

# ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APRIL 2022



## ***No Matter What, You Are Welcome at God's Table Where We are United to Serve the Needs of the World***

At St. Luke's...we are not all the same. And best I can tell, you all like it that way. Which works out well, since the God and Creator of the Universe made each and every one of us unique.

It means so much to many in this community to hear "You are welcome, no matter what you believe or don't believe, you are welcome." It feels good and...RIGHT... to bring our whole selves to church.

It can also be a little uncomfortable to bring our whole selves to church and realize: oh, part of me is really different from a lot of the people here; this feels a little scary.

We don't have to be alike to be at church together. We don't have to be the same to welcome one another. We don't even have to agree with one another all or most of the time.

I know you all. You are very different. Passionate, kind, thoughtful, smart people—but very different. You like different music and foods, you are rejuvenated by different things, you are not politically monolithic (I promise, you aren't), you are pursuing different interests, you all have a variety of ways of dealing with money. Some of you like to travel, some of you like theater, some of you like to stay home; you are different. You are welcome. No matter what. And it is up to us as a community to create that welcome that says, "You don't have to be the same as me and I don't always have to agree with you—you are welcome just as you are." The welcome we offer is bigger than a human welcome; we offer and we share God's divine welcome.

And that welcome isn't just for the *sake* of welcome. We share God's divine welcome with one another so that we may be *united* to serve the needs of God's beloved world. We are united in order to *serve*.

Serving is also going to look different for each of us—which is great! And connects beautifully with the fact that we are not all the same! There are a lot of different ways to serve God's beloved world, both through and beyond the St. Luke's community. You can serve by tending, listening, planting, feeding, speaking up, keeping quiet, cleaning up, building up, building, noticing, helping, supporting, offering. God invites us to serve God's creation. As humans we are stewards, tenders of God's creation.

God doesn't necessarily invite us to serve in easy ways, but God does call us to serve the world in ways that make us feel alive. Do the things that help you feel alive and connected to God. Serve there.

*(Serve, continued on page 4)*

**PARISH**

APRIL 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

**April Birthdays**

Mary Kimelblatt	15
Pat Rogers	15
Kristin Katulis	17
Sally Curtin	19
Nancy Voit	22
Eric Hutchins	24
Jack Orrick	26
Pete Rogers	27
Arlene Antonicelli	28



**April Special Dates**

1 April	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade youth group
2 April	Ramadan begins
10 April	Palm Sunday
11 April	Prison Ministry (Zoom)
11 April to 18 April	MCPS no school
14 April	Maundy Thursday
15 April	Good Friday, Passover begins
16 April	Holy Saturday
17 April	Easter Sunday
18 April	Easter Monday
	Office closed

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 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



**May Special Dates**

2 May	Ramadan ends
6 May	Men's Shelter Dinner
9 May	Prison Ministry (Zoom)
13 May	5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> grade youth group
14 May	Garden Guild workday
27 May	Book Lovers
30 May	Memorial Day
	Office closed
	MCPS closed
Roxanne Leal	23
Bennett Sharp	26
Andrew Mills	28
Hannah Fourcard	28

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](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org).

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

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## SENIOR WARDEN

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**Mike Bernier**

### ***Warden's Word***

Easter is my favorite holiday. I have pleasant memories of Easter: new clothes; hat-wearing aunts and sisters; Easter baskets; ham for dinner; and relaxed family time. Later in life as a parent, I remember all the tricks that the Easter Bunny played on my son—showing up overnight and eating the carrots we left for him or her, and in some years showing up while we were at church after one parent rushed home earlier than the other. The Easter Bunny also found us when we were on vacation, leaving a basket on our hotel balcony. Clever rabbit.

My wish for everyone at St. Luke's is that you get to enjoy Easter in whatever way gives you the best memories, either memories from your past with people who may or may not still be with you, or memories you create going forward. We are all extremely busy with work, family, and church. Many of you who are retired seem to be the busiest of all of us! Rest, relax and remember that this is the holiest of holidays.

