



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

monthly

A monthly newsletter for the St. Luke's Community | November 2019

From Father Tim

It's hard to believe, but I have been with you for over seven years now—ever since June of 2012. Boy, time flies when you're having fun!

We have prayed and played together, laughed and cried together, buried and baptized together. We have shared extraordinary occasions and ordinary times, and I have loved every moment of it all.

But now the time has come for me to leave--with the promise that I shall return. (I hope that promise brings you comfort, not disappointment :!) As of December 25, I will begin my sabbatical, returning April 1.

Often I have remarked, I feel privileged to be in a vocation that includes the notion of a sabbatical as part of its culture. In fairness, I think everyone could benefit from an occasional break in one's familiar work. Here in the Diocese of Rhode Island the guidelines lay out the possibility for a sabbatical after five years; but frankly, for me at that juncture, the timing wasn't right. Now, I think the time makes sense.

I will leave with a seasoned and gifted leadership team in place. Dante and Rodney will preside over liturgical matters. Gary Schweizer, soon to become our senior warden, will tend to corporate questions. Christine and Donna Jordan will continue to guide our attentive pastoral care. And Christina will manage administrative needs, as she already does so well. In addition to this amazing cast, St. Luke's is graced by the presence of two retired clergy in our ranks, the Rev'd. Pam Rannenber and the Rev'd. Pam Gregory. Both have offered their considerable talents should needs arise while I am gone. We truly are blessed by an embarrassment of riches!

I imagine many of you are wondering, "What will you do while on sabbatical?" To answer that question, let me share with you one of the really helpful constructs I learned while serving in the Diocese of New Hampshire. There, the sabbatical was termed a "refresher leave," and clergy were encouraged to plan with three similar but distinct notions in mind: "rest, renewal, and recreation." The ideal and most helpful time away was expected to include some amounts of each. During their sabbatical, clergy were no more tasked with writing the latest masterpiece commentary on the synoptic gospels than they were expected to sleep for three full months. But they were charged with returning, energies and creative spirits renewed.

With this aim in mind, my sabbatical will begin with some simple rest-- after Christmas, Diane, our kids, and I will head to California for visits with extended family. Then, come January, I am looking forward to a period of retreat and reflection. While I have not decided upon the site for this time, I know that my stay will involve a discipline of silence, worship, and reading.

Rested and renewed, in February I will do a deeper dive into one of three possible church-related themes that have been percolating from within these past several years. (I am still discerning which one makes it to the top of my list.) Although I promise no masterpiece, I do hope to come away from this exploration with some concrete work product to share with you and possibly the wider church.

Finally, in March, Diane and I have booked a trip to Portugal for what promises to be a special time of recreation.

So there you have it. I expect there will be some additions and surprises to these plans, but this is what I have thus far. And then, on April 1, I will return to work.

Let me say again, I feel so blessed and privileged to be able to take this sabbatical. Not only am I fortunate to work in a field where sabbaticals are offered, but truly I am blessed to work in a church where sabbaticals are possible. I am grateful to you all.

There is one question occasionally associated with sabbaticals that I want to make sure and address quite directly. In some churches, members fear that the priest will not return from his/her leave or will resume duties only to announce an impending departure. I assure you that will not be the case here.

I still quite love being a parish priest and my affections for you all continue to grow. For better (or worse, I suppose), I will return to you, eager to share in another full and joy-filled chapter of church. And that, my dear friends, is no April Fool's joke.

Peace,

Jim

From Father Dante

This past Sunday (November 3), was a wonderful day in the life of our parish. We had a glorious celebration of All Saints', one of the most important days in the church's calendar. The church was full, the choir sounded amazing as always, and we baptized two beautiful babies. After the service we had a fabulous brunch welcoming our newcomers and visitors. The dining room was full for that time of friendship and fellowship where food and laughter were shared. I do not know about you but I left St. Luke's that afternoon profoundly grateful for our life together and the way we mark those important moments in life.

In a few weeks, we will have another opportunity to gather to celebrate more important moments in life. On Sunday November 24, we will have our annual Rite 13 ceremony. For those of you who do not know what the Rite 13 ceremony is, it is an important rite of passage for the teenagers of our parish.

