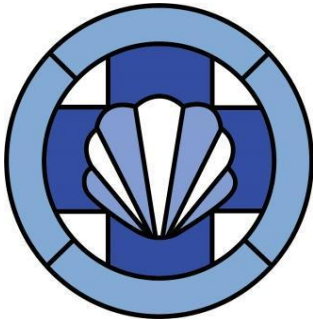




St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

November - December 2025

There is Always Light



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. John 1:1-5

The coming of Advent marks the beginning of the church's new year. We'll move from the Gospel of Luke to the Gospel of Matthew, and our church hangings will turn blue to reflect the contemplative nature of this holy season. We'll wait for the birth of our Savior and look forward to our Christmas celebrations.

The secular new year will follow closely behind Christmas, offering a fresh start to everyone, Christians as well those of other faiths or no faith at all. We'll make resolutions, attend parties, perhaps, and ring in the New Year with varying levels of joy. 2025 has been a particularly challenging year for many of us. Private difficulties, disagreements and public divisions have made 2025 memorable for what might be most charitably called "mixed" reasons. With all that many of

us have gone through this year, we may be especially glad to see 2025 come to an end.

The sacred and secular new years both begin in a season of cold and darkness. Christians are reminded that our Lord was born in an occupied nation to a single mother who risked disgrace and death to bring him into the world. Instead of coming as earthly royalty, surrounded by plenty of light, warmth and every other comfort, Jesus came to us as the son of a peasant, born in a barn and cradled in a feed trough. As an adult, he would bring hope and life to humankind, saving us from the eternal consequences of our human failings and teaching us how to live as God desires. As an infant, Jesus learned early about darkness and cold.

But Scripture tells us that Jesus's birth was heralded by a magical star that danced in the heavens and the voices of radiant angels. Their light signaled the arrival of an enduring hope that has brought strength and courage to generations of Christians. Today, we wait for the coming of the Christ child and the return of our Messiah, trusting that our God is good and will honor his promises no matter what happens in our lives and the world around us.

Darkness can be a blessing when it brings rest, reflection and peace. It can also bring sorrow and fear, which is why we need to remember that darkness always flees when light arrives. Jesus is our eternal light and, as John reminds us, darkness cannot overcome his presence. However dark our circumstances might be, Jesus is always with us, and the light always returns. Happy new years, friends.

With Love,
Pastor Lauren+

Operating Income and Expense Summary

As of September 30, 2025

Operating

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
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Pledges	144,129	127,500
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Other	<u>75,018</u>	<u>67,055</u>
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Total Income	219,147	194,555
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Operating

Expenses:	<u>199,519</u>	<u>199,450</u>
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Net Gain	<u>19,628</u>	<u>(4,895)</u>
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Assets

Bank	50,702
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Investments	164,043
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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. End of year giving statements will be sent to you via US Mail in January.

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-2i7wy5ODQ0MQ==/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.
- Sending your pledge directly to the church from your IRA thus reducing the taxable income from your required minimum distribution. You may first want to discuss this method with your tax preparer or financial advisor.

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

Vestry Summary

Greetings from the St. Luke's Vestry!

In a few short weeks many of us will gather with family and friends for Thanksgiving, and then be swept into the Advent season, carried on a current of festivities that mark the days before we celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus. These are uncertain times; however, the federal government is currently shut down as of this writing and SNAP benefits are expiring. For our most vulnerable populations the immediate outlook is grim, and for many others the future is unclear. But this is exactly the time not to despair, but to practice gratitude and hope as our faith asks of us. "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 24:25). Hope is the candle in the dark; it is God's guiding light even when we do not know the next bend in the road.

In that vein, we are paying tribute on November 23rd to our food pantry volunteers and the incredible work that they do, week after week, in feeding our community. Their efforts are fundamental acts of optimism, love and hope in the face of uncertainty, and

we are grateful to have them with us. This is part of a series of special services to shed light on and give our thanks for the various ministries and partners of St. Luke's.

Stewardship Season is wrapping up and we are looking forward to blessing the pledges that will help support St. Luke's mission. As our senior warden Richard Smith writes in his 2025 pledge letter, "Pledges are not simply about balancing a budget. They are about supporting our vision to embody the love of Christ Jesus. Each pledge, whether large or small, is a way of telling out our souls in gratitude, magnifying the Lord, and rejoicing in God our Savior." We especially would like to thank Linda Elkington, Terry Otis, Vince Durnan and Michelle Sutherland for their beautiful testimonials in support of St. Luke's. We are grateful for the gifts you have entrusted to St. Luke's and in return we wish to be faithful stewards of these pledges as we determine our budget for the coming year. It is your acts of faith and love that keep St. Luke's thriving, and we welcome you all with open arms, the light of our hope aglow.

