



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The 191st Annual Meeting  
January 25, 2026



401-884-4116

[www.stlukeseg.org](http://www.stlukeseg.org)

99 Peirce St., East Greenwich, RI





# **AGENDA**

- |      |  |                      |
|------|--|----------------------|
| I.   | Welcome and Prayer                             | Fr. John M. Fountain |
| II.  | Approval of 2025 Minutes                       | Fr. John M. Fountain |
| III. | Treasurer's Report                             | Michael Sullivan     |
| IV.  | Elections: Proposed 2026 Lay Leadership        |                      |
|      | A. Slate of Officers                           |                      |
|      | 1. Shareen Knowlton, Senior Warden (2026-2027) |                      |
|      | 2. Neil McNamara, Junior Warden (2026-2027)    |                      |
|      | 3. Michael Sullivan, Treasurer (2026)          |                      |
|      | 4. Sarah Nielsen, Clerk of the Vestry (2026)   |                      |
|      | B. Vestry Candidates                           |                      |
|      | 1. Brent Bostick (2026-2028)                   |                      |
|      | 2. Deb Dioguardi (2026-2028)                   |                      |
|      | 3. Jeff Levesque (2026-2028)                   |                      |
|      | 4. Mallory Walsh (2026-2028)                   |                      |
|      | C. Delegates to Diocesan Convention            |                      |
|      | 1. Katie Anderson (2026)                       |                      |
|      | 2. Steve McLoughlin (2026)                     |                      |
|      | 3. Cathi Sloan (2026)                          |                      |
|      | 4. Dana Sparhawk (2026)                        |                      |
|      | D. Nominating Committee                        |                      |
|      | 1. Katie Anderson                              |                      |
|      | 2. Mike Grady                                  |                      |
|      | 3. Kathy Lynch                                 |                      |
|      | 4. Bill Warburton                              |                      |
| V.   | Window Presentation                            | Debora Coombs        |
| VI.  | Closing Hymn                                   | Rodney Ayers         |

# ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN EAST GREENWICH

## 2025 Leadership and Staff

### Clergy

The Rev. John M. Fountain, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, Pastoral Associate

### Current Members of the Vestry

Deborah Collins, Senior Warden (2024-2025)

Shareen Knowlton, Junior Warden (2025)

Michael Sullivan, Treasurer (2025)

Julie Gemma, Clerk (2025)

Dana Sparhawk ~ 2025-2027

Sarah Curtis ~ 2025-2027

Dale Stretz ~ 2025-2027

Jan Burch ~ 2024-2026

Bill Clement ~ 2024-2026

Margaret Clifton ~ 2023-2025

John Lukens ~ 2023-2025

Neil McNamara ~ 2025

Katie Anderson ~ 2024-2025

### Current Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Bill Warburton ~ Steve McLoughlin ~ Dorothy Fleming ~ Pam Dresselhouse

Deborah Collins - Senior Warden (Alternate)

### Parish Staff

Rodney Ayers ~ Minister of Music

Bethany Crawley ~ Parish Administrator

Amy Weigand ~ Youth Faith Coordinator

Lisa Paolino ~ Bookkeeper

Clarissa Montero ~ Housekeeping

Karen Phelps & Julianna Pauley ~ Nursery

# **REPORTS**

*(Received with Gratitude)*

Report from the Rector	The Rev. John M. Fountain
Report from Pastoral Associate	The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone
Treasurer's Report	Michael Sullivan
Acolytes	Charlie & Julie Cronin
Adult Faith Formation	Betsy Fornal
Altar Guild	Jan Burch, Liz Fox, Kathy Lynch
Christ Community Kitchen	Paul Ruggieri, Rob Walsh
Dorcas	Cathi Sloan
Finance Committee	Greg de Groot
Fundraising Committee	Deb Lukens, Bill Warburton
Gardens & Grounds	Jack Newton
Hospitality Ministry	Marcia Gladue
Investment Advisory Committee	Mike Grady
Lay Worship	Mallory Walsh
Loaves & Fishes RI	Dana & Caroline Sparhawk
Lunch on the Hill	Steve McLoughlin
Music Ministry	Rodney Ayers
Pastoral Care Committee	Dotty Fleming
Property Committee	Deborah Collins
Stewardship	Mike Grady
Theology on Tap	Brent Bostick
Usher Ministry	Steve McLoughlin
Welcome Team	Deb Dioguardi, Jan Burch
Women of Grace	Deb Lukens
Youth Faith Formation	Amy Weigand

# MINUTES OF THE 190TH ANNUAL MEETING

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich

January 26, 2025

*Pursuant to the By-Laws and notice duly given, the Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Peirce Street in East Greenwich, RI was held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, in person. Father Kerbel convened the meeting at 11:02.*

*Vestry members present: Deborah Collins, Sr. Warden; Jacob Trombino, Jr. Warden; Michael Sullivan, Treasurer; Julie Gemma, Clerk; Margaret Clifton, Katie Gressle, John Lukens, Bill Clement, Shareen Knowlton, Katie Anderson, Judi Nichols, and Jan Burch. Regrets—Corie Jacaruso.*

## **I. Welcome and Opening Prayer—Father Kerbel**

Father Kerbel opened the meeting with prayer and gave thanks to Marcia Gladue and Margaret Clifton for arranging the food and to the Scarbers for setting up the tables and chairs.

## **II. Determination of Quorum and Appointments—Deborah Collins**

The church by-laws require that a quorum of at least 25 persons or more be in attendance to proceed with the Annual Meeting. Senior Warden Deborah Collins determined that the required quorum was met.

## **III. Approval of 2024 Minutes**

**A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING WAS MADE BY GREG DE GROOT, SECONDED BY BILL Warburton, AND CARRIED.**

## **IV. Statement of Purpose: Why have an Annual Meeting—Father Kerbel**

Father Kerbel explained to those in attendance that an Annual Meeting is required to be held, both by the Bishop and our by-laws. He also added that Annual Meetings build relationships and foster transparency. He noted that this year has been unusual because we have already gotten together a number of times for transition work.

## **V. Transition**

### **a. Unveiling of the Parish Profile**

John and Rob Walsh explained that a small committee whose members include Elizabeth McNamara, Holly O'Brien, Jacob Trombino, Rob Walsh, and John Walsh met to decipher the information gathered at the December Congregational Conversation meeting and create the parish profile. They noted that for each question they were limited to 1,200 characters or less, which is about 180 words. The committee had to look at all answers holistically and stated that the congregation should be proud of what was sent to Canon to the Ordinary, Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, who had only one small change that needed to be

made. Rob and John also thanked the congregation for their help and for trusting the committee to do the work.

**b. Introduction of the Rector Search Team—Deborah Collins**

Deborah Collins reported that there were 25 applications for the Rector Search Team. The Nominating Committee considered all applications to ensure all ministries, services, and age demographics were represented. She then presented Geo Borgia, Brent Bostick, Neal McNamara, Stacey Nakasian, Dana Sparhawk, Victoria Strang, Laura Sullivan, Patricia Warburton, and Catherine Piklington (Youth Representative) as the members of the team. Patricia Warburton and Deborah Collins will serve as co-chairs. Team members were given the book *Discerning God's Call Together* and will be commissioned at a future service.

**c. What's Next for Transition—Deborah Collins**

Deborah Collins, Junior Warden Shareen Knowlton, and Michael Sullivan will meet with Canon Dena to give her our information, including the paperwork for the rector compensation package. Canon Dena will post it on the national website, and there will be a link to our transition web page. Thanks were given to Deborah for all her hard work.

**VI. Budget Report—Michael Sullivan**

Michael Sullivan reported that 2024 was a year of good change. The year started with a \$65,000 deficit and by the end of the year that was cut by a third. He noted that there are upcoming property concerns and that we are managing to get by with the income from the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT). We have seen great growth in personal income, second only to Grace Church in Providence, but our money comes primarily from pledges rather than endowment. Our ability to manage the campus upkeep has been challenging, which has resulted in working mainly on emergencies. Michael also noted there is a possibility of borrowing money to start the major things that need to be done (namely the tower and water abatement), with the possibility of a capital campaign to repay the loan.

**VII. Properties Report—Deborah Collins and John Lukens**

Deborah Collins began the report by giving an update of the status of the campus, beginning with 2015 and the unsafe tower that displaced everyone for two months. The steeple was shored up temporarily at that point. In 2024, trouble began again, with major storms bringing water into the tower. The beams that had been used to secure the tower are getting old and beginning to rust and separate. From January to mid-summer, there have been meetings with various churches, contractors, and water experts. Architect Cornelis de Boer and Structural Engineer Loren Yoder proposed a thorough study of the tower, which happened after necessary areas were cleaned.

Deborah also shared the learning that it is not only the steeple that needs repairing, but the mid-roof as well. The roof is leaking and water is going into the sanctuary and all the way down to the sacristy. Rain was seen inside the fireproof door to the chapel. In addition to the steeple and roof, the issue of the foundation and ground water will also need to be solved.

John Lukens noted that we have received grants from the diocese for a design plan for the tower repair. Repairs to the roof and water mitigation are on the horizon, while repairs to the tower will be determined.

John also reported about the property assessment that was done in June 2024, highlighting the areas that were deemed to be in poor condition. The Property Committee directed their attention to those poor areas. One thing that was discovered was asbestos in low traffic areas of the basement. An abatement plan has been developed and will be going to the state for expedited approval. Pipes in the basement will be rewrapped, and dirt areas will be raked and covered with polyethylene vapor barriers. The cost for the assessment and abatement plan is \$2,700, with the estimated cost of abatement being \$20,000.

In closing, John noted future work that will need to be done, including replacing rotted windows upstairs, upgrades to the heating system, compressors behind the pond that need replacing, and obsolete thermostats that need replacing.

Deborah Collins then recognized and thanked the members of the Property Committee: Steve Nichols, Doug MacPherson, John Lukens, Bill Warburton, Tom Dresselhouse, Mark Cordle, and Bob Sloan.

## **VII. Stained Glass Window–Stacey Nakasian**

Stacey Nakasian reported that the contract that St. Luke's had with Bonham's expired at the end of 2024. She also noted that in November, Sotheby's sold a Tiffany window at auction for 12.5 million dollars. Currently Bill Clement is helping Stacey to research the possibility of selling Tiffany windows at auction. Sotheby's and Christie's have visited the church to view the window and both, along with Bonham's will write proposals, which will include how they will market the sale of the window and how much they think the windows might sell for. Stacey and Bill are hoping to get the proposals within the next 6-8 weeks and put them together for the vestry. Stacey also noted that the auction houses' proposals will include when they think the optimal time period would be for the sale. She noted that if this moves forward, the windows will be taken out before new ones will be ready so there will be a temporary cover and that an artist has already been chosen to create the replacement windows.