The Rite 13 ceremony is taken from a curriculum by the same time. The curriculum is the first step in a wider program called Journey to Adulthood, or J2A for short. As the name of the curriculum suggests, it is designed to help young people as they young from childhood to adulthood. Rite 13, the stage for the youngest teenagers, is the first step on this road to independence. While we no longer use the Rite 13, or J2A, curriculum, we have decided to retain this rite of passage in our youth faith formation program.

This ceremony is the way we liturgically mark the beginning of the transition from childhood to young adulthood. The candidates for this ceremony are 13 years old, or will turn 13 during this school year. As they enter their teenage years, that begin to separate themselves from their families and build new communities with their peers. So during this ceremony they will move from sitting with their families to sitting with the other youth and young adults of the parish. As they begin this new phase of life, they will make promises to themselves, to their parents, and to St. Luke's community as who they will endeavor to live their teenage years.

If you have a child who has recently turned 13 or will turn 13 during this school year, please know they are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this ceremony. There is some preparation work to be done for the Rite 13 Ceremony so if you would like your child included please contact me (dante@stlukeseg.org) as soon as possible.

If you have a child participating in this rite of passage or not, I hope you will make the extra effort to join us during the 10:15 service on Sunday November 24 to witness this transition and to support these young people on their journey of faith.

