

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

December 2022

Glory Be to the Newborn King



"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
Luke 2:1, 4-14

Reading St. Luke's rendition of Jesus's birth story is among the loveliest traditions of Christmas. Luke reminds us that Jesus had decidedly humble beginnings. Although his earthly father, Joseph, was descended from the House of David, Jesus wasn't born into wealth or privilege. His parents were peasants, his first clothing was strips of cloth, and his first cradle was a feed trough. Tradition tells us that Jesus was literally born in a barn because the Bethlehem inn was so full of travelers that there was nowhere else in town for his family to sleep.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered ... Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

But as Jesus and his parents were settling in for the night, a fabulous music and light show was happening in the nearby fields. A group of shepherds were guarding their sheep when an angel of God appeared to them, shining with the glory of God. He told the frightened shepherds that the Messiah had been born and how to find him, then the heavenly host chimed in with glorious song. It must have been quite the spectacle. Luke's rendition of Jesus's birth narrative tells us something important about God's priorities. It would have been just as miraculous for the Messiah to be born to a noblewoman in Herod's household and, perhaps, safer for the child to grow up – as Moses did – under the care and protection of the royal family. Instead, God chose Mary and Joseph, two seemingly unremarkable people, to raise the baby who would save the world. Had the angel and the heavenly host not dropped in to celebrate with the shepherds, Jesus's birth might have gone entirely unnoticed, at least until Epiphany. The Kingdom of God literally broke into Earth when Jesus was born, so it makes sense that his birth was accompanied by celestial fanfare. That divine display has been replaced in our time with colored lights, tinsel,

carols, and seemingly endless holiday specials. It's a good and joyful thing for us to wait eagerly for Jesus's coming. But it's important not to sentimentalize the manger or glamorize the angel who terrified the shepherds. Jesus's birth is a story of mortal humility and divine glory, of unsophisticated people trying to understand circumstances that were as scary as they were beautiful. It's a reminder that our extraordinary God cherishes the commonplace, and that his Son chose to be born and live not with the rich and powerful, but among ordinary people. His gift of love is for everyone. So, as you enjoy this holiday season, remember to share with those who have less, and to pause now and then to ponder and to pray to the God who, for our sakes, chose to be born in a barn while the angels sang.

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren+

Vestry Highlights

November Vestry Highlights

- We start our meetings with the question – How are we doing as a community of love? We reflected on the hospitality shared at the Jazz and Roots Festival and the Mid Clean-up Day.
- The 2022-2024 Strategic Ministry Plan was approved. This is the guideline for the growth of the church. A specific report will be presented at the Annual meeting
- The balance of money collected for Sunniah will be sent to CHERA (Community Health and Education in Rural Africa).
- The draft 2023 Financial Budget was presented and discussed.
- Pastor Lauren announced she was elected to the Diocesan Disciplinary Board.
- A combined Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held with St. Philip's at St. Luke's.
- Plans are being discussed for an Earth Day Festival in April 2023.
- Pastor Lauren will conduct an Advent study after Sunday services, using Richard Rohr's, *Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent*.
- Parishioners may contribute to St. Luke's donation to the Diocesan Reparation Fund by offertory, mail or Givelify.

Complete vestry meeting notes, including all reports, are available for review in the church office. Ask Dalyn for the notebook.

Submitted by,
Dianne Crews
Registrar

A Note from the Treasurer

Many thanks to everyone for your continuing financial support. As a reminder, there are several ways by which you may keep your pledge up to date and provide other contributions:

- Drop your contribution in the collection plate on Sunday morning
- Send a check to the church (1101 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403)
- Send payment to the church using your bank's automatic bill pay service, which often does not carry a fee
- Contribute online securely with Givelify (<https://goo.gl/Q4b37L> or visit our website at www.stlukeseastport.org and click on the Giving link at the top of the page). This method deducts a service fee of approximately 3% for each transaction, and so reduces your total gift amount to the church. Please consider adding an additional amount to each gift to cover this fee.