With Blessings,
The St. Luke's Vestry

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

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, November 6, 2025**. 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).

Restoration of Nature Work Party

The St. Luke's Environmental Committee will be welcoming a group of Naval Academy Midshipman volunteers on **Saturday November 22** for their Fall Workday in the Restoration of Nature. This has become a wonderful and fun tradition at St. Luke's, and we are so grateful for their help. If you would like to participate, you can choose to either work outdoors alongside the Mids or help indoors with hospitality (setting up/cleaning up for coffee and snacks in the morning and pizza for lunch).

Contact Chuck Gallegos (gallegoscl@verizon.net) or Linda Elkington (lbgeem@aol.com) if you have an interest in helping out.



St. Luke's Eastport

GRATITUDE SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

10 A.M.

Join us for a reception after the service

FOR ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY

St. Luke's Episcopal Church invites our Food Pantry volunteers and supporters to a special service to honor their work to feed our neighbors.

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1101 BAY RIDGE AVE., ANNAPOLIS, MD 21403

OFFICE@STLUKESEASTPORT.ORG

St. Luke's Food Pantry

Recently, while purchasing quite a large quantity of eggs, potatoes and onions a young woman approached me and asked if I was having a party. I laughed and explained that it was for the food pantry. She nodded and walked away, but a few minutes later returned and pressed a few dollar bills into my hand saying, 'please take these, it's all I have'. She shared that her friend had just been evicted and was in a tough situation. I gave her information about St. Luke's Food Pantry and she, by this time quite tearful, thanked me and left.



We are living in uncertain times and the finances and supplies of the food pantry are certainly not unlimited, but we are managing to provide for all those who come to our doors. Each week we welcome new people - many experiencing a food pantry for the first time.

We do our best to provide frozen meat, eggs, and whatever fresh produce we can buy and this, along with



the [Anne Arundel County Food Bank](#) supplies, allows us to assist our neighbors in need.

The pantry operates in the undercroft every **Tuesday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM**, or until the last visitor has been served. We always welcome new volunteers, and donations can be

dropped off on **Mondays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM**. If you have any questions, please contact Lesley Margerrison at lmargerrison@gmail.com.

Canned Meats for St. Luke's Food Pantry



St. Luke's Food Pantry tries to provide for a growing number of visitors. All donations are gratefully received. We do post a [suggested donation list on our website](#) which helps to fill the need of things we do not generally receive.

For November our donation request is canned meat of various kinds. Spam, chicken, tuna.

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

Church Office Hours

The Church Office hours are posted below. The Parish Administrator, Dalyn Huntley, can be reached by phone at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org. Appointments are still highly recommended to ensure dedicated attention to any person or ministry needing assistance.

Office Hours:

Monday - 12 Noon - 5 p.m.

Tuesday - 9 a.m. - 12 Noon

Thursday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Office will be **CLOSED** on the following days:

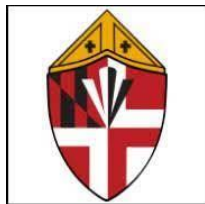
Thursday, November 27 (Thanksgiving Day)

Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Thursday, January 1, 2026 (New Years Day)

Mondays will continue to be Pastor Lauren's+ Sabbath days. She is also available by phone at 703-585-0651 or by email at lbloom@stlukeseastport.org for appointments or any urgent pastoral needs. Thank you.

Diocesan Convention



The 241st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland will be held **November 21-22, 2025**, at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD.

Each year, elected delegates from each congregation in our diocese gather to elect diocesan leaders, discuss issues, and review policies and structures. While voting delegates and alternates must register to participate and vote in the Convention, anyone is welcome to attend as an observer via our livestream of the business sessions for free. To attend Convention in person requires registration. All Convention materials are posted the [Diocesan Convention webpage](#) or App.

The St. Luke's delegates for convention this year, will be Rev. Lauren+ and Pete Stark. Our Alternate is Anne Arms.

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 is 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.

Any questions? Please contact Lesley Margerrison at lmargerrison@gmail.com.

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 sign-up sheet 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. Kathy can also help pair you with someone else if you don't want to host on your own.

Light House Lunches Helping Our Community

This longstanding outreach initiative, supporting those in our community experiencing homelessness, happens twice each month. During coffee hour we prepare and then deliver 24 sandwiches and snacks to the Light House shelter. All supplies are provided and the process is simple, friendly, and a great way to connect with others while making a positive impact.



If you'd like to get involved, add your name to the sign-up list on the bulletin board or just join in! and please contact Lesley Margerrison Lmargerrison@gmail.com with any questions.

