

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

May/ June 2023

There Is No Such Thing as Ordinary Time



*So teach us to count our days,
that we may gain a wise heart.* Psalm 90:12

May and June are among the most beautiful of months in Annapolis, bursting with flowers, warm enough to invite us into Nature, cool enough to make our outdoor time a pleasure. In May, we Christians continue to rejoice and give thanks for Jesus's redeeming sacrifice through the Easter season. Our festivities culminate in our celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which falls on May 28th this year. Then, in June, we move into the long season between Pentecost and Advent.

Our Roman Catholic cousins refer to this long season as "Ordinary Time." It's a term you may have heard, although the Episcopal Church doesn't officially use it and "Ordinary Time" doesn't appear anywhere in the Book of Common Prayer. As with so many things in our Christian tradition, the origins of the term "Ordinary Time" are open to debate. The phrase may have its roots in the word "ordinal," which refers to counting or something's position in a series. Then again, "ordinary"

could mean exactly what it usually does: commonplace, nothing special.

In the church year, the months between Pentecost and Advent can feel like an endless round of sameness. We use the same worship service week after week, accompanied by a measured march through the Gospel appointed for the year. Although dotted with a few feast days, Ordinary Time is largely uneventful. The Season of Creation doesn't start until September. The Feast of St. Luke, our patron, won't happen until mid-October. With school years wrapping up and summer vacations on the horizon, it can be easy to get complacent about our faith, devoting attention to secular matters and putting spiritual ones on the back burner.

But in truth, there is no such thing as ordinary time. Every morning is a unique gift from the God who makes all things new, every day and all the time. Every day presents us with a fresh opportunity to grow in faith and serve in love. Every day is unique and finite. Once passed, it will never come again.

Our little church has been very busy during the Easter season. The services of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating in the Great Vigil and Easter Sunday morning, gave us multiple opportunities to bear witness to Jesus's Passion and rejoice in the priceless blessings he showered upon us. As our Eucharistic liturgy affirms, Jesus delivered us from evil and made us worthy to stand before the Father. It doesn't get any better than that.

St. Luke's also hosted our first-ever Earth Day and the Arts Festival, a tribute to the beauty of Creation and its power to inspire our creativity and heal our souls. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it happen, the festival was a resounding success. We hosted about three hundred of our friends and neighbors over the course of the event,

strengthening relationships with our sponsors and the many gifted artists who contributed their time and talent. Everyone involved deserves our heartfelt gratitude.

After all that effort and excitement, it's good to take a breather; even our Creator rested on the seventh day. This season offers us a chance to slow down and rest. But it also gives us an opportunity for spiritual growth and service at a more measured pace. These months are a wonderful time for quiet prayer and contemplation, for connecting with fellow seekers over a cup of coffee or tea, for reading the spiritual book that's been sitting unopened on a shelf.

At St. Luke's, we'll take this season as an opportunity to try some new things, so please keep an eye out for announcements in the e-newsletter. Enjoy this sacred, peaceful time. As the song says, every day is a day that the Lord has made. Let's rejoice and be glad in it.

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren+

Vestry Highlights

March/April 2023

Greetings from the Vestry! We had some very productive and exciting meetings for the past two months and have several things to share.

We have been blessed with the continued support of the community who use the St. Luke's Restoration of Nature and help at our Food Pantry, and we look forward to our Earth Day and the Arts festival on our grounds on April 22nd; another way to connect nature, the arts, and our city together. We also discussed how wonderful it was to have the combined service with St. Philips for the Easter Vigil service, and hope to do more of these combined joint services in the future as part of a way to build and strengthen our faith and fellowship relationships.

In March the Vestry voted unanimously to officially become part of the [Racial Reconciliation Collaborative \(RRC\)](#) and be listed on the website, as well as hang a banner in front of the church. In April, Claire Miller gave an update to the vestry about the most recent RRC panel and shared the link where you can watch: [The Path Toward Racial Harmony & Justice](#).

