

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

## House Call Newsletter

### March – April 2026

#### Waiting for Resurrection



*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*  
*Psalm 51:10-12*

Spring took a long time to come this year. We might have hoped that the January storm that buried Annapolis in ice would be the only major weather event we would have to endure this winter. When Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog Day, I initially laughed him off. Seriously, who listens to a groundhog? Then we got more snow in February, the weather stayed cold and damp for weeks, and I began to consider developing a recipe for groundhog fricassee. (Just kidding.)

When spring came, it came slowly. A sunny afternoon here, a single crocus there, snatches of birdsong in the Restoration of Nature where there had been silence only days before. It was a reminder that God acts in his own good time. Scripture reminds us again and again that it is good to wait upon the Lord, but patience comes hard sometimes. It can be uncomfortable to live

in the uncertain space between something familiar that is ending, and what is to come that we can't yet see. Christianity refers to these transitional seasons in our lives as "liminal" space or time. The word "liminal" derives from the Latin word *limen*, meaning "threshold," and it refers to being on the verge of transition or between two spaces or stages in our lives.

Lent is a liminal season. For forty days we wait, doing our best to make good use of the time by examining our consciences and turning away from our habitual shortcomings and back to God. Lent can feel like a long slog. Then, Holy Week arrives, sweeping us through a few short days when we remember humanity's worst moments before Easter morning finally dawns.

We know the Easter story. We might wonder why we return to it year after year, and especially why we repeatedly subject ourselves to the discomforts of Lent. Father Richard Rohr explains this way. We need to enter liminal space because "[i]t's the realm where God can best get at us because our false certitudes are finally out of the way." Liminal space is where God teaches us patience and openness. "When we embrace liminality, we choose hope over sleepwalking, denial, or despair," Father Rohr writes. "The world around us becomes again an *enchanted universe*, something we intuitively understood when we were young and somehow lost touch with as we grew older."

There's nothing more miraculous than the Resurrection of Jesus, And it's not a coincidence that we celebrate it every spring. The vibrant life that reappears every spring reflects Jesus's rebirth, and reminds us that God always brings goodness and beauty out of even our darkest and dreariest times. We just have to be patient and remember that his good gifts are given to us when he thinks we're ready and the circumstances are right. If you're going through a liminal season in your own life, waiting for an answer to come or a problem to be resolved, don't give up hope. Let the Lord teach you

patience and be open to unexpected outcomes. Resurrection always comes. Wishing you a joyful Easter and a spring filled with renewed life and hope.

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. End of year giving statements were sent via US Mail in January. If you did not receive yours, or if you think there is a problem with the statement, please contact the office or the treasurer.

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 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](mailto:starkhe2@yahoo.com) for any questions or assistance. Thank you.

## Operating Income and Expense Summary As of January 30, 2026

| <u>Operating</u>       | <u>Actual</u>  | <u>Planned</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Income</u>          |                |                |
| Pledges                | 10,125         | 16,250         |
| Other                  | <u>5,384</u>   | <u>6,100</u>   |
| <b>Total Income</b>    | 15,509         | 22,350         |
| <br>                   |                |                |
| <u>Operating</u>       |                |                |
| <u>Expenses:</u>       | <u>21,830</u>  | <u>23,158</u>  |
| <br>                   |                |                |
| <u>Net Gain/(Loss)</u> | <u>(6,321)</u> | <u>(808)</u>   |

### Assets

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Bank</b>        | 62,678  |
| <b>Investments</b> | 259,543 |

## Vestry Summary

Greetings from the St. Luke's Vestry!

We are in the 40-day period of Lent with prayer, fasting, and reflection on our faith as we prepare to celebrate Christ's Easter resurrection. Christ's promise of forgiveness, redemption, and eternal life helps us to cope with the injustice, wars, and uncertainty encompassing our world. Hope is buoyed by our faith in Christ's promises to us, his children. And faith urges us to believe these promises even when humanity's weaknesses make another reality hard to imagine. St. Luke's is our spiritual home, where we can find mutual support and guidance as we seek to accept Christ's promise of eternal life in God's embrace.

At the Annual Meeting, the Vestry welcomed two new members, Michelle Southerland and Vince Durnan, who

joined the February meeting as members affirmed their Vestry Oath. The Vestry did a recap of the Annual Meeting and discussed ongoing issues, including efforts to improve the church's sound system, ministry reports, the need for new choir vestments, and dialogue between the Vestry and parishioners at coffee hour. There is an ongoing need for new volunteers to provide food for our weekly coffee hour, so please consider if you can offer to do a week or more this year.

