



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

Week of September 22nd, 2024

Interim Rector Jarrett's E-pistle

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Christ Calls Us Into Challenging Places

Jesus comforts me with his loving kindness, companionship, and gentleness. He also challenges me to grow in grace and truth by following his teaching and example.

I know a challenge is from Jesus when I also feel his support and encouragement as I face the next step of spiritual growth. He came with GRACE and TRUTH. In him righteousness and mercy have kissed. Like a good parent, Jesus looks at mistakes and character flaws as opportunities for growth and redemption.

Jesus teaches that faithfulness to God will lead us into places of conflict and persecution. So, under his tutelage how do we become spiritually prepared to enter such experiences in a way that builds up our relationships, honors the dignity of all people involved, preserves our self-respect, and effectively communicates our witness to the truth as we know it?

Scroll to the bottom to continue reading ...

Worship and Formation at St. Luke's -- Week of September 22nd

Welcome to St. Luke's worship and formation offerings for the week of September 22nd. All the information you need to participate in either in-person or virtual offerings is provided below.

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

Sunday Worship: Please join us to celebrate Holy Eucharist on September 22nd 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](#).

Weekday Morning Prayer: Tuesday - 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 are welcome!

Lectionary Bible Study: Lectionary Bible Study takes place at 11 am on Tuesdays in the Church Transept. Another Bible study will be starting on Saturday mornings at 9:30 am on October 5 in the Church Transept. Both offerings are lead by the Interim Rector.

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

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Adult Faith Formation:

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. Starts on September 22nd at 11:30 am in the Dining Room. Snacks and Drinks Provided! Nursery care will also be provided. Facilitated by the Interim Rector.

Wednesday Evening Book Discussion will be starting October 16th at 7 pm on Zoom to discuss *The Book of Forgiving*, 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.

