



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

Week of October 27th, 2024

Interim Rector Jarrett's E-pistle

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## Courage & Solidarity

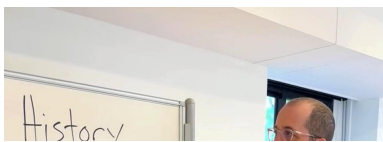
Master Sergeant Roddie Edmonds had a choice to make. The Major in command of the German Prisoner of War Camp had just issued an ultimatum to the captive American soldiers. All of the Jewish soldiers in captivity were to assemble for inspection, and if they did not, they would be shot. Sergeant Edmonds had witnessed this routine at a previous camp and, this time, he was prepared to act.

When the German Major came to make his inspection he was surprised to find all of the American troops lined up for inspection. The irate German officer exclaimed to Sergeant Edmonds, "It is not possible that all of you are Jews!"

"We are all Jews," Sergeant Edmonds replied.

*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

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! Brunch will be provided. **Will you be there?**

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

**Sunday Worship:** Please join us to celebrate Holy Eucharist on October 27th at 9:00 am. To view our 9 am service online, please [click here](#). To view or print the 9 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](#).

**Youth Faith Formation:** To view the most recent Youth Faith and Formation newsletter, [click here](#).

Interested in receiving the YFF weekly newsletter? Email [amy@stlukeseg.org](mailto:amy@stlukeseg.org) to subscribe.

No Godly Play or YFF classes this Sunday.

Nursery open 8:30-12:30

Halloween party (PK-5) during parish meeting 10:30 - 12:30

### Our Rector Search – All Voices Matter!

In the next several weeks, St. Luke's Nominating Committee will be developing a process for vetting a Search Committee for our next Rector. The Nominating Committee was approved by the parish at our 189th Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024. Members of the Nominating Committee include: the Senior Warden, Deborah Collins; Mike Grady (member-at-large); Holly O'Brien (vestry alum from 2023); Pam Dresselhouse (Fr. Rich/Rector's choice); and Bill Warburton (member-at-large). These individuals will lay out a process to define our goals for the rector search, the expectations of the Search Committee, and the timeline for the Search Committee's work. Essential to the work of the Search Committee is the expectation that they represent the parish voice in all aspects of their work. That said, the Search Committee will be comprised of a representative group of parishioners from all walks of life within our parish. Participation in the primary parish events (History Event on October 27

and Congregational Conversations on December 8) is required to join the search committee. Our collective voices will be heard at these events and Search Committee members need to be there to contribute and listen. That collective voice will provide the backbone of our parish profile. Parishioners are asked to stay tuned for the Search Committee outreach and application process which will be shared in mid-November.

### Trivia Question: Which window was the first of the original stained glass windows in St. Luke's?

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

The St. Paul Window

The St. Luke Window

The St. Mark Window

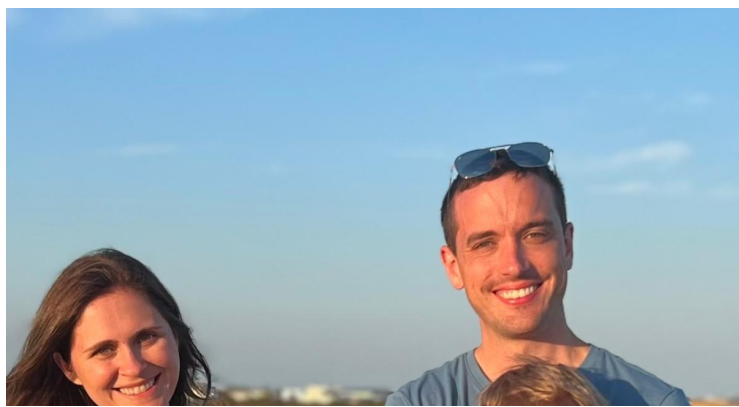
The St. Cecilia Window

### Upcoming this Sunday: Stewardship Witness -- Katie Anderson

I'm grateful to speak with St. Luke's as witness to its impact. My husband Mike and I have a six-year-old daughter, Alexa, and a two-year-old son, Michael. Mike and I began attending St. Luke's in 2016 and committed fully to regular attendance and active involvement around 2022-2023. I currently serve on the vestry and as a godly play instructor, my daughter is in angel choir, and my husband and I eagerly signed up to join new ministries at the recent fair.

