

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

September – October 2023

Caring for Creation and Each Other



*I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Psalms 16:7-9, 11

Dear friends,

September 1st begins the Season of Creation, a time when Christians around the world celebrate the beauty of God's world and remember our responsibility to care for and protect "this fragile Earth, our island home." This year's theme, Let Justice and Peace Flow, draws on the cry of the prophet Amos, "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Amos, the first Hebrew prophet to have a biblical book named for him, preached that God's absolute sovereignty over humanity demanded social justice for all people, not just the well-to-do. Today, climate

change and environmental degradation are doing the most harm to the poor, making it more difficult for them even to live safely, much less to escape from poverty. Jesus's Great Commandment to love God with all our strength and our neighbors as ourselves demands better. He calls us to take better care of God's Creation, out of respect for our Creator and concern for each other.

Recent news reports about extreme weather, biodiversity loss and natural resource depletion have been alarming. A survey by the American Psychological Association found that over two-thirds of Americans have at least a little "eco-anxiety" about climate change and its effects. As Christians, however, we need to remember that we are not asked to resolve environmental concerns, poverty, or any other challenge on our own. Whenever two or more of us are gathered in his name, we know Jesus is always there, showing us the path to a better, more faithful life. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to be Christian alone. We need the support of a loving community to grow fully into the people God created us to be.

As we come back together from our summer adventures, we'll have many blessings to celebrate. We'll enjoy the gorgeous singing of our talented choir and the beautiful music offered by our gifted Music Director, especially on our new piano. We'll rejoice in the ordination and installation of our new Bishop Coadjutor. We'll have opportunities to share our stories, joys and sorrows with one another, and to grow in love together. So, as the author of the letter to the Hebrews urges, "let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another."

In coming back together, we'll become the body of Christ, united and led by our Redeemer. Then, all good things will become possible. Welcome home, saints!

With love,
Rev. Lauren+

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met most recently on August 15. Much of the discussion centered on implementation of the two transformational goals that the Vestry identified at its July retreat for the coming year: first, listening to the community's unmet needs and, second, developing and implementing intergenerational ministry under a generous grant from the Diocese. Listening to the needs of the community will involve outreach and relationship-building with Seeds for Success, schools, PTAs, other houses of worship, political leaders, police, and various charities in and around Eastport. The Vestry will lead two town meetings to get congregational feedback on the proposal and recruit volunteers to help. The intergenerational ministry will encourage mentoring relationships between children and adults in the congregation and will begin with hiring providers to care for our children on Sundays during worship.

In other business, the Vestry agreed to conduct the annual four-week stewardship campaign starting October 1, 2023. They received the July financial reports and a report from our Treasurer, Pete Stark, on the 2022 financial audit. The church's finances are in good order and the audit process ran smoothly. Upcoming events include Ingathering and a concert by Dr. Khannanov to dedicate and bless the new piano, the ordination and installation of Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent+ as Maryland's new Bishop-Coadjutor, and a training session on church security to be offered by the Racial Reconciliation Collaborative. The Vestry has decided to move its monthly Zoom meetings to the third Wednesday evening of each month; its next meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 20th.

Submitted by,
Rev. Lauren+

A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you for your continued financial support for our church's activities, and for keeping your pledges up to date. As noted in the chart, it is helping to keep our net income positive.

I will be sending out pledge status statements in September to all who have pledged.

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

Treasurer's Report: 2023 Finances

As of August 2023

<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	101,467	84,583
Other	<u>32,113</u>	<u>19,280</u>
Total Income	133,580	103,863
<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>120,657</u>	<u>128,393</u>
<u>Net Gain</u>	<u>12,923</u>	<u>(24,530)</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Checking	85,454	
Investments	82,715	

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. 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.

Outdoor Communion Creation Service

Our next end-of-month Saturday outdoor communion service will take place on **September 30th at 5:00 PM**. 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.

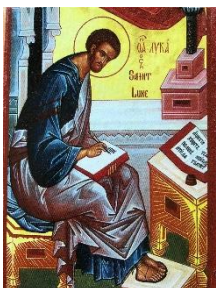
Welcome, Bishop Carrie!



