



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

Week of October 13th, 2024

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone's E-pistle

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Baptism – A Baptist's Perspective

A few weeks ago there was a baptism in the 10:00 service, and it was a real blessing to witness. It is heartening to see parents, family, friends gather together to express their joy and love for an infant as well as their commitment to faith. And while this was not the first baptism that I have seen at St. Luke's, I'm still awed and inspired at the moment in the faith life of the family and the congregation. Fr. Jarrett and I were talking and felt that it would be a great opportunity to share with you all our thoughts about baptism from our respective traditions. So here are my thoughts and Fr. Jarrett's will follow.

In the Baptist movement we do not baptize our infants. We have a "Dedication Service" where the parents (and sometimes Godparents) commit to raising the child in a good way and to teach them the faith. There is not a sacramental moment in that service where we recognize God's presence or any use of water or oil. Lots of prayer and words of commitment, but not much else.

Scroll to the bottom to continue reading...

How to join us this upcoming Sunday:

All the information you need to participate in either in-person or virtual offerings is provided below.

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

Sunday Worship: Please join us to celebrate Holy Eucharist on October 13th at 8:00 am or 10:00 am. To view our 10 am service online, please [click here](#). To view or print the 10 am service bulletin, [click here](#). Printed copies of the bulletins will be provided at each service. For a copy of the prayer list, [click here](#).

Join us Sunday at 9:45AM for all YFF classes:

Nursery: 9:30-12:30 on Sundays

Godly Play (Pk-3)

Youth Faith Formation (4&5)

Youth Faith Formation 2 (6 & 8)

Rite-13

Sunday - October 13th

Stewardship Witness:
Catherine Pilkington

Sunday - October 20th

11:00 am – Stewardship Brunch

Interested in helping out? We're still looking for volunteers for our Stewardship Brunch!

[Sign-up to help here](#)

Sunday - October 27th

ONE SERVICE ONLY at 9:00 am
Parish-wide History Event and Brunch
at 10:00 am to 12:30pm

Sunday - November 3rd

4:00 pm– Evensong at Grace Church featuring St. Luke's and Grace Church Choirs



Adult Faith Formation

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. Click the button to the left to sign-up!

Lectionary Bible Study: Lectionary Bible Study takes place at 11 am on Tuesdays in the Church Transept.

The Saturday Bible study is on hold for lack of interest.



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

Discussion

THE BOOK OF FORGIVING

STARTS
OCT. 16

7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS



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. Snacks and Drinks Provided! Nursery care will also be provided. Facilitated by the Interim Rector. Civil Discourse Seminar will be reconvening on October 6th in the dining room.

[Sign up for Wednesday Book Discussion](#)

Leafing a Legacy: St. Luke's & East Greenwich Join Forces for Tree Planting!

Exciting news is blossoming in our community! In a wonderful collaboration, St. Luke's teamed up with the East Greenwich Tree Council to transform our parking lot median into a vibrant green space filled with stunning ginkgo trees.

These beautiful, hardy trees will not only enhance the area's aesthetic but also improve air quality and provide shade for visitors. As the seasons change, we'll witness the golden foliage of the ginkgo, reminding us of our commitment to environmental sustainability. This initiative reflects our shared dedication to creating a welcoming, flourishing environment for everyone—proof that together, we can make a lasting impact!



Liturgical Volunteers



Liturgical

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. New dates are revealed after each Sunday passes.

Lay Readers should sign up once a month.

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.

Liturgical Volunteers Needed

If you have not volunteered for a liturgical role before, please send an email to admin@stlukeseg.org to learn more.

[Click here to sign up](#)

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.

No cost to you or the Church

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.

No cost to you or the Church

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.

Transaction Fees for the Church

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.

No cost to you or the Church

[Click here to donate via Paypal](#)

[Click here to donate via Vanco](#)

An Update from the Treasurer

September	2024 YTD	Budget	Var.	Ann. Budget
Total Income	\$565,350	\$510,338	\$55,012	\$721,925
Total Expenses	\$563,909	\$594,707	(\$30,798)	\$788,483
Net Income	(\$1441)	(\$84,370)	\$85,811	(\$66,558)

Notes:

- Income continues to outpace the budget – with pledge income \$45K ahead of budget. I join the leadership and thanking each of you for your continued, timely support! (Yes, I think you are all amazing!)
- Expenses are pretty much on budget at this point – we have some property expenses coming up that will hit in the 4th quarter.

E-pistle continued from above:

Instead, we tend to practice what is usually called and “adult” or “believer’s” baptism. The typical age is usually 10-13, so “adult” is a fluid term. We do this because for the Baptists (and other movements that practice similar methods of baptism) we see baptism as two things.

- (1) It is an outward expression of a commitment made to God.
- (2) It is a rite of initiation/acceptance into a community.

First, we would say that when one is getting baptized, they have already said, “yes” to following God and calling themselves a Christian. It may have been days or weeks before, or it may have been a moment before a baptism in response to a powerful and moving sermon. This typically happens at a revival setting. Some would even say that in that moment of saying “yes” there is a baptism of the Holy Spirit preceding the baptism of water (feel free to ask me for more information about that... I have thoughts). The main point is that the individual has had the opportunity to say “yes” to the invitation to walk with God and to give their life to Christ. The baptism is an outward, liturgical expression of that “yes.”

Second, this “yes” is the thing that brings us together as a community and is the rite through which the individual joins the community. When one is baptized, normally the pastor asks one question, “do you believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.” This is all that is expected and required for one to be a part of a church community (granted, this is the ideal and I know that there are many Baptist churches that have created other litmus tests and theological barriers). And when someone is baptized, it is always to be in the presence of a community so that everyone witnessing can also remember their own baptism, their own commitment, and are also reclaiming the core reason to be a part of that church community.

Finally, in the Baptist movement, we fully immerse the individual. For us, this is a symbolic act of dying to our formal selves and rising as a new person in Christ. And please remember, this is a quick look into a Baptist perspective/practice. As with every significant act in one’s faith there is so much more that one could say.

A few weeks ago, when I was able to witness the baptism and the faith of the parents and all those gathered I reflected on these aspects of baptism that are a part of my own tradition. I saw a deep faith reflected and thought, “this makes sense.” I saw a commitment to

the community and also thought, “this makes sense.” And I saw a path set for a child to grow into that faith and to get to that place where they would be able to embrace that yes in being a follower of Christ. It was a beautiful and profound moment.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone

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