

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

November/December 2023

Praying for Peace at Advent



Praying for Peace at Advent

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and
his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

Recently, I traveled to Baltimore for a meeting with our Music Director, Dr. Khannanov. Traffic was light for once, and I arrived early enough to spend a little time enjoying the Walters Art Museum's display of European Renaissance art. It's an extensive collection with a decidedly religious slant, typical of an era when fine art was often commissioned by wealthy patrons as a gift to the church. One piece in particular caught my eye: the *Madonna of the Candelabra*, created around 1513 C.E. by the great Italian painter, Raphael. It's an exquisite portrait of Mary and the infant Jesus, beautifully rendered by an indisputable master. (The U.S. Postal Service apparently shares my fondness for the *Madonna of the Candelabra*; in 2011, they turned it into a Christmas postage stamp.) If you like Renaissance art, the *Madonna of the Candelabra* provides ample

justification to make a special visit to the Walters. But after a few minutes, I found myself focused not on the painting, but on its frame.

The *Madonna of the Candelabra* is a *tondo*, the Renaissance term for a circular work of art. Its frame, however, is square, ornately decorated, and gilded. The gold of the frame picks up the flames of the candelabra, an artistic nod to ancient Roman emperors that alludes to Jesus and Mary's roles as the King and Queen of Heaven. It highlights the golden halos of the holy child, his mother, and two accompanying angels. The frame is a work of art all by itself.

The *Madonna of the Candelabra* and its elaborate frame express an admirable desire to offer the artist's very best to God. It's a sumptuous gift, perfectly suited to the Prince of Peace and his queenly mother. Jesus and Mary weren't only the King and Queen of Heaven, however. Mary was, first, a Galilean peasant, hardly more than a child herself when Archangel Gabriel appeared to her. Jesus was that peasant girl's son, a baby whom Scripture tells us was literally born in a barn. His first cradle wasn't carved from ivory and smothered in gold, or even expertly handcrafted by the carpenter who would raise him as his son. Jesus's first cradle was a food trough. It's hard to imagine anything less regal or luxurious than that.

Advent is upon us, a time of waiting and preparation. Much of the season's fun is getting ready for Christmas morning, decorating our homes with glittering ornaments, picking out the perfect gift for each loved one, then wrapping it in bright paper and shiny ribbon. We work hard to produce a celebration fit for the King of Heaven. I'm sure Jesus is grateful, and that he and his mother enjoy watching us fuss over our preparations. But I suspect he wishes we'd devote a little more of our

care to people who can't afford fancy decorations and expensive gifts, sharing what we have so that they can celebrate, too.

This is a difficult Advent in some ways. War continues to rage across Jesus's native Israel and Palestine, with thousands on both sides being killed and wounded. It's hard not to worry as we wait for our Savior's birth. His mother must have worried, pondering in her heart the strange events that took her from her home in Nazareth to a stable in Bethlehem, pregnant with a child whose legacy she could barely begin to imagine. And yet, Mary is celebrated throughout the Christian world for her loving kindness and serenity. We can use a little of both right now, so we'll invoke Mary's presence as we worship her son in our Advent services. We'll think of her as we pray for peace in the Middle East and protection for the innocent people there. And we'll imagine her joy when her son first came into the world on Christmas Day. May the blessings of quiet contemplation, joyful anticipation, and heartfelt generosity be yours this Advent season as we wait for the coming of the newborn King.

*Peace be with you,
Rev. Lauren+*

A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you for your continued financial support for our church's activities, and for keeping your pledges up to date. This becomes even more important as we near the end of the year.

If you would like pledge envelopes for 2024, please let the church office know so we can provide them for you.

The church will send out final giving statements in January.