Professionally, I'm an independently licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) with experience in public policy, fundraising and development, behavioral healthcare management, and direct clinical practice. I also serve in public office at the municipal level. I'm a graduate of American University and Boston College School of Social Work.

I entered both social work and public service because I'm passionate about building more caring, responsive, just, and equitable communities through an empowerment lens. I've found those exact values reflected here at St. Luke's. My family and I consider St. Luke's to be our place of refuge, hope, and joy. We are thankful for all of you!





Join us this upcoming Sunday to hear from Katie Anderson, her experience at St. Luke's and what Stewardship means to her!

### 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 of God!

### Upcoming Events

# CHORAL EVENSONG

*Featuring music of Willan, Webb, Stanford,  
and Sir John Stainer's great anthem "I saw the Lord"*

*I saw the Lord*  
sitting on a throne, high and lifted up,  
and the train of His robe filled the temple.



*Sung by the combined choirs of Grace Church and  
St. Luke's, East Greenwich*

Sunday, November 3 at 4 PM  
*Grace Church in Providence ~ 300 Westminster Street*



## Grieving during the Holidays



### Grieving During the Holidays

A workshop designed to help you  
“make it through” the holidays and  
honor your loved one too!

Balancing the busy Holiday time with  
the sadness of not being able to share  
this holiday time with our loved one,  
can feel overwhelming.

This 1-hour workshop provides tips  
and ideas to help us navigate the  
challenges of holiday time, honor the  
memory of our loved one and care for  
our own needs as we grieve.

### Join us at 10 am on November 9, 2024 in the Auditorium

Workshop presented by Nancy Arnold,  
Certified Grief Counselor and Manager  
of Bereavement Services at Southcoast  
Health at Home

We are so excited to share that, for the  
entire month of November, our  
Interfaith Food Cupboard has been  
selected by store leadership to benefit  
from the Stop & Shop's Bloomin' 4  
Good Program, created to fight hunger  
across the communities served by Stop  
& Shop.

For the month of November, the  
purchase of a \$10.99 bouquet in the  
sleeve marked “Bloomin' 4 Good”  
from the Stop & Shop at 1300 Ten Rod  
Road, North Kingstown, RI will  
brighten a home or make someone's  
day while also directing a \$1 donation

**STOP & SHOP**

## Bouquets of Thanks

This November, pick up a \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet at our selected Stop & Shop, and \$1 will be donated to support our organization.

[stopandshop.2give.local.com](http://stopandshop.2give.local.com)

day while also directing a \$1 donation to the Food Cupboard.

This is a great way to broaden awareness in the local community and raise donations for the Food Cupboard to help fight hunger.

Let's get started! Share the news with friends and family. Call, send emails, and post on social media. The more bouquets sold, the greater the donation we will receive from Stop & Shop! To learn more about this program, please visit [stopandshop.2givelocal.com](http://stopandshop.2givelocal.com).

Bloomin' 4 Good Program

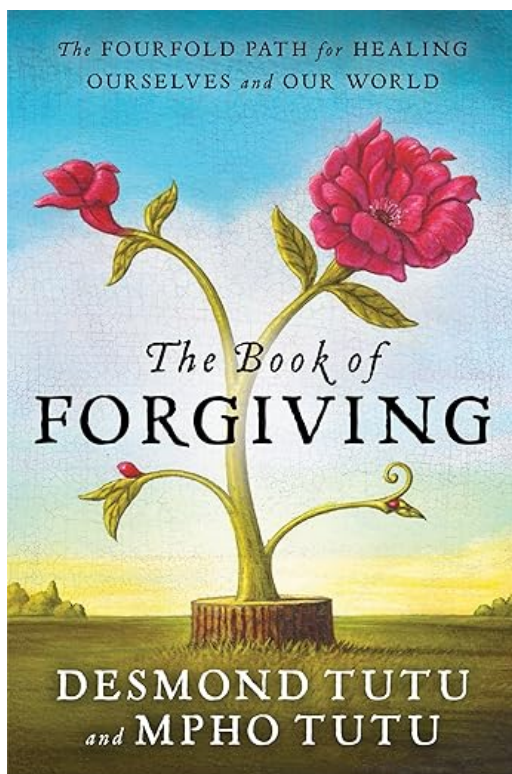
Buy a bouquet at Stop & Shop:  
1300 Ten Rod Road, North Kingstown RI  
to support the East Greenwich Interfaith  
Food Cupboard!