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

Treasurer's Report: 2022 Finances

As of October 31, 2022

<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	111,865	104,167
Other	<u>34,307</u>	<u>27,121</u>
Total Income	146,172	131,288
<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>134,498</u>	<u>121,368</u>
<u>Net Gain</u>	<u>11,674</u>	<u>9,920</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Checking	57,458	36,518
Investments	76,030	77,844

An Update on COVID Prevention

As we move into the Christmas season, the Center for Disease Control confirms that Anne Arundel County's community risk level for new cases of COVID continues to be low. However, our vestry remains concerned for the health and well-being of our congregation, especially in light of some recent cases that have emerged among our parishioners. We are continuing hybrid worship, allowing those who either have the virus or are particularly susceptible to participate in our services on Zoom or Facebook rather than in-person. If you are healthy but more comfortable wearing a mask to church, please feel very free to do so, though masks are no longer required. If you are ill, please join us virtually until you are fully recovered. Please be kind to those who choose to mask. When in church, maintain a polite social distance and refrain from physical contact like hugs and handshakes unless you are sure it is welcome.

Some congregations have returned to the common cup, but for now we will continue to offer the Eucharist by shallow intinction. This practice minimizes the risk of COVID transmission. Rev. Lauren+ tests for COVID each week and uses hand sanitizer to further reduce the risk of contagion as she gives the host to the congregation. We will continue to offer hospitality after services; again, please feel free to mask if you are more

comfortable that way. The vestry will continue to monitor COVID in Anne Arundel and adjust our practices as circumstances evolve. Thank you for your understanding as we strive to keep each other safe while we worship and socialize through the holidays.

Come Home for Christmas with St. Luke's

Join us for worship in-person, by Zoom or Facebook Live

Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
5 p.m. Hybrid Worship

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day
10 a.m. Hybrid Worship

Sunday, January 1st
First Sunday after Christmas Day
10 a.m. Hybrid Worship



Join with Zoom
From your computer, tablet, or smartphone, click this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/4102685419>

Watch Live on our Facebook Page at:
www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport

From your mobile phone or landline, dial:
1-301-715-8592
Enter Meeting ID: 410 268 5419

Contemporary Epistle for Stewardship Season 2022

During the Stewardship Season, the second reading each Sunday was replaced by a series of “Contemporary Epistles” shared by our own members on the theme of Stewardship. The talk below was given by Joy Philips on Sunday, October 16, 2022

During this year’s Stewardship Season, we’ve heard from St. Luke’s saints why they love this little special church so much. The stewardship campaign is winding up today. I’m here to bring it home.

My father was a preacher and during stewardship season, he used to say, Don’t give until it hurts; give until it stops hurting.

We come to this sanctuary on Sundays to worship by singing and praying and hugging and listening to Lauren+ preach and sharing at the table. We also worship, on Sundays and throughout the week, by giving— of ourselves, our time, our talents, our money. I’m here to encourage you not just to give to St. Luke’s, but to pledge.

Two years ago I joined the Vestry and quickly learned that this dedicated group of leaders is very careful with the money you give to St. Luke’s. We develop a budget based on the pledges we receive and we try to stay within that budget as the year progresses, only asking for special offerings when special needs arise. The budget considers things you probably notice - a clean sanctuary, service booklets, beautiful music, meaningful sermons. But it also accounts for things you may not notice - a roof that doesn’t leak, an elevator that works, an assistant who makes it look easy to keep this place running. (Thank you, Dalyn!!).

Our budgets account for all of this, down to every detail. Did you know we budget for the fees we pay for using Givelify, the online giving platform? We budget for our Diocesan assessment. Our trash disposal. Our reparations commitment. Everything! Our 2023 budget will, of course, take into account the inflation that we are all experiencing in our own lives.