On March 25th Vestry member Anne Arms and Lauren Bloom+ voted for a new bishop during an election held at St. John's in Ellicott City. Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent was elected as bishop coadjutor.

The Vestry also considered and accepted a proposal to purchase a new piano to replace the old one with a campaign to start in July to help raise the monies. Stay tuned for details!

The Vestry was very grateful to accept a donation from a generous benefactor to bring all staff salaries into closer alignment with diocesan guidelines. We are very fortunate to have received this gift.

St. Luke's will be participating in the Annapolis Pride Festival on June 3rd with a table at the festival. We welcome all participation!

Finally, a look ahead as the Vestry will hold their annual retreat in July at St. Andrew's of the Fisherman in Edgewater. The Vestry will prepare for that retreat this year by reading "Learning from London" by Jason A. Fout.

Submitted by,
Amanda Reynolds
Registrar

A Note from the Treasurer

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support for our church's activities, and for keeping your pledges up to date. For those who would like them, we do have 2023 pledge envelopes available.

Please check with the church office to receive a set. Please contact Pete Stark, Treasurer, at 410-269-9760 or starkhe2@yahoo.com for any questions or assistance.

Bishop's Visit

On Sunday, May 14 during our **10 a.m.** service please join us in welcoming the Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, the Assisting Bishop of Maryland. The Right Rev. Robert Ihloff, 13th Bishop of Maryland, serves as Assisting Bishop to the Right Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, our diocesan bishop. He serves as second bishop in an

appropriate ecclesiastical capacity, as staff liaison to Commission on Ministry and the people discerning for ordination to the priesthood and diaconate, as primary bishop for western Maryland, and as staff liaison for the small church movement.

hand when you come forward. The vestry will continue to monitor conditions in our county and adjust our practices as needed to safeguard everyone's health.

Treasurer's Report: 2023 Finances

As of March 2023

<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	58,399	36,250
Other	<u>10,372</u>	<u>8,263</u>
Total Income	68,771	44,513
<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>44,887</u>	<u>51,064</u>
<u>Net Gain</u>	<u>23,884</u>	<u>(6,551)</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Checking	69,315	
Investments	82,262	

COVID Update

As we continue to gather in-person and online for hybrid worship, the Covid-19 infection rate in Anne Arundel County remains relatively low. The vestry is committed to protecting the congregation's health and safety, taking precautions to minimize transmission of Covid-19 and other illnesses in this cold and flu season. Although masks are not required, please feel very welcome to wear a mask if it makes you feel more comfortable when attending in person. Weather permitting, some windows will be opened to provide greater ventilation. We do not require social distancing, but please refrain from making physical contact (i.e., handshakes or hugs) with those outside your household, including during the passing of the peace. To minimize risks during the Eucharist, Pastor Lauren+ will wear gloves while administering communion. Communion under one kind, i.e., the bread or the wine alone, is the full reception of Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive only the wafer, please extend a single

Eastport Memorial Labyrinth Walks



World Labyrinth Day: Saturday, May 6 at 1 pm – 2 pm.
Fun Walk: Saturday, July 8 at 12 Noon – 1 pm

We meet at the log amphitheater just below the labyrinth for an introduction, and then we gather there again for conversation following the walk. Masks are OPTIONAL. Labyrinth walks take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather!

The Labyrinth is an ancient tool for walking meditation and prayer, common to many faith traditions and cultures. Our journey to the center of the Labyrinth and back out again can be a powerful source of healing, inspiration, and peace.

For questions, contact the parish office at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org.

Thank You, For an Amazing Earth Day & The Arts Festival

St. Luke's is thrilled and grateful to all those in the community who participated, performed, and volunteered. Our special thanks go to Maryland Poet Laureate Grace Cavalieri for the beautiful poem she wrote for the occasion, and to our wonderful sponsors who made this festival possible. Please check out their links in the poster link [HERE](#). The festival was an amazing creative and collaborative experience that we will treasure and look forward to repeating!

