St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

November - December

Seasons



For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

The last two months of the secular year always bring a change of season. Soon, there will be more leaves on the ground than on the trees. The cooler weather that has been a welcome relief from Maryland's summer heat becomes a noticeable chill – even on the sunniest days, we turn up the heat and carry a sweater. And we begin planning and preparing for the final holidays of the year: Veterans Day in military families, our national feast of Thanksgiving and, of course, Christmas.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving is also the first Sunday in Advent, the sacred season of joyful waiting for the birth of our Savior. We'll dress the altar in blue, move from Matthew's Gospel to Mark's, find a local family or two whom we can bless with gifts, and try to resist the temptation to sing along to the carols we hear on the radio and in the stores. Our Episcopal tradition tells us not to celebrate too soon. Our human need for joy, as essential as water and air, urges us to give in "just this once."

2026 has been a tumultuous year, and its last two months may be especially turbulent. Our nation has endured a season of rancorous division that has been painful for everyone, regardless of their politics. Whatever you think of the outcome of the midterm elections, there's almost certainly someone in your life who holds an opposite view. For the past several years, Americans have dreaded political arguments at the Thanksgiving dinner table. It may be too soon to declare those disagreements over. It's not too soon to start healing the rifts in our families, friendships and communities.

My friend and colleague Pete Nunnelly+ recently posted a reel on Facebook urging people not to sweep their grief under the rug now that the midterms are over. Pete+ correctly observed that we've all lost something precious during the past two years. It is, as we say in the Episcopal Church, good and right to acknowledge and grieve our losses. It's also healthy. Expressing grief is the first step toward allowing it to heal.

Christmas comes but once a year, often accompanied by a lot of work. Gifts have to be purchased, wrapped and shipped, special meals must be planned and prepared, and those cards won't address themselves. But before you succumb to the bustle of holiday preparations, please take some time to be still, rest, and feel whatever is in your heart. Jesus is coming to us, and he is many things: teacher, loving friend, Redeemer and healer, the Holy One who makes all things new. The more you allow Jesus to heal you in the next few weeks, the more joyfully you'll be able to celebrate his coming on Christmas morning. Let this Advent season be one of

healing, hope and peace, and if you find yourself singing the occasional Christmas carol, your pastor will absolve you. God bless you!

With love,
Pastor Lauren+

Image courtesy of www.familyandarts.com

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.

Those parishioners who have pledged should have received in the mail in September a statement on the status of your pledges. If you feel you should have received one and have not, please let the Treasurer or the church office know, and your statement will be provided. Statements for all givers will be sent out in January.

Remember that there are multiple ways that you can make your pledge or other donation:

- Sending a personal check in the mail to the church or placing it, or cash, in the offering plate on Sunday. The offering plate is located in the back of the church.
- 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 before notifying the Treasurer of your plan.

Please contact Pete Stark, Treasurer, at 410-269-9760 or starkhe2@yahoo.com for any questions or assistance on the above or any other financial matter. Thank you.

Operating Income and Expense Summary

As of 30 September 2026

Operating Income	Actual	Planned
Pledges	151,021	146,250
Other	63,545	55,350
Total Income	214,566	201,600
Operating Expenses:	210,469	209,311
Net Gain/(Loss)	4,130	(7,711)
Assets		
Bank	99,134*	
Investments	242,255**	

*Includes operations and food bank accounts
** Includes brokerage, money market, and CD accounts

Restoration of Nature Work Party

The St. Luke's Restoration of Nature Ministry will be welcoming a group of Naval Academy Midshipman volunteers on **Saturday November 14** 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.

Creation Care Ministry: Food Composting

For the past few years, St. Luke's food pantry, has used Annapolis Compost as part of our program. The pantry receives rescued food from two local Giant Food stores, Great Harvest bakery and a few other sources and, while most is suitable to share with our visitors, some is past its best. Previously, this food waste was thrown into the general trash but instead, this food waste now becomes compost that helps grow more food rather than producing harmful greenhouse gases.