God willing and the people consenting, on **Saturday, September 16th at 11:00 A.M.**, the Reverend Carrie K. Schofield-Broadbent will be ordained and consecrated a Bishop in the one holy catholic and apostolic

Church, and Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The service will take place at Washington National Cathedral 3101 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC 20016, and will be livestreamed on the website of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. Please pray for Bishop Carrie and our diocese as we are blessed by her leadership.

The Feast of St. Luke



On **Sunday, October 15th**, we'll celebrate the feast of our patron, St. Luke. Watch the e-news for more details!

Eastport Memorial Labyrinth: Gratitude

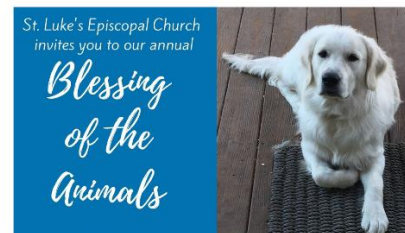


The next themed Labyrinth Walk will be held on **Saturday, October 14 at 12 Noon**. "Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." – Melody Beattie

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!

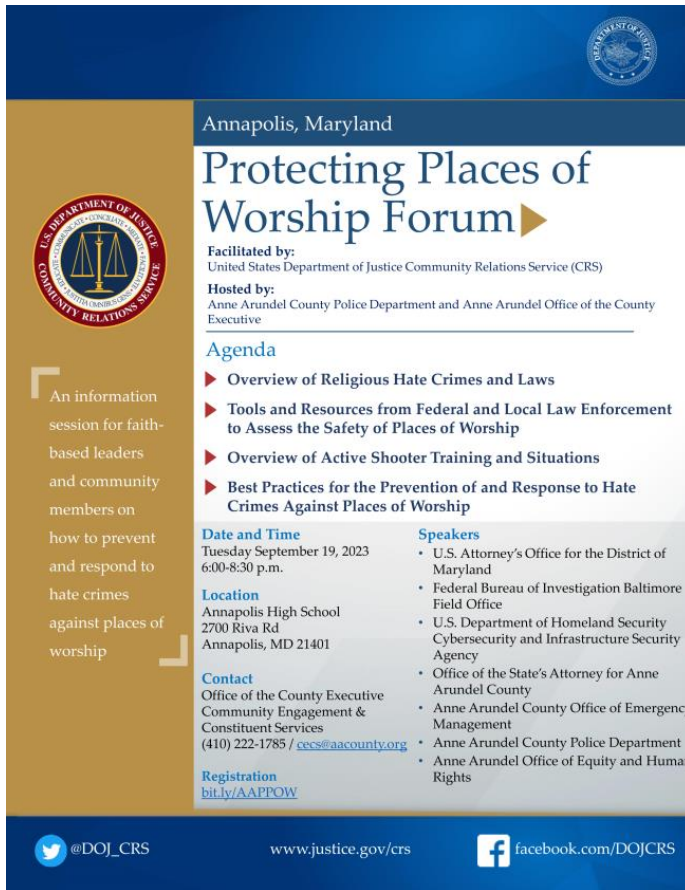
The Labyrinth is an ancient tool for walking meditation and prayer, common to many faith traditions and cultures. Our journey to the center of the Labyrinth and back out again can be a powerful source of healing, inspiration, and peace.

Blessing of the Animals at St. Luke's



Are you or someone you love proudly owned by a furry, feathered or finny friend? On **Saturday, October 7th at 10:00 AM**, please join us at St. Luke's Blessing of the Animals, where we'll honor St. Francis of Assisi with a special service in the amphitheater to bless our beloved animal companions. All animals, including stuffies and photos, are invited to bring their people to church.

Protecting Place of Worship Forum



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

Annapolis, Maryland

Protecting Places of Worship Forum

Facilitated by:
United States Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS)

Hosted by:
Anne Arundel County Police Department and Anne Arundel Office of the County Executive

Agenda

- ▶ Overview of Religious Hate Crimes and Laws
- ▶ Tools and Resources from Federal and Local Law Enforcement to Assess the Safety of Places of Worship
- ▶ Overview of Active Shooter Training and Situations
- ▶ Best Practices for the Prevention of and Response to Hate Crimes Against Places of Worship

Date and Time
Tuesday September 19, 2023
6:00-8:30 p.m.

