



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## House Call Newsletter

### September – October 2025

#### Claiming Stewardship, Not Dominion



**Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” *Genesis 1:26***

Scripture tells us that, from the very beginning, God made humanity to “have dominion” over Nature and all her creatures. It’s an unfortunate choice of phrase. Especially since the Industrial Revolution, those who value worldly wealth over treasure in heaven have argued that our God-given “dominion” over Creation justifies treating the Earth as a pile of resources to be exploited rather than the sacred masterpiece of the Creator who gives life to all, humanity included, and who probably doesn’t appreciate seeing his handiwork pillaged and polluted. Institutional religion has been slower than it should to push back against the abuse of Creation. As we’ve become more aware of the harm that industrialized nations are inflicting on the planet and those with whom we share it, however, people of faith across the globe are stepping up to protect, restore and celebrate the beauty of “this fragile Earth, our island home.”

September marks the Season of Creation, when congregations around the world focus their worship on love and care for the natural world. This year’s theme is “Peace with Creation,” and as we regather from our summer adventures, we’ll spend our Sundays exploring how Scripture calls us to reject notions of dominion and, instead, express our gratitude to our Creator by healing and carefully tending to the Earth and everything that lives upon it. Bishop +Carrie Schofield-Broadbent has granted us permission to use special liturgical resources developed specifically for the Season of Creation in our weekly worship. Throughout September and early October, we will consider how we may best serve as stewards of God’s bruised and battered but still beautiful Creation. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, we’ll celebrate the lovely creatures who share our world with a Blessing of the Animals to commemorate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

In October, we’ll celebrate the feast of our patron, St. Luke, with a special musical worship service featuring the Mass written by our brilliant Music Director, Dr. Ildar Khannanov. We’ll also take up the stewardship of St. Luke’s and our annual pledge campaign. Stewardship involves the prayerful use and management of the church’s resources, financial and otherwise, to ensure that St. Luke’s will continue to thrive and serve the Eastport community for many years to come. In a time when so many things in our society seem broken or off-kilter, cheerfully sharing what we have with the church and each other is a way to affirm our commitment to a faithful, hopeful future. I look forward to spending this beautiful season with you.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Lauren+*

## Operating Income and Expense Summary

As of July 31, 2025

<u>Operating Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	79,568	99,167
Other	<u>53,338</u>	<u>52,154</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	132,906	151,321
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	<u>151,110</u>	<u>155,128</u>
<b>Net Gain</b>	<u>(18,204)</u>	<u>(3,807)</u>

### Assets

Bank	77,734
Investments	128,679

## 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.

I will be sending out 2025 pledge status statements in September to those who have pledged.

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!

September 1st marks the first day of Creation Season, which in turn flows into Stewardship after October 4th. Within this season we are asked to turn our hearts and minds to our Creator and to His work on earth and in the heavens:

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

So says the wonderful prayer For Knowledge of God's Creation in the Book of Common Prayer. One of the most astonishing things is that, from the humblest cell to the brightest star, we are all made of the same substance. When we cup water from the stream in the Restoration of Nature we hold entire worlds, just as God holds us in his palm. We are called upon to be careful stewards of these worlds, of faith, of each other

and community, not as a chore, but with love and compassion.

We invite you into St. Luke's to reflect upon the seasons of Creation and of stewardship and hope you will join us for several special events and volunteer efforts, as stewardship of faith and community comes in many forms. Ingathering Sunday will take place September 7th, a perfect time to join St. Luke's registry as a member of the church. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the vestry will host a special post-service "coffee with the vestry" to share fellowship and chat about topics of your choice. A grounds committee is being formed to take care of St. Luke's grounds and the Memorial Garden. Please see Junior Warden Vrej Zarikian or Pastor Lauren+ for information about volunteering for the committee. Other volunteer opportunities abound, and we are happy to have you no matter how you are called to serve.