## **IX. Interim Rector's Report–Fr. Jarrett Kerbel**

Fr. Kerbel began by reporting that three people had come to St. Luke's service in support of Bishop Budde and her statements at the inauguration worship service. Deborah Collins and he next recognized Dotty Fleming and all she has done for St. Luke's and how much she means to St. Luke's.

Fr. Kerbel then reviewed the congregational life cycle, noting that we are a thriving congregation and that we need to work to stay there. He then reviewed the characteristics of an effective congregation (specific, concrete mission objectives, pastoral and lay visitations, corporate, dynamic worship, significant relational groups, strong leadership resources, and streamlined structure and solid, participatory decision making), stressing that the relational characteristics are the most important and are what makes a congregation thrive. The emotional characteristics only ever decrease satisfaction if they are not there; they don't increase satisfaction.

Fr. Kerbel then spoke of his gratitude for being at St. Luke's and all there is to appreciate and love here. He thanked Senior Warden Deborah Collins, Junior Warden Jacob Trombino, Treasurer Michael Sullivan, the Vestry, Pastoral Care Committee, Adult Faith Formation, Altar Guild, Records Management, Theology on Tap, Women of Grace, all of the outreach ministries, Steve McLoughlin, Jeremy Langill for restarting the bell choir, Youth Faith Formation teachers, the choirs and Rodney Ayers, Stacey Nakasian, Katherine Pilkington, the staff, including Jonathan Malone, Amy Weigand, Suzie McDonald, Karen Phelps, the Commitment Campaign Committee and Mike Grady, Anna Pilkington, the live-streaming group, and the garden and grounds group.



**X. Election of Vestry, Delegates, Nominating and Officers–Fr. Jarrett Kerbel**

Fr. Kerbel first recognized and thanked retiring vestry members Jacob Trombino, Katie Gressle, and Judi Nichols for their terms.

He then announced the slate of nominees for vestry, officers, delegates to the convention and the Nominating Committee for the 2026 slate .

**A MOTION TO NOMINATE DANA SPARHAWK, SARAH CURTIS, AND DALE STRETZ TO THREE-YEAR TERMS AND KATIE ANDERSON TO COMPLETE SHAREEN KNOWLTON’S TERM FOR ONE YEAR WAS MADE BY KATIE GRESSLE, SECONDED BY MULTIPLE PARISHIONERS AND CARRIED.**

**A MOTION TO NOMINATE MICHAEL SULLIVAN AS TREASURER, JULIE GEMMA AS CLERK, AND SHAREEN KNOWLTON AS JUNIOR WARDEN WAS MADE BY MULTIPLE PARISHIONERS, SECONDED BY MULTIPLE PARISHIONERS AND CARRIED.**

**A MOTION TO NOMINATE BILL WARBURTON, DOTTY FLEMING, STEVE MCLOUGHLIN, PAM DRESSELHOUSE, AND DEBORAH COLLINS (AS ALTERNATE) TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION WAS MADE BY MULTIPLE PARISHIONERS, SECONDED BY MULTIPLE PARISHIONERS AND CARRIED.**

**A MOTION TO NOMINATE BILL WARBURTON, MIKE GRADY, KATHY LYNCH, AND KATIE GRESSLE TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2026 SLATE WAS MADE BY MULTIPLE PARISHIONERS, SECONDED BY MULTIPLE PARISHIONERS AND CARRIED.**

**XI. Introduction of the Transition Prayer for the Search Phase–Nancy Arnold**

Nancy Arnold introduced the new prayer and all in attendance prayed it together.

**XII. Hymn and Dismissal**

**A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY MULTIPLE PEOPLE, SECONDED BY MULTIPLE PEOPLE, AND CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:17pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Gemma, Clerk

# REPORT FROM THE RECTOR:

## THE REV. JOHN M. FOUNTAIN

2025 was a year of transition for St. Luke's. It began the year with interim rector Rev. Jarrett Kerbel and prayed through a search process that resulted in my call, which began on September 1, 2025. One of my earliest and most meaningful memories of St. Luke's came during my first meeting with the Search Committee. Near the end of our conversation, I asked a simple question: *What do you love about St. Luke's?* The answers came quickly and from the heart. They spoke about the music ministry with Rodney. About how this parish shows up for one another in times of need. They described a church that takes care of its neighbors, values children, and honors its history. As I listened, I realized that I was not just hearing about programs or buildings or budgets. I was hearing about a community shaped by love. That first impression has only deepened since Kelly, our girls, and I began getting to know you more fully.

As I step into this season as your next Rector, gratitude is the word that best describes how I feel about the past year in the life of St. Luke's. You have lived faithfully through a tough time of transition, and you have done so with prayer, generosity, and remarkable steadiness. This parish has not simply waited for what comes next; you have continued to worship, serve, give, and love one another in ways that bear clear witness to God's presence among you.

I am grateful for the support of Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, who offers thoughtful preaching and compassionate pastoral care. I value Jonathan's insight and pastoring as I began my call at St. Luke's, and his presence during this year have been a steadying force as well as a gift to us all.

Worship remains the beating heart of St. Luke's. Under the tutelage of music minister Rodney Ayers, our worship is blessed with beautiful sounds that take our faith to deeper levels. Through all three choirs, Rodney and everyone in the choir loft lift us up the new places and draw us closer to God. I would be remiss without also recognizing the amazing music ministry that takes place throughout the week. Some of my fondest memories have been listening to St. Cecilia and Angel Choirs practice above my office.

Of course, worship comes together through many groups including the Altar Guild, Lay Eucharist Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes, Ushers, Audio/Visual, Sunday School, and Nursery. Jan Burch, Liz Fox and Kathy Lynch co-direct the Altar Guild, and along with the entire team have been gracious as they adjust to the ways that I preside. Mallory Walsh leads the LEMs and Lectors ministry, and I must say it is joyful to see everyone's willingness to serve when called upon. Julie and John Cronin have fearlessly led the Acolyte ministry while returning the presence of torch bearers during the 10 am service. It is exciting to see young people serving as Acolytes. Steve McLoughlin leads the Usher team which consistently welcomes all people to our sanctuary. Taylor Wilkey, Jeff Levesque,

Geo Borgia, Bill Clement, Alan Hurd, and Deborah Collins do wonderful job of projecting sound and streaming our services. A special thank you to Tom Dresselhouse, who among many other things, helped improve the sound systems and replace the hearing loop system.

The faith formation of our children, youth, and families has been lovingly guided by Amy Weigand, Youth Faith Coordinator. Through Sunday School, Fun & Faith Fridays, Family Table, and the Youth Retreat, Amy helps create spaces where young people are known, valued, and invited into a living relationship with God. In a world that often overwhelms our children with noise and pressure, this ministry offers grounding, belonging, and grace.

We are also grateful for the loving care provided in the nursery by Karen Phelps and Julianna Pauley, who welcome our youngest parishioners with warmth and tenderness. In the past few months, Kelly Fountain and Dale Stretz added new toys and décor which transformed the nursery. The Nursery ministry allows parents to worship with peace of mind and gives our children their first experience of church as a place of love and safety.

The parish experienced another challenge in August when Parish Administrator Suzie MacDonald was terminated. Consequently, I began working at St. Luke's with our Senior Warden, Deborah Collins, filling in as Parish Administrator. I will always be grateful to Deborah for taking on the challenge of not only administering the Parish but also teaching me the ways of St. Luke's. Much to our delight, we were able to hire Bethany Crawley in December, and she has hit the ground running as she learns the parish and most especially the groups that rent space. Bethany has been a great addition, and I look forward to working with her.

Pastoral Care has been a strong and steady presence this year. Through hospital visits, prayer, phone calls, and quiet moments of listening, Jonathan+ and the pastoral care team, led by Dotty Fleming, walk with parishioners through grief, illness, celebration, and transition. Furthermore, they were a tremendous support, providing collations for the many memorials held at St. Luke's this fall. These acts of presence are holy work, and they reflect the heart of Christ in powerful ways.

Outreach and service have continued to be central to the identity of St. Luke's. Through food ministries (Lunch on the Hill, CCK dinners, Loaves & Fishes, Blessing Bags), community partnerships (DORCAS, East Greenwich Food Pantry), and acts of generosity (The Giving Tree, Women of Grace, Theology on Tap), this parish remains committed to loving neighbors beyond our walls. I have been amazed at the many ways this congregation shows up to help those in need. It is a privilege to witness.

Speaking of Faith in Action, we were pleased to introduce the Faith+Action ministry through the leadership of Katie Anderson. A remnant of the Gospel Justice ministry, the goal for Faith+Action is to discern and act where God meets us in standing up for the oppressed and under served in our community.

The Vestry provided faithful leadership during this year of transition, offering prayerful discernment, wise stewardship, and deep love for this parish. I am grateful for senior warden Deborah Collins, junior warden Shareen Knowlton, clerk of the vestry Julie Gemma, and treasurer Mike Sullivan. I also want to recognize the commitment of the search committee that guided me to St. Luke's. The time and effort to interview and pray through candidates is challenging, and I enjoyed our time together discerning God's call for the future of St. Luke's. Patricia Warburton(chair), Deborah Collins(senior warden), Catherine Pilkington(youth representative), Dana Sparhawk, Geo Borgia, Brent Bostick, Victoria Strang, Laura Sullivan, Neal McNamara, and Stacey Nakasian represented the parish joyfully and graciously challenged me with their questions.

Lastly, your generosity through stewardship has made all this possible. Rob and John Walsh along with the Stewardship Committee led by Mike Grady developed a plan that resulted in a 10% increase in pledges this year. Every pledge, every gift, and every act of financial faithfulness is an expression of trust in God and commitment to this community. Because of you, 2026 has an opportunity to be a year of growth for St. Luke's.

As Kelly, our daughters, and I began our life with you, we have been deeply moved by the warmth of your welcome. You have opened your hearts and your lives to us in ways that already feel like home, and for that we are profoundly thankful.

This past year has not been one of standing still. It has been a year of faithfulness, of preparation, and of quiet, steady growth. God has been at work in St. Luke's, shaping this parish for what lies ahead.