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

Treasurer's Report: 2023 Finances

As of September 2023

<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	117,618	108,750
Other	<u>38,016</u>	<u>24,788</u>
Total Income	155,634	133,538
<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>163,261</u>	<u>168,733</u>
<u>Net Gain</u>	<u>(7,628)</u>	<u>(35,195)</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Checking	62,308	
Investments	79,403	

Congregational Health

As we continue to gather in-person and online for hybrid worship, the Covid-19 infection rate in Anne Arundel County remains relatively low. The Vestry is committed to protecting the congregation's health and safety, taking precautions to minimize transmission of Covid-19 and other illnesses. Although masks are not required, please feel very welcome to wear a mask if it makes you feel more comfortable when attending in person. Weather permitting, some windows will be opened to provide greater ventilation. We do not require social distancing, but please make physical contact (i.e., handshakes or hugs) with those outside your household, including during the passing of the peace, only if you are sure it is welcome. When in doubt, please ask before you touch. Communion under one kind, i.e., the bread or the wine alone, is the full reception of Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive only the wafer, please extend a single hand when you come forward. The vestry will continue to monitor conditions in our county and adjust our practices as needed to safeguard everyone's health.

Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist Service

On **Wednesday, November 22 at 5:00 p.m.**, St. Luke's will celebrate Thanksgiving with a Eucharist service. All monies collected in the plate will go towards the St. Luke's Food Pantry. Together, we will give praise and thanks to our Creator for all the blessings of this life, rejoicing in God's goodness as we begin to turn our attention toward Advent and the nativity of Jesus.

Music in the Image... Concert Series

On **Sunday, November 26th, at 3 pm** St. Luke's will present the third of its lecture, concert and art exhibit series, *Music in the Image... The Songs of Longing*. Featuring artists Emily Casey, soprano; Rob McGuinness, baritone; Teodora Adzharova, piano.

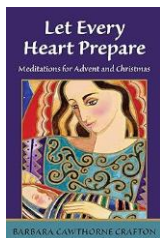
For complete details on the music selections please visit <https://www.stlukeseastport.org/music-in-the>. This concert will begin with an introductory lecture and be followed by a round table discussion.

Advent Wreath Making

The Advent wreath is a visual symbol marking the Advent season's progress. There are different ways to make an Advent wreath. Join us during coffee on **Sunday, December 3**, as we gather together and prepare for the season.

Greens, candles and metal frames for decorating will be made available. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per kit to offset the cost of materials. If you already have a wreath at home, please feel free to bring your own to decorate.

Advent Book Meditations & Discussion



*Advent is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity.

This Advent season at St. Luke's, there will be four sessions focused around the book "Let Every Heart Prepare:

Meditations for Advent and Christmas" by Barbara Cawthorne Crafton.

The Zoom meetings will be led by Rev. Lauren+ beginning at **7 pm** on the dates listed below:

Tuesday, November 28
Wednesday, December 6
Tuesday, December 12
Tuesday, December 19.

Books may be purchased from [Amazon \(Kindle & paperback\)](#), [ChurchPublishing](#), [Bookshop.org](#) and [Thriftbooks](#).

**Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: Advent*

Institution of St. Luke's Fourth Rector

You are invited to join St. Luke's Eastport as we celebrate the Institution of The Rev. Lauren M. Bloom as our fourth Rector,

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 5 pm.

*The Book of Common Prayer (BCP, pg. 559) refers to the service as New Ministry. It begins with the Institution which is when the Bishop, the Wardens, and the Congregation formally affirm that she is the Rector.

Christmas Flower Dedications

Christmas flower dedications will be made available in the pews at St. Luke's beginning **Sunday, December 3**. 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. You may also use the link below to submit your request. **Please turn in your envelope(s) or complete the online form below no later than December 18.**

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

Come Home for Christmas with St. Luke's

Sunday, December 24th
Fourth Sunday of Advent
10 a.m. Hybrid Worship

Christmas Eve Service
5 p.m. Hybrid Worship

Monday, December 25th
Christmas Day Service
10 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sunday, December 31st
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

Holiday Closures

The Church Office will be closed for the following
Holidays:

Thanksgiving Holiday – Thursday, November 23, 2023
**Christmas Holiday – Monday & Tuesday, December 25
& 26, 2023**
New Year's Day – Monday, January 1, 2024

The **Food Pantry** will be closed on **Tuesday, December
26, 2022**, for the holiday. No donations will be accepted
that week. The Food Pantry will reopen on Tuesday,
January 2, 2024.

