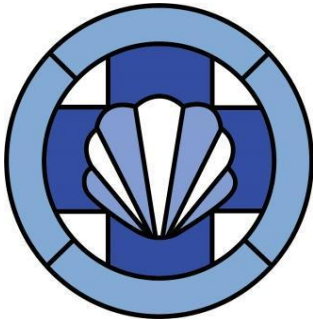




St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

July – August 2026

Rainbows



I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth ... When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.

Genesis 9:13, 16

Many blessings come with serving at St. Luke's; among them is celebrating the Eucharist at an altar covered in rainbows. Our beautiful cross window captures the sunlight and refracts it into tiny flashes of color that dance across the service bulletin, the chalice of wine, and the paten filled with communion bread. It's a magical sight.

Genesis ties rainbows to God's everlasting covenant with Creation. Noah's ark is one of the first stories that children learn in Sunday school, perhaps because it's filled with charming images. There's a handmade wooden boat boarded obediently by pairs of animals,

a dove swooping down with an olive leaf for Noah, and passengers disembarking into a world washed clean. Even the flood waters seem benign when they're depicted as pretty swirls of turquoise and blue in a picture book. We rightly avoid frightening children with the darker aspects of this tale: humankind sunk so deeply into sin that Adonai lost all patience, Noah's scramble to build an enormous boat in a desert where wood was scarce but the neighbors' mockery was plentiful, herbivores and carnivores appearing out of nowhere, their natural enmities unnaturally stifled as they climbed aboard, Noah wondering how long the supernatural peace would endure. And then, the storm: irregular flashes of lighting against a blackened sky, the rolling of the ark as it perched on cataclysmic waves, peals of thunder punctuating the endless hammering of rain, cries of distress from terrified animals, and the grief of knowing that everything and everyone who wasn't on that boat would never be seen again. Noah, his family, and all the creatures in their care suffered through that apocalyptic nightmare for more than a month before the ark finally came to rest in silence on a mountain peak. Noah must have been unspeakably grateful to receive Adonai's promise never again to flood the earth, but it's difficult to believe that his gratitude wasn't mixed with more complicated feelings.

Adonai has kept his promise, but we still go through seasons that can feel as incessantly miserable as the forty days and nights that Noah spent on the ark. God doesn't abandon us in those seasons. He watches over us, shares our pain and, for the most part, brings us safely through. He fills Creation with a rainbow of beauty and brings a rainbow of people into our lives to show us the width, depth, and variety of his love. And he hangs the skies with rainbows, reminding us that even the worst seasons in our lives are temporary and his love for us is permanent.

Our seaside climate offers many opportunities to spot rainbows. When you see one, take it as a promise that God is with you and his love never fails. And if you ever find yourself in need of a rainbow but can't spot one in the sky, come to St. Luke's and check out the altar. There will be a rainbow waiting there for you.

Blessings,
Pastor Lauren+

A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you for keeping your pledge payments up to date. It is much appreciated and helps us to pay our bills promptly.

Remember that there are multiple ways that you can make your pledge payment:

- Sending a personal check in the mail to the church or placing it, or cash, in the offering plate on Sunday.
- Setting up a recurring payment using your bank's automated bill payment feature. There is generally no fee attached, and the bank sends a check to the church automatically with the frequency and amount you specify.
- Using Givelify online (<https://www.givelify.com/donate/st-lukes-church-annapolis-md-2j7wy5ODQ0MQ==/donation/amount>). You may set up a recurring gift to match your pledge amount and frequency. Please remember that Givelify charges us for each donation, so please consider adding an additional couple of dollars to your donation to help us defray this cost.
- Zelle through your bank account. The church email address for Zelle is finance@stlukeseastport.org.
- 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.

