

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MAY 2022



Prepping for Pentecost During the Easter Season

Pentecost is June 5th, which seems like a long way off but it will be here before you know it!

On Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to guide Jesus's followers as we go about continuing the work Jesus gave his life to. The Pentecost story from Acts tells us that the Holy Spirit enabled people not only to speak different languages, but to understand different languages. To me, Pentecost is a day when we celebrate our differences and the fact that God can work through our differences and can rejoice in the great variety that makes up creation. Differences are good and blessed and holy and are to be celebrated.

In years past, we have observed Pentecost by having folks read the scripture passage from Acts in many languages. This year, I'd like for part of our Pentecost celebration to be us all saying the prayer Jesus taught us—the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father—in a different language. When we join our voices on June 5th to say the prayer Jesus taught us, I hope to hear Arabic, French, Spanish, Hindi, Mandarin, Korean, Portuguese, Italian, and Russian—and MORE!

I'm not particularly good at languages, so this is going to take some work, some time, some practice for me personally. Learning the prayer Jesus taught us is going to be my Easter practice because Easter is 50 days, not just one day. Easter is a season of new life, of God doing new things, and I have a hunch that learning the Lord's Prayer in a different language will help me hear it and experience it in new ways. I hope you'll join me in this Easter practice, and between now and then, feel free to let me know what language you have selected.

P.S. As you research translations that you'll have to look up the doxology (for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever) separately. Some translations of the Lord's Prayer include it and some don't. Again, I think God is okay with variety.

Jessica

PARISH

May Birthdays

Karin Bolte	1
Linda Fong	8
Marta Montoro	9
Theresa Wambach	9
Liz Votaw	12
Fiona Nellist	13
Gayle Countryman-Mills	13
Laura Edwards	13
Phoebe Milhollin	13
Kendall Montgomery	16
Joaquin Gonzalez	17
Luke Bergeron	19
Charles Rice	22
Zachary Bernier	22
Roxanne Leal	23
Bennett Sharp	26
Andrew Mills	28
Hannah Fourcard	28

MAY 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



May Special Dates

	2 May	Ramadan ends
	6 May	Men's Shelter dinner
	7 May	Garden Guild workday
	13 May	5 th -8 th grade youth group
	14 May	George Brown Memorial service
	21 May	Jane Reaves Memorial service
	27 May	Book Lovers
	28 May	Pollinator Garden workday
		Supper Group
	30 May	Memorial Day
		Office closed
		MCPS closed
30 May-3 June		IW Emergency Shelter Meal Week

June Birthdays

Kathy Makos	1
Safia Kuriakose	1
Ivy Martin	10
Margaret Roper	12
Bob Allnutt	15
Ian Mills	15
Sacha South	15
Debbie Grosvenor	16
Wanda Cockrell	16
Catherine Nellist	17
Linda Freeman	19
Christine Zakarka	22
Adrienne Davis-Leal	24
Bart Hall	27
Bob Pearson	28

JUNE 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



June Special Dates

30 May-3 June		IW Emergency Shelter Meal Week	
	3 June	Men's Shelter Dinner	
	4 June	Garden Guild workday	
	11 June	Myrna Olsen Memorial Service	
	17 June	MCPS last day of school	
	20 June	Juneteenth Federal Holiday	
20 June-June 24		Office closed	
	25 June	Pollinator Garden workday	
Monica Lee	29	June Alleyne	30

The ACTS is now distributed electronically using the email address that we have for you on file in the office. If you did not receive it, please update your email address. admin@stlukesbethesda.org.

If you do not see your birthday listed during the year, please contact the office.

ST. LUKE'S VESTRY

Securing a Bright Future for St. Luke's (or Good News, Bad News, Good News)

Most of us who are active at St Luke's can easily point to the activities or ministries that are important to us, and we don't need to be convinced that our church is worth supporting. The time and resources that so many of us devote to this parish are remarkable, and we hope this will continue for many years to come.

