

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

March – April 2024

Turning from Sorrow to Joy



The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.
There is a sound of exultation and victory
in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.

Psalms 118:14-17

Throughout the month of March, we mark the Lenten season with contemplation and prayer. Lent is a time to examine the state of our souls, to admit where we've fallen short and recognize where we've allowed ourselves to be led away from right relationship with God. Our task in Lent is to repent. Remembering our mistakes and admitting that we could have done better can be humbling, even painful. It's no fun to be reminded of personal shortcomings. God already knows what we've done and left undone, so why do we have to dwell on it? Can't we just move on and try to do better?

Repentance comes a little less painfully if we understand what it truly entails. The Greek word for repentance that Scripture uses, *metanoëó* (μετανοέω), literally means "to change one's mind or purpose." *Metanoëó* can also refer to a change in one's direction. That means repentance isn't so much about shame and self-abasement as it is about turning away from the

things that mislead us and turning back to God. Repentance is less about shame than it is about the simple recognition that we've been going in the wrong direction and need to correct course. If we don't look at where we've been going and just try to soldier on, odds are good that we'll continue down a path that leads us away from where we need to go.

Lent culminates in Holy Week, where we participate in Jesus's agonizing journey to Golgotha. It starts with Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus's magnificent entry into Jerusalem, the long-awaited Messiah come at last. We pass with Jesus through the Last Supper, watch as he endures his trial, scourging and conviction, and walk with him down the Via Dolorosa to his Crucifixion. Then, we join the heartbroken disciples in waiting for his Resurrection. We know what's coming. They do not. To the extent that we can put our knowledge aside until Easter Sunday morning, we can participate more fully in the disciples' astonished joy when their beloved Lord triumphantly returns.

We have all grown up in a world that knows what's coming on Easter Sunday. That knowledge can make the sorrows of Lent less painful, but it can also dull our appreciation of the miracle of redemption that comes to us with the risen Christ. As we turn away from our past temptations and back to Jesus, it's important not to take his Resurrection and our redemption for granted. Contemplation isn't just for Lent. April is a time of astonishing beauty in our community, as the natural world returns to vibrant life from the sleep of winter. We'll celebrate that beauty with our Earth Day and the Arts Festival. But don't wait until then to pause and take in the resurrection of Nature that mimics the resurrection of Christ. May the peace of Lent calm your

heart and the beauty of the Easter season bless your soul in the weeks to come.

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren+

A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you for ensuring that your pledges are made on time so that we can meet our expenses without delay. I am sure that we will soon make up for the income shortage seen in January.

Remember that there are several ways that you can make your pledge payment:

- Sending a personal check or cash in the mail to the church or placing it in the offering plate on Sunday.
- Setting up a recurring payment using your bank's automated bill payment feature. There is generally no fee attached and the bank sends a check to the church automatically with the frequency and amount you specify.
- Using Givelify online (<https://www.givelify.com/donate/st-lukes-church-annapolis-md-2j7wy5ODQ0MQ==/donation/amount>). You may set up a recurring gift to match your pledge amount and frequency. Please remember that Givelify charges us for each donation, so please consider adding an additional couple of dollars to your donation to help us defray this cost.
- Bank to bank or stock to bank transfer.

If you would like pledge envelopes for 2024, please let the church office or the treasurer know so we can provide them for you. We have them in stock.

The church sent out the giving statements for 2023 in January, as well as pledge acknowledgements for 2024. Please let us know if you have not received either.

Please contact Pete Stark, Treasurer, at 410-269-9760 or starkhe2@yahoo.com for any questions or assistance. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report

As of January 2024

<u>Operating Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	5,508	13,333
Other	<u>2,895</u>	<u>3,688</u>

Total Income 8,403 17,021

<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	<u>19,561</u>	<u>21,102</u>
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Net Gain (11,158) (4,081)

<u>Assets</u>	
Checking	25,493
Investments	85,020

Congregational Health

As we continue to gather in-person and online for hybrid worship, the Covid-19 infection rate in Anne Arundel County has risen to medium. The Vestry is committed to protecting the congregation's health and safety, taking precautions to minimize transmission of Covid-19 and other illnesses. 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 make physical contact (i.e., handshakes or hugs) with those outside your household, including during the passing of the peace, only if you are sure it is welcome. When in doubt, please ask before you touch. 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 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.

