



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

August 4, 2024

## Interim Rector's E-pistle

### Quick Links

[St. Luke's Church](#)

[Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island](#)

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[The Anglican Communion](#)

### Praying with the Psalms

One of our great resources for solace, inspiration, and prayer is the Psalter, the collection of 150 Psalms found in the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. The Coverdale translation of the Psalms in the Prayer Book especially captures the poetic beauty of these ancient lyrics. The Psalms were the hymn book for the Temple in Jerusalem and like our hymnal they contain stunning images and some of the most profound spiritual insights.

Today at Morning Prayer we had two of my favorites, Psalms 61 and 62, and I want to lift up a few specific verses as great starting places for praying with the Psalms or scripture in general.

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

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**

## Worship and Formation at St. Luke's -- Week of August 4

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

**The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**: Click here for the lessons.

**Sunday Worship**: Please join us to celebrate Holy Eucharist on August 4 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 with Baptism 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 leading Morning Prayer Tuesday through Friday at 8:30 am. Weather permitting, he will meet parishioners 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 atrium. Please feel free to come once a week or any combination of days. Fr. Jarrett will follow the Book of Common Prayer and set aside ten minutes to reflect on the readings together as well as time for intercessory prayer. All Welcome!

**Lectionary Bible Study: Tuesdays - August 6, 13, and 20.** Join Fr. Jarrett at 11:00 am (weather permitting) in the Lychgate of the Cemetery or otherwise in the Atrium Library. We will study the readings for the Sunday ahead with special attention to the Gospel of John and the Epistle. If you are new to Bible Study, please give this short-term study a try. All thoughts, questions, and reflections are welcome!

**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:** Mark your calendars for **August 14!** We will host another Video & Dessert evening featuring one of Rob Bell's productions. Stay tuned for more details!

**Youth Faith Formation:** Godly Play and Youth Faith Formation classes will resume September 15th - stay tuned!

### Summer Office Hours & New Church Administrator Email

July through Labor Day, the Parish Office will be open from 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays. Also, please make note of a new email address for our Church Administrator: [admin@stlukeseg.org](mailto:admin@stlukeseg.org)

### Sign Fr Tim's Photo Frame

Make sure to stop by our table in the atrium under the mosaic to sign Fr. Tim's photo frame!

### Please Wear Your Name Tags

As a way of welcoming Fr. Jarrett Kerbel and other newcomers, please wear your name tags moving forward!

### Lectionary Bible Study Offered in August

The Interim Rector will offer a Bible Study on Tuesdays at 11:00 am - weather permitting in the Lyche Gate of the Cemetery or otherwise in the Atrium Library. We will study the readings for the Sunday ahead with special attention to the Gospel of John and the Epistle of the coming Sunday. If you are new to Bible Study, please give this short-term study a try. All thoughts, questions, reflections are welcome! From August 6 to August 20 and hopefully picking up again in September. Contact the Interim Rector if you have questions.

### 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. Lukes 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.



## Transition - What's Ahead?



## 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: Pastor 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 ...

## From the Treasurer

July	2024 YTD	Budget	Var.	Ann. Budget
Total Income	\$461,246	\$410,579	\$50,667	\$721,925
Total Expenses	\$450,352	\$473,603	(\$23,251)	\$788,483
Net Income	\$10,752	(\$63,023)	\$73,775	(\$66,558)

Ways to donate to St. Luke's



<p><b>Online Banking</b></p> <p><b>Bill Pay</b> – 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><b>Benefits:</b> 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><b>No cost to you or the Church</b></p>	<p><b>Zelle Transfer</b></p> <p><b>Zelle Payment</b> – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the <a href="mailto:giving@stlukeseg.org">giving@stlukeseg.org</a> address.</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>No cost to you or the Church</b></p>	<p><b>PayPal and VANCO Payment Solutions</b></p> <p><b>PayPal and VANCO Payments</b> – 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</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Transaction Fees for the Church</b></p>	<p><b>Direct Payment From IRA</b></p> <p><b>Direct Transfer</b> – If you are 70½ or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA.</p> <p><b>Benefits:</b> 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><b>No cost to you or the Church</b></p>
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## Adult Faith Formation

Mark your calendars for another Video & Dessert on **August 14 at 7:00 pm** ! We will be featuring another of Rob Bell's video productions and enjoy an evening of discussion and fellowship. Stay tuned for more details!

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

We are sponsoring an inclusive, intimate gathering, on October 22-24 (Tuesday – Thursday) for all St. Luke's Men who can attend. We envision three days of time together in an outdoor retreat setting where we'll work and eat together, while 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, guided group discussions, and time for conversation and meditation.

With an outdoor backdrop, we want to form, foster and deepen lasting friendships while growing the trust we have with each other, examining how our faith influences and guides our lives.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone has agreed to be the facilitator for the retreat, and we hope Fr. Jarratt 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.