The good news is that our current financial situation is stable. We are able to pay our bills, and the current pledges and contributions are sufficient to support all of our current programs and ministries. We also have reserve resources to deal with unpredictable events. The pandemic of the past two years illustrates how radically plans can be disrupted. We survived as a faith community, and we are busy planning the coming year of restoration and renewal.

Like many other churches, we face challenges in the years ahead. Our revenue sources are no longer growing at the pace necessary to maintain our ministries at the level we want. We have had to make the adjustment to a one-priest church. We have not experienced growth among younger communicants, and as the parish ages, attracting younger people is an essential component of our long-term financial health. The pandemic had a serious impact on us being able to attract visitors and new members of all ages to welcome into the St. Luke's community. The further good news is that because we have been prudent with our finances, we have time to address these issues—but we should be doing this now.

The Vestry seeks your help in two important ways:

- If you are part of the St. Luke's family but do not pledge, please consider pledging what you can afford to help us with the planning and budgeting process. If you are an active pledger, please contemplate your own level of contribution. You don't have to increase your contribution this year, but perhaps you can boost your pledge for 2023.
- Perhaps more importantly, we need your ideas for how we can grow our parish. How can we expand our connections with the community? What current or prospective outreach programs can encourage people to visit or explore St. Luke's? In an increasingly secular world, how do we broadcast the Good News of Christ so it will continue to enrich and enlighten?

We encourage you to share your ideas with Vestry members. Creativity is needed—not just from Vestry, but from all of us. Ideas that may at first seem impractical or a little crazy may end up being just what we need, so please don't be shy about sharing your thoughts. We must go beyond traditional growth strategies to continue our good works and secure a hopeful, vibrant, and inclusive future for St Luke's. You can speak to any vestry member personally, or send comments to Mike Bernier via srwarden@stlukesbethesda.org or Cliff Johnson via jrwarden@stlukesbethesda.org.

Please see Mike's related Finance Comment at the top of page 7.

St. Luke's Vestry

FELLOWSHIP



***We're BaaaAAACK!!
Been so L O N G, SUPPER GROUP!***

S.G. is the periodic potluck hosted by a revolving rota of willing parishioners to which all adult St. Luker's, their partners, and friends are invited. We have been given the go-ahead to get together and *eat in person* (!) thus engaging in Christian Fellowship – for the first time in over two years! Not for the faint of heart (but really helpful to your health)! Have we waited long enough? It'll be up to each individual to decide for themselves. Our hosts, the generous and brave

Jack and Margie Orrick

are inviting attendees to enjoy potluck offerings inside or outside their home (lovely deck area), masked or unmasked. Participate as you feel comfortable.

Date: Saturday, May 28

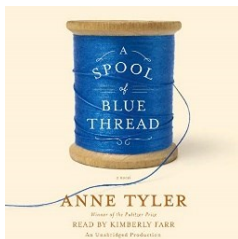
Time: 6 pm

To RSVP please contact the Orricks and ask what is needed: Salad/Side, Entrée, or Dessert. Please plan to bring a beverage of *your* choice.

Don't miss this Historic Event. Catch up with old friends, meet new ones; we've got two years of stories to share, and a Parish to knit together for love and service.

Questions? Ride? Contact Treva Miller.

Treva Miller



BOOKLOVERS

Our next meeting will be **Friday, May 27, 1 pm** IN PERSON. We'll be discussing ***A Spool of Blue Thread***, by Baltimore author Anne Tyler. I hope you can join us. The meeting will be at Betsy Davis' house in Leisure World. 15548 Prince Frederick Way, Silver Spring MD 20906.

Our **July** meeting will be on Tuesday, July 5th at 7:30 pm via Zoom. We'll be discussing ***Carville's Cure: Leprosy, Stigma and the Fight for Justice*** by Pam Fessler.

Rounding out the year, our **September book** will be ***How the Word is Passed***, and following that our **November book** will be ***The Book of Longing***.

Please email Nancy Reding if you'd like to get on the email list.