As we look to the future, we do so with hope. We trust that the same God who guided St. Luke's through this past year will continue to lead us going forward. With gratitude for what has been and faith in what is to come, we step into this next chapter hand in hand.

With deep gratitude and great hope.

John+

Submitted by the Rev. John M. Fountain

# **REPORT FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:**

## **THE REV. DR. JONATHAN MALONE**

It continues to be a blessing to be a part of the Saint Luke's family. In the past year I have been able to preach and pray, visit and listen, and be a part of so many of your lives in wonderful and powerful ways. My responsibilities continue to include visit our members who are not able to get to worship on Sunday mornings. These visits are at homes, long-term care facilities, hospitalities, and other locations. In these visits I remind the individuals or couples that even if they cannot physically attend worship on Sundays (some watch online), they are still an important part of our family and they are loved. Each visit reminds me that God's presence is not bound to walls and that our participation in the body of Christ is not regulated to a certain time each week. I am grateful to be participating in God's grace with people throughout the week.

In addition to visiting, I continue to help out on Sundays including occasional preaching. Over the summer I was glad to offer my presence and preaching as we were between settled rectors. I continue to gain a deep appreciation and love for the liturgical spirituality that is a foundational part of the Episcopal tradition.

Finally, I am finding myself in more and more parts of Saint Luke's activities. I have been able to help out with the youth on a retreat, meet with individuals when they request, and be present for funerals when possible. I am glad to help out in any and every way that I can.

Along with my work at Saint Luke's, I continue to be active and engaged in my other ministry. Through the year I lead backpacking trips, hikes, retreats, and other activities with a focus on finding the Divine in the wilderness. If I am away for a Sunday it is most likely because I am leading a trip or doing something wilderness related. As it has been the case for the past three years, I will not be present for the months of July and August. Part of the blessing of my presence with Saint Luke's is that I am able to offer and pursue this other ministry that God has placed on my heart. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity.

In closing, I continue to be in awe in the ways that God works. That this community has been able to open its arms to a Baptist pastor who is called to the wilderness and make it work is truly a God-inspired thing. I continue to be grateful to Fr. John, the Vestry, and all the congregation for the ways that you have welcomed me into your lives.

Peace,

*Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone*



St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Treasurer's Report

For the year 2025

Prepared for the Annual Meeting

January 25, 2026

# TREASURER'S REPORT

*Away with gloom, away with doubt!  
With all the morning stars we sing;  
with all the hosts of heaven we shout  
the praises of a King,*

I suspect not many treasurer's reports start out with an Easter acclamation, but 2025 was rather a special year. The year will probably be remembered more for all the new beginnings we have experienced, but that anthem's first line hits close to home for me.

Financially, the auction of the Goddard Tiffany Windows held the biggest impact. The proceeds far exceeded our initial hopes and estimates, and we have invested most of the funds in the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT), while setting aside the rest for capital projects. You can read about this year's improvements in the property report, of which roughly \$300,000 of the sale proceeds was used. In addition to the improvements in our future, including a significant expense to repair the tower and spire. All of this work is necessary to keep our historic building safe and well maintained.

For 2025, the added dividends (\$18,000) and interest (\$12,000) from the invested portion of the sale proceeds allowed us to finish the year close to even.

For 2026, the vestry has been able to pass a balanced budget. Some highlights include:

- Funding for a sexton
- Increased investment in Youth Christian Education
- Providing additional monies for project work

While the investment boost is certainly helpful, the annual operating budget is primarily funded by the parishioners of St. Luke's. This marks my tenth annual meeting as your Treasurer, and I continue to be amazed and grateful for all of you who contribute to and support this very special place.

I would like to thank our Bookkeeper, Lisa Paolino, our Parish Administrator, Bethany Crawley, and our team of counters: Pam Dresselhouse, John Lukens, Diane Benoit, Mary Elizabeth Barton, Bill McClintick, Ken Fecteau, with special remembrance and thanks to Dave Savage.

*Peace and Grace.*

*Michael Sullivan*

*Treasurer*



## ACOLYTES

A team of 7 youth acolytes and 5 adult acolytes are available to serve on Sunday and occasionally through the week whenever their services are required. All youth in the parish from fifth grade up to twelfth grade are invited to participate in this stewardship. We have also expanded this to adult members of the parish, given the low numbers of younger parishioners participating.

There was no Acolyte Recognition ceremony in 2024 or 2025. Traditionally, new acolytes are recruited, have a training session, and then shadow the veteran acolytes before they assume the full responsibilities of an acolyte. In this transition and in light of lower numbers, the shadowing occurs less often. All acolytes are invited to participate in the training of the new recruits, and this serves as an opportunity to sharpen their skills. There have been changes in our procedures during communion, and the acolytes are adapting well with the assistance of Father John and Pastor Jonathan.

Graduating acolytes will be honored in June. (Tori)

Scheduling is done based on notified availability. Once the schedule is sent out, adjustments are made. All acolytes have been very good at filling in and working as a true team.

Robes are cleaned 2 times a year, but are very worn. Efforts to secure new robes were in the works, however this has not happened. When this was last looked into, the church representative was not able to find matching styles. An acolyte recognition during a service needs to be planned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Charlie and Julie Cronin*

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

In 2025 we offered a full program of Adult Faith Formation with in-person opportunities as well as Wednesday evening programs by Zoom. The morning Bible study continued each week. During Advent and Lent members of our parish wrote meditations on the lessons of the day which we shared by email and on the St. Luke's website. This variety of offerings enables many parishioners to take part in continued faith formation.

In Epiphany we were eager to learn more about the people who inhabited the land on which we live, work, and worship before white colonizers arrived in Rhode Island. Utilizing *A History of the Narragansett Tribe of Rhode Island and Keepers of the Bay* by Robert A. Geake as a

springboard for our questions, we explored both the life and ways of the Narragansett people as well as their interaction with white colonizers. We are grateful to both Pastor Jonathan Malone and Jeremy Langill who also shared their knowledge and stories of the land in our area and the people who lived here before us. Meeting by Zoom enabled those who were traveling or living at a distance to join us for this interesting conversation.

In Lent we continued our anti-racism studies with a five-week in-person training program entitled **Becoming Beloved Community: Sacred Conversation on Race**. This program aimed at both spiritual growth and the building up of an inclusive community which we strive for at St. Luke's was led by Fr. Jarrett and Dr. Sandy Hicks who helped us seek clarity about racial justice and the way that racism in our culture has affected our souls.

During Easter season, we offered **Joy as Source of Resilience: Exploring the Resurrection Stories**. Led by Fr. Jarrett, we explored five resurrection stories from the Bible. We discussed the women at the empty tomb, the fleeing disciples on the road to Emmaus, Peter at the breakfast on the beach and Thomas in the locked upper room, among others.



As our year of discernment and search for a new rector came to a close with the calling of Fr. John Fountain, the Adult Faith Formation team wanted to give all of us an opportunity to celebrate with gratitude God's good work among us at St. Luke's. We created an interactive project, **Grapevine of Gratitude**, which consisted of grapevines covering the atrium and paper grapes and leaves for each of us to inscribe what we are most grateful for in our life at St. Luke's. The leaves and grapes covered the grapevine with the Good News of what is happening at and through St. Luke's. This project greeted the Fountains as they arrived to join us in our work to serve God and love our neighbors at St. Luke's.

### **Lenten and Advent Blogs**

This year more than fifty parishioners, including a dozen new writers, joined in providing meditations on the daily bible lessons each day in Lent and Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas.

What a joy it is to read the reflections from our bloggers each day. Their thoughtful words helped those who received these blogs in their email each morning begin their Lenten and Advent days with spirit-filled connection. Thanks to all who gave the gift of their time and shared a bit of their journey with us.

### **Adult Faith Formation Committee**

Betsy Fornal, chair

Sarah Curtis

Deb Dioguardi

Joseph Gomes

Rob Walsh

Patricia Warburton

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Being part of Altar Guild is a rewarding experience as we prepare the Sanctuary for our weekly services, weddings, funerals and holidays. We currently have five teams that serve on a rotating basis.

Co-directors Jan Burch, Liz Fox and Kathy Lynch receive guidance from our clergy as to how to best prepare the Sanctuary for worship. Team captains Cynthia Newton, Kathy Lynch, Liz Fox, Carol Stevens and Jan Prifty coordinate with their team members to set up for the services. Each team serves for a two week period about five times per year.

Judy Elliott, Cynthia Newton, Pat Savage, Kathy Lynch and Pam Naylor make sure the linens are clean and pressed to set the Lord's table. Deb Lukens is our flower chair. She oversees the flower memorials for Sunday services as well as ensuring our church is beautifully decorated for Easter and Christmas.

We happily welcome anyone who might see our group as a place to find fellowship and spiritual growth. Please let us know if you are interested in joining our ministry.

Respectfully submitted and with gratitude to all,

Jan Burch, Liz Fox, Kathy Lynch ~ Altar Guild Co-Directors

## **CHRIST COMMUNITY KITCHEN- CCK**

The intention of St. Luke's Christ Community Kitchen (CCK) is to provide hearty meals to members of our community in a safe and welcoming environment. The other intent is to provide an environment that is warm and inviting where our guests can interact with one another in a space full of faith. St. Luke's hosts these dinners in our beautiful dining room and prepares them in our state-of-the-art kitchen. On the last Monday of the month from September through June, these wholesome meals are prepared and served beginning at 5:30pm. We do not provide dinners during the summer months of July and August.

Led by Paul Ruggieri, head chef; Margaret Clifton, sous chef; and Rob Walsh, host and director of communications, Christ Community Kitchen serves anywhere from 75-100 guests, both parishioners and visitors. Volunteers, both parishioners of St. Luke's as well as folks from surrounding cities and towns, help with set-up, food serving, and clean-up.

CCK has a long history in East Greenwich, and we are blessed by a great sense of shared responsibility with other faith communities and civic groups who have volunteered to support these dinners. Dinners were not only hosted in 2025 by St. Luke's Episcopal Church, but also by St. Luke's Women of Grace, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, St. Luke's Theology on Tap (TOT), Christ Church, First Baptist Church, United Methodist Church of East Greenwich, the East Greenwich Women's Club and East Greenwich Housing Authority.