Operating Income and Expense Summary As of 31 May 2026

<u>Operating</u>		
<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Planned</u>
Pledges	120,190	81,250
Other	<u>35,038</u>	<u>31,500</u>
Total Income	155,228	112,750
 <u>Operating</u>		
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>110,240</u>	<u>115,790</u>
 <u>Net</u>		
<u>Gain/(Loss)</u>	<u>44,988</u>	<u>(3,040)</u>
 <u>Assets</u>		
Bank	117,798	
Investments	255,354	

Vestry Summary

Since the last edition of House Call, the Vestry has convened for its annual off-site retreat. We spent much of our time together praying, thinking, and talking about the hopes and dreams you shared with us over coffee a month or two before. We also spent time in discernment about how St. Luke's can best serve our congregation and our wider community in a season when so many feel besieged, angry, and exhausted. We came away renewed and recommitted to our church, with plans to implement your suggestions and make St. Luke's an even more welcoming haven for those who seek a congenial place to worship, serve our community, and make new friends. You've already seen the survey that went out about setting up small groups to support our members' spiritual growth. Richard has taken the lead, with support from Michelle and Lauren+, on updating and redesigning our website to better capture St Luke's' warm and eclectic spirit. The new design will launch soon – please let us know what you think.

Much of the last month was taken up with preparations for Bishop +Carrie's triennial visit. The Vestry enjoyed meeting with her and Deacon Lisa prior to the worship

service. Bishop +Carrie sees and appreciates our beautiful little church. As she emphasized in her sermon, Christians in search of a relaxed, welcoming church with excellent music, intellectually satisfying worship, and plenty of opportunities for community service are blessed when they discover St. Luke's and can make it their spiritual home.

The Vestry continues to pray and discern around welcoming more newcomers to our church because we agree that St. Luke's offers a very special setting for faithful people who want to come, worship, and be warmly accepted exactly as they are. As Bishop +Carrie also pointed out, the average Episcopalian invites a friend to church once every ten years. We think we can do better. Summer is the perfect season for a casual visit to church. Please join us in inviting our neighbors and friends to drop in some Sunday and see what we're about.

We wish you a blessed and beautiful summer and look forward to hearing all about your travels and adventures come fall. As ideas occur to you about how St. Luke's can best serve you and our neighbors, please don't wait until Sunday to share them with us. We are all available electronically throughout the week, and eager to chat with you by phone or in person. Thank you for trusting us with the care of St. Luke's as we journey in faith together.

With Blessings,
The St. Luke's Vestry

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden; Vrej Zarikian, Junior Warden; Pete Stark, Treasurer; Terry Otis, Registrar; Gil Gardner; Andrew Schaner; Anne Arms; Lesley Margerrison; Claire Miller; Vince Durnan & Michelle Sutherland.

St. Luke's Fall Ingathering

Save the Date:

Sunday, September 13 during the 10:00 A.M. Service

Blessing of the Waters

During St. Luke's fall Ingathering service to be held **September 13**, Rev. Lauren+ will be including a Blessing of the Waters. Water collected by our community during their travels is sanitized and blessed by Rev. Lauren+ and will be used in our font. Staycations count as well, so be sure to include waters from your favorite place.

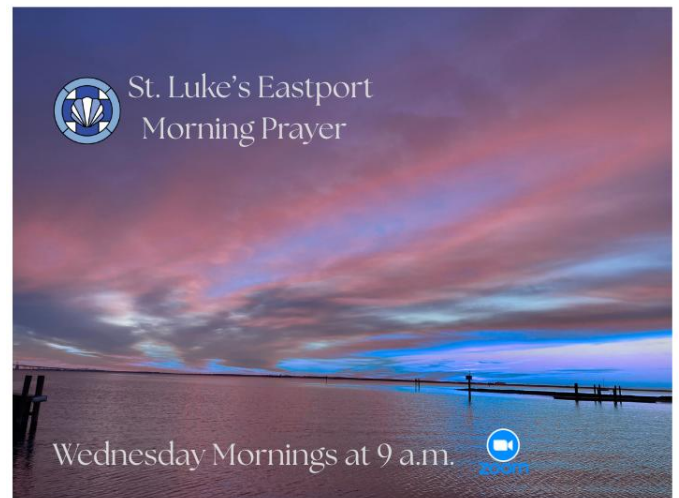
Love from St. Luke's Podcast



Love from St. Luke's is dedicated to exploring God's love as it is revealed in Scripture. Check it out on Soundcloud, Spotify or Apple podcasts.

