

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1 · SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

THE RHODE TO EMMAUS

St. Luke's Weekly Youth Faith Formation Newsletter

Welcome to The Rhode to Emmaus, a weekly newsletter dedicated to keeping you up to date on all things related to Youth Faith Formation at St. Luke's. As we embark on this journey together, we hope to foster a sense of community, connection, and spiritual growth among our youngest members and their families.

Youth Faith Formation

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 20TH!

Sunday mornings at 9:45AM, children in preschool through 5th grade gather for faith formation. Sunday School offers children a welcoming place to explore faith, ask questions, and discover how the Bible connects to their everyday lives. Our classes use Mini Revolutions, an inclusive, lectionary-based curriculum that encourages children to wonder, learn, create, and practice living out their faith in simple, meaningful ways.

We also hope Sunday School helps children build meaningful relationships with other children and adults in our church community, helping them feel known, valued, and connected.

Children return to their adults in church during The Peace so families can worship together.

✦ SUNDAY SCHOOL 1

Grades PK - 1st (Room 1, downstairs)

✦ SUNDAY SCHOOL 2

Grades 2&3 (Room 9, upstairs)

✦ SUNDAY SCHOOL 3

Grades 4&5 (Room 7, upstairs)



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
Ministry Fair after both services

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
First day of Storytime, Lamplighters,
and Family Table

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
First day of Sunday School classes
Welcome Brunch following the
10:00AM service

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 6:00PM
First Fun & Faith Fridays
Youth Group of the year!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 6:00PM
Arkfull Coffee House
Open Mic Night

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
Blessing of the Animals - no classes

NOVEMBER 15
Bishop's Visit and Confirmation

FIND YOUR PLACE FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12

While we don't have Sunday School for grades 6-12, we'd love for our older children and youth to find a way to participate in the life of our church that works for them. There are several options, and students are welcome to choose one, two, or all three!

ACOLYTES

Acolytes play an important role in our worship, helping with the beauty and flow of our liturgy. Serving also gives young people a unique behind-the-scenes perspective and a deeper connection to the life of our church. We need more acolytes! If your child is interested, please contact Christoph Stretz at cstretz85@gmail.com.

CHOIR

Singers of all ages are welcome to be part of St. Luke's active choral ministry. If your child enjoys singing or would like to try something new, contact Rodney Ayers, Minister of Music, at (401) 884-4116 ext. 107 or rodney@stlukeseg.org. We'd love to have their voice join our musical prayers and praises!

TEACHER ASSISTANTS

Our younger children and teachers in PK-5 can always use an extra set of hands! Youth can assist our adult teachers, gain leadership experience, and spend time with some of our youngest St. Luke's kids. Email Amy at amy@stlukeseg.org if your child is interested.

LAMPLIGHTER VOLUNTEERS

We're also looking for a few youth who would be willing to help with Lamplighters on Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 PM. It's a great opportunity to spend time with our elementary-age kids while gaining valuable leadership experience. As a bonus, volunteer hours with St. Luke's programs can count toward requirements for organizations such as Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society.

JOIN US MIDWEEK! PROGRAMMING BEGINS SEPTEMBER 16TH

STORYTIME - WEDNESDAYS AT 4:30PM

Storytime is designed for our youngest friends and their caregivers. Children from birth through age 4 are invited to join us each Wednesday at 4:30PM in the nursery. We'll gather for playtime, friendship, and fun, giving little ones a chance to explore and socialize while parents and caregivers connect with one another. Each week also includes a short, age-appropriate story that helps nurture imagination, faith, and joy. Whether you're a brand-new parent looking for community or a family who's been part of St. Luke's for years, Storytime is a wonderful midweek pause to laugh, learn, and grow together.

LAMPLIGHTERS - WEDNESDAYS AT 4:30PM

Lamplighters is a lively after-school ministry just for kids in grades K-5. We meet every Wednesday at 4:30PM in the auditorium for an afternoon filled with fun, fellowship, and faith. Together we play games, sing songs, and share in activities that build friendships and encourage joy. Each week, children dive into Bible stories through our Christ Light curriculum, helping them grow in their understanding of God's love and how it shines in their everyday lives. Lamplighters is a safe, welcoming space where kids can burn off energy, make new friends, and discover what it means to be a light for Christ in the world.

FAMILY TABLE - WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30PM

Family Table is a midweek ministry at St. Luke's, meeting every Wednesday at 5:30PM in the dining room. Following Storytime and Lamplighters, and inspired by the joy of our Vacation Bible School meals, Family Table is a simple, intergenerational dinner where everyone is welcome. It's a chance to pause in the middle of a busy week to share good food, laughter, and fellowship. Meals will be family-friendly, offered by freewill donation, and prepared by rotating ministry teams. Come hungry and ready to enjoy community together!

SAVE THE DATE!

