

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## House Call Newsletter

### March/April 2023

#### He is Making All Things New



*Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord,  
that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*  
Isaiah 55:6-7

This issue of *House Call* is released shortly after we entered the season of Lent. We've enjoyed the promise of Christmas and the hope of the Epiphany, but now our faith calls us inward to a more difficult task. The Lenten season asks us to consider the state of our souls, to put aside earthly pleasures and devote our attention to prayer, fasting, Bible study, contemplation, and repentance. Lent can be an uncomfortable time. Depending on how we've lived and the choices we've made, honesty may force us to admit that our souls aren't in great shape. It can be embarrassing, even shameful, to look back on the things we've said and done. It can be frightening to wonder how God feels

about the way we've spent the time we've been given, perhaps misusing or squandering that priceless gift. If repentance means admitting guilt to an angry God, it can be tempting just to put it off for another time.

Our Old Testament is helpful here. The Hebrew word for repentance is *teshuvah* (תשובה), which literally translates as "return." When the Hebrew prophets called the people to repent, they were asking the people to turn away from their past mistakes and turn back toward God, returning to the path of righteousness. Medieval physician and Torah scholar Moses Maimonides described the process of *teshuvah* in three stages: confession, regret and a promise not to repeat the misdeed. *Teshuva* requires straightforward self-examination and sorrow for the mistakes we've made – as the prophet Joel told his people, "rend your hearts, and not your garments" – but it's less about shame than it is about course correction. Understood in that way, repentance may not be quite so scary.

Our religious practices during Lent – austerity, silence, reflection, and repentance – are reflected in the natural world around us. Lent comes at the tag end of winter, a season of cold, damp, and darkness. The leaves have fallen, the birds have fled, and it somehow seems to rain almost every afternoon. We know from past experience that the glories of spring are just around the corner, but it sometimes feels as though that corner is awfully far away. Just as the emergence of crocuses and daffodils serves as an early harbinger of spring, however, our faith reminds us that Lent is only forty days long. Lent quickly gives way to Easter, and the promised renewal of our souls and our lives that comes with the resurrection of Christ.

But before we can celebrate Easter, we'll have to move through Holy Week. We'll join Jesus on his final journey, cheering at his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, bearing witness to his Passion, mourning with his disciples, and

rejoicing in his triumphal return. Holy Week is a time of exuberant highs and heartbreaking lows. It's also an annual reminder that – thanks be to God – pain and grief are always temporary. No matter how dark it gets, the light always returns. May God bless you with patience and insight in this time of reflection as he promises new joy and renewed life in our returning Lord.

Blessings,  
Pastor Lauren+

## A Note from the Treasurer

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support for our church's activities, and for your keeping your pledges up to date. You should have received your 2022 giving statements. If you have not received one, or have any questions, please let me know.

My apologies to those who have not yet received your 2023 offering envelopes. Our supplier has had significant production issues. Hopefully this will be resolved soon.

Please contact Pete Stark, Treasurer, at 410-269-9760 or [starkhe2@yahoo.com](mailto:starkhe2@yahoo.com) for any questions or assistance.

## Treasurer's Report: 2023 Finances

As of January 31, 2023

<u>Operating Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	10,315	12,083
Other	<u>4,351</u>	<u>2,754</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	14,666	14,837
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	<u>13,668</u>	<u>17,021</u>
<u>Net Gain</u>	<u>998</u>	<u>(2,184)</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Checking	40,872	
Investments	82,894	

## COVID Update

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 in this cold and flu season. 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 refrain from making physical contact (i.e., handshakes or hugs) with those outside your household, including during the passing of the peace. To minimize risks during the Eucharist, Pastor Lauren+ will wear gloves while administering communion. 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.

## Eastport Memorial Labyrinth: Walk for the Love of the Earth



"My heart found its home long ago in the beauty, mystery, order and disorder of the flowering earth."

-Lady Bird Johnson

**\*Saturday, April 1, 2023 Noon - 1:00 p.m.**

*\*Note that the walk takes place on the first Saturday of the month.*

We meet at the log amphitheater just below the labyrinth for an introduction, and then we gather there again for conversation following the walk. Masks are OPTIONAL. Labyrinth walks take place rain or shine, so please dress for the weather!

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.

For questions, contact the parish office at 410-268-5419 or [office@stlukeeastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeeastport.org).

## Election of a Bishop Coadjutor of Maryland

March 25, 2023 will be an extremely important date in the Diocese of Maryland and for each of the parishes in the diocese.

On September 17, 2021, [Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton informed the diocese of his plan to retire in 2024](#), and called for the election of a [bishop coadjutor](#) to succeed him. The diocese's [Standing Committee](#) is in charge of the election, to be held on March 25, 2023, and of the transition process.

The [Standing Committee](#) appointed two committees.