Calendar Collections

Thank you to those who have donated their 2023
calendars. **Donations are being received no later than
December 6.** 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.

Are you on our email list?

If you have an email address but are not receiving our
weekly email newsletters each Wednesday, please let
us know by emailing office@stlukeseastport.org. These
weekly emails are an important means of
communicating information to our community in
between editions of the House Call. If you are not on
email but would like to have a printout of the weekly
"News from St. Luke's" sent to you by hard copy, please
contact Dalyn Huntley in the church office: 410-268-
5419.

Pastor Sabbath

Sunday is the Sabbath for most of us but, for clergy,
Sunday is often the busiest workday of the week.
Scripture tells us to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Pastor Lauren+ takes her Sabbath on **Mondays** as a time
of rest, reflection, and prayer. She's available for
spiritual emergencies on Mondays but defers other
work to the rest of the week when she can. Please let
her know if you have questions or need spiritual
support on a Monday or any other time. She can be
reached by email at lbloom@stlukeseastport.org

In the case of a pastoral emergency, Pastor Lauren+ can
be reached at 703-585-0651.

Light House Shelter Meal Support Ministry

St. Luke's is providing lunches to the Lighthouse Shelter
twice a month. Lesley Margerrison coordinates the
preparation and Linda Elkington manages shopping for
supplies. Everyone is invited to help make sandwiches
after services during fellowship. We are asking for
volunteers to deliver the lunches to the shelter (on
Hudson St., off West St.) through the winter. 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 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: 914-241-3966 or dinin.kathryn@gmail.com. Kathy can also help pair you with someone else if you don't want to host on your own.

Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch is a weekly gathering for fellowship through sharing a meal. This Dutch treat meal takes place **Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.** at [Adam's Ribs](#) in the

Eastport Shopping Center, right next to the church. Who is invited? Everyone! Lunch Bunch is an open event organized by members of St. Luke's. Contact Dianne Crews 410-268-9741 for more information. Friends and visitors are always welcome. No RSVP necessary.

Environmental Committee Meeting

The Environmental Committee at St. Luke's seeks to spread environmental stewardship through education, advocacy, and volunteerism on a teaching campus that heals the human spirit while caring for creation.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 14**. Meetings are held remotely via Zoom beginning at **7 pm**.

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

Contemplative Prayer Weekly Practice



The Contemplative Prayer Practice continues to meet remotely via Zoom on **Fridays at 10 a.m.**

This practice invites us to experience rest and internal nourishment through silent prayer together. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. No experience necessary.

For more information, contact co-facilitators Eve Waldman at leanorevewaldman@gmail.com or 757-387-2367 and Chuck Gallegos at gallegoscl@verizon.net or 410-571-0562.

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 or a baby. **The 2024 sign-up sheet is posted in the Undercroft.** The requested donation amount is \$50 and may be made either by check or online with the memo "Flowers." Please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley with your dedication details at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeeastport.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.

Protecting Our Community from Email & Text Scams

If you receive an email that appears to be from Rev. Lauren+ or any member of our congregation, asking you to take some kind of unusual action – click a link or download an attachment you didn't request, share a copy of our directory, wire money to a specified account, purchase gift cards and reply with the serial numbers, or simply to reply quickly, **watch out – it**

could be a form of email “phishing”. The message will give some explanation of why the person needs your help immediately and why they can’t phone you directly.

DO NOT reply to the suspicious email or text. Likewise, if a member of your parish staff is asking you to do something unusual, confirm with a phone call.

