

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

March-April 2025

Walking the Road to Golgotha



When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

Luke 9:51

March brings with it the most solemn season of the liturgical year. For the forty days and forty nights of Lent, Christians worldwide will devote themselves to repentance and contemplation. Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, sacrifice, self-examination, and repentance. Our God is perfect, but we are not. Even the most devout and disciplined among us can lapse into unfortunate habits or get too caught up in worldly concerns. Just as our bodies benefit from an annual physical check-up, our souls can benefit from the opportunity for a spiritual check-up that Lent provides.

Over the two thousand years that Christianity has existed, religious authorities have sometimes imposed brutal penances on faithful people during Lent. The theory seems to be that, if penitence in the name of Jesus is good, self-abuse is better. The Biblical instruction to "fear the Lord" has sometimes been so harshly enforced

that healthy respect for God became distorted by guilt, shame, and even terror. Some Christians dread Lent and the mortification that they believe the season requires. Others who refuse to hurt themselves in the name of God either offer a small token sacrifice or ignore Lent altogether, missing the blessings that the season can provide. Both approaches miss the point.

To understand what Lent calls us to do, it helps to consider how Luke organized his Gospel. Unlike modern historians and biographers, Luke didn't attempt to present the events of Jesus's life in perfect chronological order. Instead, he gathered many of Jesus's parables and teachings into a sweeping arc that Bible scholars call the "Travel Narrative." In Jesus's day, healthy Jewish men were expected to visit Jerusalem for the Passover each year, so Jesus would have made at least three trips to Jerusalem during his public ministry. Luke consolidates them into a single journey that culminates in the Passion. When Luke tells us that Jesus "set his face to go to Jerusalem," he doesn't only mean that Jesus and the disciples started walking south. Luke is saying that Jesus, knowing full well what he would have to endure, squared his shoulders and set out for the place where he would suffer and die. Thanks be to God, it was also the place where Jesus would ultimately defeat death in the Resurrection, bringing forgiveness and eternal life to all who follow him.

Lent asks us to accompany Jesus on the road to Jerusalem and Golgotha, which is where reflection and repentance come in. During Lent, we are called to redirect our attention from earthly to heavenly things and reflect deeply on Jesus's ministry, contemplating how well our lives reflect our faith. We are asked to sacrifice the idols that distract us from our devotion to God. And we are blessed to take our journey knowing that the road to Golgotha does not end at the foot of the Cross but continues to the empty tomb.

In his book *Seasons of Celebration*, Thomas Merton wrote, “the Pascal Mystery is above all the mystery of life in which the Church, by celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ, enters into the Kingdom of Life which He has established once and for all by His definitive victory over sin and death ... Lent is then not a season of punishment so much as one of healing.” May this year’s Lenten season bring you healing and renewed faith as we walk with Jesus toward the joyful celebration of Easter morning.

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren+

A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you so much for keeping your pledges up to date. It is much appreciated.

We have sent out annual donation statements for 2024. Please let the treasurer know as soon as possible if you see any problems or have any questions.

Remember that there are several 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.

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 January 31, 2025

<u>Operating</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Pledges	5,967	14,167
Other	<u>6,583</u>	<u>7,250</u>
Total Income	12,550	21,417
 <u>Operating</u>		
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>20,436</u>	<u>22,161</u>
 <u>Net Gain</u>	<u>(7,886)</u>	<u>(744)</u>
 <u>Assets</u>		
Checking	69,164	
Investments	89,645	

Vestry Summary

Greetings from the Vestry at St. Luke’s!

Each year, vestry members read aloud and sign the Vestry Oath required by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. It reads: I, [Name], do declare my belief in the Christian Religion and do declare that I accede to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and that in obedience to the same, I shall execute the office of a Vestry member or Warden without prejudice, favor or affection, according to the best of my skill and

knowledge. So help me God. Amen. With this oath, the vestry and officers affirm their commitment to uphold the structure and values of the Episcopal Church, and specifically those of St. Luke's. It is our yearly vow to manage the business and care of the church and its buildings but also, to provide good guidance and support to St. Luke's missions and outreach, and to faithfully execute our roles as stewards. Vestry members come from our church community and from all types of backgrounds and experiences. We are then voted in by the community at the annual meeting. The oath isn't long, but it is a meaningful reminder of our responsibilities, and we take them seriously. To that end, after the vote during St. Luke's annual meeting held in February 2025, we welcome back Anne Arms to the vestry, who will be serving again after a hiatus and advising in her role as co-chair of the environmental committee. We also welcome new vestry member Terry Otis, who brings his diplomatic and volunteer experience to the role. Pete Stark has stepped down from the general vestry but will remain in office as Treasurer. Vrej Zarikian has stepped into the role of Junior Warden from Helen Leitch, who has retired after her long and dedicated service to St. Luke's. Lesley Margerrison and Claire Miller renewed their vestry positions for another 3-year term. Other vestry members include Richard Smith, Senior Warden; Amanda Reynolds, Registrar; and Gil Gardner, Dan Ramirez, and Andy Schaner. As your Vestry, we will continue to serve this congregation without prejudice, favor or affection, according to our best skills and knowledge, so help us God. Thank you so much for entrusting us with St. Luke's. As always, please greet and reach out to any of us if you feel moved to do so.