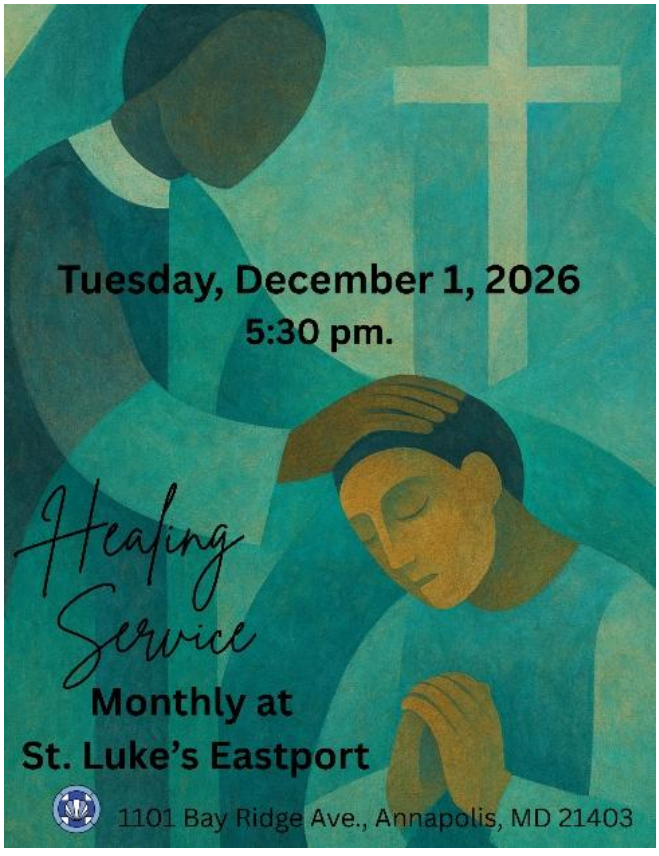


We would like to offer this service to everyone at St. Luke's. Collect your food scraps, including meat and bones, and bring them to the church on Sundays or whenever convenient. The main compost bins are beside the small outdoor shed behind the church. The best way to collect your scraps is in small compostable bags or in a designated bin - we have some bags available to help you get started. Any questions, contact Lesley at lmargerrison@gmail.com.

Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Luke's



Monthly Healing Service at St. Luke's

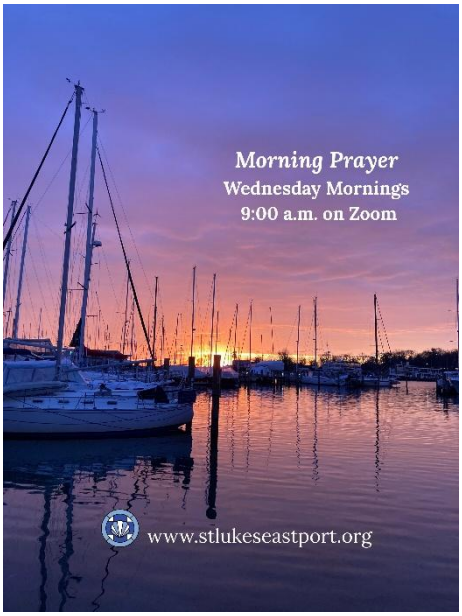


St. Luke's Prayer Shawl Ministry

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 a 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).

Morning Prayer with St. Luke's



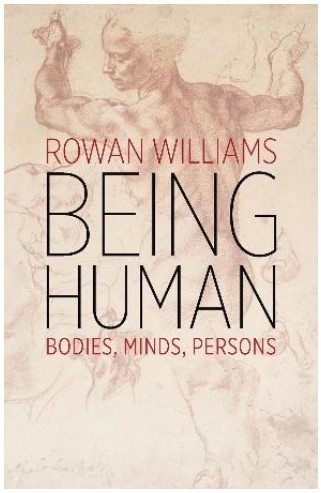
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. on St. Luke's Zoom, Morning Prayer is held.

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 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.

2026 Advent Book Study



Advent begins on **November 29**. St. Luke's will be hosting a book study. Days and times to be announced in the Weekly E-news. This year we will be reading Rowan Williams "Being Human".

Look for it at your favorite online bookseller or order through a local bookstore.

Diocesan Convention



The 242st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland will be held **November 20-21, 2026,** 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.

St. Luke's Eastport

Save the Date:

St. Luke's Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 21, 2027

Restoration of Nature Ministry

The Restoration of Nature Ministry 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, November 12 and December 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).

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.

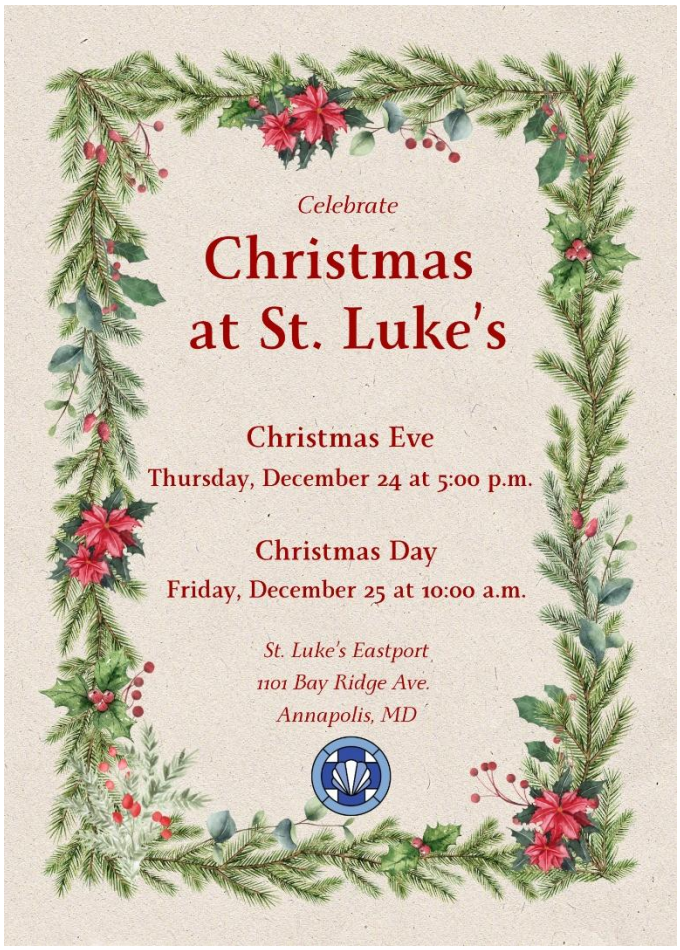
Love from St. Luke's Podcast



Love from St. Luke's is dedicated to exploring God's love as it is revealed in Scripture. Missed some sermons over the summer? Check it out on Soundcloud, Spotify or Apple podcasts.