We hope you will join us at the next Annual Meeting where the budget will be distributed and explained and your questions will be answered. You will learn that the

Vestry members are excellent stewards of your financial gifts. And you will see that from our humble, detailed budgets come meaningful ministries that impact so many people, in Eastport, throughout Maryland, and into the world.

I am so thankful for the St. Luke’s saints who have come before us and for how they also planned and budgeted and pledged to ensure that this church is still so vital today. I hope that 50 years from now, the St. Luke’s saints of 2073 will look back at 2023 and thank us:

- for our commitment to this church,
- for our willingness to step up and do our part,
- for our cheerful desire to give out of our abundance, and yes,
- for our realistic understanding of why we need to budget.

The Vestry appreciates all gifts, even unplanned ones. But if God loves a cheerful giver, the Vestry loves a cheerful pledger!

I’d like to close by quoting from our anthem today, which was written by Ildar. It is called Offertorium. Listen for these words:

Lord, accept our offerings, our modest offerings;
our sacrifice is your gift!
All things come of Thee, O Lord,
and of Thine own have we given Thee.

Christmas Flower Dedications

Christmas flower dedications are now available in the pews at St. Luke’s. You can also send a check to St. Luke’s with “Christmas Flowers” in the memo line. Remember to include the name(s) of those in whose memory or honor the flowers are given. **Please turn in your envelope(s) or complete the online form below no later than December 18.**

[Click here for the Flower Dedication Form](#)



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

Contemplative Prayer Advent Half-day Silent Retreat

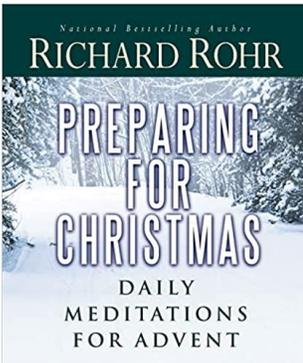
Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Trail of Souls: A Journey Toward Truth and Transformation. Watch the documentary on the journey as a diocese to reconciliation and reparations. Click the link below to watch on Facebook. No account is needed to watch.



<https://fb.watch/h5-QeZL9YS/>

Advent Book Study



Advent is always a joyous season, but holiday preparations and year-end work can make the season hectic. Reading and worshipping together can bring a welcome moment of peace amidst the hubbub.

The reading for Advent 2022 will be Richard Rohr's *Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent*.

Discussions will take place in-person, immediately following Coffee Hour for half an hour. For those wishing to participate by Zoom, please log in at 11:30 a.m. www.stlukeseastport.org



The Contemplative Prayer Practice will host its annual, in-person Advent half-day silent retreat **on Friday, December 9, from 9 a.m. to noon**. All are welcome to join.

They will begin with light refreshments and a welcome before going into silence. There will be three silent prayer sessions, preceded by readings from Richard Rohr's Advent meditations, with a silent break in the middle. The three sessions will be followed by a quiet activity time for walking, reading or other quiet activity. After that, we will come together again to break our silence and end with a prayer.

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.

Ordination of Deacons Charity Humm

On **Saturday, December 3 at 11 a.m.** at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore. The Right Rev. Robert W. Ihloff will ordain our former intern Charity Humm into the Sacred Order of Deacons. Carpooling is highly recommended.

The Diocese of Maryland welcomes others to attend via a Livestream link. [Click here](#) or visit <https://marylandepiscopal.org/2020/03/18/episcopal-diocese-of-maryland-livestreamed-worship/>

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.) for the month of December. 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/Winter 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 December meeting will be Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.**

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.** See page 5 for the in-person, Advent Silent Retreat details.

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.

Calendar Collections

Thank you to those who have donated their 2023 calendars. **Donations are being received no later than December 11.** We wish to mail them to the Seafarer's Center before Christmas.

For several years members and friends of St. Luke's have donated our extra calendars to the Baltimore International Seafarer's Center for distribution to worldwide seafarers. "Serving those who go down to the sea in ships." Please drop them at the parish office.