## Adult Faith Formation

Join with us on Wednesday nights 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.



[Click here for zoom link](#)

**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.

## Arkfull Coffee House: Open Mic Night



Join us at Arkfull Coffee House for a warm and welcoming open mic night!

Whether you're a seasoned performer or just want to share a favorite poem, this is the perfect space to express yourself and connect with others. Enjoy a cozy atmosphere filled with great coffee, laughter, and uplifting fellowship. Bring your friends, your talent, or simply your love for the arts, and let's celebrate our community together! Don't miss out on this beautiful evening of creativity and connection—see you there!

**Friday, November 1st at 6:00 PM in the St. Luke's Auditorium**

For more info: email [amy@stlukeseg.org](mailto:amy@stlukeseg.org)

## Women of Grace

**Women of Grace** will be meeting Monday, November 4th, 7:00pm in the St. Luke's dining room.

We will have a presentation by Emily Crandell on Dorcas International. We at St. Luke's collect clothing but there is so much more one can do. Please join us to learn about this important ministry.

An RSVP is helpful, [deblukens73@gmail.com](mailto:deblukens73@gmail.com) or (908) 500-4573.



## Commissioning of the Transition Communication Team



**In case you missed it**, on Sunday, October 20, the congregation formally commissioned and blessed the Communications Team as they begin their efforts “to share information, foster



If you missed it, click [here](#) to watch our livestream of last Sunday.

connection, instigate key conversations, and promote unity as we seek a new rector.” Members of the Committee include: Rob Walsh, John Walsh, Suzie MacDonald, Amy Weigand, Deb Dioguardi, and Deborah Collins (Vestry ad hoc). You may have already noticed some of this group’s work to coordinate messaging to the St. Luke’s community across all available resources – the Weekly and Sunday bulletins, website, social media, and Sunday announcements and those fashion-forward “I’ll Be There” buttons that everyone is wearing. Please let them know your appreciation and stay tuned for more updates to come!

## 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](mailto:admin@stlukeseg.org) to learn more.



**Liturgical  
Volunteers  
Needed**

[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.



### Zelle Transfer

**Zelle Payment** – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the [giving@stlukeseg.org](mailto:giving@stlukeseg.org) address.



### 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



### 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:** 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

**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

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

**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
<b>Total Income</b>	\$565,350	\$510,338	\$55,012	\$721,925
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$563,909	\$594,707	(\$30,798)	\$788,483
<b>Net Income</b>	(\$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:

The red-faced German officer drew his side-arm and pressed the barrel to Sergeant Edmond's forehead and commanded him to tell the Jewish members of his unit to step forward or he would be shot in the head. Edmonds stood still and replied, "You could shoot me, but we all know your name. This war is almost over and you will be tried as a war criminal." The German Major turned on his heels and stalked off.

Thanks be to God for courage.

I heard this story told at Temple Sinai in Cranston on Monday night and I was deeply moved. Thank God for people who demonstrate heroic courage. They give us hope for humanity. They shine a light in the darkness. They inspire us to cultivate fortitude in our hearts, souls and bodies for the day when a witness is demanded of us.

As a speaker on the panel at the Temple, I shared that Sergeant Edmond's example caused me to reflect deeply on solidarity. Who do I stand with? Who is my neighbor? If our country takes an authoritarian turn and mass deportations are ordered, will I be prepared to stand with asylum seekers and undocumented workers and say, "We are all immigrants." Will I be ready to put my body between the vulnerable and the authorities? Will I be willing to be injured or jailed?

My hope is for a different future, but I believe strongly that my faith calls me to be prepared. Every day, I need to develop the virtues of discernment and courage before I need them in a crisis. Courage comes from believing that the light overcomes the darkness, that Jesus rose again from the dead to free us from the power of death that keeps us fearful and fawning. We take faithful risks guided by our

values and based on God's promise to stand with us when we do so, and to never let us go.

-Interim Rector Jarrett Kerbel

## Trivia Answer

The St. Paul Window

This can be found in our 2017 "The Windows of St. Luke's Church" book. If you are interested in purchasing one, please stop by or email our Admin office for more details!

## Connect with St. Luke's



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