### **The Search Committee:**

They prepared a profile of our diocese which was posted to the National Church. The applications were reviewed. The members then began calling around the country to finalize reference checks. At the same time, professional background checks along with psychological and physical examinations were being conducted. In November they met in person with the remaining candidates for a three-day discernment retreat on November 17, 18 and 19. Following the retreat, the Committee met in early December to select the slate of candidates who were presented to the Standing Committee.

### **The Transition Committee:**

Their task is to accompany the candidates on the final steps of their journey; and by planning and orchestrating the Ordination, Consecration and Seating of the Bishop Coadjutor of Maryland.

## **Meet and Greets with the candidates will take place March 8-11, 2023.**

They are held in different areas of the state. Wednesday, March 8, 2023, will be at Claggett Center, live and online. Lauren+ and I plan to attend the online meeting and the live meeting to be held at St. James, Lothian, on Friday, March 10, 2023. Other locations include meetings in Cumberland and in Baltimore. If you would like to know more about the candidates, the website is [episcopalmaryland.org](http://episcopalmaryland.org). Click on Bishop Search and there is a wealth of information. Questions can be submitted to the Transition Committee. Let Lauren+ or me know if you would like to submit a question.

*Anne Arms - Convention Delegate, St. Luke's  
Pastor Lauren Bloom – Priest in Charge, St. Luke's*

## Lenten Book Study Living the Way of Love

Our Lenten book study continues on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM** on St. Luke's Zoom. We're reading through Mary Bea Sullivan's *Living the Way of Love*, a devotional based on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's *Living the Way of Love*. Our devotion cycles weekly through the seven practices recommended by our Presiding Bishop: turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest, focusing on a different practice every day. Come share in this opportunity to deepen your Lenten experience with our St. Luke's community.

## Earth Day and the Arts Festival Join the Celebration!



Dust off your paint brushes and cameras! **On April 21-22, 2023**, St.

Luke's will host its first Earth Day Arts Festival, celebrating the ways that nature can restore our spirits and inspire our gratitude to our Creator. The festival will kick off on **April 21<sup>st</sup>** with a **6:00 pm concert** by our

music director, Dr. Ildar Khannanov and his students from the Peabody Institute. A reception in the Undercroft will follow where attendees can enjoy a

display of visual art. Focused on the festival theme, Restoring Our Love of Nature Through the Arts, the Annapolis Watercolor Club will exhibit paintings and drawings based on the poetry of Alice Gilborn (Amanda Reynolds' mother); local filmmaker and writer, Chris Haley; and our own Pastor Lauren Bloom+. The exhibit will be on display Friday evening, all day Saturday during the festivities, and Sunday at coffee hour.

On **Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**, we'll host a full-day indoor and outdoor festival that will feature musical performances, dance, opportunities to make art and write and record poetry, the chance to help beautify our grounds by planting perennials provided by Greenscape, and the chance to linger in the beauty of our Restoration of Nature project. Maryland Poet Laureate Grace Cavalieri will honor us by reading a special poem that she's composing just for the occasion. Sunday's worship will continue with our Care for Creation theme.

All members of St. Luke's are invited to submit artwork and photography to be included in the art exhibit in the church undercroft. The show will also include artwork by members of our Contemplative Prayer group, and the Annapolis Watercolor Club. Volunteers are needed to assist with setting up and taking down the show and answering questions from the public about the festival, the Restoration and St. Luke's. Please come and be part of this wonderful event!

## Easter Flower Dedications

Easter flower dedications are now being accepted. You can send a check to St. Luke's with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line or complete the Google Form <https://forms.gle/bt8e9LTdqpYgnoNCA> with your information. Remember to include the name(s) of those in whose memory or honor the flowers are given. Please submit your dedications no later than **April 2, 2023**.

## Holiday Closures

The church office will be closed on the following holiday observance. **Monday, April 10** (Easter Monday).



## Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before bed on Saturday March 12! Daylight Savings Time begins **Sunday, March 13**.

## Take Action! Fully Implement the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)

Join St. Luke's Vestry and the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland in supporting HJ0001/SJ0004, a resolution to fully implement the Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973 (MEPA) on its 50th anniversary.

MEPA would create a consistent, unified foundation upon which our State's agencies would build their methods to ensure: environmental rights are duly considered, environmental laws are properly implemented, environmental justice is fully pursued and the public is informed and engaged in a timely manner.

The Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973 (MEPA) was ground-breaking and contained two essential elements:

- The assertion that "each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment" .
- That all State agencies "identify, develop, and adopt methods and procedures" to implement that right".

Yet, most State's agencies have failed to develop methods and procedures that would implement this right.

After fifty years, it is time to fix that, and you can help by taking two actions today.

1. Read and sign the [petition in support of passing this resolution here](#).
2. [Write a letter to Governor Moore](#) and ask him to fully implement the Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973 on its fiftieth anniversary

**Thank you for your advocacy.**

## 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](mailto: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.

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 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 spring. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board downstairs. For more information please contact Lesley Margerrison at [lmargerrison@gmail.com](mailto: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 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: [dinin.kathryn@gmail.com](mailto: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.