Verify the “from” email

The malicious actors behind “phishing” attacks are counting on people springing into action as soon as they see an important name on an email. You can outsmart them by looking beyond the name and checking the “from” email address to see if it matches what you know the alleged sender’s email to be. If you only see a name, you can cause the “from” email address to be displayed by hovering the cursor over the name. Rev. Lauren+ will always use lbloom@stlukeseastport.org. Even if the email or text seems legitimate, if a request seems even remotely “off,” don’t act on it until you **confirm it with a phone call or face-to-face conversation**. Contact the church office at 410-268-5419 if you receive one of these messages from Rev. Lauren+.

**Thank you to the communications staff in the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island and the Diocese of Newark for making this information publicly available.*

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the next edition of House Call is no later than **Tuesday, January 2, 2024**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at office@stlukeseastport.org

Claggett Center Adult Programs 2023-2024

Blue Christmas Retreat – **December 8-10, 2023**
Women’s Retreat Weekend – **January 19-21, 2024**
Men’s Retreat Weekend – **February 2-4, 2024**

The Claggett Center offers a variety of programs for adults. Early registration is encouraged due to limited space. Visit www.claggettcenter.org/adult-programs for more information.



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).

November Birthdays

4 Michele Morgado
5 Ann McGinness
8 Connie Harold
25 Vrej Zarikian

November Anniversaries

9 Mike and Eve Waldman
9 Natasia Thompson and Jorge Nieto

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

15 Amanda & Joshua Reynolds

Prayer List

Ongoing Needs: Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; Connie Harold; the Palermo Family; Heather Cook; Patty Peterson (friend of Helen & Jack Wheeler); Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); Jimmy Riccardi; Deacon Bob McCoy; Karen Sears-Wright (mother of Lexi Wright); Olgui Zarikian; Patricia; Sarah Lamming; Lee Riley; Jennifer Miles (friend of Kathleen Rewa); the Rev. Patti Sachs; Lucy Sprigg; Nelida Godfrey (family friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); Tim Shiley & Family (cousins of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Nicole DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews); Lance Landseadel (husband of Rev.

Lauren Bloom); Dottie Arms (sister-in-law of Anne Arms); Elsa Regalado (friend of Dianne Crews); Bernardi Family; Linda Cunningham; Ed & Pat Schillo (friends of Lynda Nutt McIntyre); Rev. John Keydel

Immediate Needs: **Christine** Kingerski (friend of Dan Ramirez); **Pat** Russell (friend of Mike & Eve Waldman); **Nancy** Lear and **family**; **Jack & Helen** Wheeler; **Vincent** Veich (friend of Dianne Crews); **Mary** Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); **Charla** Rowe (godmother of Tanya Bloom); Deacon **Mary** Walton; **Eric** Renkey (nephew of Kathryn Dinin); **Sammy** Bernardi (grandson of Jon Diefenthaler); **David** Monahan (nephew of Elaine Kazlauskas); **Brian** (nephew of Dianne Crews); **Audrie** (friend of Ethel Bilderback); **Steve** Bloom (brother of Rev. Lauren Bloom); **Fred** Miller; **Ian** Wilson (father of Johanna Wilson); **Andy** Schaner; **Bradley** Wilson (nephew of Lance Landseadel); **Tod** Wildason (friend of Dianne Crews); **Darlene** Como (friend of Tom Adams); **Ben** (nephew of Helen Leitch); **Gregoria** Dominguez (mother-in-law of Greg Vass).

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ office@stlukeseastport.org
www.stlukeseastport.org
www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop
The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent,
Bishop Coadjutor

Parish Staff

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

Parish Officers

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden
443-822-1978, richard@openpathproducts.com
Helen Leitch, Junior Warden
410-263-2783, leitchhelen@verizon.net
Pete Stark, Treasurer
410-269-9760, starkhe2@yahoo.com
Amanda Reynolds, Registrar
410-271-3293, Amanda.c.reynolds1@gmail.com

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Environmental Committee	Chuck Gallegos 443-758-3036, gallegoscl@verizon.net Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Food Pantry	Lesley Margerrison 512-921-4241, lmargerrison@gmail.com
Flower Ministry	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Labyrinth Committee	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com

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