One of the best parts of Creation Season is the Blessing of the Animals on October 4th! Bring your furry, feathery, scaly or fishy friend, or a favorite toy or memento to be blessed during this festive day, which celebrates St. Francis of Assisi and his special bond with animals and stewardship of our earthly gifts.

Nurturing and supporting one another as God loves us is stewardship too, and so we will participate in the Annapolis Pride Festival rescheduled to October 18th. If you are interested in volunteering at a St. Luke's table with other faith congregations, please reach out to vestry member Amanda Reynolds. And finally, if you are so moved, we would love to hear from you with a testimonial and pledge for St. Luke's during the final weeks of fall so that we can successfully continue our stewardship within the church and in the wider Eastport community. As always, we are grateful for your support.

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.*

## Fall Office Hours

Fall is right around the corner and Ingathering Sunday is September 7 during our 10 A.M service. To better assist in the needs of the various ministries at St. Luke's, the Church Office is announcing fall office hours.

Our Parish Administrator, Dalyn Huntley, can be reached by phone at 410-268-5419 or by email at [office@stlukeeastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeeastport.org). Appointments are still highly recommended to ensure dedicated attention.

### Fall Office Hours:

Monday - 12 Noon - 5 p.m.

Tuesday - 9 a.m. - 12 Noon

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

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@stlukeeastport.org](mailto:lbloom@stlukeeastport.org) for appointments or any urgent pastoral needs. Thank you.

## Understanding Discernment of Ordained Vocation

Our faith teaches that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, and the church is responsible for helping its members understand, identify and fulfill the ministry to which each of them are called. Lay ministry is the foundation of the Episcopal Church's mission and takes many forms, from reading or serving at the altar on Sundays to community service and outreach. A very few church members are called to ordination to become deacons, priests or bishops. Those individuals enter into discernment under diocesan supervision. In the [Diocese of Maryland](#), that process includes the "[Discernment of Ordained Vocation,](#)" or [DOV program](#). Candidates for ordination explore diaconal and priestly ministries. They participate in an internship assigned to a parish, under the supervision of a Rector, to experience parish life and ministry in a different context. At the end of the program, participants who feel called to become deacons or priests are interviewed by the Commission on Ministry and, if approved by the bishop, become postulants for Holy Orders. They go on to several years of theological education with the hope and expectation of serving God and the church as ordained clergy.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Luke's will welcome our new DOV intern, Caleb Briggs. Caleb will be with us through Christmas, participating in our community and exploring the shared life and ministry of our congregation. Please give him a warm St. Luke's welcome as he explores his call to ordained ministry.

Caleb Briggs graduated St. John's College in May of 2025 (BA) and has been working full time as an office assistant at St. Anne's Parish. He is currently taking a gap year to discern his call to the priesthood.

Caleb is the son of two Episcopal priests so in some ways this feels like joining the family business while in other ways it feels like taking a leap into the unknown. A New England native, Caleb has come to love his adopted home of Annapolis and is living happily with his fiancée, Magnolia, and her hedgehog, Bonks, in an apartment on Murray Hill. The couple regularly attend St. Anne's and are heavily involved in the acolyte ministry there.

Additionally, Caleb began a service of sung compline at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at St. Anne's and has enjoyed growing this ministry. One call he has felt strongly throughout his discernment has been to create prayerful space. He is excited to continue to explore this call as well as many others at St. Luke's.