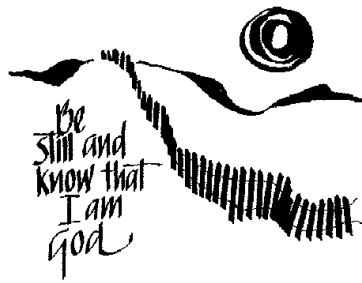
## Environmental Committee Meeting

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 monthly meetings occur on the FIRST and Third Thursday of each month remotely via Zoom at 7 pm.** Meeting twice a month will continue for March and April in preparation of the Earth Day celebration.

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)).

## 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 [eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com) or 757-387-2367 and Chuck Gallegos at [gallegoscl@verizon.net](mailto:gallegoscl@verizon.net) or 410-571-0562.

## 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 2023 in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley at [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.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](mailto:armspna@aol.com).

## House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the March/April edition of House Call is no later than **Thursday, April 20**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org)).

### March Birthdays

1	Kathy Rewa
5	Michael Fletcher
7	Teirra Harris-Riley
27	Richard Wilson-Smith
29	Rae Miller
30	Alice Hall
31	Ed Stark

### April Birthdays

4	Tanya Bloom
6	Avedis Zarikian
14	Helen Leitch
24	Joy Phillips
27	Jaymare Riley

### April Anniversaries

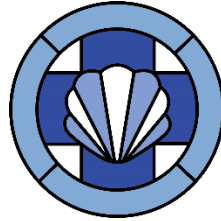
12	Bartel & Sharon Williams Sr.
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## Prayer List

**Ongoing Needs:** Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; Connie Harold; the Palermo Family; Heather Cook; Sydney Ponturo; 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; Patricia; Linda Cunningham; Sarah Lamming; Lee Riley; 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); Nicole DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews).

**Immediate Needs:** **Christine** Kingerski (friend of Dan Ramirez); **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; **Vincent** Veich (friend of Dianne Crews); **Rei** Harada (daughter-in-law of Pete Stark); **Mary** Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); **Eric** Renkey (nephew of Kathryn Dinin); **Dottie** Arms (sister-in-law of Anne Arms); **Larry** Leahy (friend of Phyllis Suhr); the **Phillips** family; **Elsa** Regalado (friend of Dianne Crews); **Michelle** McHale (cousin of Elaine Kazlauskas); **Fred** Sandford and family; **Amy** Britt and family (friend of Claire Miller); **Nancy** Jones; **Phyllis** Suhr.

**St. Luke's Eastport  
Holy Week & Easter Services**



**Palm Sunday: April 2** 

**10:00 a.m.** Choral Eucharist  
with Liturgy of the Palms

**Maundy Thursday: April 6**

**5:00 p.m.** Solemn Holy Eucharist  
with Foot Washing

**Good Friday: April 7**

**5:00 p.m.** Solemn Eucharist

**Holy Saturday: April 8**

**9:30 a.m.** Morning Prayer


**The Great Vigil of Easter: April 8** 

**5:00 p.m.** *Joint service with St. Philip's Church  
Hosted at St. Luke's Saturday evening.*

**Easter Sunday: April 9** 

**10:00 a.m.** Festive Choral Eucharist

**Everyone is welcome.**

Our Holy week and Easter services are in person with live streaming  on Zoom and Facebook for The Great Vigil of Easter (Saturday evening) and all Sundays.



# EARTH DAY & THE ARTS

Friday, April 21, 6-8pm: Concert & Art Reception  
Saturday, April 22, 10am-5pm: Arts Festival

**FREE**



## St. Luke's Restoration of Nature

St. Luke's Church - 1101 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403

Contact us! [office@stlukeseasport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseasport.org), 410-268-5419



## St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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[www.stlukeseastport.org](http://www.stlukeseastport.org) ~ Tw: [@stlukeseastport](https://twitter.com/stlukeseastport)  
[www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport](https://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](mailto:lbloom@stlukeseastport.org)  
Dr. Ildar Khannanov, Director of Music  
[drkhannanov@gmail.com](mailto:drkhannanov@gmail.com)  
Dalyn Huntley, Administrative Assistant  
[office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto: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](mailto:richard@openpathproducts.com)  
Helen Leitch, Junior Warden  
410-263-2783, [leitchhelen@verizon.net](mailto:leitchhelen@verizon.net)  
Pete Stark, Treasurer  
410-269-9760, [starkhe2@yahoo.com](mailto:starkhe2@yahoo.com)  
Amanda Reynolds, Registrar  
410-271-3293, [Amanda.c.reynolds1@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.c.reynolds1@gmail.com)

### Ministry Contacts

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

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Annapolis, MD 21403