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials for the next edition of House Call is no later than **Tuesday, December 30, 2025**. Submissions may be emailed to the office at office@stlukeseastport.org.

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 on **Fridays**, from **10 to 11 a.m.** If you would like to receive the weekly reminder and update on events that are sent 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.

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.

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.

Christmas Flower Dedications



Christmas flower dedications will be made available in the pews at St. Luke's **beginning Sunday, November 30**. 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 22.**

<https://forms.gle/5Zkka8U94CHR2sFCA>

Claggett Retreat Center

Dedicated in 1952 the Claggett Diocesan Center was named after Thomas John Claggett, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland and the first Episcopal bishop ordained on American soil. The Diocesan usage of the land emphasizes reconciliation. Center continues in the spirit of reconciliation and bringing people together. Many of the programs and policies promote racial justice, equity, and inclusion.

Claggett offers outreach camping programs for children impacted by the opioid addiction of a parent, as well as Special Challenge Camp, a program for adults with developmental disabilities.

The Center also hosts a multitude of secular and religious non-profit groups, including educational institutions and social justice organizations.

Blue Christmas Retreat – December 19-21, 2025. A retreat for any adults experiencing grief or loss in the holiday season. Come together in loving community for respite, understanding, and time to heal. Registration

includes meals, facilitation & spiritual direction and more!

Visit www.claggettcenter.org for more information and a list of adult programs coming in 2026.

Email & Text Scams During the Holiday Season

If you receive an email or text that appears to be from Pastor Lauren+, vestry or anyone in our community, asking you to take some kind of unusual action – *click a link or download an attachment you didn't request, 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 “phishing”.

During the holidays and current circumstances there is typically a rise in requests for support or other immediate needs. 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.

Confirm requests with a conversation. 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 there is a need, Pastor Lauren+ includes any announcements on Sundays during service, our weekly publications, and bi-monthly newsletters.**

DO NOT reply or forward the suspicious email or text. REPORT emails as SPAM to your email carrier and BLOCK texts.



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

2	Valerie Holt
3	Bill Allen
4	Michele Morgado
5	Ann McGinness
8	Connie Harold
8	Lance Landseadel
15	Michelle Sutherland
25	Vrej Zarikian

November Anniversaries

9	Mike and Eve Waldman
9	Natasia Thompson and Jorge Nieto

December Birthdays

5	Dianne Crews
6	Claire Miller
22	Andrew Schaner
24	Chuck Gallegos
27	Rev. Lauren Bloom
29	Rebecca McCoy

December Anniversaries

15	Amanda & Joshua Reynolds
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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); Tod Wildason (friend of Dianne Crews); Patrick Smiley (friend of Dianne Crews); Larry Bloom (father of Rev. Lauren Bloom+); Becca Miller and family (extended family of Claire Miller); and for all those affected by gun violence, war, and natural disasters.

Immediate Needs: Elizabeth & Kate (friends of Lesley Margerrison); **Nancy Otis**; **Susan & Phil** Murphree (friends of David & Ann McGuinness); **Marcus** Dent (son-in-law of Alastair McGregor); **John & Sue** Smith; **Mike** Johnson (friend of Lance Landseadel); **Ted** Fulton (cousin of Ethel Bilderback); **Hans** Bachmann (friend of Lance Landseadel); **Ann** McGuinness; **John** McGuinness (brother of David McGuinness); **Nancy** (sister-in-law of Lesley Margerrison); **Gil** Gardner; **David** Bicchieri (father of Joseph Bicchieri); **Kristin** Pagent (friend of Adrith Bicchieri); **Mary** Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); **Charlie & Family**; **Patty** (friend of Suzie, Valerie and Norma); **Tom** Adams; **Gabe** Karpouzian (friend of the Zarikian family); **Olgui** Zarikian; **Max** McGregor; **Lillian** Rachael (daughter of Dawn Huenink); **John** Gregg; **Kaitlyn** LaVoy (niece of Dianne Crews); **Boyd** F.(brother of Dawn Huenink); **Dona** Weingarten; **Denise**; **Nancy** Etter (friend of Alex Devino); **Gavin** Fallon (son of Melissa Deckman Fallon); **Joan** Wilson (aunt of Melissa Deckman Fallon); **Diane** (friend of Claire Miller); **Tom** Bouve; **Mike** Waldman and **those affected by Hurricane Melissa**.

Watch for Advent and Christmas happenings and Service details in the upcoming weekly E News.

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
Valerie Holt, Children's Ministry
Caleb Briggs, DOV Intern

Vestry Members

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden
443-822-1978, richard@openpathproducts.com
Vrej Zarikian, Junior Warden
404-234-7999, 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 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 eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com Jenna Lane Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com