for those of you who have moved, changed emails, or any other contact info. So, we invite all newcomers who are not currently in our directory, and all those whose info needs to be updated to contact us. 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 at jburch1608@yahoo.com. Looking forward to seeing your faces in the directory!!

Christ's Community Kitchen Dinner

Christ's Community Kitchen



Our dinners will resume on September 30. Thank you for your support of this special ministry! We look forward to seeing you in September!

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

The May run was on another rainy day at St Luke’s but no rain in Woonsocket. The Spirit watches out for us! We were greeted by approximately 70 people with a few more coming during our visit. The need is still strong.

For June we will maintain the bag count at 120 with 20 bags going to the Hotel in East Greenwich. With the warmer weather we are now asking for summer tee shirts as shown in the SignUp Genius.

Food 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 June 15, 2024.**

[Click Here](#) to sign up!

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** .

If you are not receiving the SignUp 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!

The Food for Backpacks mission would like to thank its many volunteers this past year. With their dedication and overwhelming generosity we have been able to provide enough food for 5 meals for 17-20 families each month. The East Greenwich School Department greatly appreciated the incredible efforts of our enthusiastic team of 14 volunteers.

Astonishingly we provided over 3,000 meals during this school year! This averaged \$5 per person per meal, totaling over \$15,000 in food donations. Food in-secure families with children in our school system were guaranteed 1 weekend each month when they were generously fed by the support of our amazing team.

We are looking forward to restarting The Food for Backpack Program at the beginning of the new school year in September. Please consider joining us and becoming part of this passionate mission.

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** for men and women.

We are also in need of **T-Shirts, Sweatshirts and Hoodies**. 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 July 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

Property Questions

Property Questions

Ways to contact the property manager concerning property issues and future projects:

1. LEAVE A NOTE IN MY OFFICE B0X
2. CELL PHONE 401-523-6414
3. EMAIL djmaceg@verizon.net
4. EMAIL CHRISTINA

That will give me time to reflect on your concerns and come up with some solutions.

Thanks for your attention,
Doug Macpherson

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 International needs the items listed above to help our refugee families get through the summer. Please place items in the Dorcas bin in the church atrium.

Questions? Please reach out to Nancy Rudicil at aer39th@netzero.net or Cathi Sloan at 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
June 22, 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).



Conservation Tip For June

Conservation Tip for June

Interested in doing a fun and educational project with your children, grandchildren or neighbors' children? Consider taking them on a Foraging Trip to search for edible plants such as...sassafras for tea, wild cherries for pies, walnuts for snacking and many more surprising plants.

Your young ones and teens will have a great time and learn about new foods and how our earth provides nourishment. For information on how to do this successfully, check out the website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2023-2-summer/material-world/art-modern-foraging>

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!](#)

East Greenwich Food Cupboard

East Greenwich Food Cupboard

We are in need of canned hash, ground coffee, mashed potatoes, potato sides, flour, gravy, jelly/jam, canned chicken, pasta sauce, and brownie mix.

Thank you for your support!

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

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