



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## House Call Newsletter

### July – August 2025

#### Remembering Who We Serve



*Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness ... if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*

*Joshua 24:14-15*

Worldly circumstances sometimes challenge Christians' resolve to seek and serve God. Even the most devout can be hobbled by worries around family obligations, career, social standing, and physical safety. The powers and principalities of this world are already formidable and determined to become even more so. It may seem most prudent to keep silent and go along when the actions of the rich and powerful run counter to our understanding of what Christ asks of us. Prudence is not among the Holy Spirit's gifts, however, and it is not the same as faith.

It can be especially difficult for churches to navigate these contentious times. While individual congregations may lean left or right, the Episcopal Church reflects the same political spectrum as the nation. That may explain why at least one Episcopal priest has taken to telling his flock that "we can't really know what Jesus would say"

about the state of the world. I can't agree. Our Lord was unwavering in his concern for the disadvantaged, his call for God's children to love one and care for another, and his disdain for anyone who prioritized their own power or legalistic conformity over basic human need. We might not know what words Jesus would choose, but we can be confident about the substance of what he would say.

Even if we couldn't predict Jesus's response, though, our Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe has made his thoughts clear. In a recent opinion piece for *Religion News Service*, he argues that, although the Episcopal Church has not always made good use of its privileged place in American society, we must respond to this moment "as Christians who seek to practice our faith fully in a free and fair democracy." He writes, "God calls us to place the most vulnerable and marginalized at the center of our common life, and we must follow that command regardless of the dictates of any political party or earthly power. We are now being faced with a series of choices between the demands of the federal government and the teachings of Jesus, and that is no choice at all."

In the weeks to come, we'll look for opportunities to talk together about what Jesus requires of us and how to remain hopeful, prayerful and steadfast, comforting and encouraging one another as we seek to live out our faith. The principalities and powers may serve whom they choose. At St. Luke's, we serve the Lord. Amen.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Lauren+*

## Operating Income and Expense Summary

As of June 30, 2025

<b><u>Operating Income</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Planned</u></b>
Pledges	73,118	85,000
Other	<u>45,502</u>	<u>44,704</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	119,120	129,704
<b><u>Operating Expenses:</u></b>	<b><u>129,315</u></b>	<b><u>132,967</u></b>
<b><u>Net Gain</u></b>	<b><u>(10,195)</u></b>	<b><u>(3,263)</u></b>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Bank	29,884	
Investments	128,438	

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:starkhe2@yahoo.com) for any questions or assistance. Thank you.

## Vestry Summary

Greetings from the vestry!

Many thanks to those that kept the vestry in their thoughts and prayers for our Vestry Retreat that took place June 1st. Jeremiah 17:7-8 says:

*"Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes and its leaves shall stay green in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit."*

A church community too has its roots and its branches and leaves. Much of what we focused on during the retreat was building our church community, that is, investing in our roots, and how we can build and sustain our relationship with God, with one another, and with newcomers that find their way through St. Luke's doors. Deepening our roots spiritually and with each other, finding nourishment there even during uncertain times will create a canopy that flourishes no matter the season.

To that end, we decided the best way to approach this was to first be ourselves more visible, present and open. Look for changes on the website as we add our information about vestry members and we will be doing brief presentations during the service on who we are and what we do as part of our own commitment to outreach, so you know who to turn to with questions, suggestions or asks of the vestry. We are bringing back some traditions that were set aside during covid social distancing, such as our joyful and extended Peace during the Sunday service. We will be inviting in our wider St. Luke's community by dedicating certain

Sundays to the ministries and groups that make St. Luke's special, similar to Scout Sunday but with Food Bank and Restoration of Nature volunteers, or the Freedom Choir, for example.

As established members of St. Luke's are the roots of our congregation, we always need and love to have your help in growing our branches and leaves. We would like to create some materials to welcome visitors to our church and follow up with newcomers as part of a welcoming outreach to our church and wish to establish a kind of welcoming committee to follow up with new members and make sure they have what they need and inviting them to fellowship or out to coffee. Please contact vestry members if you are interested in this ministry and share our church with your friends! And of course, we always appreciate volunteers for any tasks, whether it is making sandwiches for the Lighthouse Shelter one day, or providing treats for coffee hour, or becoming a digital verger and managing our Zoom and social media livestreams for those that are unable to make it to church. Any act, no matter how small, nourishes the tree's roots so it can better bear our fruit.

