



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

Week of October 20th, 2024

Interim Rector Jarrett's E-pistle

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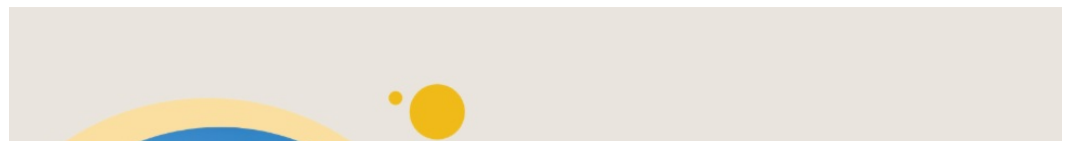
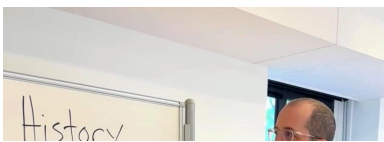
Baptism Dialogue Part 2

The Rev. Jonathan Malone and I thought it would be fun to engage in a dialogue about Baptism by each of us writing an essay and sharing it with the parish community. It is not every day that an American Baptist pastor and an Episcopal pastor serve the same congregation. Jonathan wrote last week and I am responding this week.

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church was a major leap forward in the liturgical practice of our Church. Baptism is one example where, by and large, congregations have not caught up with the changes implied by the rite. You might expect Jonathan and I to disagree about believers' Baptism versus infant Baptism. But the Book of Common Prayer actually favors the former over the latter.

Scroll to the bottom to continue reading...

St. Luke's History Event





ST. LUKE'S

History

EVENT

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE AT
ST. LUKE'S
OCTOBER 27: AFTER 9 AM SERVICE
10:00 - 12:30 PARISH MEETING

St. Luke's Trivia Question: Who was St. Luke's First Rector?

Do you know? Scroll down to the bottom for the answer!

Rev. William Moore

Rev. Nash

Dr. Silas Axtell Crane

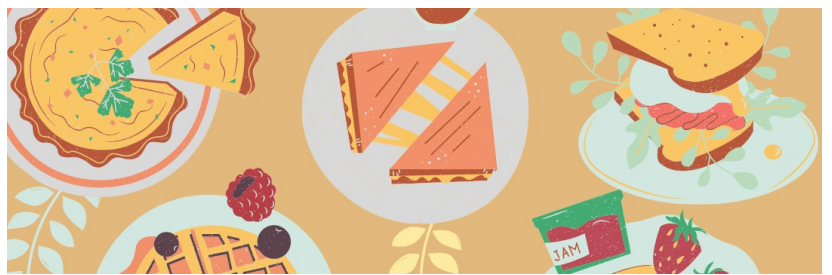
Rev. George Pomeroy Allen

Stewardship



Many thanks to Catherine Pilkington for speaking this past Sunday about what stewardship at St. Luke's means to her.

If you missed it, please click on the link below to watch it as part of our 10 am



below to watch it as part of our 10 am service this past Sunday.

[Watch Livestream](#)



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](#)

Stewardship Benchmarks, Or How We Make It!

The vestry set a goal of a 20% increase in pledging for 2025. That percentage may seem daunting on the face of it but if you break it down it is very achievable.

Here are some benchmarks to help you think about making a pledge at St. Luke's:

Our average pledge is \$2,774

Our median pledge is \$1,500.

The median pledge we need to make our goal is \$1,775

The participation goal to make our funding goal is 225 pledging households.

We need 37 new pledging households to make our participation goal.

If 188 existing pledgers added \$275 to their pledge that generosity would produce an extra \$51,700 toward a fully funded budget in 2025

If we add 37 pledging households and those 37 give \$1,775 per year, that generous giving would produce \$65,675 toward a fully funded budget.

The result: WE REACH OUR GOAL of \$120,000 in new giving to balance our budget for 2025.

Aspirationally speaking, imagine if we had 100% participation in Stewardship and imagine if our givers were practicing tithing at 5% or 10% of net income. Imagine how we could serve the Kingdom

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

Sunday Worship: Please join us to celebrate Holy Eucharist on October 20th 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](#).

Please note that Bible Study and Healing Service on 10/22 are cancelled. Both will restart on the following Tuesday.

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

We invite you to share your stories and memories as we come together to create a vibrant timeline of our church community. This is a unique opportunity to reflect on where we've been and envision the future we want to build together, especially as we prepare to welcome our next full-time rector. **Whether you've been part of our journey for decades or are new to our community, your voice matters!**

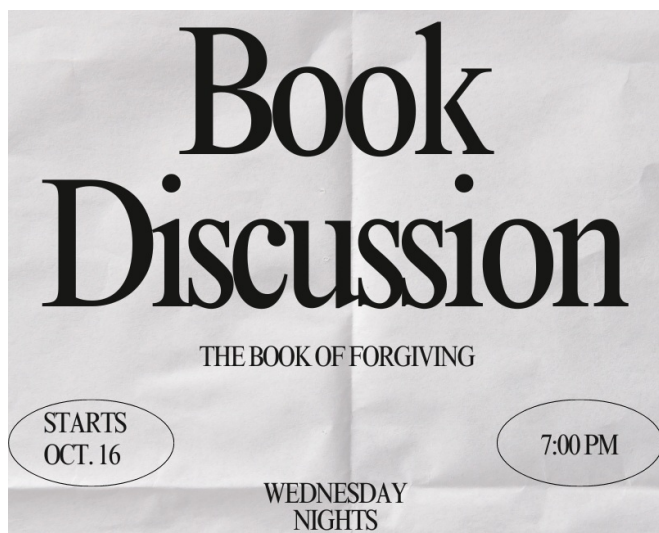
Come, share your experiences, connect with fellow members, and help shape our path forward! Refreshments will be provided. **Will you be there?**