With blessings,
St. Luke's Vestry

How We Give Back to God

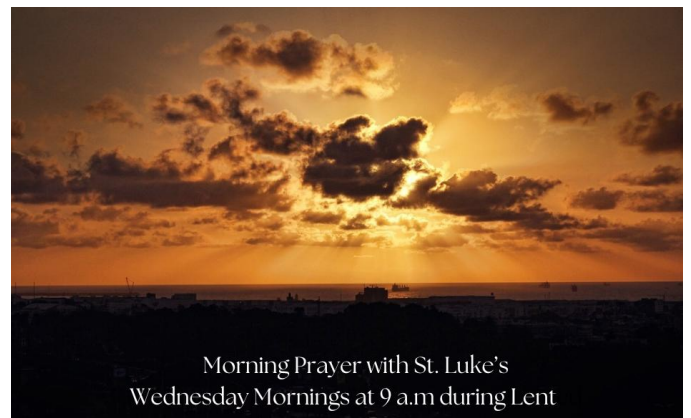
It is a longstanding Christian custom to pass the plate during worship, inviting the congregation to offer back to God a portion of their worldly goods in support of the church's work on God's behalf. During the Covid pandemic, St. Luke's and many other churches stopped passing the plate to minimize contagion. Although Covid now seems to be under better control, colds, flu, and other contagious illnesses can still be passed among us. Our leaders also recognize that some members feel pressured when the plate is passed to them, especially

if they are already donating to the church by other means.

To balance our faithful duty to give back to God with pastoral concern for the health and comfort of our members, the Vestry has decided to try something new. When worshippers enter the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, there will be offering plates on either side of the door. You are invited to make an offering as the Spirit moves you. (You are also welcome to put a pledged donation in the plate – please designate it as such on your check so we can record it properly.) Our greeters will bring your offerings up to the altar to be blessed along with the communion elements just before we celebrate the Eucharist. One of the plates will remain by the door for use by anyone who prefers to give after the service.

The offering plates at St. Luke's are an invitation, not a demand. As St. Paul reminds us, "each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our little church is blessed by the generosity of its members and our neighbors are blessed by St. Luke's work in our community. Thank you for your faithful gifts to our shared ministry.

Lenten Morning Prayer with St. Luke's

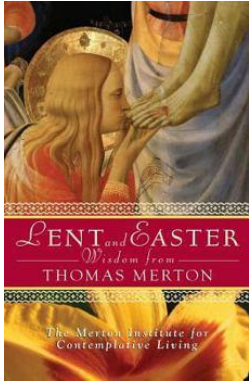


During the season of Lent, St Luke's will be offering a service of [Morning Prayer](#) on **Wednesdays at 9 a.m.** This service will be online only. Please use the church zoom link to join. Morning prayer is a short, lay led service with readings and prayers. An online bulletin will be provided and everyone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

Lenten Book Study



During this season of reflection and repentance there will be a book discussion around the works of Thomas Merton.

The book we will study is entitled *Lent and Easter Wisdom from Thomas Merton: Daily Scripture and Prayers, Together* with Thomas Merton's Own Words.

Sessions will be held every **Tuesday, during Lent via St. Luke's Zoom at 7 pm.** Visit www.stlukeseastport.org or click the link [HERE](#).

Easter Flower Dedications

Easter flower dedications will be accepted beginning March 10. You can send a check to St. Luke's with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line or complete the Google Form <https://forms.gle/fx1HUo7aJUZg6PQt7> with your information. Remember to please print the name(s) of those In Memory or In Honor the flowers are given. Please submit your dedications no later than **Monday, April 7.**

Earth Day Arts Festival Save the Date

On **April 25-26, 2025**, 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!