With Blessings,

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden; Vrej Zarikian, Junior Warden; Pete Stark, Treasurer; Amanda Reynolds, Registrar; Dan Ramirez; Terry Oti; Gil Gardner Andrew Schaner; Anne Arms; Lesley Margerrison; Claire Miller

*The St. Luke's Vestry*

## Lend a Hand, Get Involved

There's always a lot going on at St. Luke's, with plenty of opportunities to get involved in special events and community service. If the Holy Spirit has been encouraging you to move more deeply into the life of our church community, here are some ways to participate:

**Altar Guild.** Dedicated volunteers prepare our altar for Sunday and special worship services. Altar Guild members take turns each week so that individual schedules are accommodated and no one is asked to take on too much. The work is sacred and satisfying, and we will teach you everything you need to know. To

learn more, please speak with Anne Arms or Pastor Lauren+.

**Helping Network.** Can you drive someone to a medical appointment, run an errand, or drop off a meal? St. Luke's is assembling a network of volunteers to be on call when members of the congregation need a little extra help. This isn't a committee with regular meetings, just an opportunity to serve now and then when assistance is needed and you have time. To learn more or sign up, please email or speak with Pastor Lauren+.

**Blessing of the Animals.** On Saturday, October 4th, St. Luke's will welcome our neighbors for the Blessing of the Animals. We'll offer an art show, live entertainment, children's crafts and blessings for all animals throughout the day from 10 AM until 3 PM. We need a few volunteers to help with planning and publicity, along with set up and tear down on the day. Please email or speak with Pastor Lauren+ if you'd like to assist with this community event.

## Time to Talk Prayerfully About What Matters

Recent events in our community, our nation and the world have raised spiritual questions and concerns for many of us. St. Luke's is considering how best to provide spiritual support at this challenging time, and what sorts of safe spaces and opportunities we can offer to pray together, discern, and comfort one another. Please contact Pastor Lauren+ to share your thoughts, ideas and inspirations about how you would like to come together individually and in community to meet this moment.

## Our Little Library Is Open



When we gather in the Undercroft, you may have noticed the small bookshelf near the kitchen where coffee is often served. The books there are for your use whenever you would like to delve more deeply into topics of faith. Please feel free to take them, read them, return them or pass them along, and bring any books that you would like to contribute for others to

enjoy. Episcopalians are famous for our love of books, so let's share our books and grow together.

## Annapolis Pride Festival & Parade

**October 18, 2025**

**Save the date.**



## 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](mailto:lmargerrison@gmail.com).

## Episcopal Relief & Development The Flooding in West Texas

Episcopal Relief & Development is helping local diocesan partners in Texas provide support to those impacted by the catastrophic July 4-5 Texas Hill Country

flooding, which killed over 80 people, with many more still missing.

During the weekend flash flooding event, between 5 and 13 inches of rain fell rapidly on central Texas, impacting multiple counties including Kerr, Kendall, Gillespie, Comal, Hays, Travis, Williamson and Tom Green. The full extent of the damage is still unfolding, however, hundreds of homes, mobile parks, RVs, roads and parks have been impacted so far. Thousands of people have lost power and many have been evacuated.

"This disaster is still unfolding. We will learn much more in the days and weeks ahead," said The Very Rev. David Read, Bishop of West Texas and The Very Rev. Angela Cortiñas, Bishop Suffragan of West Texas, in a joint statement released on July 5. "The recovery of the Hunt, Ingram, Comfort and Kerrville communities will not happen overnight. It will take time to catalog the loss of homes, businesses, livelihoods, and lives, and the best ways we can tangibly be part of healing, hope and recovery."

Episcopal Relief & Development is working with longstanding local partners in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas to help people most in need. Working through trusted relationships, Episcopal Relief & Development is helping partners to offer their financial resources, physical property and spiritual support in places where it is most useful after a disaster of this scale.

"Texans have experienced devastating disasters in the past decade, like the 2021 winter storm and Hurricane Harvey, and our heart goes out to them as they face tragedy once again," said Race Hodges, Program Officer, Episcopal Relief & Development. "We worked with our local partners through each of these major events to provide comfort and safety to many people. And we will continue to do so."

Please pray for the communities affected by the Texas flash flooding. Donations to the US Disaster Fund will help our local partners respond to the emerging needs caused by this disaster.



## Food Pantry Update

As we provide for a growing number of visitors there is a [suggested donation list on our website](#). All donations are gratefully received.



In addition to this list a monthly theme will help to provide sufficient items for everyone. Now until the end of **July** our donation theme is **pancake mix and syrup**.