Even as a Catholic schoolboy, the darkness of Good Friday followed by the joy of Easter was such a drastic change that it got my attention as something unique, and holy. During Holy Week, we read about the human suffering of Jesus, the despair of his disciples followed by the joy of the resurrection. In a small way, the two years of the pandemic followed by the joy of being close to the end of the pandemic time of the disease reminds me of how the despair of Good Friday is followed by the joy of Easter morning. God turns pain into joy when we trust Him to do so. I am so thankful we will be able to celebrate Easter in person this year. And your St. Luke's family is here to celebrate with you.

Happy Easter.

*Mike Bernier, Senior Warden*

***Our Easter Offering this year will support the St. Luke's Afghan Refugee Welcome Ministry. Please watch the E-News for more information!***



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## PARISH

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(*Serve, continued from page 1*)

We are welcome in order that we might be united to serve. God welcomes us so that God can unite us to serve God's world, unite us in love, and plant in us a desire for justice and peace for all God's creation.

Holy Week will be upon us soon, the story that shows us how far God will go to show us: you are welcome no matter what. Find a way that works for you to open your heart to Jesus's journey to the cross so that the Good News finds a new stronghold within you. And remember: resurrection always comes after death. Every time.

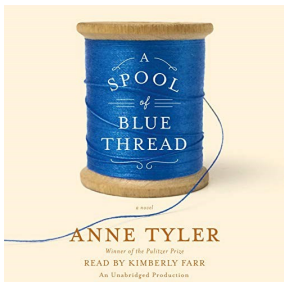
Peace and Love.

*Jessica*

### **Booklovers**

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.



"It was a beautiful, breezy, yellow-and-green afternoon..." This is how Abby Whitshank always begins the story of how she fell in love with Red that day in July 1959. The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate togetherness: an indefinable, enviable kind of specialness. But they are also like all families, in that the stories they tell themselves reveal only part of the picture. Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets. From Red's father and mother, newly

arrived in Baltimore in the 1920s, to Abby and Red's grandchildren carrying the family legacy boisterously into the 21st century, here are four generations of Whitshanks, their lives unfolding in and around the sprawling, lovingly worn Baltimore house that has always been their anchor.

Brimming with all the insight, humor, and generosity of spirit that are the hallmarks of Anne Tyler's work, *A Spool of Blue Thread* tells a poignant yet un sentimental story in praise of family in all its emotional complexity. It is a novel to cherish.

From Amazon

Please join us for any or all of these meetings. If you'd like more information or to get on the email mailing list, please reach out to Nancy Reding.

*Nancy Reding*

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## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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### **Community Engagement Budget – How It’s Working in 2022**

Earlier this year, the Vestry authorized \$22,000 for the Community Engagement Committee from the church’s Operating Budget. Per the Committee’s Charter, it is required that the annual budget allocation be published annually in the ACTS Newsletter.

Most of the Committee’s budget is designated for organizations that St. Luke’s supports financially, while a small portion of the total is set aside for discretionary expenses—such as an additional gift to an outside organization working for social justice, potential programming costs, or to respond to an emergency or new request—or to support a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday “Be the Church” Day. Of the \$22,000, \$19,300 will be allocated directly to the non-profits the parish supports (see chart below), with \$2,700 held in reserve. All the funds will be spent by the end of the calendar year.

Organizations supported by our parish typically have the following characteristics:

- St. Luke’s was a founding parish or individual parishioners of St. Luke’s have established connections to the organization or activity.
- Members of St. Luke’s are currently members of the Board of Directors, active volunteers, members of a parish liaison organization, etc.
- The organization or activity is part of a Diocesan program.
- The organization or activity is recommended by a committee member to meet a current urgent need.

Organizations must be eligible for non-profit designation or activities must be conducted under the auspices of such organizations.

<b>Organizational Giving</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>
Bethesda Cares	2,800
Bethesda Help	1,500
Bishop Walker School for Boys	1,500
Cornerstone Montgomery	2,000
Episcopal Relief & Development	500
Interfaith Works (IW)	2,500
IW - Women's Center	1,500
Interfaith Power & Light	1,000
Loaves & Fishes	2,000
Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington	4,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>19,300</b>
<b>Discretionary</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,000</b>

The Community Engagement Committee is grateful to be able to provide steady, ongoing financial support to these organizations doing God’s work in the world during these difficult times. Thank you for your pledges that make these contributions possible!