Nancy Reding

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Samaritan Ministry Sunday – May 1 @ 8 am and 10 am Services with Participant Charles Hopkins and ED David B. Wolf

As part of Samaritan Ministry's (SMGW) Empowering our Neighbors in Need Campaign, Rev. David B. Wolf, Executive Director of SMGW, will be guest celebrant at the 8 am and 10 am services on **Sunday, May 1.**

During his sermon, David will introduce SMGW Program Participant Charles Hopkins, who will share his experience as a "returning citizen." Charles re-entered society after 48 years of incarceration and is on a successful and sustainable path, thanks to the coaching and training of SMGW caseworkers and STRIVE employment readiness training staff at SMGW.

There will be opportunities for questions and answers with both individuals as part of a forum and reception following each service. Please join us in person or by Zoom to learn more about Charles' story and the work of Samaritan Ministry.

Jack Orrick



Cornerstone Montgomery

I was honored when Jessica asked me to serve on the board of Cornerstone Montgomery, the organization that St. Luke's helped to found as St. Luke's House 50 years ago. Cornerstone provides behavioral health services for over 3,000 clients around the county. A big part of its work is residential programs. It also runs a very busy clinic and provides telehealth.

I want to let the St. Luke's community know how Cornerstone has fared during the pandemic. First of all it kept going, continuing to provide care both in its residential programs and in the clinic. As soon as vaccinations became available, Cornerstone made sure that staff and as many clients as possible were vaccinated. Cari Cho, the CEO, did a great job communicating with all the stakeholders about the way COVID-19 was having an impact on their work.

One of the biggest wins for the clients was the pivot to telehealth. As things are settling down, many clients are back at the clinic. But for many others, the option for telehealth gives them flexibility.

In the year that I have served on the board, I have been very proud of the work Cornerstone is doing. The church continues to support Cornerstone in many ways. We have the Southport Hub in our backyard, and we make a cash donation each year. Because of the pandemic, Cornerstone has not been taking advantage of volunteers. I've been in touch with them about the possibility of St. Luke's parishioners being able to do service for Cornerstone this summer or in the fall/winter holiday season.

Amanda Freeman

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2022 Interfaith Works Women's Emergency Shelter Meal Week

Mark your calendars!

In keeping with St. Luke's long tradition of providing meals to women who are temporarily sheltered during Memorial Day week, this year St. Luke's has been asked to **provide dinners for 35 women at a new Interfaith Works Emergency Shelter located at 16911 Crabbs Branch Way in Derwood, MD** on:

Monday, May 30

Tuesday, May 31

Wednesday, June 1

Thursday, June 2

Friday, June 3

This new location is about ten minutes away from the 2 Taft Ct. location that many of us are familiar with. Unfortunately, we are still unable to serve in-person, but this is a chance for those who like to cook and bake to share their talents with others! **A SignUp Genius and more coordination/drop-off details are coming soon!**

In addition to temporary shelter, Interfaith Works (IW) programs also provide holistic case management services to each client. These services connect clients to other community resources, such as primary medical care, legal services, psychiatric services, permanent housing services, and vocational services.

Despite not being able to serve together, St. Luke's has continued to prepare yummy homemade meals to be served to clients by IW staff throughout the pandemic—below are a few snapshots! We hope you'll participate again this year. For other opportunities to support clients, the Community Engagement Committee is planning to focus on IW for the next upcoming 5th Sunday "Be the Church" Day on May 29.

Please watch the E-News, Hot News, and other announcements for more information!

Marta Montoro



FINANCE

One of the vestry's initiatives this year is to educate ourselves and all St. Luke parishioners on the church budget. That's important for many reasons. How we spend the resources you entrust to us speaks to our collective values. All of us need to understand both our short-term and long-term financial situation. Subgroups are working on written and oral communications, our fall annual giving campaign, and planned giving. The following report on St. Luke's financial status is part of that effort.

Please read it and reach out to Jessica or any member of the vestry with any questions. Look for more on all of these efforts in the months ahead.