Each dinner requires a group of approximately 15 volunteers to assist in setting up the dining room, prepare and serve meals, and clean up afterwards. All meals are served with tablecloths, centerpieces, silverware and china. Each meal begins with a choice of beverage, appetizers, tossed salad, entrée and a wide selection of desserts. The level of volunteer support required from St. Luke's community varies month to month since other groups often provide volunteers to prepare and serve dinners. As host of the CCK dinners, we always have some responsibility for setting up the dining room, which usually begins at about 3:00 pm and continues with clean-up until 7:00 pm.

If you have any questions or interest at all in assisting us at CCK, please contact either of the following:

Rob Walsh: 401-241-5019 or [rob@walshadv.com](mailto:rob@walshadv.com)

Paul Ruggieri: 401-952-0625 or [paulrug50@gmail.com](mailto:paulrug50@gmail.com)

Margaret Clifton: 401-932-0766 or [margaretclifton@cox.net](mailto:margaretclifton@cox.net)

In closing, remember the Lord welcomes everyone to his table, show hospitality to strangers, friends, neighbors or family. Many do not know where their next meal may come from... everyone is welcome at St. Luke's Church, Christ Community Kitchen- CCK.

*Paul Ruggieri*

## **DORCAS**

*“So, you too must show love to foreigners for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.”*

Dorcas International Institute ([diiri.org](http://diiri.org)) is a refugee resettlement organization supporting refugees and immigrants when they arrive in RI. From the time they are greeted at the airport and for however long it takes, Dorcas staff and volunteers help them on the path to becoming Rhode Islanders.

St. Luke's has had a partnership with Dorcas for many years, but 2025 was especially exciting because we had several new opportunities to be involved.

1. Women of Grace organized a drive to create Resettlement Kits. When refugee families arrive, they often come with literally NOTHING. A resettlement kit gives them dishes, pots and pans, sheets and towels, etc., in order to begin their new life. The women of WOG collected two very full carloads of items.
2. Clothes drives were held throughout the year, and in the fall, a church-wide coat drive donated two very full carloads of coats and winter gear to the Clothing Collaborative run by Dorcas.
3. Theology on Top invited a speaker from Dorcas to attend one of their meetings to learn more this ministry. It was very well attended and led to several outreach events run by TOT, including delivering all the coats.
4. TOT also organized a staff lunch at the Dorcas sites. As you know, funds of many non-profits have been cut dramatically. Dorcas is no different, and after laying off approx. 20% of their staff, the rest have been working extra hard. This was our way of telling them they appreciated. It was very well received, and the servers got a first-hand glimpse of what goes on at Dorcas.
5. Throughout the year several of our members volunteered at Dorcas. Some of us volunteer in their English as a second language classes, ESL. Last year, over 1,000 students took advantage of English or job training classes offered by Dorcas.

We also helped at St Lukes sort the donations we received and recently a team worked at the Clothing Collaborative sorting the clothes there.

Thank you so much for your support.

We have several new ideas for 2026 and if you want more information or want to get involved feel free to connect with me. We will be organizing a tour of the Dorcas Campus in February which you will hear more about shortly.

God Bless!!

Cathi Sloan, Cathisloan@gmail.com

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee is a standing committee that meets monthly and assists the Vestry by serving as stewards of the church's finances. The finance committee consists of seven members plus the Treasurer: Stacey Nakasian, Mike Anderson, John Rannenberg, Greg de Groot, Fran Gammell-Roach, John Lukens, Bob Sloan and Michael Sullivan (Treasurer). Also participating in the monthly meetings this year were Fr. Jarrett Kerbel, Fr. John Fountain, Senior Warden Deborah Collins, and Junior Warden Shareen Knowlton.

Duties of the finance committee include:

- \* Prepare the annual operating budget and submit the budget to the Vestry for approval
- \* Monitor adherence to the budget by reviewing income and expenses on a monthly basis
- \* Monitor the church's investments and insurance coverages
- \* Review audits and action plans and report findings to the Vestry
- \* Advise and make recommendations to the Vestry on all matters pertaining to the finances of the Church

The Treasurer, Michael Sullivan, oversees the day-to-day finances of the parish and provides reporting to the finance committee and Vestry each month. Michael dedicates hours of his time preparing the monthly financial reports and providing commentary to highlight significant items.

His efforts help the finance committee focus on the most important topics. Our thanks and gratitude to Michael! Another function of the finance committee is to establish, under the Vestry's oversight, an audit team to examine the books and records of the church. This year's audit team comprised Pam Dresselhouse, David Clay and Cathy Sloan. The team performed its examination and submitted its report to the Vestry over the summer. The Finance Committee has addressed and responded to the audit findings, which were minimal. The Committee continues to update the Financial Best Practices Document and submit changes to the Vestry for approval.

A major focus of the committee's work this year has been on the handling of the proceeds of the Tiffany window sale. The committee worked closely with the Investment Oversight Committee to develop recommendations for the Vestry on what portion of the proceeds to allocate to long term investments and to current capital needs. The committees also conducted a series of meetings with representatives of other parishes in the diocese to learn how they invest their long- term funds. After considering many options it continues to be our opinion that the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT) is the most prudent choice for St. Luke's.

Of special note; longtime member and co-chair Judi Nichols stepped down this year. The committee wishes to express our deep gratitude for service and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

*Greg de Groot, Finance Committee Chair*

## **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

September 27, 2025 St. Luke's had a Casino Night attended by 100 people and raised \$14,000. It was risky trying something new, but the risk was well worth it. Those attending had a fabulous time and many are hoping for a repeat. Many thanks to the fundraising committee: Ruth Haynsworth, Alan Hurd, Kathy Lynch, Tina Langil, Holly O'Brien, Karen Rodriguez, Tito Rodriguez, Kara Serdakowski, and Cathi Sloan for their time, input and willingness to try something new. Our silent auction team, lead by Cathi Sloan, outdid themselves soliciting auction items that contributed \$5K to the fundraising total. And we cannot thank Steve McLoughlin and his awesome kitchen crew enough for the scrumptious food.

If success is measured by the positive response from attendees, then this event hit a ten! Fellowship and fun were our objectives while raising some money to support St. Luke's. To that end, our

objective was well met. We thank you for your generosity, for your support, and most of all, for being the community we are proud to call St. Luke's.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Warburton and Deb Lukens*

*Event Co-Chairs*

## **GARDENS & GROUNDS**

We typically met two times per month during the spring and early summer and once per month August and beyond with an occasional extra session when needed. Thank you to all property crew who came and helped us keep our gardens looking nice. If you love being outdoors and getting your hands dirty, come join us; we will begin meeting again in March.

Our Adopt a Garden program which started this past year has been very successful. The work done by our "adopters" has been very helpful. These include Ben Lovejoy (spiral Healing Garden), the Taylor/Sanderson Family (Labyrinth), Cynthia Newton (Cemetery Columbarium, Elizabeth McNamara (Steeple Garden),,, Bill and Fiona Clement (Peirce Street), They join Judy Ireland (Memorial Garden), Tina Langill (Courtyard Memorial Bench), Dale Marie Hoidalen (Courtyard Pool) and Mark and Susan Cordle (South Alleyway).

We created a new garden bed where we removed the large Norway Maple. Soil was brought in to create a mound with a stone border raised bed in the center. New perennial plants were purchased and pink astors were transplanted by dividing existing astors from the split rail fence garden.

Our inner courtyard Fish Pond was cleaned and a new pond filter was donated by Dale Marie Hoidalen and family. In addition, Dale added 18 fresh water clams to help filter the pond water. Thank you Dale Marie, John Lukens, and other volunteers for your help.

With a donation from the Wick family, we planted 2 Sky Pencil Holly's to hide the HVAC split unit next to the Columbarium. Cynthia Newton also brightened up the Columbariums by adding 2 red rose bushes. At the South Allyway, we planted 2 Schipka Laurel evergreen shrubs to hide the large exterior kitchen equipment units.

Our goals for 2026 include:

- Continuing and expanding the Adoptors program.
- Plant a climbing rose garden along the south facing wall of the cemetery.



- Plant a low maintenance garden along the west alley that blends with the split rail garden. (on hold pending the EG City planning committee designing street and parking lot improvements.)
- Continue to maintain existing gardens.

Contact: Mark Cordle - [cordlemark@yahoo.com](mailto:cordlemark@yahoo.com)

Jack Newton - [jncn10954@verizon.net](mailto:jncn10954@verizon.net)

Judy Ireland - [jireladla@gmail.com](mailto:jireladla@gmail.com)

## Columbarium

Since ancient times, Christians have considered it appropriate to be buried in the consecrated grounds of the Church. Thus, for those members of St. Luke's who wish to have their ashes interred at the Church, there are niches available in our historic cemetery. As an alternative choice, there is space in the Memorial Garden for interment of ashes inground.

During 2025 there was one interment of ashes in niches in the cemetery and one Interment of ashes inground in the Memorial Garden.

For further information please contact Fr John, Bethany, our parish administrator, or Jack Newton (338-1064)

## HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

*"At it's best, a church coffee hour is a venue for the Holy Spirit to work."*

2025 brought about many changes to St. Luke's, including having to say goodbye to Father Jarrett. He led us through our transition period until we welcomed Father John and his family, with open arms and grateful hearts. We continued to have our faithful group of hosts and were delighted to have a good number of new volunteers.

The ministry is such a joy and so easy to do! Bake or buy some goodies, set up and greet the parishioners as they leave the service. It doesn't need to be fancy. Coffee will be ready so the host simply brings the snacks, coffee creamer, juice or iced tea to the designated table. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Hospitality is as much of a gift for us as the intended recipient! Romans 12:13 tells us "Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." This action has nothing to do with how we entertain, but instead how we welcome. Please consider joining our group of Welcomers!

Faithfully submitted,

Marcia Gladue

## **INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

In March of 2023 St. Luke's rector and senior warden at the time invited Bill Clement, Tom Dresselhouse and Mike Grady to establish a new committee to monitor and report regularly to the Finance Committee and Vestry on the state of St. Luke's investments in the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT) and any on-boarding of property or funds that are exceptions to our normal donations and revenue streams. Every quarter since that time we have reported on the overall performance of the DIT and changes in value of St. Luke's holdings in the trust. What follows is a summary of our committee the work for the 2025 calendar year.

Reporting: Upon submission of a fourth quarter report (for period ending December 31, 2025), our committee will have completed four quarterly reports to the finance committee and vestry in 2025. To support our reporting, we have developed an Excel database which we update upon receipt of DIT reports from the diocese. In 2025, the committee adjusted our reporting calendar to align with the parish's fiscal calendar (Jan-Dec). Previously, there had been a one-month difference in calendars. Finally, in mid-2025 we changed the name of our group from the Endowment Advisory to the Investment Advisory Committee and communicated our rationale to the Finance Committee and Vestry which they approved.

