



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

August 25, 2024

An update from the Senior Warden: What's up with the Tower?

Quick Links

[St. Luke's Church](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island](#)

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[The Anglican Communion](#)

It's been eight months since the December 18th flooding of our church tower. That seems a long time, but rest assured the effort to secure a long-term solution to restoration of not just the tower but the entire northeast corner of our church has been relentless. A quick timeline of activity may help in appreciating these efforts...

December 2023 – Storm winds/rain flood tower and sacristy

January – May – repeated assessment of complete tower via Church Insurance--all claims denied

January – March – assembled team of parishioners/expertise to review past repairs and related resources

To finish reading, please scroll to the bottom...

Worship and Formation at St. Luke's -- Week of August 25

Welcome to St. Luke's worship and formation offerings for the week of August 25. All the information you need to participate in either in-person or virtual offerings is provided below.

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Click [here](#) for the lessons.

Sunday Worship: Please join us to celebrate Holy Eucharist on August 11 at 8:00 am or 10:00 am. To view or print the service bulletin, [click here](#). Printed copies of the bulletins will be provided at each service. For a copy of the prayer list, [click here](#).

Livestream Worship: Sunday's 10:00 am service of Holy Eucharist will be livestreamed via YouTube. To join us on YouTube, please [click here](#).

If you have not already done so, we invite you to subscribe to our [St. Luke's YouTube channel](#) -- just tap the 'Subscribe' button located at the top of St. Luke's channel page. You can view our archive of services and share our videos with other family members and friends to invite them into fellowship with you.

Weekday Morning Prayer: Fr. Jarrett Kerbel, Interim Rector, will be away next week Tuesday-Friday. A lay member of the congregation will be leading Morning Prayer Tuesday through Friday at 8:30 am. Weather permitting, parishioners will meet in the Lychgate on Church Street. The Lychgate is the covered entrance to the church burial ground, also called a Resurrection Gate! Inclement weather will move the service to the Church Transept. Please feel free to come once a week or any combination of days. All Welcome!

Lectionary Bible Study: Restarting this fall--see details below

Healing Service: Our healing services are offered every Tuesday at noon in the church sanctuary. Please join us as you are able.

Adult Faith Formation: Restarting this fall--see details below

Youth Faith Formation: Godly Play and Youth Faith Formation classes will resume September 15th - stay tuned and check your email for this week's newsletter, The Rhode to Emmaus!

Adult Faith Formation Announces Fall Programs

Wednesday Evening Book Discussion: Beginning October 16 at 7 pm on zoom. The Book of Forgiving: The fourfold path for healing ourselves and our world. by Desmond and Mpho Tutu.

Join with us on Wednesday nights beginning October 16, 7-8:30p by Zoom to discover pathways to forgiveness. Written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, the Rev. Mpho Tutu, The Book of Forgiving provides us with practical and personal ways to embrace forgiveness for ourselves and our communities. Their life experiences, formed in the boiling caldron that was South Africa during apartheid, have led them to forgiveness as a way to mend tears in the social fabric of their country. We have much to learn from them as we work to keep our own families and communities from unraveling due to partisan and other differences.

As always, our discussions bring us wisdom well beyond the pages of the book. Please join us as we grow in our understanding of what we can do to bring healing to our families, communities, nation, and world.

Sunday Formation Opportunity: Civil Discourse Seminar - Short Videos, Training, and Discussion.

Many of us are feeling pain and despair when it comes to the state of civility between neighbors, within families and in the country at large. Here is an opportunity to grow in our "Love of Neighbor" virtues and build our skills for empathy, listening, and sharing even when deeply held concerns are at stake and we feel vulnerable. Starting on September 22nd at 11:30 am in the Dining Room. Snacks and Drinks Provided! Facilitated by the Interim Rector.

Bible Studies

Lectionary Bible Study returns on Tuesday September 10 at 11 am in the Church Transept. Lead by the Interim Rector.

(NEW) Lectionary Bible Study on Saturday Mornings at 9:30 am starting October 5 in the Church Transept. Lead by the Interim Rector.