*Marta Montoro*

**FINANCE**

**FINANCE REPORT FEBRUARY 2022**

	2022 Budget	'22 Actual Thru Feb.	% of '22 Budget *
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 806	4%
Pledge Payments	440,000	197,491	45%
Donations for Facilities	30,000	4,851	16%
Altar Flower Donations	4,500	250	6%
Miscellaneous			
<b>Operating Receipts</b>	494,500	203,398	41%
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Compensations	\$ 359,626	\$ 57,739	16%
Church Activities	18,750	1,543	8%
Parish Operations	109,500	16,731	15%
Community Engagement (Outreach)	22,000	0	
Diocesan Giving	52,000	8,668	17%
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	561,876	84,681	15%
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(67,376)</b>	118,717	
<b>Additional Funding – reserves</b>	67,376	0	
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 118,717</b>	

**ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE**     \$127,962

\* YTD February = 16.7% of the year

**Budget Analysis:** Donations for Plate, Flowers, and Use by Outside Organizations were 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, Parish Operations, and Diocesan Giving were either equal to or under straight-line budget projection, resulting in Net Revenue of \$118,717 for February 2022.

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

### April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person only)</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i> <b>8:30 PM</b> <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	<b>28</b> <b>Office closed</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	<b>29</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>30</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Noonday Prayer (Zoom)</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Men's Shelter Dinner <b>7:00 PM</b> 5th-8th Grade Youth Group	<b>2</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> <b>Talk &amp; Pray (Zoom service)</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
<b>3</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person only)</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i> <b>8:30 PM</b> <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	<b>4</b> <b>Office closed</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	<b>5</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Noonday Prayer (Zoom)</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>7</b> <b>4:00 PM - 4:30 PM</b> Donations Drop-Off	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Garden Guild <b>5:00 PM</b> <b>Talk &amp; Pray (In-person service)</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
<b>10</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person only)</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i> <b>8:30 PM</b> <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	<b>11</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Prison Ministry (Zoom) <b>7:00 PM</b> Finance Meeting <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	<b>12</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>13</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Noonday Prayer (Zoom)</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> <b>Prayers &amp; Supper</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> <b>Foot Washing &amp; Music</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> <b>Eucharist &amp; Altar stripping</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Good Friday service</b> <b>(in-person &amp; Zoom)</b>	<b>16</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Holy Saturday brief prayers</b> <b>(in-person)</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i> <b>8:00 PM</b> <b>Easter Vigil</b> <b>(in-person)</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person only)</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i> <b>8:30 PM</b> <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	<b>18</b> <b>Easter Monday</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	<b>19</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Vestry Meeting	<b>20</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Noonday Prayer (Zoom)</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>21</b> <b>4:00 PM - 4:30 PM</b> Donations Drop-Off	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> <b>Talk &amp; Pray (Zoom service)</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i>
<b>24</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person only)</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in-person &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i> <b>8:30 PM</b> <i>Bethesda Youth AA</i>	<b>25</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>Men's AA Meeting</i>	<b>26</b> <b>2:00 PM</b> Staff Meeting	<b>27</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> <b>Noonday Prayer (Zoom)</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> Choir Practice	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> <b>Talk &amp; Pray (Zoom service)</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> <i>Cristo La Roca</i>

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
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THE REV. JESSICA K. HITCHCOCK  
Rector  
email: [jessica@stlukesbethesda.org](mailto:jessica@stlukesbethesda.org)

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

**Holy  
Week  
Schedule**

**Palm Sunday, April 10**

8 & 10 am: Eucharist with Gospel Passion Reading

**Maundy Thursday, April 14**

6:30 pm: Opening Prayers, Simple Meal  
7:30 pm: Foot Washing Service with Music  
8 pm: Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar

**Good Friday, April 15**

12 noon: Traditional Good Friday Prayers

**Holy Saturday, April 16**

10:30 am: Brief Prayers

**Easter Vigil, April 16**

8 pm: Lighting of First Fire, Salvation Story, Eucharist with Music

**Easter Sunday, April 17**

8 & 10 am: Festive Eucharist, Music at Both!