St. Luke's Food Pantry thanks our neighbors for their support as we care for one another, our communities and creation. The St. Luke's Food Pantry is open for donation every **Monday from 9:30 - 11:30 am**.

## Summer Office Hours

The Church office hours have been adjusted for the summer months. Office hours are available by appointment only. If you are in need of anything, please feel free to email at [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org) or call at 410-268-5419.

**The church office will be closed for staff vacation July 28-31 and August 4-7.**

For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Lauren+ at 703-585-0651. If there is a building emergency please contact the Junior Warden, Vrej Zarikian at 404-234-7999. Thank you.

## 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 meetings will be held on **Thursday, July 10 and August 14**. Meetings are held remotely via Zoom beginning at **7 pm**.

All are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Chuck Gallegos ([gallegoscl@verizon.net](mailto:gallegoscl@verizon.net)) or Anne Arms ([armspna@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:lmargerrison@gmail.com).

## House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the next edition of House Call is no later than **Thursday, August 21, 2025**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@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 Summer 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](mailto:dinin.kathryn@gmail.com). Kathy can also help pair you with someone else if you don't want to host on your own.

## Contemplative Prayer at St. Luke's



*Photo by Chuck Gallegos*

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

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](mailto:eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com). Eve's co-facilitators Chuck Gallegos can be reached at [gallegoscl@verizon.net](mailto:gallegoscl@verizon.net), and Jenna Lane, [Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lbloom@stlukeseastport.org).

## 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)).

### July Birthdays

20 Lisa Zarikian  
24 Norman Crews

### July Anniversaries

02 Rae & Fred Miller  
03 Avedis & Olgui Zarikian  
07 Lauren Bloom & Lance Landseadel  
17 Richard & Johanna Wilson-Smith

### August Birthdays

6 Natasia Thompson  
7 James Reynolds  
17 Josh Cooper  
18 Johanna Wilson-Smith  
22 Eve Waldman  
29 Anne Arms  
30 Barbara Tayman  
31 Gilbert Gardner

### August Anniversaries

17 Elise & Bob Balcom  
27 David & Ann McGuinness  
28 Kathryn & John Dinin  
29 Ethel Bilderback & Jon Diefenthaler

## Prayer List

**Ongoing Needs:** Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright (mother of Lexi Wright); 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; Joyce Sutherland (mother of Michelle Sutherland); Jennefer Trowers-Smith (friend of Tanya Bloom); and for 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); **John & Sue** Smith; **Mike** Johnson (friend of Lance Landseadel); **Ted** Fulton (cousin of Ethel Bilderback); **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); **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); **Tom** Adams; **Gabe** Karpouzian (friend of the Zarikian family); **Olgui** Zarikian; **those that have died and are affected by the flooding in Central Texas**; **Beverly** Colucci & **Michael** Kilbride (extended family of Rev. Lauren Bloom+); **Max** McGregor and **Lillian** Rachael (daughter of Dawn Huenink).

## **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

410-268-5419 ~ [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)

[www.stlukeseastport.org](http://www.stlukeseastport.org)

[www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport](https://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](mailto:lbloom@stlukeseastport.org)

Dr. Ildar Khannanov, Director of Music

[drkhannanov@gmail.com](mailto:drkhannanov@gmail.com)

Dalyn Huntley, Parish Administrator

[office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)

Tom Adams, Sexton

Valerie Holt, Children's Ministry

### **Vestry Members**

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden

443-822-1978, [richard@openpathproducts.com](mailto:richard@openpathproducts.com)

Vrej Zarikian, Junior Warden

404-234-7999, [Zarikian@usna.edu](mailto:Zarikian@usna.edu)

Pete Stark, Treasurer

Amanda Reynolds, Registrar

Dan Ramirez

Terry Otis

Gil Gardner

Andrew Schaner

Anne Arms

Lesley Margerrison

Claire Miller

### **Ministry Contacts**

Environmental Committee                      Chuck Gallegos

443-758-3036, [gallegoscl@verizon.net](mailto:gallegoscl@verizon.net)

Anne Arms

707-479-4303, [armspna@aol.com](mailto:armspna@aol.com)

Food Pantry                                      Lesley Margerrison

512-921-4241, [lmargerrison@gmail.com](mailto:lmargerrison@gmail.com)

Flower Ministry                                  Anne Arms

707-479-4303, [armspna@aol.com](mailto:armspna@aol.com)

Contemplative Prayer                      Eve Waldman

[eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com)

Jenna Lane

[Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com](mailto:Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com)