In gratitude,
The Environmental Committee

Save the Date! Green Give 2023



GreenGive Event on June 6-7, 2023

St. Luke's Restoration of Nature is a partner in GreenGive, a fundraising and engagement-building collaboration with 13 other Maryland environmental organizations.

On **Tuesday, June 6 at 5pm – 8 pm**, the GreenGive partners will be hosting a fundraising event at Maryland Hall. And you are invited!

So, mark your calendars and get ready to give for the greener good! This hyper-local fundraising event officially begins on Tuesday, June 6. Gifts may be given online beginning **May 20 through June 8** at www.greengive.org or in person at our GreenGive Kickoff Party event at Maryland Hall 801 Chase Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

For this year's GreenGive, St. Luke's Restoration of Nature has a goal of raising \$7,500 to support the following goals: creating an environmental education campus for children and adults, being a place for hiking, walking and reflection, being a place for gathering the community, and caring for and maintaining the restoration as a treasured community resource. Stay tuned for more updates about GreenGive in St. Luke's e-news and on the St. Luke's Restoration of Nature Facebook page.

Outdoor Communion Service Resumes

Our next end-of-month Saturday outdoor communion service will take place on **May 27 at 5:00 p.m.** We will meet at the outdoor amphitheater, weather permitting, in the chapel if not. Please come as you are, ready to worship God surrounded by the beauty of Creation.

RRC Speaker Series: A Conversation about Toxic Polarization



Join the Racial Reconciliation Collaborative on **Thursday June 8th at 7pm** at St Philip's Episcopal Church Andrew Hanauer, President & CEO of One America Movement for a conversation about Toxic Polarization. With each passing day, **toxic polarization**

seemed to get worse and worse, poisoning every facet of society, from corporate boardrooms to church small groups to family Thanksgiving tables. Human beings are not built for perpetual outrage. In the depths of our souls, we do not long to "own" the other side. **At some point, people will begin to look for a different way.** Our work is about supporting faith communities and faith leaders to lead their communities on that higher path – away from toxic division and towards acting in ways that can be inspiring models for every American, religious or not. **The Solution to toxic polarization isn't** a program or a training. It's **connection and leadership.**

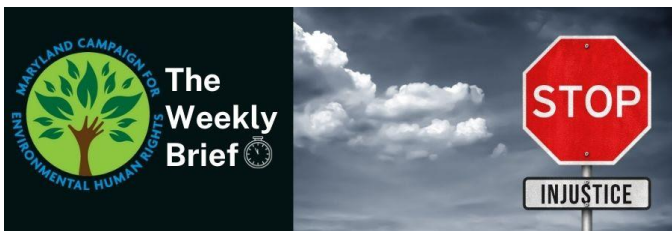
Join the discussion on Thursday June 8th at 7pm. The RRC will host this program at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in the Great Hall and also on Zoom. RSVP here <https://www.racialreconciliationcollaborative.org/event-details-registration/rrc-speaker-series-toxic-polarization>.



Parade and Festival Saturday, June 3, 2023

For more information about Annapolis Pride and a schedule of events visit www.annapolispride.org

The Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights: Weekly Brief - Film Release



In this edition of the Weekly Brief, we focus on the intersection of a century of environmental injustice in South Baltimore, the potential of the Maryland Environmental Policy Act, and a legal forum hosted by the University of Baltimore's Environmental Law Society.

On Friday, April 21, the South Baltimore Community Land Trust released a 15 minute film highlighting a century-long history of explosions, leaks and spills in the neighborhoods of Curtis Bay, Mt. Winans, Cherry Hill, Westport, Lakeland, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Park and the newly developed Baltimore Peninsula. Each time the event was called an accident. Yet, as the film's narrator says: "One time it's an accident but continuous patterns of disaster? It shows there are injustices in place and that someone or multiple people are turning a blind eye to the reality of the issues in our community."

