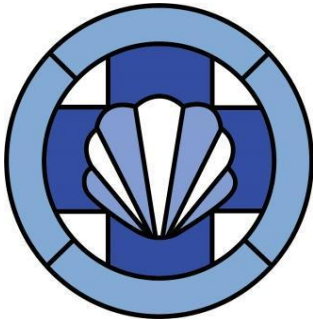




St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

September - October

The Season of Living Water



Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

John 4:13-14

September 1st begins the Season of Creation, when faithful people worldwide celebrate our Creator's masterpiece, repent of the damage we've done to it, and prayerfully contemplate how we might help the Holy Spirit restore its health and beauty. This year, the seasonal theme is Living Water, drawing from Ezekiel 47:1-12, in which an angel leads the Ezekiel through a vision of the ever-deepening river that flows from the Father's Temple in the holy city of Zion. That river is the source of all life. It is also the source of the living water that Jesus promises his followers in this passage from the Gospel of John.

Ezekiel and Jesus lived in a region where water was especially precious because the climate was and is so dry. Living close to the land, the people knew that some kinds of water were more life-giving than others. Still

water could stagnate in swamps and marshes, making it dangerous to drink. Living water stayed fresh because it moved, like a stream or river. Both had value – Ezekiel's angel mentions that marshes are a good source of salt – but only if used in harmony with the Father's larger design.

The ancient Hebrews feared the sea, and with good reason. Large bodies of water have tremendous power, especially when driven by the wind, and could easily capsize their boats, drowning everyone aboard. That Jesus could so readily calm a violent storm might have given the disciples their clearest proof of his divinity. They understood that water can be dangerous and should be treated with respect.

The recent floods in Nepal and Tibet are the world's latest reminder of the damage that water can do. As our planet warms, icebergs melt and weather patterns change, we're seeing a global shift in water distribution, with worsening droughts in some regions and flooding in others. Our situation presents humankind with a choice.

We could continue to treat water as nothing but a resource, allowing the wealthy to hoard it and the poor to suffer from its lack. (We've already had a taste of what that mindset creates; it isn't pretty, and it won't improve with time.) Or we can accept the living water offered by Jesus, the love for God and one another that inspires compassionate generosity. We can recognize that water is a priceless gift from our Father, to be conserved and shared freely with all of his creatures. We can take steps to correct the damage we've already

done to Creation and live more lightly on the Earth. And we can trust that Holy Spirit will help us in this sacred work. May the living water of Christ flow freely in your hearts this Season of Creation and beyond.

With love,
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-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

As summer draws to a close, the Vestry continues in its careful stewardship of St. Luke's. As with any home, the church needs ongoing care. Having reached the end of its safe and useful life, the amphitheater has been removed. The Vestry is considering how best to use the space left behind. Should we leave it open or install a more permanent replacement, a community garden, or something else? The Vestry is eager to hear your thoughts, so please reach out to one or more of us with your ideas.

The national church has launched a new initiative focused on care for Creation. Several ecoregions have been established; our Diocese will partner with the Dioceses of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Southern Virginia, and Virginia in the Chesapeake Bay Ecoregion. Reverend Lauren+ recently attended a conference for our new ecoregion. She and Canon Randy Callender+ will serve on the committee to implement the conference goals. Our Treasurer, Pete Stark, will serve on the committee to award grants from the national church to support new environmental projects.

At home, St. Luke's continues in its work to care for Creation. Our Environmental Committee is changing its name to the Restoration of Nature Ministry to better reflect its stewardship of the Restoration of Nature, our stormwater reclamation project. To complement that ministry, St. Luke's is about to launch a new Care for Creation Ministry to undertake additional eco-friendly activities. If care for Creation is a ministry that speaks to your heart, please connect with Lesley Margerrison or Pastor Lauren+ and we'll get you involved.

On September 13th, we'll hold our Ingathering service, returning to church and fellowship after our summer adventures. We welcome your ideas about how St. Luke's can best serve our congregation and community. We're happy to chat over coffee on any Sunday, and please feel free to contact any of us by phone or email throughout the week. It is a blessing to serve this big hearted, welcoming little church.

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.

Summer 2026 at St. Luke's

[Photo Collage](#)

Click the link above to view photos from the hot and hazy days of summer at St. Luke's. Summer began with a visit from +Bishop Carrie; Maryland Diocesan News vlog featuring the St. Luke's Food Pantry, Poets Afloat at City Dock and Dog Days Doggerel with the Annapolis Poet Laureate, Vacation Bible School, and working with Davey' Trees on the Restoration and amphitheater.

Looking forward to the Season of Creation - Join us at Ingathering on September 13 at 10:00 A.M.

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+.

Annapolis compost



Founded in 2016 by Karl Schrass and Anna Kramer in hopes to increase recycling options for food scraps. Then in 2019, Frederick Struse who comes with years of composting experience joined the team as co-owner. Together they

have helped households, businesses and restaurants eliminate food waste. St. Luke's Food Pantry began using Annapolis Compost 2023. Visit the [Annapolis Compost website](#) for additional details on how you too can participate in caring for Creation.