When September Comes

Kick-Off Sunday will be September 8 - Following the 10 am service we will have a special Coffee Connections in the Parish Auditorium and a Ministry Fair for Liturgical Ministries and Children & Youth Formation. We encourage all Liturgical Ministries - Choirs, Altar Guild, Acolytes, LEMS, Readers, Ushers, Newcomers, etc. to prepare a recruiting table. Tips and ideas below!

On Sunday, September 15 - Following the 10 am service we will have a second Coffee Connections in the Parish Auditorium and a Ministry Fair for every other non-liturgical ministry that wants to recruit - Adult Faith Formation, Feeding Ministries, Morning Prayer, Bible Study, Dorcas, Women of Grace, Properties, Gardens, Office Volunteers, etc.

Be sure to bring some attractive snacks for your tables to attract a crowd, wear name tags, and always stand in front of your table to connect with people actively. BYO Signup sheets and attractive materials to explain your ministry and the level of commitment required.

Following these ministry engagement activities, we will send out a Time and Talent survey to the whole parish to make sure no one is missed! Data from this survey will be shared with ministry leaders to follow-up.

How to Make our Ministry Fair Fun and Inviting - A Note from Father Jarrett

The Holy Spirit inspires joy, creativity and fun as God re-forms the world through the Church. So, let's make Ministry Fair Fun and Inviting on September 8 and 15! In discernment we know we have found our vocation when we experience the joy of all of our gifts coming together to find full expression in service. So, let's model joy.

Coffee Hour/Hospitality Table can offer quick lessons in how to use the Coffee Urn in the Kitchen. Learn the Urn!

If I was at the Gardening and Grounds table, I would make "Dirt Pudding" - chocolate pudding with broken up Oreos and

gummy worms.

If I was at the Altar Guild table- I would have silver that visitors could polish and small communion sets for children to explore.

At the Children & Youth Registration Table, I would have coloring pages and a place for parents and grandparents to write blessings for their children and grandchildren.

Handbells - If I was at the Handbell Table I would have Bells and Chimes for visitors to ring!

Adult Faith Formation - I would have sticky notes so people could write down what they want to learn at St. Luke's this year and copies of the book we will read this Fall.

Loaves and Fishes - I would have Loaves and Swedish Fish candies.

Acolytes - I would have Torches for perspective acolytes to try out and cinctures so everyone can learn how to tie that knot!

Calling All Singers! Choirs resume in September!

The Choirs of St. Luke's resume their full schedule just after Labor Day. Have you considered participating in one of our choirs for you and/or your children? St. Luke's supports an active choral ministry and new members of all ages are invited to sing. Please contact Rodney Ayers, Minister of Music, for more information (401-884-4116 ext. 107 or rodney@stlukeseg.org)

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Canterbury Choir

Adult Choir - Beginning September 5
Thursdays at 7 pm

St Cecilia Choir

3rd-12th grade Choristers - Beginning September 6
Fridays at 4 pm

Angel Choir

PreK - 2nd Graders - Beginning September 11
Wednesdays at 4 pm

Come add your voice to the musical prayers and praises that resound throughout our St. Luke's community!

Office Hours & New Church Administrator Email

Going forward, the Parish Office will be open from 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday. Suzie's email address is: admin@stlukeseg.org Please email her with all administrative questions and concerns.

Updating Our Prayer List

As of September 8th the current prayer list will be completely revised and updated. Please communicate with Suzie through either the Google form, prayer list document in the back of the church, email, or in person if you have someone you would like to have the church pray for or if you would like someone to remain on the list past September 8th. We would also like to know how long you would like them to stay on the list going forward.

Liturgical Participation Sign-Up

Following this coming Sunday, August 25th, we will be shifting to a Sign-up genius form to sign up for Liturgical roles for Sunday services. This means that the first Sunday that this will take effect will be Sunday, September 1st. This change is to prevent any scheduling conflicts and confusion--and long email threads!

Click [here](#) to access the sign-up link.

The system will automatically send you a reminder email 5 days in advance of your sign-up. You are able to cancel or switch with someone using Sign-up genius up until 4 days before your sign-up. If you have not participated before, but would like to learn how, please email Steve McLoughlin at steve.mcloughlin2@gmail.com

If you have trouble signing up, please stop by the Church office. We are happy to teach people how to use Sign-up genius for those who are unfamiliar or sign you up manually if necessary.