Mark your calendars for this event and save the date! Details on the logistics, venue, and cost will be coming in the next few weeks. Any questions call, ping or email Brent Bostick (908)230-7569 [brentbostick1@gmail.com](mailto:brentbostick1@gmail.com)

## Save the Date for a Fall Youth Retreat at ECC!



St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
Where all are welcome at the Lord's table



NOVEMBER 15-17 2024

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# FALL YOUTH RETREAT

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE CENTER

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872 RESERVOIR ROAD • PASCOAG • RI • 02859  
EMAIL [AMY@STLUKESEG.ORG](mailto:AMY@STLUKESEG.ORG) FOR MORE DETAILS

## Loaves and Fishes

Once again, we were met by approximately 60 people with more showing up throughout our stay. They are most appreciative of the food, especially the clothing we bring including T-shirts, socks, and underwear.

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

Our food offerings will be cheeseburgers, hot dogs, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and the regular other items we usually include in the bag. All options are shown in SignUp Genius. We appreciate if all donations are in the St Luke's kitchen by 10:00 am on August 17, 2024. Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/stlukessignup>

In signing up, there is no expectation that one person needs to fulfill the total amount of a particular item, but please indicate how many of each item you will be donating.

If you are not receiving the SignUp Genius in your e-mail and would like to do so, please email [saintslukesfeedingministry@gmail.com](mailto:saintslukesfeedingministry@gmail.com).

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

## When September Comes

August is upon us! Time to get organized for September and the start of the program year at St. Luke's. Here are some key details to help you prepare and participate.

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.

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.

## Reducing Water Usage

Reducing water use cuts the energy required to process and deliver it to homes, business, farms, and communities, which in turn helps to reduce pollution and conserve fuel resources and helps save the planet and your water bill.

To help children understand how easy it is to waste water, put the plug in the sink to show them just how much water fills up when you leave the tap running – a simple yet effective visual reminder to help them (and us!) understand the importance of water conservation.

## Reducing Paper Usage

As part of our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and to help St. Luke's reduce paper usage and printing costs; we are implementing ways to streamline our weekly bulletin announcements. This initiative aligns with our responsibility to care for God's Creation.

Our ministry leaders have been asked to condense the text of their announcements and reduce the frequency of when they are published. Thank you for understanding. If you have any questions, please email the Interim Rector.

## Fr. Jarrett's Letter Continued...

First, Psalm 61 verse 2:

*I will call upon you for the ends of the earth with heaviness in my heart; set me upon the rock that is higher than I.*

My first response to this verse is always WOW! The first half of the verse delivers a primary gift of poetry, i.e. compelling words that help us express the deepest feelings of our heart. We are not alone in our heavy spirits. For thousands of years, fellow believers have stood with us in this appeal to God. The second phrase provides an awesome line to memorize and repeat in prayer. This stunning petition made from a place where our limitations and self-focus are dragging us down asks for a new standing place above our ego.

Repetitive prayer simply means gently repeating a word or phrase from scripture slowly to help us center our distracted minds and hearts so we become more available to our God who is always present. God is present, it is we who absent ourselves from God. As a monk once told me with tactless truth, "Get your SELF out of the way Jarrett." Easier said than done.

Second, Psalm 62, verse 1:

*For God alone my soul in silence waits; from God comes salvation.*

First of all, just relish the alliteration of the sibilants in the first phrase. Beauty is a divine gift so it is ok to revel in it as a means of encountering God's goodness. Secondly, memorize this verse and learn to repeat it gently to yourself in prayer as you open yourself to the contemplation of God. Our soul is already waiting upon God in silence. Let's use the skills of centering and contemplative prayer to silence the noise that separates us from our soul.

This verse helps me introduce two traditional modes of prayer. If you love imagery, imagination, and entering a story in a participatory way, then kataphatic prayer might be for you. This type of prayer encourages imagination. You take a bible verse or story and you explore it with your imagination. What is happening in this scene? Where am I in this scene? How am I feeling? What questions might I ask a character in the scene; Jesus or Mary or Peter? This method took me a minute to trust but it is quite amazing. Ignatius Loyola was a great teacher of this style of prayer.

The second form of prayer is apophatic prayer or the way of emptying out. In this style of prayer, we aim to become fully open to God by gently leaving behind all thoughts, feelings, distractions, preoccupations, etc. to meet God in our inner silence. *For God alone, my soul in silence waits. Set me on a rock higher than I.* While we can use methods adopted from Zen Buddhism and Vedic religions to practice emptying, we need to be clear that our aim is different. For the Christian Disciple, our goal is immersion and incorporation into the abundant life of God and communion with the Divine entity who is wholly other. We seek the fullness of God in Christ to root and ground ourselves in love.

*The Rev. W. Jarrett Kerbel  
Interim Rector*

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