New posts are uploaded each week from Rev. Lauren+.

Morning Prayer with St. Luke's



Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. on St. Luke's Zoom, Morning Prayer is held. The structure of these services, along with each day's readings and prayers are detailed in the Book of Common Prayer and can be led by both clergy and lay people.

The Daily Offices (structured times of prayer) are part of the liturgical practice of the Episcopal Church. The offices comprise of five services with Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline being the most widely practiced. At St. Luke's, we have been holding a lay led morning prayer service on Wednesdays since Lent 2025 and it is a lovely opportunity for midweek connection

and fellowship. The service can be accessed via the Zoom link on the front page of the church website and typically lasts between 20-30 minutes. A bulletin is provided and the readings and prayers are shared among participants, creating a joyful, meaningful, and prayerful experience for everyone involved.

All are welcome. Please contact Lesley (Lmargerrison@gmail.com) with any questions.

St. Luke's Prayer Shawl Ministry

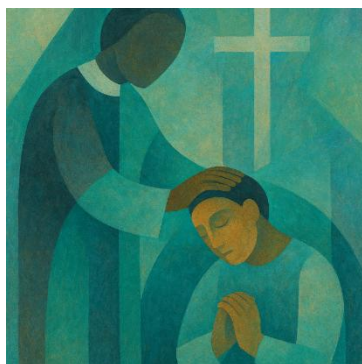


The St. Luke's knitting ministry has been making small prayer handhelds to put in your pocket. In the basket near the front door, these squares are offered as reminder of the healing presence of God and community.

If you are a knitter or crocheter and would like to join us, please let us know: Helen Leitch (410-570-1708),

Kathy Dinin (914-645-1755) or Eve Waldman (757-387-2367).

Monthly Healing Service at St. Luke's



All are invited to the Monthly healing service at **5:30 p.m.** at St. Luke's. The next service will be **Tuesday, August 4, 2026**. There will be prayers for those near and far and the laying on of hands for those so moved. Let us

gather together to love and support each other and invoke the light and healing of Jesus Christ.

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, August 13 and September 10**. 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).

Summer 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.

During the summer months we offer light fare of lemonade and cookies. The sign-up sheet for hosting hospitality on Sunday mornings is located downstairs in the Undercroft. The summer 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.

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. Upon arrival ask the Hostess to direct you to the St. Luke's table.

Contact Dianne Crews 410-268-9741 for more information. Friends and visitors are always welcome. No RSVP necessary.

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.

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.

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 for 2026 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.

Vote Faithfully

On the first Thursday of each month from June through November, [The Episcopal Church's Public Policy and Witness team](#) will host a series of "Vote Faithfully" Zoom calls to support voter engagement in ways consistent with Episcopal values.

During the calls, hosts will share resources and ideas to help congregations promote voting and civic participation while remaining nonpartisan (avoiding support for specific political parties, candidates, or platforms)

The remaining calls are scheduled for **Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1 and Nov. 5, 2026**. To register for these Zoom calls please visit <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/Kivdobq5TymcwISEO0cvpQ#/registration>.

Avoiding Phishing Attempts

If you receive party invitations from Punchbowl, Evite, or messages by email or text which appear to be from Pastor Lauren+, Vestry or anyone in our community, **DO NOT** click the link. **DO NOT** open the invitation or download the attachment. No unusual actions like wiring money, purchasing gift cards or sharing of serial numbers will be asked.

