

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

May – June 2025

When Excerpts Collide



For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

James 2:14-17

Theologians have long wrestled with the question of whether we are saved by faith combined with good works or by faith alone. They sometimes use these two passages from Paul's letter to the Ephesians and the letter of James to promote their points of view. Paul and James both have impeccable credentials. The thirteen letters attributed to Paul have shaped what we believe and how we "do church" for centuries. Our single letter from James is a treasure. Bible scholars

generally agree that its author was Jesus's younger brother, a presiding leader in the early church in Jerusalem who was so righteous that his contemporaries called him "James the Just." We do well to heed his teachings.

Theologians sometimes frame this question as "faith versus works," pitting Paul and James against each other like a pair of heavyweight prize fighters. That only succeeds if their words are taken out of context. In his next sentence, Paul writes, "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them." For James, faith and good works are reciprocal. "Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith." Paul doesn't want Christians to think they can save themselves by good works, and James doesn't want Christians to think their faith excuses inaction. Each is probably addressing problems observed in a particular congregation. Both urge faithful believers to do good works, and their agreement matters more than the differences of emphasis between them.

Cynics claim that "the Bible can be used to prove anything." That's not true, but it is true that overzealous believers sometimes "cherry pick" excerpts from Scripture to hammer home points of view that a broader reading wouldn't support. That's a mistake. I'm confident that God expects us to open our hearts and minds when we study Scripture. Before jumping to conclusions about what a selected passage means, please put it in context with its surrounding chapters. Don't assume you already know what a particular passage says, because repeated readings provide new and sometimes surprising insights. Where there seem to be contradictions, prayerfully seek to harmonize them. Remember that God often asks us not to choose between things like faith and works or justice and

mercy, but to do both. When in doubt, read your passage through the lens of Jesus's Great Commandment to love God with all your heart, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. An interpretation that supports hate, anger or self-righteousness is almost certainly wrong.

God's Word is both deep and wide. It offers more than anyone can learn in a lifetime, and it rewards diligent study a thousand times over. Read as widely and as deeply as you can, and may the Holy Spirit guide you to growing faith and love.

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren+

A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you for keeping your pledge payments up to date. It is much appreciated and helps us to pay our bills promptly.

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

- Sending a personal check in the mail to the church or placing it, or cash, 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.
- Zelle through your bank account. The church email address for Zelle is finance@stlukeseastport.org.
- Sending your pledge directly to the church from your IRA, thus reducing the taxable income from your required minimum distribution. You may want to discuss this method with your tax or financial advisor.

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

Operating Income and Expense Summary

As of March 31, 2025

<u>Operating Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	32,018	42,500
Other	<u>16,946</u>	<u>22,352</u>

Total Income	48,964	64,852
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<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	<u>65,873</u>	<u>66,483</u>
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<u>Net Gain</u>	<u>(16,909)</u>	<u>(1,631)</u>
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Assets

Bank	49,843
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Investments	137,054
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Vestry Summary

Greetings from the Vestry!

The Vestry update will be short and sweet for this newsletter issue but we would like to call your attention to a few things. The Vestry will be meeting for their annual retreat on June 1st. The vestry will be discussing who we are as a church in current times. Please keep the Vestry in your hearts and prayers as they navigate these waters:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in

thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. A Prayer for Guidance, BCP

With Blessings,
The St. Luke's Vestry

Restoration of Nature Dedicated Offering (Green Give) June 3-4



Once a year, St. Luke's Environmental Committee asks our congregation, friends, and neighbors for contributions to a dedicated offering that supports trail maintenance in St. Luke's Restoration of Nature. When you see our Green Give emails, Facebook posts, and E-news articles leading up to a Day of Giving, please join us in contributing as you are able to maintain this peaceful "wild" green space in the heart of Eastport, a true blessing for our community.