The film is researched, written and narrated by the South Baltimore Community Land Trust, the Curtis Bay Association, the Fall 2022 Sustainable Design Practicum at Johns Hopkins University, the Ecological Design Collective and created in partnership with CEEHJ Citizen Journalism Institute. It ends with a call to action,

presenting the community's declaration of goals for rectifying this environmental injustice.

You can watch the film on the SBCLT YouTube Channel https://youtu.be/uWuid0Jr_9Y



As the film documents, the environmental hazards located in South Baltimore were no accident and continued to occur even after Maryland passed the Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973. While the language of MEPA states that "each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment", most state agencies have failed to develop the methods and procedures MEPA calls them to enact. Law students from the Environmental Law Society of the University of Maryland Law School wrote an Op-ed, published recently [in Maryland Matters](#), describing how MEPA offers great promise, yet has not lived up to its original goals.

The passion of the next generation of environmental lawyers and their focus on environmental and public health is inspiring and offers hope. On Thursday April 20, the students of the Environmental Law Society of the University of Baltimore School of Law (who wrote the Op-Ed) hosted a symposium on the Environmental Human Rights Amendment.

Evan Isaacson, Senior Attorney and Director of the Chesapeake Legal Alliance's Environmental Action Center joined Nina, Director of MDEHR (Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights), in reviewing the history and need for constitutional protection of everyone's right to a healthful environment. They noted the growing recognition and enforcement of this right around the world and here in the United States. In states where such amendments exist, it is being used to protect local waterways, fight against sacrifice zones and limit the continued harmful extraction and use of fossil fuels. They noted that here in Maryland, such a constitutional provision could enhance the enforcement of moribund or weakly

enforced regulations, fill gaps in existing laws and give individuals the power to protect themselves against harmful public policies, like we see in Curtis Bay.

MDEHR thanks the students of the University of Baltimore Environmental Law Society, their supervisor, Sonya Ziaja, and Evan for a powerful symposium. We look forward to working with them all next year.

With gratitude,
Nina Beth Cardin, Director
Claire Miller, Communications Director
Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

Holiday Closures

The church office will be closed on the following holiday observance. **Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day)**

Are you on our email list?

If you have an email address but are not receiving our weekly email newsletters each Wednesday, please let us know by emailing office@stlukeseastport.org. These weekly emails are an important means of communicating information to our community in between editions of the House Call. If you are not on email but would like to have a printout of the weekly "News from St. Luke's" sent to you by hard copy, please contact Dalyn Huntley in the church office: 410-268-5419.

Pastor Sabbath

Sunday is the Sabbath for most of us but, for clergy, Sunday is often the busiest workday of the week. Scripture tells us to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Pastor Lauren+ takes her Sabbath on **Mondays** as a time of rest, reflection, and prayer. She's available for spiritual emergencies on Mondays but defers other work to the rest of the week when she can. Please let her know if you have questions or need spiritual support on a Monday or any other time. She can be reached by email at lbloom@stlukeseastport.org

In the case of a pastoral emergency, Pastor Lauren+ can be reached at 703-585-0651.

Light House Shelter Meal Support Ministry

St. Luke's is providing lunches to the Lighthouse Shelter twice a month. Lesley Margerrison will coordinate the preparation and Linda Elkington will manage shopping for supplies. Everyone is invited to help make sandwiches after services during fellowship. We are asking for volunteers to deliver the lunches to the shelter (on Hudson St., off West St.) as we approach summer. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board downstairs. For more information please contact Lesley Margerrison at lmargerrison@gmail.com

Hospitality Hour

St. Luke's offers a hospitality hour immediately following our Sunday services. Volunteer hosts are asked to set up the beverage station and bring light fare for persons attending the Sunday Service to enjoy. The sign-up sheet for hosting Hospitality Hour on Sunday mornings is located downstairs in the Undercroft. The Spring sign up is posted. Anyone is welcome to sign up to host. If you haven't hosted before, contact our Hospitality Hour coordinator, Kathy Dinin, to learn more: dinin.kathryn@gmail.com or 914-241-3966. Kathy can also help pair you with someone else if you don't want to host on your own.