The Vestry also approved the annual Parochial Report, a statistical summary for the Dioceses of St. Luke's' membership, finances, ministries, clergy, worship services, attendance, outreach, and contributions to the greater Episcopal Church. The Vestry continues to plan for next steps with the conservation easement and to evaluate options for rebuilding our amphitheater. The Tuesday Food Pantry continues to serve between 60 to 90 families each week, and the Vestry is looking at possible additional methods for food distribution to our neighbors in need, including furloughed federal employees. St. Luke's finances are in good order and we continue to operate within our planned budget and income.

The Vestry is aware that our parking lot has become overcrowded, with not enough handicapped parking spaces, making it increasingly difficult for some elderly and infirm parishioners to get into St. Luke's safely. All able-bodied parishioners are encouraged to park further away, on the street or in the adjoining mall lot if possible, to free up spaces in the church parking lot for those who most need them.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14.6) As we move toward the celebration of Easter, we welcome everyone to our St. Luke's family, where together we can help and support each other in our spiritual journeys.

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.*

## 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+.

## Easter Flower Dedications

Easter flower dedications can now be made and will be accepted until **Monday, March 30, 2026**. You can send a check to St. Luke's with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line or complete the [Google Form](#) with your information. Remember to please print the name(s) of those in whose Memory or Honor the flowers are given.

## 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 days 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](mailto:Lmargerrison@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## Coffee with St. Luke's Vestry

Join the Vestry during hospitality immediately following the service on **Sunday, March 22**. It's an opportunity

for members of the congregation to talk with the Vestry about life at St. Luke's.

## Food Pantry Upgrades

A generous Maryland Food Bank grant helped fund a much-needed upgrade to St. Luke's Food Pantry. Thanks to enthusiastic volunteers, old shelves were removed and new industrial grade shelving was assembled in a different configuration that enhances our storage, access, and distribution of both federal and private food donations.

Several tons of canned food were moved, the new shelves installed, and the tons of food were moved again, a herculean two-week effort over the Christmas break assisted by Lesley, Joy and her athletic godchildren, Terry, Charlie, Vince and Bea, Walter (volunteer Pat's son), volunteers Sherrell and Sam, and Tim (Paul and Joy's neighbor). The freezer room floor got new epoxy paint, freezer door openings were reversed to improve access, and new metal carts will facilitate the weekly task of setting up and closing the food distribution serpentine. An unanticipated benefit of reorganizing the shelves was to open up a larger robing area for the choir. Upcoming plans include reorganizing the shed to make it more accessible for non-food storage.

During the next church coffee hour, please admire the new shelves. These changes give better access to stored food and enhanced flow on food bank distribution Tuesdays as we follow Christ's bidding to "Feed My Sheep."

Weekly food bank attendance continues to rise as our neighbors face economic, climate, and political challenges. Our thanks go out to all our food pantry volunteers, those who helped with the reorganization, and the larger group who serve faithfully each week to make possible St. Luke's vital food pantry ministry to our community. **See page 9 for photos.**

## Holy Week & Easter Services

### St. Luke's Eastport

### Holy Week & Easter Triduum Services

You are invited to experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Liturgy.

1101 Bay Ridge Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21403



#### Palm Sunday, March 29

- 10:00 a.m. with Blessing of the Palms

#### Maundy Thursday, April 2

- 5:00 p.m. Eucharist with Foot Washing

#### Good Friday, April 3

- 5:00 p.m.

#### Holy Saturday, April 4

- 10:00 am Morning Prayers
- 5:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

#### Easter Sunday, April 5

- 10:00 a.m. Easter Service



## Monthly Healing Services at St. Luke's

**Tuesday, April 7**  
**5:30 pm.**

*Healing Service*

**Monthly at**  
**St. Luke's Eastport**

 1101 Bay Ridge Ave., Annapolis, MD 21403

## St. Luke's Prayer Shawl Ministry



Have you noticed in the past that there was a basket by the front door with prayer squares in it? Well, the knitters are starting up again.

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).

Whether it is a small square to put in your pocket or a shawl to wear (give us some time to make these), we offer these as a reminder of the healing presence of God and community.

## 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 March 19<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>**. 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)).

## Midshipmen Spring Work Day

The Midshipmen Action Group will be back at St. Luke's on **March 21, 8 am - 1:00 pm**, to remove invasive plants and do general cleanup of the church grounds.

If you would like to help with this event, either outdoors working alongside the Mids or in the kitchen serving up coffee, snacks and pizza, contact Chuck Gallegos

([gallegoscl@verizon.net](mailto:gallegoscl@verizon.net)) or Linda Elkington ([lbgeem@aol.com](mailto:lbgeem@aol.com)). Even an hour or two would be greatly appreciated.