Vestry Summary

March/April Update

The Lenten Season is now upon us. It is a season of reflection, meditation, and renewal of and commitment to our faith in God. This quieter period prepares us for Holy Week, where we can walk with Jesus during His last earthly days, mourn and honor His Sacrifice, and celebrate his resurrection. In some ways Lent is a little like early spring in the St. Luke's Restoration. There is the potential and preparation within the earth before the plants push forth, the trees leaf out, and we enjoy riotous Easter blossoms. It is a quiet but necessary step in the renewal of faith and life.

The February 11th annual meeting was a success, in large part due to our devoted congregation! We would like to thank two outgoing members of our Vestry, Anne Arms and Joy Philips for their devoted service to St. Luke's and their help with guiding the church and its mission. They stepped down from their positions and two congregants, Gil Gardner and Andy Schaner, were elected by the congregation to serve, and we couldn't be happier to have them! Pete Stark was also elected for another term, who continues to graciously serve as the Vestry Treasurer. All Vestry terms span 3 years, with the opportunity of election to a second term.

We also welcomed Valerie Holt to the St. Luke's family as our childcare assistant for our younger members! As part of the Intergenerational Ministry, she is available to play with and lead children on their own spiritual explorations during services. Children are welcome to take part in any part of our services or take breaks in the undercroft with Valerie as the spirit moves them.

What makes St. Luke's a special place is not just that it is a place of worship, but it is also a place of outreach to seek solutions and help our local community. To that end, vestry member Lesley Margerrison and Reverend Lauren Bloom attended a community meeting in Eastport on February 7th for the Violence Interruption Program, which looks to alleviate the violence that has affected Annapolis. In addition, we also want to thank Lesley for securing a grant from St. Anne's for the weekly food pantry. This allows St. Luke's to continue its mission to provide food to all who may need it and ensures no person is turned away.

St. Luke's is a House of God, but it is also very much an earthly space with all the upkeep and repairs that any house requires. To that end, the Vestry will be considering what is needed to keep St. Luke's in working order for years to come. Please be on the lookout for more information about maintenance work in the future.

As mentioned in weekly updates, spring at St. Luke's promises to be bountiful! Holy Week will be spent with our friends at St. Philips in Annapolis with various services alternating between the two locations. Easter service will be held at St. Luke's on March 31st and all are welcome to join the celebration! Please feel free to reach out to any vestry members, and we are so happy you are part of St. Luke's. As always, the Vestry looks forward to serving our community in faith and love.

With Blessings,
St. Luke's Vestry

Holy Week & Easter Services

Everyone is Welcome

Palm Sunday: March 24

10 am Choral Eucharist
with Liturgy of the Palms

Maundy Thursday: March 28

5 pm Solemn Holy Eucharist
with Foot Washing

Good Friday: March 29

5 pm Liturgy of the Day

Holy Saturday: March 30


10 am Holy Saturday Liturgy (said)

5 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

*Joint service with St. Philip's Church
At St. Luke's Eastport*

Easter Sunday: March 31

10 am Festive Choral Eucharist

Our Holy week and Easter services are in person with live streaming  on Sundays.

Sing with the St. Luke's Choir

The St. Luke's Choir will sing at the following services in addition to Easter Sunday.

Good Friday – 5 pm, March 29

The Great Easter Vigil – 5 pm, March 30. A joint service with St. Philip's Church

Easter Sunday – 10 am, March 31

The choir warmly welcomes new singers! If you are interested in singing, please contact Joy Phillips, at joyphillips58@gmail.com.

Easter Flower Dedications

Easter flower dedications are now being accepted. You can send a check to St. Luke's with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line or complete the Google Form <https://forms.gle/G33FaJFU3tQFYD4q8> with your information. Remember to include the name(s) of those In Memory or In Honor the flowers are given. Please submit your dedications no later than **Monday, March 25**.

Thanks for Supporting the Restoration of Nature in 2023



As signs of spring reappear in our Restoration of Nature, and we prepare for a busy 2024 - keeping trails open and the ecosystem thriving, and welcoming all who love nature and want to learn more about it – it seems

fitting to say "thank you" once again to all those who supported our urban sanctuary in 2023.