Mike Bernier, Senior Warden

FINANCE REPORT MARCH 2022	2022 Budget	'22 Actual Thru Mar.	% of '22 Budget *
RECEIPTS			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,496	7%
Pledge Payments	440,000	221,302	50%
Donations for Facilities	30,000	7,329	24%
Altar Flower Donations	4,500	695	15%
Miscellaneous		22	
Operating Receipts	494,500	230,844	47%
EXPENSES			
Compensations	\$ 359,626	\$ 96,732	27%
Church Activities	18,750	2,576	14%
Parish Operations	109,500	22,269	20%
Community Engagement (Outreach)	22,000	0	
Diocesan Giving	52,000	17,336	33%
Operating Expenses	561,876	138,913	25%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(67,376)	91,931	
Additional Funding – reserves	67,376	0	
Net Revenue	\$ 0	\$ 91,931	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE \$128,739

* YTD March = 25% of the year

Budget Analysis: Donations for Plate, Flowers and Use by Outside Organizations were either equal to or less than straight-line budget projections, but because a number of parishioners paid substantial amounts of their annual pledge at the start of the year, total revenue was significantly ahead of a straight-line projection. Expenses for Compensation, Church Activities, and Parish Operations were less than straight-line budget projection, and Diocesan Giving was ahead of straight-line projection, resulting in Net Revenue at the end of March of \$91,931.

Thank you! Your continued support is very impressive during these challenging times.

All financial obligations for the year to date have been met and bills paid.

There is a change to the reimbursement process: *If you need to be reimbursed for a purchase or need the Treasurer to pay an invoice, please send an email to the office at admin@stlukesbethesda.org instead of using an orange reimbursement form. Include the receipt, the amount, and the purpose for the expense. All requests for extra money or donations by committees, individuals or church members, should have prior approval of the Vestry before solicitation.*

Susan Casson, Acting Treasurer

CALENDAR

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	2 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	3 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	4 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	5	6 Men's Shelter Dinner	7 9:00 AM Garden Guild Workday 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
8 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	9 7:00 PM Finance Meeting 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	10 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	11 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	12	13 7:00 PM 5th-8th Grade Youth Group	14 11:00 George Brown Memorial Service 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (In-person service) 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
15 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	16 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	17 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	18 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	19	20	21 11:00 AM Jane Reaves Memorial Service 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
22 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	23 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	24 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	25 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	26	27 1:00 PM Book Lovers (In person)	28 10:00 AM Pollinator Garden Workday 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:00 PM Supper Group 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
29 Be the Church Sunday 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM - <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	30 Memorial Day (Office Closed) 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA</i> <i>Meeting</i>	31 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	1 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	2	3 Men's Shelter Dinner	4 9:00 AM Garden Guild Workday 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> IW Emergency Shelter Meal Week </div>						

CALENDAR

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	30 Memorial Day (Office Closed) 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	31 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	1 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	2	3 Men's Shelter Dinner	4 9:00 AM Garden Guild Workday 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
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12 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	13 7:00 PM Finance Meeting 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	14 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	15 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	16	17	18 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
19 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	20 Juneteenth holiday 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	21 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	22 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	23	24	25 10:00 AM Pollinator Garden Workday 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
Office Closed This Week						
26 8:00 AM Worship Service (in-person only) 10:00 AM Worship Service in-person & Zoom) 5:00 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i> 8:30 PM <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	27 8:00 PM <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	28 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	29 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	30	1 Men's Shelter Dinner	2 5:00 PM Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30 PM <i>Cristo La Roca</i>

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Trinity Parish
6030 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1852

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Phone: 301-530-1800 Fax: 301-530-1802
email: admin@stlukesbethesda.org
website: www.stlukesbethesda.org
THE REV. JESSICA K. HITCHCOCK
Rector
email: jessica@stlukesbethesda.org

ACTS of St. Luke's
Newsletter for members and friends of St. Luke's;
published monthly, except January & August.
ACTS Deadline: 15th of the preceding month

2022 Interfaith Works Women's Emergency Shelter Meal Week

New: 16911 Crabbs Branch Way in Derwood



Monday, May 30
Tuesday, May 31
Wednesday, June 1
Thursday, June 2
Friday, June 3

35 women would love your cooking!

Sign Up Genius Coming