Although much of the physical labor in the Restoration of Nature is accomplished by volunteers, some trail maintenance tasks are just not suited to volunteers. The Environmental Committee goal is to raise several thousand dollars annually to cover professional costs for accomplishing those tasks plus other incidental expenses. Any contribution you make to the St. Luke's Green Give campaign will go directly to covering Restoration of Nature costs. Contributions can be made online through Givelify (select "Restoration of Nature"), through Zelle (finance@stlukeeastport.org with memo "Restoration of Nature") or by check sent to the church (with notation "Restoration of Nature").

Eight other small local non-profit organizations mount their own online fundraising campaigns under the "Green Give" umbrella simultaneously with the St. Luke's Restoration of Nature campaign, so you will see Green Give publicity with phrases like "For the Greener Good" being shared on our church social media sites, and mention of Green Give "partners". The idea is that donors who give to one environmental organization may want to also give to other "green" groups when they learn that they exist. Some of the Green Give partners have supported St. Luke's Restoration of

Nature in very significant ways in the past, especially the Watershed Stewards Academy and Unity Gardens. You can check all the partners out at GreenGive.org. If you have been wondering what the St. Luke's Environmental Committee does and how Green Give fits in, hopefully this overview helps. And if you have been wondering whether the Environmental Committee is a ministry that fits your talents, the committee's needs are broad: help is needed with hands-on outdoor work; fund-raising and grant-writing; social media coordination; organizing volunteer workday events; leading tours of the Restoration; and more.

Please consider not only providing financial support on **June 3-4** through Green Give but also joining the Environmental Committee as we care for God's creation by nurturing St. Luke's Restoration of Nature.



[Check the Restoration of nature Facebook page.](#)

Annapolis Pride Festival & Parade



Join the St. Luke's table at the Annapolis Pride Parade and Festival, **Saturday May 31**.

Click the link below for the Google Form to sign up. [Google Form - St. Luke's Pride Festival Table](#)

If you have any questions contact Amanda Reynolds at amanda.c.reynolds1@gmail.com or text/call at 410 271 3293 if you have any questions!

Morning Prayer Continues with St. Luke's



St Luke's will continue offering a service of [Morning Prayer](#) on **Wednesdays at 9 a.m.** This service will be online only. Please use the church zoom link to join. Morning prayer is a short, lay led service with readings and prayers. An online bulletin will be provided and everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information about morning prayer click the link above or follow this link: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary/morning-prayer/> Any questions? Please contact Lesley Margerrison at lmargerrison@gmail.com.

Holiday Closure

The church office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day Holiday)

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

St. Lukes Remarkable Food Pantry My First Day

by Dona Weingarten

On Tuesday, January, 21, 2025, 9am, when I arrived at the St. Lukes Food Pantry to volunteer for the first time, a very large crowd was standing in the outside yard

waiting to sign up. Administrators, Annette and Chris, ended up opening the door to 98 people that day, a record number, they said.

New to the church, I had known the undercroft as St. Lukes parish hall—a meeting place for local groups, and, on Sunday, a place for parishioners to gather for fellowship after the 10 o'clock service. The choir room off the parish hall, where I robed up as a new member of the St. Lukes choir, was always crammed with boxes and cases of cans and other foods, but I had no idea of their destiny in the Food Pantry.

As I entered the parish hall that first Tuesday, I witnessed a transformation in process—volunteers carrying boxes and crates of canned goods, packaged dry foods, dairy cartons, juice bottles, and snacks from the parish hall's three closets, two back rooms, and four wire utility carts. At the same time Steve and others delivered loaves of bread, rolls, bagels, pastries, cakes, pies, and cookies.