Holy Week & Easter Services

Everyone is Welcome

Palm Sunday: April 13 

10 am Choral Eucharist
with Liturgy of the Palms

Maundy Thursday: April 17

5 pm Solemn Holy Eucharist
with Foot Washing

Good Friday: April 18

12 pm Stations of the Cross on **Zoom**
5 pm Liturgy of the Day

Holy Saturday: April 19


10 am Holy Saturday Liturgy (said)

5 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

*Joint service with St. Philip's Church
at St. Philip's Episcopal Church
730 Bestgate Road, Annapolis*

Easter Sunday: April 20 

10 am Festive Choral Eucharist

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

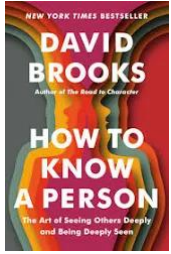
Love from St. Luke's Podcast



Each week you can listen to Rev. Lauren+ through a Podcast called [Love from St. Luke's](#). Click the title link or visit [SoundCloud](#) .Episodes 1- 4 are now available.

This podcast is dedicated to exploring God's love as it is revealed in scripture.

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 will begin on **Tuesday, April 29**. It will last eight or nine weeks and be 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.stlukeeastport.org.

Eve Waldman will be 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 cleanorevewaldman@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 March 13th and April 10th**. 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).

World Labyrinth Day

May 3, 2025

Every year on the first Saturday in May, thousands of people around the globe participate in World Labyrinth Day as a moving meditation for world peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience. Many “Walk as One at 1” local time to create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next, and there are additional ways to participate.



SAVE THE DATE

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

WALK AS ONE AT 1
SATURDAY MAY 3, 2025
AT 1 PM



EASTPORT MEMORIAL LABYRINTH AT
ST LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1101 BAY RIDGE AVENUE, ANNAPOLIS, MD

WALK AS ONE
AT 1

SILENT LABYRINTH
WALK
AND MEDITATION

ALL ARE WELCOME!

INTERNATIONAL
WALK FOR
PEACE

SECOND ANNUAL
EASTPORT WORLD
LABYRINTH DAY
COMMEMORATION
AT ST LUKE’S

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY
is an annual international
event sponsored by The
Labyrinth Society.
Every year on the first
Saturday in May thousands
of people around the world
participate in this moving
meditation for world peace
and celebration of the
labyrinth experience.

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 the after-

church coffee hour, 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.

Holiday Office Closures

The Church Office will be closed for the following Holidays:

Easter Monday – April 21, 2025

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.

Annapolis Pride Festival & Parade



May 31, 2025

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

Episcopal Relief and Development



Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) partners with faith and community leaders to advance lasting change in communities affected by injustice, poverty, disaster and climate change.

Inspired by their faith and in collaboration with local experts, ERD provides resources and programming that: nurture early childhood development; reduce violence against women and girls; strengthen communities' climate resilience; provide support in the wake of disasters. They emphasize shared learning to ensure support is purpose-driven, compassionate, effective and respectful of the dignity of all human beings. For each program, ERD defines measurable objectives and establishes key data points to track. With that information, they monitor and assess program effectiveness. Results are shared with partners to evaluate success and identify areas for improvement. These standards have provided effective care, even in highly challenging contexts, to more than 49 million people in the last 10 years.

If you are able to assist at this time, please visit www.episcopalrelief.org or click [HERE](#).

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 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.

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.

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the next edition of House Call is no later than **Thursday, April 24, 2025**. 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; Patty Peterson (friend of Helen 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); Lucy Sprigg; 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); Bill & Lois Korth (friends of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Helen Wheeler; Sammy Bernardi (grandson of Jon Diefenthaler); Bishop Chilton Knudsen; and Larry Bloom (father of Rev. Lauren Bloom).

Immediate Needs: **Mary** Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); **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); **Spencer** Johnson (husband of Rev. Andrea Johnson); **Karyl** Johnston (friend of Max McGregor); **Nicole** DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews); **Zigi** Zacs; **Patrick** Smiley (friend of Dianne Crews); **Joyce** Sutherland (mother of Michelle Sutherland); **Richard and Rabbi Susan** Warshaw (friends of Eve and Mike Waldman); **John** Smith; **Lesley** Fallon (mother-in-law of Melissa Deckman Fallon); **Mike** Johnson (friend of Lance Landseadel); **Ted** Fulton (cousin of Ethel Bilderback); **Molly** Harrison (mother of Lesley Margerrison); **Jennefer** Trowers-Smith (friend of Tanya Bloom); **Judie** Sapio (cousin of Rev. Lauren Bloom); **Hans** Bachmann (friend of Lance Landseadel); **Ann** McGuinness; **Pope Francis** of Rome; **Tom** Adams; and **for all those affected by war and conflict** around the world.

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

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
Contemplative Prayer Eve Waldman
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Jenna Lane
Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com

March/April 2025

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