Communications: In addition to our regular reporting responsibilities, we maintain an open channel of communications with the Diocese. This year we met over zoom with CFO Ed Biddle to discuss the DIT's transition to new sub-accounting vendor, among other topics. Also related to our communications duties, we assist in the onboarding of any major gifts to the parish. A 2025 case in

point was the gift of Dick Kelly, a former parishioner, to establish a donor designated fund (the Pamela Kelly Memorial Fund) to honor of his late wife. This fund provides designated support for the salary and benefits of a new clergy associate for St. Luke's. Also included is the sale of the Goddard window that is included in the financial report as the 'Goddard Family Memorial Fund'.

Research and Planning: The IAC has been at the center of an important research and planning activity in 2025. We participated in two joint meetings with the Finance Committee to develop an optimal investment management strategy for the \$3.85 million proceeds from the sale of the Tiffany stained glass window. At the finance committee's request, we created an ad hoc working group with three other parishioners with professional investment experience. Our working group met via zoom, first with the Diocese's chief financial officer and then separately with four peer parishes. These consultations were meant to inform St. Luke's decision-making committees whether to remain invested in the DIT or to establish a new relationship with an independent investment advisor.

In late summer the Finance Committee and Vestry accepted the following recommendations of our working group:

- Continue to invest in the DIT and add \$2,187,500 of the window proceeds in a vestry-designated account (the Goddard Family Memorial Fund)
- Reserve \$1,262,500 in "more liquid" investments (currently a high yield money market fund) to pay for ongoing capital repairs and improvements
- Set aside \$400,000 for emergency roof and boiler repairs and for payment of a replacement window

Submitted: Mike Grady on behalf of Bill Clement and Tom Dresselhouse

## **LAY WORSHIP**

St. Luke's currently has seventeen Eucharistic Ministers who assist at communion on Sundays, eight regularly available at the 8:00 AM service and nine for the 10:00 AM. We also have thirty-two Lectors, who read the lessons and lead prayers. The nine lectors at the 8:00 AM service tend to do double duty, both as EMs and readers, and we are truly grateful for their juggling skills. The 10:00 AM service is well served by twenty-three lectors, with the trick here being to ensure that everyone has a turn. After the Annual Meeting last year we retired Sign Up Genius for scheduling (since it was not a fan favorite) and returned to a manual schedule. We tap the entire group for any additional services throughout the year as well.

I continue to be amazed at how responsive and willing all of these wonderful volunteers are, including when there are last-minute holes to be filled. And each one of them performs their roles with such love. St. Luke's is incredibly fortunate to have so many parishioners offering to serve, with this ministry and all the others. With that said, we welcome anyone who might be interested in joining us in either position. Please feel free to reach out to me.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mallory Walsh*

## **LOAVES & FISHES RHODE ISLAND (LFRI)**

*"With kindness and compassion, we serve food and provide clothing to our neighbors in need,  
while honoring their dignity."*

This is the mission of LFRI.

We are now in our twelfth year of supporting this statewide mobile ministry, which is dedicated to feeding and clothing the homeless and food-insecure populations of Rhode Island. On the third Saturday of every month for the past 12 years, we have carried out our St. Luke's LFRI feeding ministry in Woonsocket.

Our monthly mission begins early each month with the distribution of a Sign Up Genius list for food and clothing needs. On the morning of the third Saturday, one of our volunteer drivers travels to Barrington to pick up the food truck—a resource we share with 12 other partner churches—and brings it to St. Luke's.

Meanwhile, at the church, a team of volunteers prepares sandwiches, cooks hot dogs and hamburgers, and assembles 120 food bags containing sandwiches, snacks, and drinks. We set aside 20 of these bags specifically for our neighbors at the Greenwich Hotel on Main Street. We also organize donations of essential clothing, including socks, underwear, sweatshirts, and coats. Once preparations are complete, we drive to a parking lot next to a train trestle in Woonsocket, where the local community often congregates. Our caravan, consisting of the food truck and three to six cars, is typically greeted by 60 to 100 men, women, and children. We distribute food and drinks from the truck while providing clothing from our vehicles. The gratitude shown for basic

essentials—especially socks, underwear, and jackets—is profound. Our supplies are usually completely depleted within an hour.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, one of our sister churches noticed that many families in East Providence lacked sufficient food on weekends when children were not receiving free school meals. They launched an “Adopt a School” program, delivering bags containing five meals for a family of four. Inspired by this success, we reached out to East Greenwich School Department social workers in 2022 to identify local needs. This led to the creation of our “Food for Backpacks” program. Each September, 15 to 20 food-insecure families in East Greenwich are identified by social workers. With support from Feed Rhode Island and our dedicated St. Luke’s volunteers, we provided weekend meal bags for up to 20 families every month throughout the 2025 school year.

We love that we are now working not only with those in need in Woonsocket, but also right here in our local community. Through monthly food donations to the Greenwich Hotel and our partnership with EG School social workers, we are supporting food-insecure families more than ever before.

At St Luke’s, our Loaves and Fishes ministry is part of a statewide organization, LFRI, which is comprised of 12 partner churches who share resources, including the food truck. St. Luke’s Dana Sparhawk is the current president of the LFRI Board of Directors. Last year LFRI conducted over 100 “runs” on Saturdays and Sundays with the food truck to Woonsocket and Kennedy Plaza in Providence. In addition, we delivered over 400 bags of food to schools throughout Rhode Island for needy school children, and delivered food to soup kitchens and homeless shelters throughout Rhode Island. The LFRI organization has been recognized for its tremendous efforts, and last year we received grants from The Rhode Island Foundation and Episcopal Charities. We also received donations from churches, corporations, and various private individuals.

Our St. Luke’s steering committee meets monthly to manage logistics and address the challenges of our mission. Currently, our greatest obstacles are a shortage of volunteers and a need for clothing donations.

If you are interested in participating, we would love to hear from you! We will continue to post updates and needs in the parish bulletin and via Sign Up Genius. It is only through the faithfulness and overwhelming support of the St. Luke’s community that Loaves and Fishes and Food for Backpacks continue to thrive.

Faithfully submitted,

*Dana and Caroline Sparhawk*

# LUNCH ON THE HILL

(St. Luke's and the East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard (EGIFC))

*Matthew 25:35 I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger, and you welcomed me...*

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays every month, Saint Luke's and Our Lady of Mercy/Wild Harvest collaborate to serve a midday meal for our community. The Interfaith Food Cupboard and Olive Garden contribute food to supplement our meal with hearty soups and food. It is a real pleasure to prepare and serve meals to our community in Saint Luke's Community Kitchen. We also continue to provide lunch to our neighbors at the East Greenwich Hotel on a regular basis.

Over the year, our lunch guests have grown into a warm and welcoming community of support during tough times and celebration of good times. The "Community/Family" we provide is possible because of all the wonderful people who volunteer and support this outreach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you along with the restaurants and organizations that volunteer their time and services to make these delicious lunches available.

If you happen to be in the area of one of our sponsor restaurants, please take the time to support them with your business.



**New volunteers are always welcome and needed.**

**Each week, six to eight volunteers are needed (9:30 AM – 12:30 PM) for setup, serving, cleanup, and greeting our guests.**

**Volunteers are also needed to bake desserts (Cupcakes, Brownies, etc.).**

Feel free to call Steve McLoughlin at 225-5540 if you have any suggestions/questions or would like additional information on how you can help.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

*Steve McLoughlin*



## MUSIC

2025 was a vibrant musical year at St. Luke's. Through congregational singing, choral music, vocal groups and soloists, organ, piano, guitar, bassoon, violin, rhythm instruments, harp, trumpet and timpani, music has been a vital part of the St. Luke's community as we worship God together and seek the grace and inspiration to be agents of transformation in the world.

During the course of the past year, our singing choirs – *Angel Choir* (Pre K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade), *St. Cecilia Choir* (3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades), and *Canterbury Choir* (Adult) – wonderfully fulfilled their primary responsibility of providing and leading music at our Sunday morning 10AM celebrations of the Eucharist. I cannot imagine our worship without these fine groups. Please give this prayerful consideration if you and/or your children can offer your musical gifts.

And now for a second program year under the initiative and direction of Jeremy Langill, the Handbell Choir has brought joy to our Christmas and End-of-Year concerts. It is wonderful to see this ensemble flourish with Jeremy's expert leadership.

We also had several special musical occasions during 2025.

The year began on Sunday, January 5 with our treasured Epiphany Pageant. Thank you to our St. Cecilia alum Lily Messier for directing.

Saturday, February 1, the St. Cecilia Choir joined with the choristers of Grace Church, Providence, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield, CT, for a demanding yet incredibly rewarding choir festival held at Grace Church and led by Dr. Barry Rose from England. Conductor, composer, organist, cathedral musician, BBC producer, amongst other things, Dr. Rose is one of the leading choir trainers of our time. It was a privilege to sing for him, and the choristers triumphed. We are thrilled in 2026 to be coming together again with Dr. Rose and everyone for another chorister festival on Saturday, January 31. This year we have been invited to hold the festival at St. Thomas Church in New York City, a church known worldwide for music. The renowned St. Thomas Choir of Men and Boys will join us for this grand occasion culminating in an Evensong at 3pm.

Sunday, March 30, the Canterbury and St. Cecilia Choirs offered a moving mid-Lent Choral Evensong at St. Luke's. And mid-April brought a powerful series of Holy Week services – Palm

Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Taizé Service, Easter Vigil – culminating in a glorious Easter Sunday celebration on April 20. On June 1, the Handbell, Angel, St. Cecilia, and Canterbury choirs and the Amigos performed a spectacular “end of program year” concert. A special treat on the concert was the beautiful playing of parishioner, Angel Choir dad, and professional violinist John Biatowas.

Sunday, November 2, the Canterbury and St. Cecilia Choirs combined with the Choirs of Grace Church, Providence, to offer a stunning Evensong. Nine days later Tuesday evening, November 11, St. Cecilia and Canterbury Choirs were thrilled to sing for the Institution and Induction service of St. Luke’s new rector, the Rev. John M. Fountain. A joyful occasion indeed!