St. Luke's Cares for Creation

In keeping with our current liturgical season, St. Luke's is considering setting up new Creation Care ministry. As a church, and particularly one with a Food Pantry, we are already doing many things to minimize our impact on our environment. With [Annapolis compost](#) we ensure that none of our food waste finds its way into landfill, a major source of harmful greenhouse gases, and by using our church plates and cutlery for hospitality we avoid contributing to the harm caused by the 'single use' plastic that ends up in our oceans. All cardboard and paper is recycled, and although plastic recycling is still problematic, our use of refillable water bottles and commercial services such as [Ridwell](#) are allowing us to minimize the amount we discard.

The purpose of the ministry would be to encourage our ongoing efforts, investigate more ways of mitigating our environmental impact (solar panels maybe), explore community outreach and to offer advice/information on setting up your own compost and/or plastic recycling services.

The Episcopal Church, as part of its wider ministry of public witness and mission program teams, holds Creation Care calls on Zoom at 3pm on the fourth Sunday of each month. [Register here.](#)

For more information, please contact Lesley Margerrison lmargerrison@gmail.com

St. Luke's Food Pantry Produce

Fresh produce is so important for nutrition. Over the years the St. Luke's Food Pantry has been providing some bulk produce from the [Anne Arundel food Bank](#), and we have obtained some bulk items from Sam's Club and other sources. However, this summer the Pantry has also been able to give out good, fresh, locally grown organic produce to our clients from two main sources, the [Langton Green Community Farm](#) and a local Eastport neighborhood community farm in Harbor House and Eastport Terrace, run by the people who live there.

Since its founding in 1984, Langton Green Community Home, an Anne Arundel County-based residential community that supports adults with intellectual disabilities, has sought to achieve three main goals: establish a place where people with varying needs and

abilities could live, work and learn to make a positive impact on the surrounding community; provide programs and services, tailored to the individual, that help each person develop the skills they need to live as independently as possible; and ensure that each person is able to realize his or her potential in ways that they could not in a different setting.



Typical produce provided to St. Lukes by Langton Community Farm the summer of 2026.

Since 2014, an outgrowth of the Langton Community Home, the [Langton Green Community Farm](#) in Millersville, has provided paid work and vocational training to Community Home adults. They work side-by-side on the farm with the staff and volunteers. Langton says, "From seed to harvest, they are immersed in the dignifying and empowering work of farming. Adults who choose to work at the farm have the

opportunity to give back to the community and strengthen the local food system through produce donations. The farm grows produce for residents' homes and they donate excess to donor partners and local food banks."

Parishioner Connie Herald helped the St. Lukes Pantry make the connection with [Langton Community Farm](#). Lesley Margerrison, manager of the Pantry, St. Luke's Rector, Lauren Bloom, and Connie went out to the farm to talk about basically two things: possibly having people from the Langton Community come and help us at the Food Pantry, and providing left over produce from the farm. According to Lesley Margerrison, "St. Luke's started this process last year, and it came to fruition this summer."

In Eastport, a local resident, Matthew Wallace, started a community farm under the name [Joy Grows](#). He wanted to provide the experience of growing food to local residents. He also wanted to give kids and young adults experience of how to run something like that and learn about gardening, producing food, and business

practices. Lesley says that "it is very much a social project that Matthew has got going in these Eastport communities. During the growing season, they send us overspill from that enterprise. When we met with Matthew we said we can definitely make use of anything that they have extra, because it would be for the people who live there. They get the very food stuff they harvest."



A community neighbor and her garden delivery.

Matthew says on the [Joy Grows](#) website: "Our neighbors desire access to the health benefits of garden fresh vegetables, but face barriers. Our current focus is helping Annapolis's public housing neighborhoods eliminate barriers by building gardens that are a few steps away. We plan to grow our community farming activities until everyone in Annapolis is participating."

*Faithfully,
Dona Weingarten*

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, October 6, 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.

Luminis Health at St. Luke's



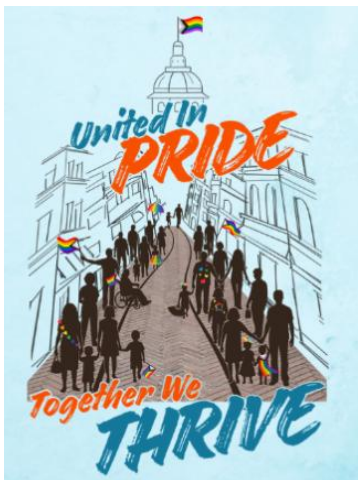
Stay healthy with a **free flu vaccine** from Luminis Health's Community Health Department.

Luminis will be visiting St. Luke's on

Tuesday, September 15, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Annapolis Pride Festival and Parade

Save the date - October 3, 2025



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4, 2025 at 12:30 pm



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.

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).

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, September 10 and October 8**. 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.

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.

Avoiding Phishing Attempts

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).

September Birthdays

2	Miriam Zarikian
3	Kathleen Wherthey
5	Paul Craley
7	Nancy Otis
9	Peter Crews
24	Larry Bloom

September Anniversaries

14 Jenna Lane-Allen & Bill Allen

October Birthdays

8 Olgui Zarikian
15 Stephen Bloom

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); 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; Robert Ihloff, XIII Bishop of Maryland retired; 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 & 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; **Jaclynn** Garroway (granddaughter of Dianne Crews); **Tom** Beach (brother-in-law of Claire Miller); **Rick** (friend of Lesley Margerrison); **George Dvorak** (brother-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).

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ office@stlukeseastport.org
www.stlukeseastport.org
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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

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 Vrej Zarikian, Junior Warden
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 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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