Youth Census

We are working to update our church database for youth ages 5-18. Please fill out **THIS** Google form for each of your children. There are also paper forms on the tables outside the office if preferred. This form is for ALL youth, regardless of whether or not they are currently attending any of our faith formation offerings. We are working to create a variety of new programs and events, and this information will help with scheduling and family communication.

Volunteer Teachers Needed

Godly Play and Youth Faith Formation classes restart on September 15th! This year we will have three classes: Godly Play (PK-3rd grades), Youth Faith Formation 1 (grades 4 & 5), and Youth Faith Formation 2 (grades 6-8). We are looking for adult volunteer teachers in all three classes. Time commitments vary, but we're very flexible! Safe Church training is required. If interested or would like to know more, please email Amy Weigand our Director of Youth and Family Ministries: amy@stlukeseg.org

Save the Date for Transition Activities this Fall - Your presence is crucial.

On October 27 and December 8, we will have parish meetings after worship as part of the transition process. At our July meeting, the Vestry decided to have ONE SERVICE at 9 am on these days to worship as a unified congregation and to encourage turnout for these very important opportunities for reflection. This is your chance to have a voice, share your experiences of St. Luke's, listen to others, and work together with other members to shape the Parish Profile that will attract your next Rector.

Childcare and activities for younger children will be provided. Middle School and High School students are encouraged to attend. We urge all leaders throughout the parish to encourage your friends and family to attend.

October 27 will be the History Timeline exercise where we collectively reflect on the history of St. Luke's looking for strengths, weaknesses and patterns across time. What do we want to continue? What do we want to leave behind? How are we being called by God to adapt, grow and thrive in our particular gifts?

On December 8, the Congregational Conversation will have all parishioners working together to answer a series of 12 questions that describe the church and the Rector the church wants to find. All data collected at both the History and Congregational Conversation events will be incorporated into the Parish Profile by the Parish Profile Committee to be used to search for the new rector.

We are blessed to have the leadership of the Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Rhode Island, to lead both sessions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Wardens or the Interim Rector.

Transition Journey

We invite you to visit St. Luke's website for periodic updates of the Rector search and transition process. You can scan the QR code to view the latest. As always, please feel free to reach out to the Wardens and Vestry members as you have questions or want to discuss further.





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

WE WELCOME OUR INTERIM RECTOR, THE REV. JARRETT KERBEL!

Visit our website for information on October 27 and December 8 transition events.

Please feel free to reach out to Fr. Jarrett, 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 21: Transition page launched on St. Luke's website (stlukeseg.org)
- June 23 & 30: Paster Jonathan & The Rev. Pam preach/officiate -- Transition Prayer begins
- July 7: Interim Rector, Fr. Jarrett Kerbel, officiates first service at St. Luke's
- July 18: Interim Rector & Sr. Warden coordinate transition timeline with Diocese
- Sept/Oct: Profile and Search Committees established
- Oct 27: Diocesan-led History Event with parish
- Dec 8: Diocesan-led Congregational Conversation

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 ...

Ways 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.

Zelle Transfer

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 will have to initiate each payment.



PayPal and VANCO Payment Solutions

PayPal and VANCO Payments – With PayPal and VANCO payments, you create your individual accounts on their sites, 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 these are your sites! They are the only options that accept credit cards. Like Online Banking, you can set up recurring payments or make single payments.



Direct Payment From IRA

Direct Transfer – If you are 70½ 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.

Theology on Tap - Save the Date - Men's Retreat October 22-24, 2024

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.

TOT Fall Kickoff Meeting: Tuesday Sep 3 - 7:00 Dining Room

Discussion of TOT October Retreat - Program logistics, Venue and expectations

We will be accepting reservations and payments at this meeting so bring your checkbooks!

Save the Date - Men's Retreat October 22-24, 2024

We are planning an inclusive, intimate gathering, on October 22-24 (Tuesday – Thursday) for all St. Luke's Men who can attend. We envision three days together in an outdoor retreat setting where we'll work and eat together, enjoying comfortable accommodations (our own beds, toilets, and space for group and private discussions). Our agenda will include a variety of optional outdoor activities, service work projects, guided group discussions, and time for conversation and meditation.