Saturday, December 6 found Canterbury and St. Cecilia singing for the festive East Greenwich tree lighting celebration. Then on December 21, the all the St. Luke’s choirs and the Amigos joined together at St. Luke’s to present a joyous Christmas concert. A special treat was the virtuosic bassoon solo played by Pastor Jonathan Malone. The church was full as we welcomed many people from the wider community, and all enjoyed a delicious holiday cookie reception following.

Three days later, the choirs sang for Christmas Eve – St. Cecilia with several alums at 3pm, and the Canterbury Choir for a special 5:45pm choral prelude with harp and 6pm Eucharist. Sunday morning, December 28, the choir sang a lovely service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

Sunday, January 4, 2026, we capped off the celebration of Jesus’ birth with our annual Epiphany Pageant. What a joy it was to present this song filled tableau that so beautifully tells the Christmas/Epiphany stories. A big thank you to Catherine Pilkington for directing the pageant this year.

Thank you to Anna Pilkington for coordinating receptions after all our Evensongs, concerts, and other special events like the Easter Vigil. And thank you to Dale Stretz for coordinating food for St. Cecilia’s Christmas party. Your incredibly generous ministry of hospitality touches and enriches the lives of so many!

Thank you to Ben Lovejoy (January-June), Judy Stenberg, Laura Sullivan, and Bruce Stevens for your phenomenal and inspired teaching in the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) program with our St. Cecilia Choir. Thanks also to Catherine Pilkington (January-June), Tori Cormier (September-current), Judith Strang-Waldau and Geo Borgia for all their tender leadership with the Angel Choir. As it is often said, “it takes a village.” The Angel and St. Cecilia Choirs are truly graced by a marvelous village!



Also, a huge thank you to Jeremy Langill, parishioner, professor, executive minister of the RI State Council of Churches, and additionally a handbell expert. We all at St. Luke's are grateful for his leadership and dedication in restarting our Handbell Choir.

Another major thank you to Ryan Scarber and Shawn Scarber. For their senior project at North Kingstown High School, they built wooden choir desks for our choir room, enough that every chorister has a place to rest her or his music during rehearsal. These desks aid choristers in good posture and help individuals manage heavy choir binders without experiencing achy arms or backs!

As I said at the beginning, it has been a vibrant year of music making. The choirs and all the individual choristers and musicians at St. Luke's are such a blessing to the parish community and to me personally. I am so thankful for their deep dedication, beautiful music, and contagious enthusiasm.

I am especially thankful to our new rector, the Rev. John M. Fountain. His presence, leadership, vision, and compassion have launched a beautiful new chapter in the life of St. Luke's. It is my joy and privilege to serve as Minister of Music in this dynamic community with Fr. John at the helm. I look forward to a hopeful, song-filled 2026 at St. Luke's.

Faithfully,  
Rodney

## **PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Care Ministry meets monthly under the guidance of The Rev. John Fountain and The Rev. Jonathan Malone. Pastor Malone (fun fact: he is a Baptist Minister) was hired during the summer of 2022 to assist with the pastoral needs of our congregation. This includes overseeing and guiding the Pastoral Care Ministry. The members of Pastoral Care are extremely grateful and blessed to have his wisdom and guidance.

Our main purpose is to minister to our parishioners who need communication, a visit, a phone call, or a greeting card. We visit the homebound and visit our members in nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted living facilities. We provide support for the individual and family members. Pastoral Care members often help with funeral collations and comfort for the families. The committee members establish personal relationships with our parishioners and their families.

During St. Luke's year of transition and search for a new permanent rector, our ministry has grown in membership to 20 members. That has allowed us to have 4 people sharing the responsibility of mailing cards each month and enough people to visit more homebound people on a regular basis. Clergy of the Office Administrator inform the committee on who needs our assistance.

Committee member Margaret Clifton oversees the prayer shawl ministry. Our shawls are blessed in church by clergy and then given to our parishioners in need. If you like to knit or crochet and are interested in making shawls for this ministry, please reach out to Margaret.

The committee members continue to sell "The Windows of St. Luke's Church." All proceeds from the sale of books go toward maintaining the beautiful stained glass windows of St. Luke's Church. Copies are available in the church office or by contacting a member of the Pastoral Care Ministry.

In a recent discussion with one of our members, she was telling me about a parishioner who was having some health issues. She called him a "pew buddy" as an explanation of how she knew about him. It reminded me that we are all pastoral caregivers to each other. Please continue to reach out to your "pew buddies," and I thank you for being part of the Pastoral Care Ministry of St. Luke's Church. Please inform Father John, Pastor Jonathan, or a committee member if you know of someone who would benefit from our ministry outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy L. Fleming

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

It was yet another busy year for our Property team. We started with a cold sanctuary as our boiler room lost a pump that was easily replaced for free due to the wise decision to retain a backup pump by our former property captain, the late, beloved Dave Savage. Still, more work was on deck to maintain comfortable temps in the church. Thanks to Tom Dresselhouse for his expertise and steadfast attention to the much-needed replacement of all remaining heating pumps, expansion tank, air separator, and peripherals, fully upgrading our heating system. Similar attention was then directed to air conditioning the parish office spaces, which like the heating system was rated 'poor' in our 2024 campus inspection report. Tom sorted through the replacement of compressors, air handlers, line-sets, and carpentry work to cover the components. As a result, Fr. John arrived to a cool space in September!

Winter also found Bill Warburton working with our restoration contractor, PRIME LLC, to navigate the state process for an asbestos remediation plan in the undercroft of the church. PRIME completed the 3-day project of asbestos abatement and also conducted additional testing to assess the mold issues in our chapel (hopefully to be addressed in the coming year).

Meanwhile, John Lukens headed the effort to secure and monitor replacement of the lower north slate roof. Upon removal of slate on the main roof area, a wooden roof and built-in gutters were discovered raising both an additional cost and an opportunity to return to the original gutter arrangement. At this point we are three-quarters of the way into this project, with the main roof complete, gutters restored, and completion of the remaining roof spaces expected by the end of January.

After exploring several options for addressing water mitigation in the basement, DryZone was selected to install the mitigation system. This was truly a team effort to meet with vendors, observe the 4-day installation in July, and follow up on subsequent ‘flood tests’ to assure the system keeps the area dry. In doing so, the team discovered some electrical support issues. Within a day, Bob Sloan brought in Airhart Electric who had completed the other electrical upgrades noted in our campus inspection report. Finally, late in the fall, a new area of leakage was discovered that requires extension of the system into the boiler room (to be completed in 2026). Nonetheless, we are truly enjoying our dry, musty-odor-free space!

Summer 2025 found members of our team partnering with TOT to spruce up Room 2 and the Rector’s office. Tom Dresselhouse, Doug MacPherson, John Lukens, Steve Nichols, Brent Bostick, Tito Rodriguez, Mike Cerullo withstood the heat moving furniture, protecting floors/furniture, scraping, patching, sanding, priming/painting, and then, making the rooms finally presentable. While sweaty and tiring, there was a great deal of laughter and fellowship going on in the process. Look for a repeat in 2026 as Property tackles the parish office!

After repeated repairs and emergency calls for the Dining Room lift, the team focused on a service that would regularly maintain and service the dining room lift. Bob Sloan identified Elevator Service Company (ESCO), who conducted an evaluation of the lift, then assisted us in submitting the state application for the license to operate the lift—the lift was closed in the meantime. ESCO conducted the inspection required for the license and Bob completed the submission to RI Department of Employee Safety to secure our license -- good for 2years! By December, ESCO completed a major repair replacing all relays and contacts in the lift, declaring our lift ready to go!

Another issue noted in our campus inspection was the deterioration of several of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway windows. Steve Nichols took up the charge to compare vendors, recommending Window

Source for the job. Steve was there over the 2-day process as Window Source replaced 6 of the 13 windows. While there, they agreed to take care of a row of loose roof shingles at the south end of the building. Nice!

John Lukens took on monitoring rentals over the summer as we transitioned the Parish Admin position. He and a small committee of Steve McLoughlin, Margaret Clifton, and Deb Lukens updated the one-time rental agreements, noting in particular the parameters for access, responsibility for the property, and kitchen use. Overseeing rentals has been key in gaining understanding of security, maintenance, and scheduling concerns.

Those of us with hearing issues will be glad to know that Tom Dresselhouse and Jeff Levesque, an AV professional and St. Luke's parishioner, recently replaced our outdated Hearing Loop. They chose a system based on a new technology, Auracast (an ultra-low energy Bluetooth), which is what is being built into newer phones, headphones, and hearing aids. The new system requires users to pick up a receiver (about the size of a deck of playing cards) and a light-weight headset. They are working with the ushers on how to distribute the equipment efficiently and ensure cleaning after each use.

We have a key problem at St. Luke's, which initiated two lines of property activity. First, repairs to the south external door and two internal doors assured that keys actually could lock the doors and door mechanisms worked effectively. However, in the interest of dealing with the ever-challenging key distribution situation and security, property began to look into key card/fob access and security cameras. Deborah Collins and Tom Dresselhouse have researched vendors, interviewed the first vendor, and will start site visits to observe relevant systems. More to come in 2026.

Every week, Doug MacPherson and Steve Nichols are on the property taking on a myriad of repairs, monitoring projects underway, and initiating projects to upgrade and improve our property. Doug, for example, arranged a RISE energy audit, which resulted in new weather stripping for all external doors. Steve installed a new floor in the sexton closet, repaired the heaving floor at the chapel entrance, installed the blinds, and repaired the changing cabinet in the nursery. There truly is not enough space to outline all these guys do. If something new is installed or a repair is made – thank Steve and Doug!

Bill Warburton and Deborah Collins have been tracking the steeple project since its inception in 2023. Yes, the steeple project has taken some time, albeit necessary time to come up with the right team and approach. A design report offering three options is complete, absent a final estimate on steel. Cornelis de Boer is the architect for the design study and is working with Joe Lombardi of Lombardi Construction Company to spec out the masonry, roofing, painting, and structural supports. At this point, the steel fabrication subcontractor is the hold up, but new vendors are actively being approached. Once the steel estimate is confirmed, the report will be finalized. Results

of the design study will be shared with the parish once reviewed by the finance committee and the vestry.

The Property Team coordinates with Mark Cordle of the Grounds Committee to assure a full campus perspective in addressing our inspection report and all things property related. Mark has been a valuable addition to the team and the collaboration with grounds will continue to inform our work both inside and outside of the building.

Many thanks to the parishioners who join us in completing projects, identifying concerns, and caring for St. Luke's. We have a beautiful campus and it absolutely takes a village, a faithful community, to keep it beautiful and ready for all the many ministries this parish offers!