Blessings,
Fr. Dante
Associate Rector

The Choirs Of St. Luke's

A special Evensong for our supporters



***The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely
And the Board of Episcopal Charities***

Invite you to a

Thanks Giving Choral Evensong

Saturday, November 23, 2019

4 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

99 Peirce Street

East Greenwich, RI

The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, officiant

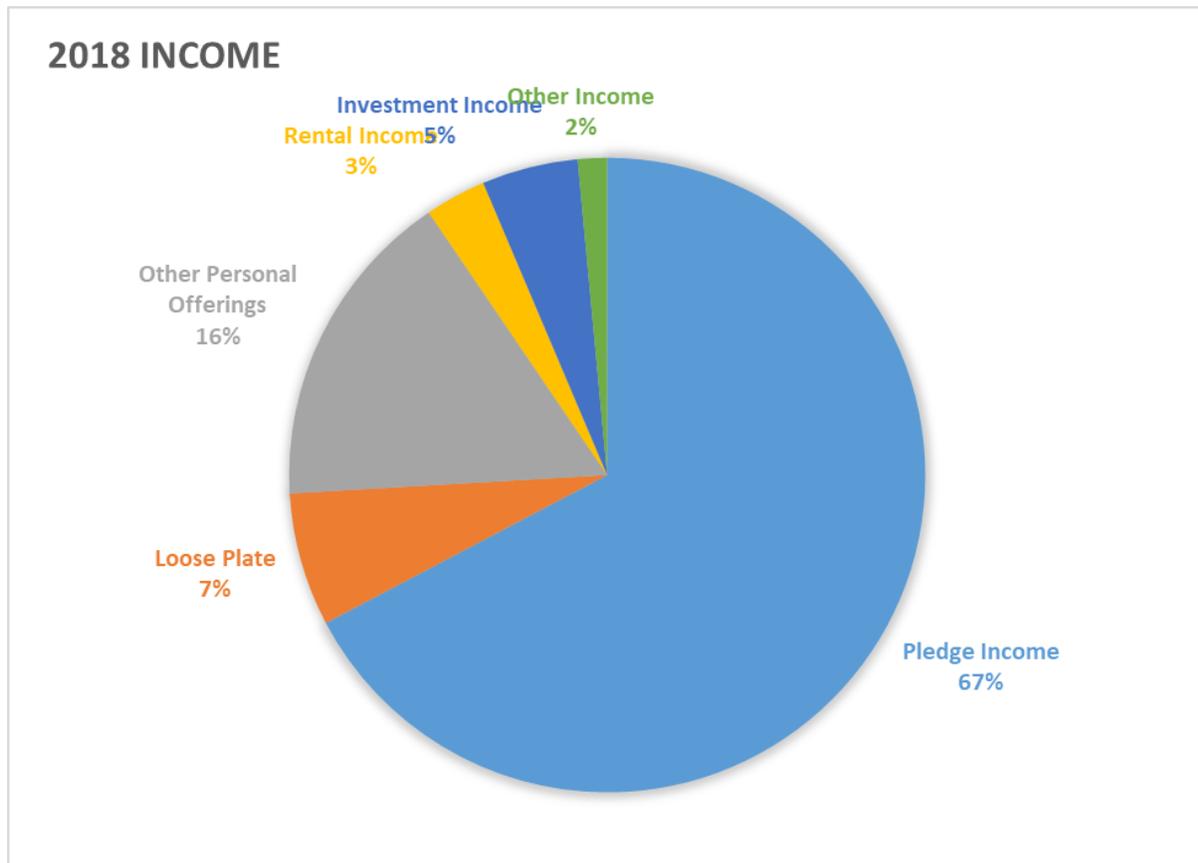
St. Luke's Church Choirs

Reception follows the Service

You are welcome to bring family, friends and parishioners.

From the Treasurer

Did you know that 90% of St. Luke's operating income is derived from the personal giving of its loyal parishioners?



Did you know that you can set up online donations that are paid directly into the parish's checking account? This automated process also feeds the parish database to update your year to date giving.

Did you know that if you are over 70 ½ and need to make a required minimum distribution from your IRA that you can make your Church pledge directly from your IRA as a Qualified Charitable Donation? When you do this, the distribution does not have to be reported on your taxable income.

Vestry Corner

Vestry Welcomes Newcomers & Visitors!

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

The glory of God is truly witnessed through the newcomers and visitors who choose to become part of the St. Luke’s community. On Sunday, November 3, vestry, staff and programs leaders joined the Newcomer Team to host our **Welcome to St. Luke’s Brunch**. Not only were all well fed, we were reminded about how and why people come together at St. Luke’s. Connections by way of geography, children, family and friends, faith journeys and personal experiences were discovered and shared. A resounding theme was the search for a spiritual home that allowed room to question, to learn, and to be who you are while making this journey. Again and again, we are all reminded that this community in Christ is what we strive for and that our parish is changed, indeed enriched, by each new soul we welcome.

So, we are deeply grateful for the many new families who have chosen to make their spiritual home with us. Over 30 newcomers and visitors attended the brunch, enjoying a variety of casseroles, salads, breads, fruit and other delicious delights prepared by the Newcomer Team and vestry. Children happily played together while adults talked and visited across the room. Vestry member Beth Vollucci shared welcome bags of St. Luke’s ‘swag’ -- magnets, notecards and the book *A People Called Episcopalians*. The fellowship was lively and we even celebrated a few birthdays!

A special note of thanks is owed to members of the Newcomer Team for their generous hospitality: Sharon Pickering, Sarah Muoio, Ali Poirier, Bill & Patricia Warburton, Laura Sullivan, Nora Hall, Pam Kelly and Fr. Dante Tavolaro. Their work is amply supported by our clergy, vestry, staff and program leaders, who are incredible stewards of Newcomer Team activities. Most important, however, are the open hearts of you, the St. Luke’s community, who continue to make this a place “where all are welcome at the Lord’s table”.

Pictures of some of our newcomers and visitors below will help you put names to the many new faces at St. Luke’s ...



Susan & Andre Cabana



Luis Pagan, Luis Jr. & Leila



Amy Russo & Kaleb



Mark & Susan Cordle



Eddy Lopez & Paula Faria



Eleanor Stump



Matthew Strickland & Eureka Zhao



Janet Butler and Beth DiPanni



Mike & Susan Cerullo



Sally Ann Lund



Colleen Riley & Elizabeth Loudermilk



Ed & Rose Craig



Greg & Meredith Clesas, Alex & Maya



Stewardship Campaign

I wandered around the new St. Luke's web site after Father Tim mentioned it during the Oct 20th 10:15 service. Although I was curious to see its new design, I was looking for the page on our church history (<https://stlukeseg.org/history-2>) as a foundation for this article. St. Luke's was incorporated in 1834 and by 1838, the parish had built a wooden structure on its current location and had 42 members.

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign is focusing on stewardship as part of our faith journey. Reading our church's history reminds us that we are not walking alone. We are walking with eight generations of Christians in this community who found a home and worshiped together at St. Luke's. All were rewarded with God's unconditional love and the support of a community focused on following in his footsteps.