The process filling of undercroft tables looked to me like a fast-action, time lapse film. Each volunteer had a table and arranged the goods in neat rows with labels showing. Lesley, the manager of the Pantry, and the one



Some of the cans in neat rows.

person who knows exactly where everything is stored, gave me my first job, finding and lining up cans of fruit, vegetables, and soups on a table—two rows

of applesauce first, then pears, and mixed fruits, then green beans, peas, corn, diced tomatoes, potatoes, creme of chicken soup, tomato soup, vegetable soup, mushroom soup, and finally spaghetti sauce. Lesley encouraged me to make sure each line Some of the cans in neat rows looked attractive as in a grocery store, every label straight. In no time, NeeNee and I had filled two tables with lines of canned goods, along with certain special foods and beverages with two rows of peanut butter at the end. Then, Terry arrived to collect frozen meats and other foods from our four upright freezers and plastic-bag them in good sized collections for clients. They were heaped on a smaller table near the door. Meanwhile, other volunteers were breaking

up hundreds of cardboard boxes and hauling them up to the recycling bin.

About 10:15, action stopped for a few minutes. We were waiting for the delivery of perishables from the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. Each Tuesday Pat and her son bring all the food packed in their SUVs. Lesley said that Pat has been with the pantry since Dianne Crews started it many years ago, and she is the heart of it all.

When the SUVs pulled up outside the back door, volunteers and clients, as if in another fast-action film, conveyed box after box of prepared cooked foods, wrapped sandwiches, yogurts and desserts, and fifty-pound bags of potatoes and onions, into the room to be sorted and displayed. I had plenty to do, finding sweets for the dessert table that were scattered among other items in the boxes.



A section of the Pantry: L-R, back row: sandwiches, breads and desserts; middle row: yogurts, hummus, dips and other specialty foods; front row: special offerings, including orange juice, Oreos and peanut butter.

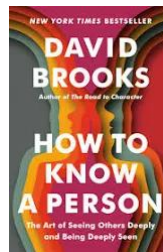
At 11:00am, after our Rector, Lauren Bloom led us all in prayer, Annette guided the clients, one by one, into the wonderful pantry. They were free to choose what they needed, with A section of the pantry: L-R, back row: sandwiches, breads, and desserts; middle row: yogurts, hummus, dips and other specialty foods; front row: special offerings, including orange juice, Oreos and peanut butter. Stationed at the dessert table, I was supposed to guide clients to take only one big dessert or several smaller pastries or slices of things. Some lucky ones were able to bag whole cakes or pies. Late comers had to settle for single pastries, apple fritters, slices of cake, banana bread or pumpkin bread. I felt the electric energy and joy all around me from volunteers and clients alike. The pantry ran over time that day because so many people came.

At 1:30pm, after all the leftover cans and other items were re-stashed in the storage areas, veteran pantry workers Joy, Lesley, Valerie, and Tom stayed on, making sure the undercroft was properly restored to St. Luke's

parish hall again. Joy taught me how to disinfect the tables and I helped vacuum. Lesley was the last to leave. To this day the volunteers keep hoping for a few more people to help with the laborious, rather grubby job of cleaning up.

I had not worked so hard since retiring as an English teacher in 2007, but I felt (and still feel) so alive and joyful and, yes, privileged to be a part of St. Luke's remarkable Food Pantry.

Eastertide Book Study



Bestselling author David Brooks observes, "There is one skill that lies at the heart of any healthy person, family, school, community organization, or society: the ability to see someone else deeply and make them feel seen—to accurately know another person, to let them feel valued, heard, and understood." And yet we humans don't do this well.

To help ourselves become more understanding and considerate toward others, and to find the joy that comes from being seen, St. Luke's is offering a book study group of David Brooks *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen*.

The study group begins the last Tuesday in **April** and will last eight or nine weeks. Held every **Tuesday evening, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. by Zoom**. We will use the St. Luke's zoom link which can be found on the webpage www.stlukeseastport.org.

Eve Waldman has been leading the study group. In addition to the book, she will be using the *Workbook: How to Know a Person: A Practical Guide for David Brooks' Book, by Kee Notes*. She very happily welcomes you to join her and can be contacted at eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com for more information.

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 meetings will be held on **Thursday, May 8 and June 12**. 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).