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

Christmas at St. Luke's



Christmas Flower Dedications



Christmas flower dedications forms will be made available beginning **Sunday, November 29, 2026,** the First Sunday of Advent.

Please check our Weekly E-news for the link to submit your request. A QR code for the form will also be posted in the Undercroft.

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 – 9 am – 2 pm; Tuesday - 9 a.m. - 2 pm; Thursday - 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

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

Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)
Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day)
Friday, 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.

Lessons & Carols with Bishop Carrie



Please save the date for a special time to gather with Bishop Carrie to celebrate the ministries empowered by the generosity of so many!

Sunday Afternoon on December 13, 2026.

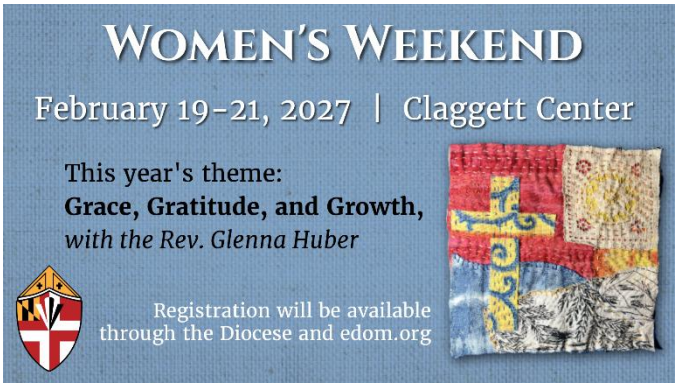
- 3:00 pm Holiday Tea hosted by Bishop Carrie

- 4:30 pm Lessons & Carols in the Cathedral with special music

RSVP to Sally Swygert at 410-467-1399; ext. 1369 or sswygert@edom.org

Our bishop is looking forward to spending time with you and thanking you personally for your contributions to the ministry of the Church. Through your generosity to the Bishop's Appeal, young lives are being transformed, our faith is being strengthened, and families are finding the support they need to face hardship and challenge.

The Claggett Center



Avoiding Phishing Attempts

The holiday season will soon be upon us. If you receive **party invitations 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.

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.



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
23	Joseph Bicchieri
25	Vrej Zarikian

November Anniversaries

9	Mike and Eve Waldman
9	Natasia Thompson and Jorge Nieto

December Birthdays

5	Dianne Crews
6	Claire Miller
16	Elaine Kazlauskas
22	Andrew Schaner
24	Chuck Gallegos
27	Rev. Lauren Bloom

December Anniversaries

15	Amanda & Joshua Reynolds

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; Jaclynn Garraway (grand-daughter of Dianne Crews); 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**; **Melanie** Mason (friend of Johanna & Richard Wilson-Smith); **Phillip; Lucia** Casale (friend of Claire Miller); **Miguel** Ramos-Tena (friend of Rev. Lauren Bloom); **Mark** (friend of Claire Miller); **Jane** Jiffin; **Tom** Bouve; **Max** McGregor; **Robert** Balcom; **Tom** Beach (brother-in-law of Claire Miller); **Rick** (friend of Lesley Margerrison); **George Dvorak** (bother-in-law of Claire Miller); **Toya** Fisher (sister-in-law of Helen Leitch); **Jane** Ghaffari (friend of Brenda McGaha); **Diane** Benyus **and Family** (friend of Claire Miller); **Lisa** Devito (friend of Richard and Johanna Wilson-Smith); **Peter** Crews (son of Dianne & Norm+ Crews); **Boyan** Mishev and **Dan** Dewberry (extended family of Dan Ramirez); **Stephen** Arn (friend of Lance Landseadel; **Noah** (friend of Joy Phillips);**Claire** Miller; **Linda** Kapurch (friend of Rev. Lauren Bloom+); **Lyn** Hardy (mother of Dalyn Huntley); **Craig** and **Alice** Gilborn (parents of Amanda Reynolds); **Mike** Golden (fiancé of Kathleen Wherthey); the **Stark Family; Sue** Huntley (mother-in-law of Dalyn Huntley); **Alastair** McGregor; **Peter** McGregor (brother of Alastair McGregor); **Stacey** Rice and **Family** (friends of Kristin Robinson and Collin Brown).

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

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Contemplative Prayer — *Eve Waldman*
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Jenna Lane
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