FALL YOUTH RETREAT (GRADES 6-12)

We are excited to announce this year's Fall Youth Retreat, November 20-22, at the Episcopal Conference Center in Pascoag, RI! The retreat is open to all students in grades 6 through 12. We will enjoy hiking, crafts, singing, fellowship, and s'mores! Please check your email for the link to register.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

CHOIR

Young people with a passion for music and singing are invited to join our Angel or St. Cecilia Choirs. Angel Choir, for children in preschool through 2nd grade, introduces young singers to the joy of music through singing, movement, and fun. St. Cecilia Choir, for children in grades 3–12, continues a long-standing tradition of young people performing the great music of the church. St. Cecilia choristers sing most Sundays alongside the Canterbury Choir (adults) and participate in special services such as Christmas Eve, Good Friday, and Evensong. The choir also takes part in civic events and regional choir festivals, offering fun outings and musically enriching experiences.

Angel Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 4:00PM, and St. Cecilia Choir rehearses Fridays at 4:00PM. For more information, please contact the Minister of Music, Rodney Ayers, at rodney@stlukeseg.org.

CONFIRMATION - THIS FALL!

Confirmation classes are available for anyone aged 13 and up. In the Episcopal Church, Confirmation is an opportunity for someone who was baptized as a child to make an adult commitment to the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ according to the Baptismal Vows in the Book of Common Prayer. Basically, a young person or adult is asking to be recognized as a Christian and asking for the support of the community as they continue to live out their faith.

Classes will meet September 27–November 8 (no class November 1) after the 10:00AM service on Sundays in the dining room, until about 12:30PM. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated with the Bishop on November 15. More information coming soon!

INTRODUCING THE FAMILY ROOM

We are excited to offer a new space for families on Sundays when your child needs a little extra space. Located in the Blackburn Room on the first floor, across from the nursery, the room provides a comfortable place to step out of worship while still participating in the service via livestream. Families are welcome to return to the church whenever they're ready.

We hope this gives families another welcoming option when little ones need to move, play, or regroup.

ARE YOU READY??? FUN & FAITH FRIDAYS

Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 6:00-8:00PM in the Dining Room for an exciting and engaging Youth Group experience.

What to Expect:

- Dinner!
- Games & Fun: Kick off the evening with a variety of fun games and activities that encourage teamwork, creativity, and laughter.
- Faith Exploration: Dive into thought-provoking discussions and activities that explore faith and spirituality in a way that resonates with young people.
- Compline: Conclude the night with a peaceful and reflective Compline service, providing a moment of quiet contemplation and connection.

Our Friday Youth Group is a welcoming and inclusive space for young people to make friends, have fun, and deepen their understanding of faith.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, as our children begin a new school year, we pray that you will keep them in your care. Send your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good. Help them to see the gifts and talents you have given them and to use them well.

Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Help them to be kind to others and lead others to be kind to them. Amen.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Please send all questions, comments, and ideas to Amy Weigand,

Director of Youth and Family Ministries:
AMY@STLUKESEG.ORG

For Children During Worship at St. Luke's

St. Luke's loves children and wants to support families every step of the way on their faith journey and in the life of the church. In addition to the options below, children can also join the choir, acolyte, or usher.

Nursery (ages 0–3)

Nursery care is available during both the 8:00AM and 10:00AM Sunday services. The nursery is located on the first floor.

Sunday School (grades PK–5)

Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45AM. St. Luke's provides age-appropriate lessons that connect the Bible with everyday life and encourage children to practice their faith in simple, meaningful ways. PK–1 meets in Room 1, grades 2–3 meet in Room 9, and grades 4–5 meet in Room 7. Children rejoin their parents in church after the Passing of the Peace.

The Prayground (ages 0–5)

The Prayground is a designated space at the front of St. Luke's where our youngest parishioners can engage in worship using age-appropriate materials. We provide children's Bibles, books, coloring pages, blocks, baby dolls, and a wooden Eucharist play set, all stored in baskets under the benches. Children and their caregivers are encouraged to come forward, sit on the benches or the rug, and participate in a way that makes worship meaningful for them. All items should be tidied up at Communion, and families are invited to return to their pews at this time.

Family Room (for those who need a little space)

Located in the Blackburn Room on the first floor, across from the nursery, the Family Room is available for families who need to step out during worship. The livestream will be playing on the TV, so families can continue to participate while giving their child extra space to move, play, or regroup. Families are welcome to return to the church whenever they are ready.

Worship Bags (ages 5 & up)

Worship Bags are available at the back of the church and contain quiet, engaging activities to be used in the pews. Children can pick them up after class and bring them to their pew. Each item is chosen not only to occupy children but to help them connect with and participate in worship in age-appropriate ways. These bags nurture curiosity, creativity, and a sense of belonging while supporting families in fully participating in the service. Worship Bags should remain in the pews and not be taken to the Prayground. Please return the bags to the basket at the back of the church at the end of the service so they can be refreshed for the following week.