Each generation took the yoke of responsibility from the generation before and carried it for their time. They supported the church with the resources God gave them and supported each other with their time and relationships.

Now it's our turn.

The 2020 pledge cards will arrive in your mailbox and around church soon. The campaign will culminate with Celebration Sunday on November 17th. I ask you to think deeply about the relationship between faith and stewardship and commit to a pledge appropriate for you and what you feel is a reasonable step forward along your stewardship journey.

Yours in Christ, David Sampson

St. Luke's Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation Fall Book Study

Join the adult faith formation team for a fall book study using Amy-Jill Levine's Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi. We will gather at 9am in the Dining Room to explore some of the parables cover in Levine's book. The reading schedule for this class is: November 10 - Chapter 6, November 17 - Chapter 7, and November 24 - Chapter 8.

Youth Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation Weekly Email

We have recently updated our Youth Faith Formation contact list. If you would like to receive our weekly youth faith formation email updates and do not receive one, please send an email to Fr. Dante (dante@stlukeseg.org) and he will add your information to our contact list.

2019 Rite 13 Ceremony

Please save the date for our 2019 Rite 13 ceremony. This rite of passage marks the transition from childhood into young adulthood. This year's ceremony will take place during the 10:15 service on Sunday, November 24. The rehearsal and dinner will take place at 6pm on Friday, November 22. All young people who are currently 13 or will turn 13 during this academic year are invited to participate. If you have a child eligible for this ceremony and have not yet heard from Fr. Dante please contact him as soon as possible at dante@stlukeseg.org.

Youth Group November Event

October was an exciting and busy month for the St. Luke's Youth Group. We built our own liturgy, went to the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular at Roger Williams Park Zoo, decorated pumpkins, and went to a Taizé service at The Church of the Redeemer in Providence. While, November will be a little quieter there are still exciting things coming up.

We hope many of you will come out this **Friday (November 8), at 7pm for the annual Diocesan Convention Eucharist at St. Luke's**. While the Youth Group is not doing anything in particular, it will be a wonderful thing to see St. Luke's filled with people from around the whole Diocese. Given most members of the youth group are participating in the service, through choir or acolyting, we wanted to highlight this for those who might not have attended otherwise. The following **Friday, November 15 from 6-8pm**, all young people in grades 6-8 are invited to join Fr. Dante for a **movie night at St. Luke's**. He is still debating what movie we will watch, so if you have suggestions let him know. Finally, please note that **the previously scheduled bowling outing on Sunday November 24, is postponed due to a scheduling conflict**.

For more information about the Youth Group please contact Fr. Dante at dante@Stlukeseg.org

Property Committee

Property Breakfast meets November 21, 2019

Our Property Breakfast this month is on November 21 at 8:00 a.m. This month's menu will be hash and eggs, biscotti and fruit.

Please join us as all are welcome no matter your level of experience. Join us when you can for however long you are able. We meet the third Thursday of each month from 8:00 a.m.-Noon. We begin with breakfast and fellowship and move into tasks after cleanup. We work on indoor as well as out of doors tasks that need to be done to keep our building and grounds a safe, warm and welcoming place.

If you see a need for repair or have a suggestion, please communicate with us by:

- 1) Placing a note in the Property mailbox in the office
- 2) Catching someone after the service on Sunday
- 3) Email one of us at: Doug - djmaceg@verizon.net
Bob - rwbrockway@verizon.net
Cindi - benem@cox.net

Thank you to our Twilighters!

After meeting Spring, Summer and Fall the Twilighters will be taking well deserved winter break and resume in the Spring. We have weeded, planted and cleaned our church facility every other week. Thank you Amey, Melanie, Ben, Connie for a job well done!

We'd love to have you join us in the Spring for some food, fellowship service and fun! If you have any questions about the Twilighters please contact Cindi Lovejoy at benem@cox.net.

