



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

September 8th, 2024

Reverend Jarrett's E-pistle

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From a Place of Balance

During my vacation in Maine last week, I had the joy of working with my son in our 12 acre forest. Together we repaired some bridges over a stream and then we turned our attention to a knot of downed trees that fell over a marshy area. After I sawed the trunks into even 12 foot sections, Tim and I lifted each one and carried it to a stack for a fence we will build next year. Two strong backs are better than one, and Tim is 26 so he was doing most of the work!

Passing on the stewardship of the forest to my son feels like sacred work and so I felt joy. Legally my wife and I 'own' the land, but when I enter the cathedral of trees I never feel like the owner. I can never claim possession, really. The towering trees that came before me and will outlast me, the remnants of stone walls from the 19th century, the cemetery plot where Civil War Veterans are buried all remind me that I am a temporary steward given the grace and honor to serve the good of this parcel for a brief time.

My son departed the woods to run some errands and I stayed behind to finish the work. There were still tree trunks to carry out and just me to lift them. Working alone is my normal practice so I turned to what I call the "Iwo Jima method". Like the soldiers who lifted the flag on Mt. Surabachi I would lift up one end of the log and then raise it until -hand over hand- I arrived at the middle of the log. At that fulcrum the high side of the log would come down and the low side would come up. In that state of balance I walked the trunk to the pile.

Scroll to the bottom to continue reading ...

Blessing of the backpacks





This Sunday, all children and youth are welcome to bring their backpacks to our **10 am service**, to receive blessings as they begin their new school year!

Ministry Fair



Kick-Off Sunday will be this Sunday September 8 following the 8 & 10 am service. St. Luke's will have a special Coffee Connections in the Parish Auditorium and a Ministry Fair for Liturgical Ministries and Children & Youth Formation. All liturgical ministries including the Choirs, Altar Guild, Acolytes, LEMS, Readers, Ushers, Newcomers, etc. will have a table so you can learn more about how to get involved here at St. Luke's!

On Sunday, September 15 - Following the 8 & 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 wear name tags (or get one if you need one!) and stop by all our tables for some fun snacks and activities!

Can't make it? Don't worry!

After our second ministry fair on September 15th, we will send out a Time and Talent survey to the whole parish to make sure no one misses out! Data from this survey will be shared with ministry leaders to follow-up.

Worship and Formation at St. Luke's -- Week of September 8th

Welcome to St. Luke's worship and formation offerings for the week of September 8th. All the information you need to participate in either in-person or virtual offerings is provided below.

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

Sunday Worship: Please join us to celebrate Holy Eucharist on September 1st 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: 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: Lectionary Bible Study returns on Tuesday September 10 at 11 am in the Church Transept. 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 are able.

Adult Faith Formation: Two AFF series will be offered this fall — one in-person after Sunday worship and another via Zoom on Wednesday evenings. See next section below for details.

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!

Upcoming Adult Faith Formation 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.

Don't forget to sign-up!

Registration Deadline- Sept. 9

Don't miss Theology on Tap's Men's Retreat October 22-24, 2024. The deadline to register is September 9th!

We are sponsoring an inclusive, intimate gathering, on October 22-24 (Tuesday - Thursday) for all St. Luke's



(Tuesday – Thursday) for all St. Luke's Men who can attend. The agenda will include a variety of optional outdoor activities, service work, guided group discussions, and time for conversation and meditation in an outdoor retreat setting.

Any questions call, ping, or email Brent Bostick at (908)230-7569
brentbostick1@gmail.com



Liturgical Volunteers



Liturgical Volunteers Needed

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

- Ushers
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)
- Acolytes

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

 Email admin@stlukeseg.org for more info

We are now using a Sign-up genius 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 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 admin at 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 Sign-up genius for those who are unfamiliar or sign you up manually if necessary. Click the button below to sign up!

[Click here to sign up](#)

Calling All Singers! Choirs resume in September!

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

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

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Canterbury Choir
Adult Choir
Begins September 5
Thursdays at 7 pm

St Cecilia Choir
3rd-12th grade Choristers
Begins September 6
Fridays at 4 pm

Angel Choir
PreK - 2nd Graders Begins
September 11
Wednesdays at 4 pm

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. Come visit the Handbell Choir table at our Ministry fair on September 8th, after both the 8 am and 10 am service. Please contact Rodney Ayers to sign up or for more information, rodney@stlukeseg.org

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.

[Click here for form](#)

Youth Census

We are working to update our church database for youth ages 5-18. Please fill out a 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.

[Click here for form](#)

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)
- 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

[Email Amy](#)

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.

Click here to donate via Paypal

Click here to donate via Vanco

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

We can carry a heavy load from a place of balance.

September is a time of transition and many families are feeling the balance we gained during the easy summer months slip away under the onslaught of busy schedules ahead. Jesus said, "Come to me you who are heavy laden and I will refresh you." I really believe that attending to our spiritual balance helps us manage the loads life brings with grace, creativity and mindfulness. Too often we conclude that time is a scarce resource so I must spend my time, sacrifice my time, only to activities that are most advantageous and lucrative for me and the next generation. In the zero-sum game mindset we make trade-offs and our stress goes up.

Let's contrast that with a sabbath balance perspective. Sabbath is when time is reclaimed, re-imagined and refreshed by God's eternity. God offers us timelessness, spaciousness, and inclusive community to provide refuge from the demands of the world so we can refuel our spiritual balance. God does not ask much - one day out of seven - for us to set aside to rebalance our load. We hand our burdens to God and they come back as blessings we can manage because our balance is restored.

Observing sabbath is very important to God. It stands out in the ten commandments as a positive obligation in the midst of do not steal, do not commit adultery and do not murder as pillars of personal and communal moral health and balance. I invite you to rebalance your life every Sunday even if that means saying yes to what you need, and no to what work or team or school may need from you.

-Reverend Jarrett

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