Location
Annapolis High School
2700 Riva Rd
Annapolis, MD 21401

Contact
Office of the County Executive
Community Engagement & Constituent Services
(410) 222-1785 / cecs@aaconomy.org

Registration
bit.ly/AAPPOW

Speakers

- U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Baltimore Field Office
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- Office of the State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County
- Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management
- Anne Arundel County Police Department
- Anne Arundel Office of Equity and Human Rights

An information session for faith-based leaders and community members on how to prevent and respond to hate crimes against places of worship

@DOJ_CRS www.justice.gov/crs facebook.com/DOJCRS

RRC Fall Festival



SAVE THE DATE

Racial Reconciliation Collaborative

RRC Fall Festival

OCT 21 | 10AM -3PM

Food - Music - Games - and Much More!

RRCMOVEMENT.ORG

Save the Date: Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival

The Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival will return to the Eastport/Annapolis area **November 3-12, 2023**. Watch for more details and performance dates at St. Luke's.

RRC Summit: Meet & Greet Small Group Discussions



RRC SUMMIT

Racial Reconciliation Collaborative

Meet and Greet, Small Group Discussions

21 October

St. Philip's Church
10am-11am

For more information: RRCMOVEMENT.ORG

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 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 fall. 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 fall 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 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.

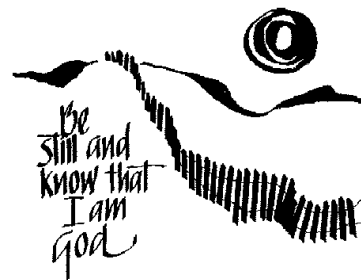
Environmental Committee Meeting

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 next meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 21**. The October meeting will be on **Thursday, October 5**. 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 eleanorevewaldman@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 members 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.

Protect Yourself from Email & Text Scams

If you receive an email that appears to be from Rev. Lauren or any member of our congregation, asking you to take some kind of unusual action – click a link or download an attachment you didn't request, share a copy of our directory, 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 the person needs your help immediately and why they can't phone you directly.

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 bloom@stlukeseastport.org. 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 if you receive one of these messages from Rev. Lauren.

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 next edition of House Call is no later than **Monday, October 30**. 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).

September Birthdays

- 2 Miriam Zarikian
- 3 Kathleen Wherthey
- 5 Casey Govoro; Paul Craley
- 9 Peter Crews
- 12 Steve Agriesti
- 24 Larry Bloom

September Anniversaries

- 14 Ron & Katherine Govoro

October Birthdays

- 1 Linda Cunningham
- 2 Hilda Sugg
- 8 Olgui Zarikian
- 17 Jacob Williams

October Anniversaries

- 1 Paul Craley & Joy Philips
- 5 Jack & Helen Wheeler
- 14 David Dent & Heather Ackroyd

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); Dottie Arms (sister-in-law of Anne Arms); Elsa Regalado (friend of Dianne Crews); Bernardi Family; Linda Cunningham.

Immediate Needs: **Christine** Kingerski (friend of Dan Ramirez); Rev. **John** Keydel; **Amy** and **Miriam** Hilliard; **Bill** Hodges, and **Mike** Mauzer; **Pat** Russell (friend of Mike & Eve Waldman); **Nancy** Lear and **family**; **Jack & Helen** Wheeler; **Vincent** Veich (friend of Dianne Crews); **Mary** Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); **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); **Sammy** Bernardi (grandson of Jon Diefenthaler); **David** Monahan (nephew of Elaine Kazlauskas); **Brian** (nephew of Dianne Crews); **Ed & Pat** Schillo (friends of Lynda Nutt McIntyre); **Audrie** (friend of Ethel Bilderback); **Donald** Lawson; **Steve** Bloom (brother of Rev. Lauren Bloom); **Fred** Miller; **Ian** Wilson (father of Johanna Wilson); **Andy** Schaner; **Algernon** John Baptiste; **Bradley** Wilson (nephew of Lance Landseadel).

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-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
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

September/October 2023