You volunteered to remove invasive vegetation and replace it with native plants. You picked up trash. You helped remove recently fallen trees and branches blocking the trails. You welcomed volunteers with snacks and lunches. You provided transportation for volunteers who needed it. You hosted three tour groups who visited to see St. Luke's storm water management efforts to Save the Bay. You helped test ideas as we

explored Citizen Science activities suitable for the Restoration. You posted to [iNaturalist](#) a host of photos of flora and fauna spotted on the St. Luke's property, adding our part to a worldwide scientific database. You wrote grant applications for both monetary assistance and gifts of native plants and trees for the Restoration.

Your efforts totaled **230** recorded volunteer hours and many more unrecorded hours. Special thanks to MAG (Midshipmen Action Group), Chesapeake & Coastal Services Watershed Restoration Crew, BSA Scout Troop 855, the Davey Tree Expert Company, and our own congregation. You supported the Restoration financially with \$5530 contributed during our annual Green Give campaign. Your dollars were spent on supplies and food for volunteer workdays, professional help with tasks requiring special skills to keep trails accessible, and a small amount for administrative costs. Financial contributors ranged from congregation members to community neighbors to other friends of the Restoration, and we are so grateful for the financial support of every one of you.

Whether you volunteered or contributed financially, or both, your friendship and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. Thank you so very much.

St. Luke's Environmental Committee

Green Drinks – You're Invited!

Stroll through aisles of spring flowers and chat with representatives of 13 local environmental non-profits, including our own St. Luke's Restoration of Nature, as Annapolis Green hosts Green Drinks at [Homestead Gardens, Davidsonville](#), **March 20, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**.

Enjoy music, food, and drink (\$10 suggested donation to Annapolis Green at the door, and cash bar). Questions? Ask Anne Arms, Chuck Gallegos, or Linda Elkington.

Earth Day Arts Festival Save the Date

On **April 26-27 2024**, St. Luke's will host an Earth Day Arts Festival. The festival will invite our Annapolis neighbors to take part in a celebration of how the arts reconnect us with God in Creation and will feature our Restoration of Nature project. There will be many

opportunities to volunteer and join in the fun. More information to come!

Food Pantry – Spring News



What a busy place the food pantry is at the moment! We are serving almost twice as many people as we did at this time last year.

Clearly, there is a lot of need in our community and we are doing our best to help. The very good news is that our sister parish [St Anne's](#) has awarded us a grant of **\$7,300** and this, along with the generosity of our own congregation, means we will be able to continue to serve our neighbors with fresh, good quality food. The Pantry is supported by a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers, some of whom have been with us for many years, If you would like to join us please contact Lesley Margerrison at lmargerrison@gmail.com for more information.

Annapolis Pride Parade & Festival



June 1, 2024

Visit <https://annapolispride.org/annapolis-pride-parade/>

Contemplative Prayer at St. Luke's

Be Still and Know that I am God.
(Psalm 46:10)



Photo by Chuck Gallegos

St. Luke's centering prayer ministry meets once a week to take a break from the chaotic world around us. We take time to be still.

Gradually, with practice and patience, the mind calms and our hearts open to

transformation and to deeper knowing of God's presence in our lives. The weekly sessions begin with a reading from a variety of contemplative authors. The reading is followed by 20 minutes of silent centering, followed by reflection. You need no experience to join us; simply begin where you are.

Using [St. Luke's Zoom link](#), we meet **every Friday**, from **10 to 11 a.m.** We plan more in-person sessions in St. Luke's sanctuary, as well as other offerings, so please stay tuned. If you would like to receive the weekly reminder and update on events that goes out every Thursday, contact Eve Waldman and she will put you on the mailing list. eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com. Eve's co-facilitators Chuck Gallegos can be reached at, gallegoscl@verizon.net and Jenna Lane, Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com will also be happy to answer questions.

Coming Summer of 2024 Vacation Bible School

August 19, 20, 21; 9am to 3pm



[St Anne's Episcopal Church](#), [First Presbyterian of Annapolis](#) and St. Luke's Eastport will be collaborating on a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program this summer. The camp will be available for both preschool and elementary school children with plenty of opportunities for older children and adults to help. More details soon!