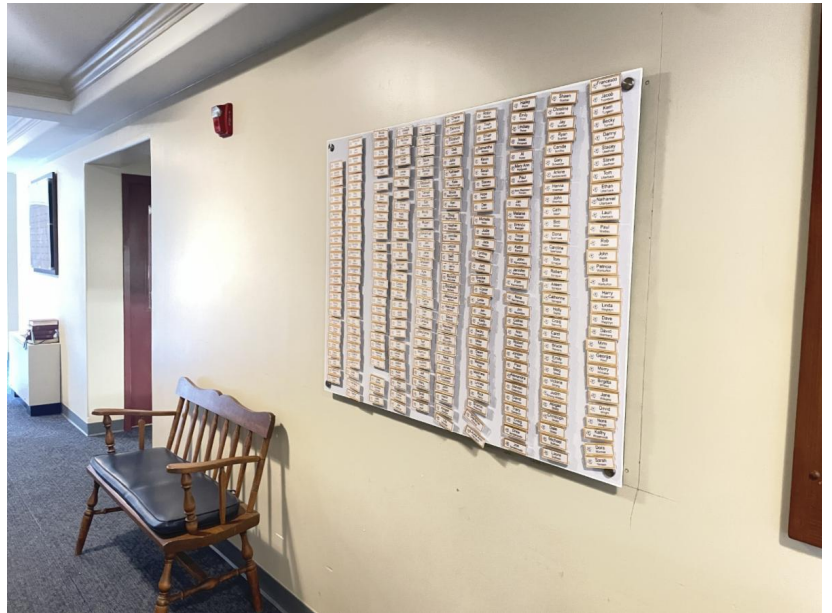
New Nametags

Announcing our new Name Tag System

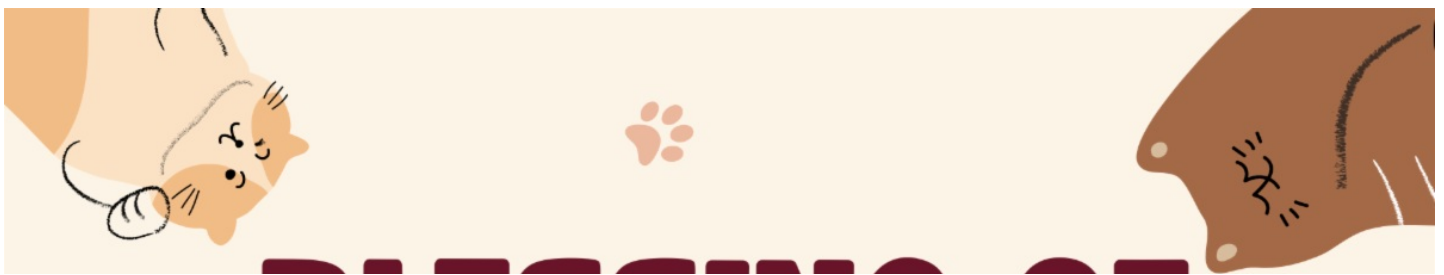
We are switching to magnetic name tags! Our parish admin, Suzie, has been in the process of shifting all existing name tags over.

We anticipate that some name tags will be missing. Please check on Sunday for your name and send admin an email or write your name on the form in the atrium by the admin office for a new name tag.

One caveat: These CANNOT be used with a pacemaker. If you have a pacemaker, please contact Admin so we can set you up with a lanyard!



Save the Date: St. Luke's Pet Blessing



BLESSING OF THE PETS

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
October 6, 2024
Included in our 10:00 AM Service



Last Chance to Register for Theology on Tap's Men's Retreat!



We still have a few spaces available. Final payments of \$350 are due by Fri 9/20 to St. Luke's Theology on Tap's Men's Retreat

If you haven't registered but are interested in attending, contact Brent Bostick at 908-230-7569 or brentbostick1@gmail.com

TOT will be hosting CCK on Sept 30 - following the Dinner at 7:00 in Dining Rm. We need volunteers for setup, serving and cleanup.

Sept TOT meeting will follow at 7:00 pm in the Dining Room

Newcomers' Brunch

Sunday September 29 - 11:30 (after the 10 am service)

Are you new to St. Luke's? Have you been away for a while and have found your way back? Or-have you been attending for a while but never been formally welcomed?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then the Newcomers' Brunch

We are planning an inclusive, intimate gathering, on October, 22-24 (Tuesday – Thursday) for all St. Luke's Men who want to attend.

We envision three days of time 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, guided group discussions and time for conversation and meditation.

We have reserved the entire Episcopal Conference Center on Pascoag RI. The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone has agreed to be the facilitator for the retreat and we expect Fr. Jarrett will be able to join us as well.

Jonathan is an experienced outdoor guide who leads a unique organization, Wilderness Journeys, which helps his participants to experience the spirituality of the outdoors.



is for you!

Please join in a time of fellowship, food, and information about St. Luke's!

Kindly RSVP to Jan Burch by Wednesday, September 25th.

Email: jburch1608@yahoo.com Call or text: (401) 529-8918"



Liturgical Volunteers



Liturgical Volunteers Needed

Interested in taking part in our Sunday services? We currently have open slots for the following:

- Ushers
- Acolytes
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)

 If you have experience, click the button below to sign-up

 Email admin@stlukeseg.org for more info

We are now using SignUpGenius for our liturgical participants. This change is to prevent any scheduling conflicts and confusion--and long email threads!

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 SignUpGenius up until 4 days before your sign-up. If you have not volunteered for liturgical service before, but would like to learn how, please send an email to admin@stlukeseg.org to learn more about how to get involved.

If you have trouble signing up, please stop by the Church office. We are happy to teach people how to use SignUpGenius for those who are unfamiliar or sign you up manually if necessary. Click the button below to sign up!

[Click here to sign up](#)

Children & Youth Programming

Sensory Resources

Another new addition is a sensory box placed in the back of the church. If you or child would like to borrow a fidget, weighted lap blanket, or set of noise-canceling headphones, help yourself! Please return them at the end of the service.

Amazon Wishlist

If you would like to help support Youth Faith Formation at St. Luke's, we have created an Amazon Wishlist. Just click [HERE!](#) Items on this list will be used in our new playground, sensory box, and classrooms. Items will automatically ship to the church when purchased. Thanks for checking out!