Upcoming Events

Sunday - November 3rd

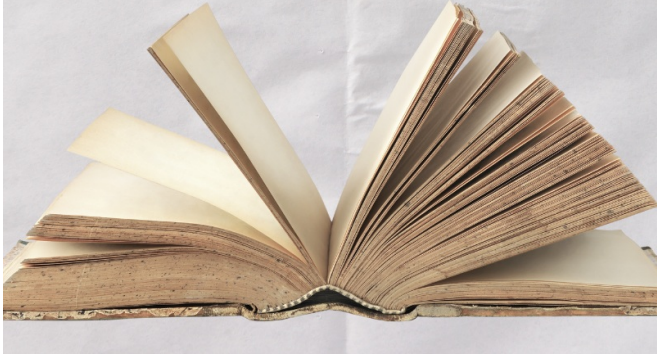
4:00 pm– Evensong at Grace Church featuring St. Luke's and Grace Church Choirs

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 join the zoom meeting.

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



[Click here for zoom link](#)

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 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 27th in the dining room.

Temple Sinai invites St. Luke's to Hear Pastor Chris Edmonds Speak

Pastor Chris Edmonds is the son of WWII hero, Master Sgt. Roddie Edmonds, who fearless bravery saved the lives of more than 200 Jewish American Soldiers in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. Pastor Edmonds travels the world sharing the story of his father's moral courage to inspire all of use to take a stand for what is right. A short film will be shown along with the speech. A panel including Rev. Kerbel will also respond and engage in the conversation.

Monday, October 21, 2024

7:00 pm

Temple Sinai

30 Hagan Avenue, Cranston, RI

Liturgical Volunteers

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.

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](#)



**Liturgical
Volunteers
Needed**



Online Banking	Zelle Transfer	PayPal and VANCO Payment Solutions	Direct Payment From IRA
<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>Zelle Payment – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke's Church by using the giving@stlukeseg.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>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>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>
No cost to you or the Church	No cost to you or the Church	Transaction Fees for the Church	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:

Does this surprise you? You are not alone. When you examine the Baptism service on page 301 you will notice that “Adults and Older Children” are listed first as candidates for Baptism. This is the subtle Prayer Book way of indicating priority. While we believe that infant and adult baptism are both valid and effective sacraments, we recognize that the ability of an adult or an older child to consent to the sacrament adds a decisive element to it.

My children love to tease me by saying, “You Baptized us against our will!” They are correct. I reply to them that parents do lots of things against the will of a child; we send you to school for example, we feed you healthy food etc. In general, it is recognized as acceptable for a mature parent to look out for the good of the child beyond what the child is able to choose for themselves. This is parental love.

When a parent baptizes a child, we are initiating them into an unbreakable relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Child Baptism particularly emphasizes the fact that this relationship is a pure gift

and wholly the initiative of God. Jesus died and rose again well before we were around to respond to or affirm his action. Jesus opened the way to eternal life for us when humanity was unable to will it open for ourselves, and so delivered it to us as an unmerited gift.

I Baptized my children as infants because the sacrament highlights this quality of gift given without regard to our earning it in any way. At the same time, I also hoped my children would choose confirmation later in life so they could respond to God's gift from their own mature will. Traditionally, this is how the Episcopal Church has tried to balance respect for the pure gift with respect for the need of autonomous people to turn to God by their own consent.

So you see why an adult or believers' baptism might have some advantages. In it, both elements are unified. We are baptized into the gift of a relationship with God, initiated and guaranteed by God. Our autonomous 'YES' to that gift shows we have made an adult decision to receive the gift and be recognized as a follower of Jesus Christ within the Church.

Whichever you choose for your child, your choice will be honored and respected at St. Luke's!

For me, there are some other reasons to favor adult baptism. First, baptizing teens and adults is already becoming more prevalent because so many people are being raised outside of the church. Second, and related, adult and teen baptism avoids some of the dangers of cultural Christianity; i.e. the performative participation in religious rites without an actual personal commitment to the gift given and the public promises made in response. How many times have I asked families during Baptism if they will raise their children in the knowledge and love of Jesus and in the active fellowship of the Church only to never see them again at worship?

Because the sacrament is a gift from God and not mine to control or police, I will always offer baptism in hope that the response will be genuine, even converting. Whatever the case may be, God's saving love is powerful, active, and sufficient. Whether as an adult or a child, whether committed or lukewarm, we all are invited to live into the fathomless grace of our Baptismal relationship with the Risen Christ our whole life long.

-Interim Rector Jarrett Kerbel

Trivia Answer

Rev. Nash

To read more about our history, [click here](#)

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