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is a weekly gathering for fellowship through sharing a meal. This Dutch treat meal takes place **Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.** at [Adam's Ribs](#) in the Eastport Shopping Center, right next to the church. Who is invited? Everyone! Lunch Bunch is an open event organized by members of St. Luke's. Contact Dianne Crews 410-268-9741 or Helen Wheeler 410-224-3882 for more information. Friends and visitors are always welcome. No RSVP necessary.

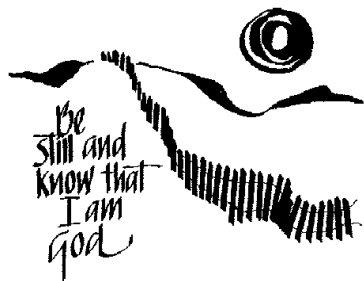
Environmental Committee Meeting

The Environmental Committee at St. Luke's seeks to spread environmental stewardship through education, advocacy, and volunteerism on a teaching campus that heals the human spirit while caring for creation.

The monthly meetings occur on the **FIRST Thursday of each month**. The May meeting will be on **Thursday, May 4**. The June meeting will be **Thursday, June 1**. Meetings are held remotely via Zoom beginning at **7 pm**.

All are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Chuck Gallegos (gallegoscl@verizon.net) or Anne Arms (armspna@aol.com).

Contemplative Prayer Weekly Practice



The Contemplative Prayer Practice continues to meet remotely via Zoom on **Fridays at 10 a.m.**

This practice invites us to experience rest and internal

nourishment through silent prayer together. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. No experience necessary. For more information, contact co-facilitators Eve Waldman at leanorewaldman@gmail.com or 757-387-2367 and Chuck Gallegos at gallegoscl@verizon.net or 410-571-0562.

Flower Ministry & Dedications

As we continue into 2023 with our Sunday worship services in the sanctuary, we are continuing the tradition of beautifying our worship space with two flower arrangements each week. These arrangements are funded through individual donations. If you would like to dedicate the flowers for a particular Sunday in 2023 in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley at office@stlukeseastport.org or at 410-268-5419. The requested donation amount is \$50 and

may be made either by check or online with the memo "Flowers." Following the service, the flowers are delivered to a member of the congregation to enjoy.

You don't need to be able to arrange flowers to join the Flower Ministry! We also need drivers who can pick up arrangements from our florist. If you're interested in learning more, contact Anne Arms at 707-479-4303 or armspna@aol.com.

Email & Text Scams

If you receive an email that appears to be from Rev. Lauren, asking you to take some kind of unusual action – click a link or download an attachment you didn't request, wire money to a specified account, purchase gift cards and reply with the serial numbers, or simply to reply quickly, **watch out – it could be a form of email "phishing"**. The message will give some explanation of why Rev. Lauren needs your help immediately. They may include some story about another person in dire circumstances she is trying to help. But instead of helping a needy person, if you respond you will actually be turning over money and possibly your identity information to a scammer.

Verify the "from" email

The malicious actors behind "phishing" attacks are counting on people springing into action as soon as they see an important name on an email. You can outsmart them by looking beyond the name and checking the "from" email address to see if it matches what you know the alleged sender's email to be. If you only see a name, you can cause the "from" email address to be displayed by hovering the cursor over the name. Rev. Lauren+ will always use lbloom@stlukeseastport.org.

Confirm requests with a conversation

Even if the email or text seems legitimate, if a request seems even remotely "off," don't act on it until you confirm it with a phone call or face-to-face conversation. Contact the church office at 410-268-5419.