Please contact Lesley Margerrison if you have any questions or would like to volunteer by email at lmargerrison@gmail.com

Holiday Closures

The church office will be closed on the following holiday observance.

Monday, April 1 (Easter Monday)
Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day)

In the case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Lauren+ directly at 703-585-0651.

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. **The week following Easter Sunday, there will be limited office hours.** Please let her know if you have questions or are need of spiritual support on a Monday or any other time by contacting her directly 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 coordinates the preparation and Linda Elkington manages 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.) through the spring. 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: 914-241-3966 or dinin.kathryn@gmail.com. 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 Noon** 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 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 volunteering focused on St. Luke's Restoration of Nature, an urban sanctuary for the renewal of nature, community and spirit.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 14 and Thursday, April 11**. 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).

Flower Ministry

The beautiful altar floral arrangements are sponsored by members of the community who honor or remember loved ones with a dedication. The arrangements can also be dedicated to celebrate a marriage or a baby. **The 2024 sign-up sheet is posted in the Undercroft.** The requested donation amount is \$50 and may be made either by check or online with the memo "Flowers." Please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley with your dedication details at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org.

Do you have a love for flowers and artistic eye? Consider becoming a Flower Ministry volunteer. If you have questions or wish to learn more, contact Anne Arms at 707-479-4303 or armspna@aol.com.

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the next edition of House Call is no later than **Thursday, April 25**. 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).

March Birthdays

- 5 Michael Fletcher
- 7 Teirra Harris-Riley
- 14 Linda Elkington
- 27 Richard Wilson-Smith
- 29 Rae Miller
- 30 Alice Hall
- 31 Ed Stark

April Birthdays

- 4 Tanya Bloom
- 6 Avedis Zarikian
- 14 Helen Leitch
- 23 Terry Otis
- 24 Joy Phillips
- 27 Jaymare Riley

April Anniversaries

- 12 Bartel & Sharon Williams Sr.

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); Jimmy Riccardi; Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright

(mother of Lexi Wright); Olgui Zarikian; Patricia; Sarah Lamming; Lee Riley; 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); Lance Landseadel (husband of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Bernardi Family; Linda Cunningham; Ed & Pat Schillo (friends of Lynda Nutt McIntyre); Rev. John Keydel; Vincent Veich (friend of Dianne Crews); Christine Kingerski (friend of Dan Ramirez); Audrie (friend of Ethel Bilderback); Geanie (community member).

Immediate Needs: Pat Russell (friend of Mike & Eve Waldman); Nancy Lear and family; Jack & Helen Wheeler; Mary Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); Deacon Mary Walton; Eric Renkey (nephew of Kathryn Dinin); Sammy Bernardi (grandson of Jon Diefenthaler); Steve Bloom (brother of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Fred Miller; Tod Wildason (friend of Dianne Crews); Darlene Como (friend of Tom Adams); Ben (nephew of Helen Leitch); Gregoria Dominguez (mother-in-law of Greg Vass); Elizabeth & Kate (friends of Lesley Margerrison); Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; Nancy Otis; Pauline Chusid (family friend of Elaine Kazlauskas); Sean Starkloff (friend of Pat Geisendaffer Susan & Phil Murphree (friends of David & Ann McGuinness); Tanya Bloom (sister-in-law of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Ziggy Zacs; Louise Finlayson (family friend of Elaine Kazlauskas); Billy and Anne Connors (son-in-law and daughter of Alice Hall); Irina Wells (niece of Eve Waldman); Del Thompson; Suzanne Knight (friend of Lance Landseadel); Wilson & Smith Families; Peter McGregor (brother of Alastair McGregor).

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ office@stlukeseastport.org
www.stlukeseastport.org
www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop
The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent,
Bishop Coadjutor

Parish Staff

The Rev. Lauren M. Bloom, Rector
lbloom@stlukeseastport.org
Dr. Ildar Khannanov, Director of Music
drkhannanov@gmail.com
Dalyn Huntley, Administrative Assistant
office@stlukeseastport.org
Tom Adams, Sexton

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

March/April 2024

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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