## Church Office Hours & Holiday Closure

The Church Office hours are posted below.

**Appointments are still highly recommended to ensure dedicated attention.**

Our Parish Administrator, Dalyn Huntley can be reached by email at [office@stlukeseastport.org](mailto:office@stlukeseastport.org) or by phone at 410-268-5419.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Monday    | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon                      |
| Tuesday   | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon                      |
| Wednesday | 12:00 Noon - 4:00 pm                        |
| Thursday  | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon &<br>3:00 - 5:00 pm. |
| Friday    | Closed                                      |

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

Please note that the church office will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, April 6**, Easter Monday.

## 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 spring 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.

## 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](mailto:Lmargerrison@gmail.com) with any questions.

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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com).

## 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](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).



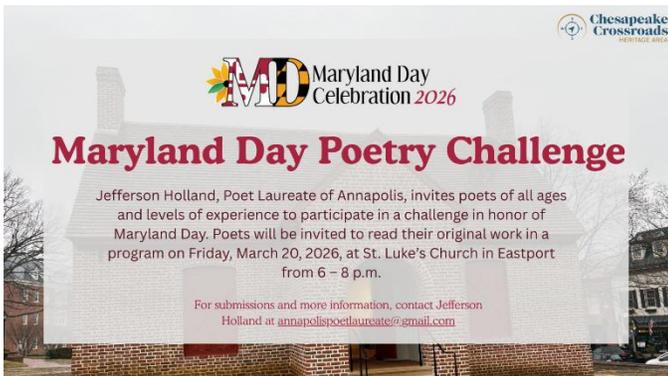
## World Labyrinth Day May 2, 2026

## Claggett Retreat Center



Visit [www.claggettcenter.org](http://www.claggettcenter.org) for more information about their adult programs.

## Maryland Day Poetry Challenge



This free event will be held on **Friday, March 20** at St. Luke's **6-8 pm**.

## Phishing & Scams

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.



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)).

### March Birthdays

- |    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 14 | Linda Elkington      |
| 20 | Tom Dent             |
| 27 | Richard Wilson-Smith |
| 29 | Rae Miller           |
| 30 | Alice Hall           |
| 31 | Ed Stark             |

### April Birthdays

- |    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 4  | Tanya Bloom    |
| 6  | Avedis Zarkian |
| 14 | Helen Leitch   |
| 22 | Susie Leaman   |
| 23 | Terry Otis     |
| 24 | Joy Phillips   |

### April Anniversaries

- |    |                              |
|----|------------------------------|
| 12 | Bartel & Sharon Williams Sr. |
|----|------------------------------|

## 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+; 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); 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); Elizabeth & Kate (friends of Lesley Margerrison); Nancy (sister-in-law of Lesley Margerrison); Charlie & Family; Bluhm Family; Max McGregor; 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); Hans Bachmann (friend of Lance Landseadel); 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; Kaitlyn LaVoy (niece of Dianne Crews); Boyd F. (brother of Dawn Huenink); Denise; Nancy Etter (friend of Alex Devino); Tom Bouve; Mike Waldman; Alex Devino (friend of Dianne Crews); Peter Fay Farrell (friend of Helen Leitch); Elise Balcom; Melanie Mason (friend of Johanna Wilson & Richard Smith); Phillip; Spencer Johnson (husband of Rev. Andrea Johnson+); Doreen Evans (friend of Rev. Lauren Bloom+); Hugh Reese (friend of Claire Miller); Lucia Casale (friend of Claire Miller); Dianne Crews; McCoy Family; Alastair McGregor; Miller Family; Miguel Ramos-Tena (friend of Rev. Lauren Bloom+); Mark (friend of Claire Miller); Jane Jiffin; Joe Wilson.

## 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  
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, [galleqoscl@verizon.net](mailto:galleqoscl@verizon.net)  
Anne Arms  
707-479-4303, [armspna@aol.com](mailto:armspna@aol.com)  
Food Pantry                                      Lesley Margerrison  
512-921-4241, [lmargerrison@gmail.com](mailto:lmargerrison@gmail.com)  
Flower Ministry                                  Anne Arms  
707-479-4303, [armspna@aol.com](mailto:armspna@aol.com)  
Contemplative Prayer                          Eve Waldman  
[eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorevewaldman@gmail.com)  
Jenna Lane  
[Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com](mailto:Jenna.S.Lane1944@gmail.com)



# ST. LUKE'S FOOD PANTRY 2026 UPGRADES