## Lend a Hand, Get Involved

As we move into the Season of Creation, there will be many opportunities for you to participate in the life of St. Luke's:

- *Animal Art.* Are you a photographer or artist who loves Nature? For our Blessing of the Animals on October 4<sup>th</sup>, please consider bringing your original artwork to share with our community. Art in any medium that celebrates birds, fish, insects, and animals, domestic and wild, is welcome. Your work will be part of an art show to include offerings from the Annapolis Collage Guild and others in the congregation. Please ask Pastor Lauren+ if you have questions.
- *Food Pantry.* Do you have a heart for community service and feeding the hungry? We're always looking for volunteers to help out with the Food Pantry, where we provide fresh, nutritious food to scores of our neighbors each week. If you can spare some time on Mondays or Tuesdays, please talk with Lesley Margerison about how you can best help.
- *Altar Guild.* Tending to the altar of God is a special, sacred task. If you'd like to serve God through preparation of our worship, consider joining the Altar Guild, faithful people who prepare the altar for our Sunday services. Training is provided – please ask Anne Arms or Pastor Lauren+ for more information.

## 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 Margerison at [lmargerrison@gmail.com](mailto:lmargerrison@gmail.com).

## Luminis Health at St. Luke's



Stay healthy with a **free flu vaccine** from Luminis Health Community Health Department. Luminis will be visiting St. Luke's on **Tuesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

## Blessing of the Animals



**Blessing Services at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.**

## Annapolis Pride Festival & Parade

**October 18, 2025**  
**Save the date.**



## Canned Peas and Corn 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 September our donation request is canned corn and canned peas.** The season of fresh corn and peas is coming to an end, so please consider these items while shopping.

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.

## Environmental Committee Meeting

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

The next meetings will be held on **Thursday, September 11 and October 9**. 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, October 24, 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 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](mailto:dinin.kathryn@gmail.com). Kathy can also help pair you with someone else if you don't want to host on your own.

## Centering Prayer Group In Person Session

St. Luke's centering prayer group will be meeting **in-person** in the St. Luke's undercroft on Friday morning, **September 19**. We will have our usual centering session that lasts an hour from 10:00 to 11:00. The session includes a reading, followed by 20 minutes of silent prayer, followed by reflection on the reading. After the centering session, we will enjoy a bring-your-own brown bag lunch.

Everyone is welcome to join us. This is a good time for those who have never participated in centering prayer. There are leaflets to explain the prayer and friends who are happy to answer questions and provide encouragement.

Details of the Contemplative Prayer group at St. Luke's below. Please feel free to contact Eve Waldman or Chuck Gallegos for details.

## 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.

**\*See details above about in person meeting scheduled for September 19.**

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 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)).

### September Birthdays

- 2 Miriam Zarikian
- 3 Kathleen Wherthey
- 5 Paul Craley
- 9 Peter Crews
- 12 Steve Agriesti
- 24 Larry Bloom

### October Birthdays

- 2 Hilda Sugg
- 8 Olgui Zarikian

### October Anniversaries

- 1 Paul Craley & Joy Philips
- 14 David Dent & Heather Ackroyd
- 23 Terry & Nancy Otis

## 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+); for all those affected by war and conflict around the world; and for those affected by 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; **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**; **Patty** (friend of Suzie, Valerie and Norma); **Tom** Adams; **Gabe** Karpouzian (friend of the Zarikian family); **Olgui** Zarikian; **Beverly Colucci & Michael** Kilbride (extended family of Rev. Lauren Bloom+); **Max** McGregor; **Lillian** Rachael (daughter of Dawn Huenink); **Rae** Miller; **John** Gregg; **Kaitlyn** LaVoy (niece of Dianne Crews); **Dawn** Huenink; and the **Annunciation Catholic School and the Minneapolis** community.

## Save the Dates

### Ingathering Sunday

**Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

*(Don't forget to bring your small bottles of water collected from your travels. They are being combined to be used as Holy Water at St. Luke's.)*

**Coffee with the Vestry** – Sunday, September 21, 2025

**Blessing of the Animals** - Saturday, October 4, 2025

**Feast of St. Luke's** - Sunday, October 19, 2025

**Diocesan Convention** - November 21-22, 2025

## 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, <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>
Contemplative Prayer	Eve Waldman <a href="mailto:eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com">eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com</a> Jenna Lane <a href="mailto:Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com">Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com</a>