Lunches for the Light House Shelter



Making sandwiches for our unhoused neighbors at the Light House offers a perfect way to plug into outreach at St Luke's. On two Sundays a month, during hospitality time, we make up and then deliver 24 bagged lunches. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board but everyone is welcome to join in the preparations on the day.

The mission of the Light House is "To rebuild lives with compassion by providing shelter and services to prevent homelessness and empower people as they transition toward employment, housing and self-sufficiency" and we are privileged to be a part of that. Please contact Lesley Margerrison if you have any questions or would like to volunteer by email at lmargerrison@gmail.com.

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the next edition of House Call is no later than **Tuesday, June 24, 2025**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at office@stlukeseastport.org.

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. They will be happy to answer questions.

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.

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 or email lbloom@stlukeseastport.org.

Hospitality

St. Luke's offers hospitality 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 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 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.

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, baby or other happy occasion. **The 2025 sign-up sheet is located in the Undercroft.** The requested donation amount is \$50 and may be made either by check or online with the memo "Flowers." Please email our Parish Administrator 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.



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

2	Kate Dent
6	Maxwell McGregor
8	Chris Dent
11	Robert Abbott
13	Pepe Dent
15	Helen Wheeler
19	Mike Waldman
26	Isaiah Dent
28	Elise Balcom

June Birthdays

1	Katherine Govoro
7	Sunniah Magogo
9	Lesley Margerrison, Bea Young
10	Kathy Rewa
13	Bartel Williams Sr.
21	Dan Ramirez

Prayer List

Ongoing Needs: Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright (mother of Lexi Wright); Olgui Zarikian; Sarah Lamming; Jennifer Miles (friend of Kathleen Rewa); Nelida Godfrey (family friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); Rev. John Keydel; Vincent Veich (friend of Dianne Crews); Christine Kingerski (friend of Dan Ramirez); Deacon Frank Bailey (friend of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Helen Wheeler; Sammy Bernardi (grandson of Jon Diefenthaler; Karyl Johnston (friend of Max McGregor) Spencer Johnson (husband of Rev.

Andrea Johnson); Zigi Zacs; and all those affected by war and conflict around the world.

Immediate Needs: **Tod** Wildason (friend of Dianne Crews); **Elizabeth & Kate** (friends of Lesley Margerrison); **Nancy** Otis; **Susan & Phil** Murphree (friends of David & Ann McGuinness); **Marcus** Dent (son-in-law of Alastair McGregor); **Julian** Easterday (friend of Helen Leitch); **Patrick** Smiley (friend of Dianne Crews); **Joyce** Sutherland (mother of Michelle Sutherland); **John & Sue** Smith; **Lesley** Fallon (mother-in-law of Melissa Deckman Fallon); **Mike** Johnson (friend of Lance Landseadel); **Ted** Fulton (cousin of Ethel Bilderback); **Jennefer** Trowers-Smith (friend of Tanya Bloom); **Hans** Bachmann (friend of Lance Landseadel); **Ann** McGuinness; **Becca** Miller **and family** (extended family of Claire Miller); **John** McGuinness (brother of David McGuinness); **Nancy** (sister-in-law of Lesley Margerrison); **Gil** Gardner; **Marilyn** Renkey and **Frank** Cham (sister and brother of Kathy Dinin); **David** Bicchieri (father of Joseph Bicchieri); and **Kristin** Pagent (friend of Adrith Bicchieri); **Mary** Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); **Charlie & Family**; **Larry** Bloom (father of Rev. Lauren Bloom); **Patty** (friend of Suzie, Valerie and Norma).

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. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent,
XV Bishop

Parish Staff

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

Parish Officers

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden
443-822-1978, richard@openpathproducts.com
Vrej Zarikian, Junior Warden
404-234-7999, Zarikian@usna.edu

Ministry Contacts

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Food Pantry	Lesley Margerrison 512-921-4241, lmargerrison@gmail.com
Flower Ministry	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Contemplative Prayer	Eve Waldman eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com Jenna Lane Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com

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