DO NOT reply to the suspicious email or text. Likewise, if a member of your parish staff is asking you to do something unusual, confirm with a phone call.

**Thank you to the communications staff in the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island and the Diocese of Newark for making this information publicly available.*

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the Summer edition of House Call is no later than **Monday, June 26**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at office@stlukeseastport.org



St. Luke's has a long-standing tradition of remembering the birthdays and anniversaries of our members with a card and in the newsletter, as well as praying for those who are present on the preceding Sunday. If you are new to the St. Luke's community or unsure if we have your birthday/anniversary, please let us know when it is! Send the information to the office by phone or email (410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org).

May Birthdays

1	Betsy Love
4	David Fogle
6	Maxwell McGregor
11	Robert Abbott
15	Helen Wheeler
19	Mike Waldman
30	Alma Govoro

June Birthdays

1	Katherine Govoro
7	Sunniah Magogo
13	Bartel Williams Sr.
21	Dan Ramirez

Prayer List

Ongoing Needs: Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; Connie Harold; the Palermo Family; Heather Cook; Patty Peterson (friend of Helen & Jack Wheeler); Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); David Fogle; Jimmy Riccardi; Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright (mother of Lexi Wright); Olgui Zarikian; Patricia; Linda Cunningham; Sarah Lamming; Lee Riley; Kathy Kotowski (friend of Eve & Mike Waldman); Jennifer Miles (friend of Kathleen Rewa); the Rev. Patti Sachs; Lucy Sprigg; Nelida Godfrey (family friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); Tim Shiley & Family (cousins of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Nicole DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews); Fred Sandford; Lance Landseadel (husband of Rev. Lauren Bloom).

Immediate Needs: Christine Kingerski (friend of Dan Ramirez); Ken Crisman (son-in-law's father of Sharon Williams); Rev. John Keydel; Amy and Miriam Hilliard; Bill Hodges, and Mike Mauzer; Josh Thrift (extended family member of Sharon Williams); Pat Russell (friend of Mike & Eve Waldman); Nancy Lear and family; Sean Green (son of Rae Miller); Jack & Helen Wheeler; Bart Williams; Vincent Veich (friend of Dianne Crews); Rei Harada (daughter-in-law of Pete Stark); Mary Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); Dottie Arms (sister-in-law of Anne Arms); Elsa Regalado (friend of Dianne Crews); Michelle McHale (cousin of Elaine Kazlauskas); Amy Britt and family (friend of Claire Miller); Charla Rowe (godmother of Tanya Bloom); Deacon Mary Walton; Eric Renkey (nephew of Kathryn Dinin); John Fowler (neighbor of Sharon Williams).

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ office@stlukeseastport.org
www.stlukeseastport.org ~ Tw: [@stlukeseastport](https://twitter.com/stlukeseastport)
www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, Assisting Bishop
The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent,
Bishop Coadjutor-Elect

Parish Staff

The Rev. Lauren M. Bloom, Priest-in-Charge
lbloom@stlukeseastport.org
Dr. Ildar Khannanov, Director of Music
drkhannanov@gmail.com
Dalyn Huntley, Administrative Assistant
office@stlukeseastport.org
The Rev. Norman Crews, Priest Associate
The Rev. David G. Flowers, Priest Associate

Parish Officers

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden
443-822-1978, richard@openpathproducts.com
Helen Leitch, Junior Warden
410-263-2783, leitchhelen@verizon.net
Pete Stark, Treasurer
410-269-9760, starkhe2@yahoo.com
Amanda Reynolds, Registrar
410-271-3293, Amanda.c.reynolds1@gmail.com

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Environmental Committee	Chuck Gallegos 443-758-3036, gallegoscl@verizon.net Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Food Pantry	Lesley Margerrison 512-921-4241, lmargerrison@gmail.com
Flower Ministry	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Labyrinth Committee	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com

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