Pravground

Prayground

You may have noticed a new space within the sanctuary today. A Prayground is a designated place in the front of the sanctuary where young children can experience worship through age-appropriate worship materials and tools that will help keep them engaged in what is happening.

We have included materials such as children's Bibles and books, coloring pages, blocks, soft toys, and even a wooden eucharist play set! Items are stored in the baskets under the benches. Please encourage your little ones to come forward, sit on the rug, and enjoy themselves!



We are getting super excited for our Fall Youth Retreat November 15-17 at the Episcopal Conference Center in Pascoag, RI! The retreat is open to all students in grades 6 through 8. We will enjoy camping, hiking, crafts, singing, fellowship, and s'mores! The cost for two nights and six meals is \$190 per person. If assistance is needed, please contact Fr. Jarrett or Amy Weigand.

If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute to our costs, please reach out to Amy Weigand or Fr. Jarrett. The deadline to sign up is **October 27**

If interested or would like to know more, please email Amy Weigand, our Director of Youth and Family Ministries:

amy@stlukeseg.org

Rite-13

Do you have a child who will turn 13 years old this year?

We would love for them to participate in Rite-13!

The Rite-13 Celebration marks a significant milestone for children as they begin their journey toward adulthood and independence. During this event, the St. Luke's community gathers to acknowledge and honor their remarkable creative power and potential.

The three preparation classes for Rite-13 will be on **9/29, 10/13, and 10/20 at 9:45 am**, the dinner and retreat will be in the **evening of 10/26, and the celebration will take place in our one service at 9:00 am on 10/27.**

If interested or would like to know more, please email Amy Weigand, our Director of Youth and Family Ministries:

amy@stlukeseg.org



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<p>Bill Pay – with online bill pay, you add St. Luke’s Church as a payee, enter our address of 99 Peirce St. East Greenwich, RI 02818 and schedule your payment.</p> <p>Benefits: Ease of use – if you already use online bill pay, then you are familiar with making payments this way. You can schedule single payments or set up regular payments in advance.</p> <p>No cost to you or the Church</p>	<p>Zelle Payment – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the giving@stluke.org address.</p> <p>Benefits: Ease of use – if you already use Zelle, then you are familiar with making payments this way. This only makes one payment at a time, so you will have to initiate each payment.</p> <p>No cost to you or the Church</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Transaction Fees for the Church</p>	<p>Direct Transfer – If you are 70½ or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA.</p> <p>Benefits: Any funds paid this way are not reported as taxable income to you. You can make your entire yearly pledge with one payment, help satisfy your required distribution, and incur no tax on the income.</p> <p>No cost to you or the Church</p>

[Click here to donate via Paypal](#)

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An Update from the Treasurer

August	2024 YTD	Budget	Var.	Ann. Budget
Total Income	\$492,122	\$448,308	\$43,814	\$721,925
Total Expenses	\$502,444	\$531,155	(\$28,711)	\$788,483
Net Income	(\$10,322)	(\$82,846)	\$72,524	(\$66,558)

E-pistle Continued from above

First, we need to accept that conflict, disagreement and polarization are normal. When something important is at stake our passions will join with our commitments. We may have strong feelings based on our values and what we care about. When we effectively act on or witness to our strongly held positions we will encounter disagreement, polarization and conflict.

On the South Side of Chicago, I joined a picket line for health care workers in front of a nursing home notorious for unfair labor practices. Seeing my clerical collar, a manager challenged me claiming that my participation was against God’s will for peace. She was shocked when I quoted the Bible in response, “Don’t say peace, peace when there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 6:14)

The question for followers of Jesus is not how do I avoid such collisions, it is how do I behave faithfully within such collisions. Our Civil Discourse Class on September 22, October 6 and October 13 will explore this very question after the 10 am worship.

Someone once said that democratic politics is a form of civilized combat that protects us from resolving differences through violent means. Sadly, we seem to be at a moment where violence is threatening to break through our civil process. To prevent further escalation we need to move into civil discourse and disagreement not away from it. When I was at a Warwick School Committee meeting recently many contrasting perspectives were shared, and the disagreement was largely civil. I left that meeting feeling good about our ability to govern ourselves even in distressing times.

-Reverend Jarrett



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