Property team members include: Doug MacPherson, Steve Nichols, Tom Dresselhouse, Bill Warburton, John Lukens, Bob Sloan, Mark Cordle, and Deborah Collins. Please feel free to speak to them about ongoing projects or other property concerns.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

At St. Luke's, parishioner pledges account for nearly 75 percent of the total operating budget. Given the vital role of this form of giving, parish leaders devote a significant level of energy and time to the success of the stewardship campaign. This year's effort kicked off in August 2025 and will run through January 2026. As in recent years, the campaign consisted of three phases of activity -- planning and design, communications and parishioner outreach.

Campaign Messaging and Design: This year's campaign team included 14 parishioners, seven of whom were first-time members: Anna Pilkington, Jeff Levesque, Rob and John Walsh, Mike Anderson, Shareen Knowlton, Steve McLaughlin, Jennifer Rannenberg, Jill Ireland, Deborah Collins, Fr. John, Dale and Christoph Stretz and Mike Grady. The team met on two occasions over the summer. The purpose of the first meeting in late August was to orient our new members, provide a timeline and overview to the full team and brainstorm a unique message for this year's effort. In mid-September, we reconvened for Rob and John Walsh to present a draft messaging strategy based on the rich output of the first session. Their presentation included a messaging PowerPoint, campaign video and banners that would be hung in church on Stewardship Launch Sunday, October 12. The core message -- *Discover St. Luke's Anew*, resonated particularly well in

light of the successful conclusion of our rector search and a subsequent rise in energy and enthusiasm.

Communications: Starting in mid-October the campaign employed various communications strategies to boost the *Discover* theme. First, Fr. John devoted several sermons over the fall on the spiritual aspects of stewardship and the Episcopal tradition of pledging. Second, the banners that hung in church included a QR code which took the reader to a relevant passage of scripture (this refreshed weekly). Third, we added an education component to this year's Stewardship Brunch. The rector, senior warden, treasurer and campaign chair presented to the congregation the 2026 budget, the rationale for the stewardship goal (a 10% increase over 2025) and the purpose of the parish investment fund as a source of long-term financial security. Finally, on December 8 the campaign chair reported at both 8 and 10am services on the impressive progress of the campaign.

Outreach: As we've done in the past, this year's campaign used a cohort approach for coordinating parishioner outreach. The campaign team joined with the vestry to divide the 375 active parishioners into 23 cohorts of 15 or so parishioners each. Leaders contacted their respective cohorts three times:

1. An introductory letter (USPS) providing an overview of the campaign, our goal and an invitation to pledge
2. About a month later a follow-up email or phone call to any cohort members who had not yet pledged
3. (Later this month) A thank you note (USPS) in late January to all members of the cohort who made a pledge

As of January 12, parishioners have pledged \$614,151, a response that brings us to within \$8,000 of our overall campaign goal. Of the 200 parishioners who have pledged thus far, 50% elected to increase their pledge from last year. Moreover, the average pledge for 2026 was \$3,049, a 15% increase over last year's response. By all measures the 2025-26 stewardship campaign has been a resounding success.

This robust response now allows the vestry to approve a balanced budget for 2026 that promises to strengthen St. Luke's ministries, programs and operations. Achieving a balanced budget prevents us from withdrawing from our parish investment fund, preserving its primary purpose of providing long-term financial security for St. Luke's. This is all made possible through the extraordinary generosity and commitment of the St. Luke's parish community.

## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap (TOT) is a casual group of St. Luke's men who meet monthly for occasional service projects, some guided discussions, good conversation and building Christian fellowship. Everyone is welcome, and we all leave feeling enriched. In 2025, we were fortunate to welcome several new (and returning) guys, and the diverse experiences and opinions have fostered some fascinating discussions. We've discussed a variety of topics where we've been able to explore men's spirituality in a friendly, welcoming setting, but truthfully, the most interesting meetings have been those without an agenda.



We kicked off the year with a caravan up to Schneider Arena to enjoy the camaraderie of a PC vs BC Hockey game, thanks to Bill Warburton.

2025 was a year where we examined the intersection between our TOT agenda and other St. Luke's ministries, including DOTCUS (Cathi Sloan) and the Manaleni Achievement Centre (Deb Dio Guardi), which lead to TOT hosting a much-appreciated luncheon for the staff at DORCUS in October.

We also tackled some uncomfortable issues including, the rise of Christian Nationalism, thanks to Mike Curello and Tito Rodriguez. Greg De Groot screened the Traces of the Trade documentary and lead a congregation-wide discussion

exploring the often-forgotten slave trading legacy of Rhode Island.

Many TOT members played important leadership roles and worked for St. Luke's food ministries, including Christ Community Kitchen (CCK), Mobile Loaves & Fishes and Lunch on the Hill, where we seek to



reduce food insecurity, thanks to Steve McLoughlin, Dana Sparhawk and Rob Walsh. We also established a relationship with ECHO

Village in Providence, a community of 45 single-occupancy units, which was established to provide standalone transitional housing for the homeless.





We finished the year continuing a long-standing tradition of TOT Christmas, gathering at the De Groot's home. Our holiday meeting with record turnout included an intimate Service and Eucharist led by Father John Fountain and Rev. Jonathan Malone, followed by an evening of Christmas fellowship and cheer.

While we welcomed many new members this year, we also mourned the loss of our longtime brother, Dave Savage. Dave will be missed.



Anyone who is interested in learning more or joining us, feel free to contact Brent Bostick at 908-230 7569 or email [brentbostick1@gmail.com](mailto:brentbostick1@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

*Brent Bostick*

## USHER MINISTRY

*Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible... It is good work you are doing, helping these travelers on their way, hospitality worthy of God himself! (3 John, vs 5-6)*

The Usher Ministry is dedicated to creating a welcoming, reverent, and safe environment for worship. This ministry is served by 40 fellow parishioner ( men, women, and families) who served regularly at scheduled, holiday and special services.

**Ushers are needed for both the 8:00 and 10:00 services.**

**Additional information on requirements is provided below.**



Please reach out to Steve McLoughlin or any of the ushers if you would like to know more or would like to be an usher.

401 225 5540 /smcloughlin2@aol.com

I would like to take this opportunity to extend thanks to the ushers, office staff, and clergy for their dedication and support to this ministry.

Respectfully submitted  
Steve McLoughlin (Head Usher)



### **Our Mission**

The usher ministry offers the hospitality of Christ to people who come to worship, to collect and secure the gifts of the people, and to assure the order, comfort, and safety of the congregation, making St Luke's an inviting place to worship.

### **Talent**

- Must like meeting and greeting people.
- Friendly while dignified and appreciative of the setting.
- Attentiveness to needs and poise in the unexpected.

### **Time Involved**

- Ushers are scheduled to every 4- 6 weeks.
- Ushers may specify a preference for services.
- Arrive 30 minutes before service.



### **Who are the Ushers?**

- Individuals Men, Women, Young Adults
- Couples
- Families
- Youth
- You



## **WELCOME TEAM**

*(Formerly Newcomers)*

Like St. Luke's, the Newcomers Team has been undergoing a bit of transition this year. We've had several meetings, informal gatherings, and discussions about the role of this team. Those conversations have led to a vision of *Welcome*; a team which helps invite, welcome, and connect new members into the St. Luke's community through intentional action. For example, events like the EG Strolls would be opportunities where we can intentionally invite people into St. Luke's. Having friendly greeters at our doors at the beginning and end of Sunday services would be an intentional welcome action. Responding to welcome cards, extending invitations for coffee, or to dinners or social mixers would be intentional connection activities. In our conversations, we've heard lots of excellent ideas; these just begin to scratch the surface of what is possible.

To successfully accomplish this, we have begun to gather an enthusiastic group of people who are willing to help out in at least one of these areas:

### **Invite:**

- This involves representing St. Luke's in the community through events like the Main Street Strolls, pride parade, parking lot ministry on Election Day, Halloween, Tree Lighting. In 2025, St. Luke's, along with *The Amigos*, was involved in each of the Main Street Strolls. We also had a presence at the Pride Parade, handed out candy on Halloween, and the choir sang at the East Greenwich Tree Lighting.

### **Welcome:**

- We've begun to reintroduce greeters on Sunday mornings, especially in the Sunday School hallway and at front doors.

- St. Luke's has several 'organic' welcomers who are intentional in looking out for new faces during the passing of the peace as well as before or after services!
- We're looking for people who can be near the reception line after church and can help clergy connect visitors to friendly faces ("great of you to come, have you met Joe?" and then Joe walks with them to the atrium for coffee).
- We'd like to create a "Welcome" space in the atrium, a one-stop shop for all of the "What I Need to Know About St. Luke's" information.

### **Connect:**

- Between March and October of 2025, St. Luke's received Welcome Cards from families representing 87 adults and 36 children. Those welcome cards are shared with St. Luke's clergy and staff, and the Welcome Team sends a follow-up note as well.
- In 2025, we hosted an informal mixer where new-to-St. Luke's people were able to meet Fr. John, Vestry, and ministry leaders, and also get to know each other. This was attended by 17 New-to-St. Lukes individuals.
- Schedule coffee meet-ups, play dates
- Ministry Fair (table hosts)

St. Luke's is a warm and welcoming community! We are so blessed that God continues to strengthen our community through the new faces who come through our doors. Thank you all for all that you are already doing to Invite, Welcome, and Connect! Please let us know if you can help in one of the areas listed above.

With much gratitude,

*Deb Dioguardi & Jan Burch*

# WOMEN OF GRACE

It is my honor to continue to lead a beautiful group of women, St. Luke's Women of Grace. In 2025 WofG developed a mission statement that truly reflects who we are. That statement reads: "Women of Grace is a community of Christian women who gather to share the Love of Christ through spiritually based fellowship, worship, education, and outreach." This mission statement is what guides our planning and programming. Special thanks for the programming committee: Dale Stretz, Donna DuFault, Jan Burch, Judith Strang-Waldau, Judy Ireland, Kelly Fountain, Laura Sullivan, Lois McLoughlin, and Ruth Haynsworth.