A good practice is to text or call the person who invited you and **ASK DIRECTLY**. Do not reply or forward the suspicious email or text. REPORT emails as SPAM to your email carrier and BLOCK texts.

If there is a need, Pastor Lauren+ includes any announcements on Sundays during service, our weekly publications, and bi-monthly newsletters. We appreciate all the support our community is willing to offer to help others. Let us work together to protect our community.

Fired Up For Scouting



Fired Up for Scouting is a **FREE** community event showcasing Scouting in Anne Arundel County. The event is open to all families and will feature hands-on activities, outdoor skills, games, and opportunities to meet community partners, including the Anne Arundel County Police Department, Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management, Recreation & Parks, and the Department of Health. It's a fun way for families to learn about Scouting and connect with local organizations.

St. Luke's is a Charter partner and [BSA Cub Scout Troop 153](#) meets during the academic year. Watch for their sign-up details and open house in the fall.



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).

July Birthdays

20	Lisa Zarikian
24	Norman Crews
29	Miles Sutton

July Anniversaries

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

August Birthdays

04	Dona Weingarten
06	Natasia Thompson
07	James Reynolds
17	Josh Cooper
18	Johanna Wilson-Smith
22	Eve Waldman
29	Anne Arms
30	Barbara Tayman
31	Gilbert Gardner

August Anniversaries

04	Stephen & Tanya Bloom
17	Elise & Bob Balcom
24	Joseph & Adrith Bicchieri
27	David & Ann McGuinness
28	Kathryn & John Dinin
29	Ethel Bilderback & Jon Diefenthaler

Prayer List

Ongoing Needs: Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); 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; 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); Zigi Zacs; Joyce Sutherland (mother of Michelle Sutherland); Jennefer Trowers-Smith (friend of Tanya Bloom); Larry Bloom (father of Rev. Lauren Bloom+); Becca Miller and family (extended family of Claire Miller); Elizabeth & Kate (friends of Lesley Margerrison); Nancy (sister-in-law of Lesley Margerrison); Charlie & Family; Bluhm Family; and for all those affected by gun violence, war, and natural disasters.

Immediate Needs: Nancy Otis; Susan & Phil Murphree (friends of David & Ann McGuinness); Marcus Dent (son-in-law of Alastair McGregor); John & Sue Smith; Ted Fulton (cousin of Ethel Bilderback); Ann McGuinness; John McGuinness (brother of David McGuinness); Gil Gardner; David Bicchieri (father of Joseph Bicchieri); Kristin Pagent (friend of Adrith Bicchieri); Mary Mineo (sister of Ann McGuinness); Patty (friend of Suzie, Valerie, and Norma); Tom Adams; Gabe Karpouzian (friend of the Zarikian family); Olgui Zarikian; Lillian Rachael (daughter of Dawn Huenink); John Gregg; Boyd F. (brother of Dawn Huenink); Denise; Fay Farrell (friend of Helen Leitch); Melanie Mason (friend of Johanna Wilson & Richard Smith); Phillip; Doreen Evans (friend of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Lucia Casale (friend of Claire Miller); Miguel Ramos-Tena (friend of Rev. Lauren Bloom); Mark (friend of Claire Miller); Jane Jiffin; Kathy Sutherland (friend of Dianne Crews); Tom Bouve; Max McGregor; Richard Smith; Robert Balcom; Jaclynn Garraway (granddaughter of Dianne Crews); Tom Beach (brother-in-law of Claire Miller); Johanna Wilson; Rick (friend of Lesley Margerrison); Michelle Sutherland; Richard and Diane (friends of Claire Miller); George Dvorak (brother-in-law of Claire Miller); Bishop+Andrea Johnson and Family.

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

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
Terry Otis, Registrar
Gil Gardner
Andrew Schaner
Anne Arms
Lesley Margerrison
Claire Miller
Vince Durnan
Michelle Sutherland

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