NOVEMBER SAVE THE DATES

November 3, 2019

10:00 am Newcomer Brunch Reception

November 7, 2019

9:30 am Leisure Learning

November 8, 2019

7:00 pm Diocesan Convention Eucharist

November 9, 2019

7:30 am Diocesan Convention

November 12, 2019

7 pm Vestry Meeting

November 13, 2019

1:00 pm Pastoral Care Meeting

6:30 pm A Welcoming Place Meeting

November 14, 2019

9:30 am Leisure Learning

November 15, 2019

6:00 pm Youth Faith - Movie Night

November 20, 2019

7:00 pm Theology on Tap

November 21, 2019

8:00 am Property Breakfast

November 22, 2019

5:00 pm Rite 13 Rehearsal

November 23, 2019

10:00 am Loaves & Fishes Run

4:00 pm Episcopal Charities Evensong

November 24, 2019

10:15 am Holy Eucharist - Rite 13 Ceremony

12:00 pm Youth Group - Bowling at Kingston Bowl

November 25, 2019

5:00 pm CCK Dinner

November 27, 2019

7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Holy Eucharist

Acolyte Volunteers Needed

Calling all young people that are interested in becoming Acolytes at St. Luke's. Our acolytes serve as crucifers and assistants during our Sunday morning services. Training is ongoing throughout the fall. To find out more please contact Fr. Dante, Deacon Christine, or Julie and Charlie Cronin.

Coffee Hour Update!

We are looking for some Coffee Hour Volunteers to help with this special ministry! Here are the dates that we have open for our 10:15 coffee hour: November 10 and December 15. The hosting can be a family affair, kids enjoy serving folks at the coffee hour table, feel free to buddy up if you would like! Please contact Tracy Sampson (401-447-0472) for more information about the responsibilities of this ministry and for help getting started. You can find the coffee hour sign up list in the atrium.

Theology on Tap is Rolling and Wants to Welcome You

St. Luke's TOT men's group has a busy program this fall of fellowship, service and just having a good time together. We'd like to extend an invitation to the men of the church to join us. We meet monthly. . . .

Upcoming meetings :

Nov. 20- Wed. 7pm - Kevin Muoio has kindly arranged for us to meet at **The Odeum Theater**. We'll meet in the historic old theater, have an opportunity to enjoy TOT camaraderie and learn about the history and mission of this local icon.

Nov 25 – Mon. 5pm - **TOT will be hosting** (cooking and serving) the **November CCK Dinner** for 100+ of our friends in the community, **at St. Luke's**

Dec. 17 -Tues 7pm - **Greg & Judy DeGroot** have graciously offered to host the **TOT Christmas meeting in their home**, This has always been a meaningful and reverent setting for our group to celebrate our fellowship and the Holy Eucharist, lead by Father Tim

Jan 22 – Wed. 7pm - We have extended an invitation to a **special guest** for our January meeting at **St.Luke's**. Spoiler alert: it's our new **East Greenwich Town Manager, Andrew Nota**

Any questions? Contact Brent Bostick brentbostick1@gmail.com (908-230-7569)

Women of Grace Meets Nov. 6

We are meeting at Patricia Warburton's house for Women of Grace on Wednesday, Nov. 6. Please bring your favorite inspirational quote or saying, whether it comes from the bible, a relative, a movie, a book or the funny pages! We'd love to hear why the quote speaks to you.

All women of the parish and guests are welcome to attend. As usual, we will gather at 7 p.m. for 30 minutes of conversation and light *hors d'oeuvres*. The formal program begins at 7:30 and lasts about one hour. We conclude with a closing prayer. Everyone is out the door by 9 p.m.

Patricia lives at [19 Carnival Terrace in West Warwick](#). Parking on street is limited but there are several small parking areas close by. RSVP is NOT required but is helpful. Contact Elizabeth McNamara, emac6660@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!

A Note From Al & Linda Potter

After 30 years of worship and fellowship as parishioners at St. Luke's, it was with so many emotions that we departed for our relocation to Castle Rock, Colorado, on our final Sunday at St. Luke's on September 29. The warm sentiments expressed in the farewell prayers at the end of the service that day, the kind words and well-wishes from so many who were there for the 7:45 service, and the expressions of encouragement to return for visits, were all so overwhelming. And then, as we were knee-deep in unpacking boxes after we had arrived in our new Colorado home, imagine our surprise to receive the handsomely framed print of the St. Luke's stained glass window surrounded by even more expressions of farewell and warm wishes. Our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude to you all. We will sorely miss all of you and St. Luke's as our church home of three decades. Thank you all for your kindness, well-wishes and love. Until we see you again....

Love,
Al & Linda Potter



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