- January 6th. *When God Winks* by Squire Rushnell. A fascinating discussion about coincidence versus God-driven events in our life.
- February 3rd. *What to do When I'm Gone* was a parish-attended event which shed light on the impact of those we leave behind when God calls us home.
- March 3rd. *Celtic Service*, a quiet time of prayer and reflection.
- April 7th. "*American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson*" was an educational program illuminating the origins of our modern concept of religious freedom, equal rights, and free speech.
- May 3rd. *Christian Mindfulness* retreat on the Brown Campus facilitated by Dr. Lia Antico.
- June 9th. Annual potluck social and year-end wrap-up.
- October 6th. *Kindness, Health, and Longevity* presented by Francesca Dolan.
- November 3rd. *The Spirited Child* by Lisa Miller.
- December 1st. "*Be Still, God's Got This.*" Presentation by Fr. John.
- December 10th Annual Holiday luncheon

All women are invited to join Women of Grace. We meet on the 1st Monday of the month in St. Luke's dining room at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Deb Lukens*



# **YOUTH FAITH FORMATION**

## **Spring 2025 – Sunday Programming**

During the spring of 2025, we continued our commitment to providing engaging, meaningful faith formation opportunities for children and youth of all ages.

### ***Godly Play (Grades PK–3)***

The Godly Play program continued to offer children a Montessori-inspired approach to Christian education, emphasizing storytelling, wonder, and creative exploration. Children engaged biblical narratives and liturgical practices in ways that encouraged curiosity and reflection. This

long-standing program at St. Luke's was supported by a dedicated rotation of eight volunteer teachers: Holly O'Brien, Aileen Sprague, Kate Golbitz, Meghan Minuto, Elizabeth McGann, Katie Anderson, and Dale Stretz. Weekly attendance averaged approximately 20 children.

### ***Youth Faith Formation (Grades 4–5)***

This class was led by Amy Weigand and Glenis Downie. While small in size, the group was consistent, with weekly attendance ranging from two to five students. The class used Lesson Plans That Work, an Episcopal Church curriculum aligned with the liturgical calendar.

### ***Youth Faith Formation (Grades 6–8)***

The group used the Episcopal Curriculum for Youth from Virginia Theological Seminary, focusing on two units: Who Are the People of God? and What Am I Called to Be? Attendance remained modest, with participation often affected by students' involvement in choir and acolyte ministries. This class was taught by Amy Weigand, Stacey Nakasian, Luis Pagan, and Mary Semeraro.

## **Spring 2025 – New Programming**

In the spring, two new programs were introduced, both developed by Dale Stretz.

### ***Lamplighters (Grades PK–5)***

Lamplighters is a weekly after-school ministry held on Wednesdays for children in grades PK–5. The program provides opportunities for games, fellowship, music, and Bible exploration in a welcoming and energetic environment.

### *Storytime (Birth–Age 4)*

Storytime began as a weekday morning gathering for young children and their caregivers. Hosted in the nursery, it offered playtime, social connection, and a brief story, fostering community among families with young children.

### **Vacation Bible School – July 2025**

Vacation Bible School used Waves of Gratitude, a curriculum from United Thank Offering. Throughout the week, participants explored the connection between gratitude and water through Bible stories and children’s literature, reflecting on how gratitude can become a daily spiritual practice. Each day included storytelling, crafts, STEAM activities, ocean-themed snacks, music, games, and a gratitude practice. The program was highly successful.

A total of 39 campers participated: 11 from St. Luke’s (28%), 9 from Our Lady of Mercy (23%), and the remaining participants from St. Bernard’s, the Chinese Christian Church of Rhode Island, St. Gregory the Great, Holy Apostles Church, Christ Church of East Greenwich, or families without a church affiliation.

The program was supported by 20 volunteer teachers and counselors: Amy Weigand, Deb Dioguardi, Rodney Ayers, Elizabeth McGann, Amanda Klein Holst, Ashley Murr, Christine Cassels, Fr. Jarrett Kerbel, Julianna Pauley, Catherine Pilkington, Marisa Doonan, Joyce Ruppell, Virtue Sankoh, Stephanie Gale, Nina Rannenberg, Molly Weigand, Amelia Van Horn, Charlie Knowlton, Sloane O'Brien, and Victoria Cormier.

In addition, 13 “Lunch Grannies” provided daily meals: Marie Henedy, Judi Nichols, Dotty Fleming, Marcia Gladue, Donna Dufault, Deb Lukens, Gayle Gilbert, Helen Biancani, Nancy Rudicil, Martha Baker, Jan Prifty, Patricia Warburton, and Lois McLoughlin.

### **Summer 2025**

The summer months were dedicated to reflection, planning, and preparation for the upcoming program year.

- After consultation with key stakeholders and Fr. John, a decision was made to place Godly Play on pause in order to explore new approaches. This decision reflected volunteer feedback and observations about student engagement.
- Mini Revolutions from Illustrated Ministries was selected as a new curriculum. St. Luke’s now maintains a monthly subscription and uses this curriculum across all age groups.
- A revised class structure was implemented: Sunday School (PK–2), Youth Faith Formation 1 (Grades 3–5), and Youth Faith Formation 2 (Grades 6–8).

- Updated flyers were designed and distributed, and classroom and hallway bulletin boards were refreshed.
- The youth census was updated, confirming 100 registered children ages 3–18 as of September 2025.

## **Fall & Winter 2025 – Sunday Programming**

The fall and winter seasons were marked by significant growth, requiring ongoing adjustments to programming and space usage.

### ***Nursery (Birth–PK)***

Through the vision and hard work of Julianna Pauley, Karen Phelps, Dale Stretz, and Kelly Fountain, the nursery was refreshed with new furniture, toys, and a rug, creating a clean and welcoming environment for the youngest parishioners.

### ***Sunday School (Grades PK–1)***

Originally serving PK–2, this class was adjusted to PK–1 due to increased enrollment and space constraints. Second-grade students were moved upstairs, improving classroom management and flow. Weekly attendance consistently averaged 22 students, supported by rotating teachers Amy Weigand, Stephanie Leite, Deb Dioguardi, Julianna Pauley, Ashley Murr, Kelly Fountain, and Dale Stretz. Godly Play materials were safely stored, and Room 1 was refreshed with tables, a dress-up station, a puppet theater, and carefully selected toys.

### ***Youth Faith Formation 1 (Grades 2–3) and Youth Faith Formation 2 (Grades 4–5)***

In response to continued growth, the Youth Faith Formation program was reorganized in January to better balance class sizes and use available space effectively. The Grades 6–8 class was discontinued due to low attendance, with older youth encouraged to serve as acolytes, participate in choir, or worship with their families. Elementary classes were reorganized to foster engaging and supportive learning environments. During the fall, Amy Weigand, Stacey Nakasian, Luis Pagan, Christoph Stretz, and Katie Anderson taught Grades 6–8, while Amy Weigand, Glenis Downie, Elizabeth McGann, and Deb Dioguardi taught Grades 3–5.

## **Fall & Winter 2025 – Wednesday Programming**

During the fall, Lamplighters and Storytime were scheduled concurrently on Wednesdays, and Family Table was introduced.

### ***Lamplighters (Grades PK–5)***

Held in the auditorium following Angel Choir, Lamplighters averaged 10–12 children weekly and continued to be a vibrant and engaging ministry. Teachers are Dale Stretz, Deb Dioguardi, Elizabeth McGann, and Ashley Murr.

### ***Storytime (Birth–Age 4)***

Moving Storytime to Wednesday afternoons increased attendance to an average of two to three children per week. Teachers are Donna Dufault and Julianna Pauley.

### ***Family Table***

Family Table is a weekly intergenerational dinner held on Wednesdays at 5:30PM. The gathering offers a welcoming space for shared meals, conversation, and fellowship. Meals are family-friendly, supported by freewill donations, and prepared by rotating volunteers and various ministry teams. Average weekly attendance is approximately 30 people, primarily young families.

## **Youth Events**

### ***Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic***

The biannual mission trip was cancelled this year due to insufficient participation. This opportunity will be revisited in the future.

### ***Rite-13***

The Rite-13 Celebration marks an important milestone for youth approaching or having recently turned 13, honoring their growth and creative potential. In 2025, four teens from St. Luke's were recognized: Charlie Knowlton, Savannah Kerr, Corey Johnson, and Dustin Botarro.

### ***Confirmation***

Confirmation preparation took place from April through May, culminating in the confirmation of four youth—Stella Busch, Madison Bogdon, Charles Butterfield, and Mia Bottaro—by Father Jarrett on May 18, 2025. Judi Nichols assisted with instruction. This milestone marked each participant's public affirmation of faith and commitment to Christian life.

### ***Solemn Communion***

On June 1, 2025, six children—Aiden Grant, Connor McGuire, Amelia Butler, Nova Kruse, Jack Cerasale, and Robert Grant—celebrated Solemn Communion with the support of teacher Erica Simo. This program provides age-appropriate theology and liturgy, supporting children's spiritual growth.



### ***Fall Youth Retreat***

Held November 21–23, 2025, at the Episcopal Conference Center, the retreat was themed Rooted and Rising. Eight teens participated in crafts, hiking, games, and reflective activities. Chaperones included Julianna Pauley, Stacey Nakasian, Pastor Jonathan, and Amy Weigand, with a special visit from The Amigos.

### **Additional Worship Opportunities and Communication**

#### ***The Rhode to Emmaus***

The youth and family newsletter was emailed weekly on Fridays throughout the school year. It included announcements, calendars, prayers, and photos, helping families stay connected to programming.

#### ***Fun & Faith Fridays***

Held on the third Friday of each month, Fun & Faith Fridays offered dinner, games, and faith exploration through discussion and activities. Evenings concluded with a reflective Compline service. Beginning in February, the program will be shifted to meeting twice monthly.

#### ***Prayground***

Introduced in Fall 2024, the Prayground is a designated worship space at the front of the church for children ages five and under. It provides age-appropriate materials that encourage engagement and participation in worship.

#### ***Worship Bags***

Worship Bags were introduced in the fall and are available at the back of the church. Each bag contains quiet, engaging activities designed to help children connect with worship while supporting families' participation in the service. We thank Ruth Haynesworth for her vision in bringing them to life.

#### ***Looking Ahead***

This year reflected tremendous growth, thoughtful adaptation, and intentional planning. Efforts have focused on creating spaces where every child feels welcomed, valued, and supported. Programs are designed to be engaging and relational, fostering meaningful connections among children, youth, and leaders. As we look ahead, we remain committed to cultivating an inclusive environment where young people can explore and deepen their faith. As of January 2026, St. Luke's has 129 registered youth ages 0–18.





401-884-4116



[www.stlukeseg.org](http://www.stlukeseg.org)



99 Peirce St., East Greenwich, RI