We have reserved the entire Episcopal Conference Center in Pascoag, RI, which with it's unique setting should be beautiful in late October.

We want to form, foster, and deepen lasting friendships while growing trust in each other and examining how our faith influences and guides our lives. The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone has agreed to facilitate the retreat, and we expect Fr. Jarrett will be able to join us as well. Our goal for the retreat is consistent with our TOT Mission of building community within St. Luke's.

Details on the logistics, venue, and cost are in an email from Brent, and will be discussed in our Sept 3 TOT meeting. If you have any questions call, ping, or email Brent Bostick at (908)230-7569 brentbostick1@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for this event and save the date!

Save the Date for a Fall Youth Retreat at ECC!



EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE CENTER

872 RESERVOIR ROAD • PASCOAG • RI • 02859

EMAIL AMY@STLUKESEG.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

Lunch on the Hill

St. Luke's will host again on Wednesday, August 28 at 11:15 am. Volunteers should plan to arrive by 9:45, to allow enough time to get organized and prepare lunch for our guests.

This month's tentative menu will include Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, Dessert (Brownies/Cookies, Cupcakes), and Beverages (Iced tea, Coffee/cream). Fresh fruit (oranges, bananas, etc.) is always a welcome addition if you would like to bring some. For more information on how you can be part of this outreach ministry, contact Steve McLoughlin: smcloughlin2@aol.com or (401) 225-5540.

Handbell Choir

St. Luke's is happy to announce the start of our new handbell choir under the direction of parishioner and handbell expert Jeremy Langill. No prior experience is necessary. Rehearsals will be Sundays from 11:30am- 12:15pm beginning in late September and childcare will be provided. Please contact Rodney Ayers to signup or for more information, rodney@stlukeseg.org

Continued: An update from the Senior Warden: What's up with the Tower?

December 2023 – Storm winds/rain flood tower and sacristy

January – May – repeated assessment of complete tower via Church Insurance--all claims denied

January – March – assembled team of parishioners/expertise to review past repairs and related resources

February – July – outreach to churches, contractors, prior assessment firms to build outline of information and scope of work. Contacts/resources included:

- St. Martins Episcopal Church, Christ Episcopal Church, Grace Episcopal Church
- St. Luke's documentation on 2015 damage to tower
- Architectural, masonry, engineering, water expertise firms referred by churches and related professional contacts
- Engineering assessments, structural designs, repair and assessment reports filed with town and/or on file with previous contractors/engineers

Per review of the above, a multi-stage sequence of work was determined: permanent repair of the structural tower integrity; repair/restoration of steeple/tower interior; water drainage/mitigation at tower base and interface with main structure and loggia; and, finally, interior repairs.

August – Finding a firm with both the network of professionals to approach this project and the bandwidth to take it on at this point in time has been a challenge. Currently, one firm is preparing an action plan against which they will draft a fee proposal for architectural and engineering services to undertake a detailed study of the tower. Their proposal should be available before the end of this month.

Most recently, it was determined that no workers would take on work in the tower until the area is bird-proofed and cleaned. Outreach to four pest removal companies was pursued—two were unavailable due to 'bat season', a third required payment for the inspection, and a fourth came up with a two-stage proposal. Approved by the vestry, stage 1 entails only the first 2 levels of the tower as the amount of bird waste is toxic and technicians will have to wear respirators to do the work. They will proceed to the upper levels once the first 2 are clean. The cost for stage 1 is \$9,845 – an unexpected but necessary expense. Our Treasurer is pursuing payment options to share with vestry so that this project can proceed unimpeded.

While not a glamorous report, it is evidence of the care and energy devoted to securing the use and long-term maintenance of our campus. As importantly, we think it important that everyone understands the scope of what's ahead. More campus updates to come, so stay tuned!

St. Luke's Property Committee – Deborah Collins, Doug MacPherson, Steve Nichols, Tom Dresselhouse, John Lukens, Bob Sloan, and Bill Warburton

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**

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

Copyright © 2024. All Rights Reserved.

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

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



Try email marketing for free today!