Holiday Closures

The office will be closed on **Monday, December 26, 2022** for the Christmas holiday.

The **Food Pantry** will be closed on **Tuesday, December 27, 2022**, for the holiday.

Eastport Memorial Labyrinth Walk



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.

Labyrinth Walks will continue in 2023. Watch for additional details. **The next walk will be January 14, 2023.**

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

Claggett Center Happenings

2023 Events

Men's Retreat February 3-5, 2023

Join men from across the Diocese of Maryland and Washington for a weekend of music, fellowship, recreation and worship.

Women's Retreat Weekend February 17-19, 2023

Grow your spiritual life in community with these women from all walks of life. This year's theme is Growing God's Garden: Cultivating Community.

Activities include:

- workshops
- service projects
- nature walk
- arts and crafts
- and more!

Writer Retreat February 27 - March 2, 2023

Hone your voice, get time away to focus on your craft, and hear from experts in the field during this Informative and Creative week-long retreat.

Program:

- keynote speakers
- expert workshops
- collaborative group session

- free time to work on our beautiful campus!

Small Parish Retreat May 12-14, 2023

Would you love to enjoy a retreat with your church community, but don't have the capacity to organize one for your parish alone? Gather with other small-but-mighty churches for a classic parish retreat. Join together for worship and fellowship, while growing closer to your faith community in small groups.

Parish leaders: contact us if this might fit your parish!

Visit www.claggettcenter.org for details.

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 2022 in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley at office@stlukeeastport.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.

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@stlukeeastport.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.

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the January edition of House Call is no later than **Tuesday, December 27**. 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).

December Birthdays

1	Diana McGregor
5	Dianne Crews, Jack Wheeler
6	Claire Miller
12	Kellie Howell
22	Andrew Schaner
24	Chuck Gallegos
26	Holly Every
27	Rev. Lauren Bloom
29	Rebecca McCoy

December Anniversaries

15	Amanda & Joshua Reynolds
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Prayer List

Ongoing Needs: Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; Connie Harold; the Palermo Family; Heather Cook; Sydney Ponturo; Sally and Fred Sandford; 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); Deacon Mary Walton; Olgui Zarikian; Lance Binnal (friend of Kathleen Rewa); Patricia; Linda Cunningham; Sarah Lamming; Lee Riley; Dagmar Kohring; 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); Charla Rowe (godmother of Tanya Bloom); Tim Shiley & Family (cousins of Rev. Lauren Bloom).

Immediate Needs: **Christine** Kingerski (friend of Dan Ramirez); **Nicole** DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews); **Ken** Crisman (son-in-law's father of Sharon Williams); the Rev. **John** Keydel; the **McGregor** family; **Amy** and **Miriam** Hilliard; **Bill** Hodges, and **Mike** Mauzer; **Josh** Thrift (extended family member of Sharon Williams); **Lance** Landseadel (husband of Rev. Lauren Bloom); **Pat** Russell (friend of Mike & Eve Waldman); **Nancy** Lear and **family**; **Sean** Green (son of Rae Miller); **Jack & Helen** Wheeler; **Bart** Williams; **Bob** Gough (friend of Phyllis Suhr); **Janet** Grevstad (aunt of Rev. Lauren Bloom); **Phil** Phillips (brother of Joy Phillips); **Cindy** (friend of Sharon Williams).

Thanksgiving for Healing: Anita (sister of Elaine Kazlauskas).

For the Departed: Laurence Coleman

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

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
Dianne Crews, Registrar
410-268-9741, dmackcrn@verzion.net

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild	Dawn Moorehead 443-852-0371, dmorehead9@aol.com
Environmental Committee	Chuck Gallegos 443-758-3036, gallegoscl@verizon.net Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Food Pantry	Mike Waldman 757-387-2251, mwaldman@juno.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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1101 Bay Ridge Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21403

December 2002 House Call