



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

House Call Newsletter

October 2020

A Note from the Rector



Dear friends,

October is recognized as LGBTQ+ History Month, and October 11 is National Coming Out Day. St. Luke's has a long history of welcoming individuals who are not always fully included in other faith communities, including those who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, or other identities that do not fit into the categories of heterosexual and cisgender. (Cisgender denotes a person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex they were assigned at birth.)

In 2012, we added a rainbow flag to our website and our outdoor signs. In 2013, we began hosting same-gender weddings, when it became legal in Maryland and at the same time the Episcopal Church offered a provision for such ceremonies with the approval of the diocesan bishop. In 2014, we articulated our welcome explicitly when we identified one of our core values as

“A welcome that is inclusive of all.” In 2015, we celebrated when the Episcopal Church officially revised its marriage canons to make them gender inclusive. And in 2016, following the Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, we began flying a rainbow flag in front of the church during June (LGBTQ+ Pride Month) and October. Seeing that flag blowing the breeze is what inspired our neighbor here in Eastport, Jeremy Browning, to found Annapolis Pride, which successfully hosted our city's first Pride Parade and Festival last year, and which now has over 8,000 followers on Facebook.

For several years running, we have also made LGBTQ+ inclusion the focus of our October labyrinth walk (see page 3). As part of this event, we often provide chalk for people to write messages on the stones as they walk. It is always beautiful to see the words of hope and love that are shared, and it is also moving to see the names of people that participants wish to remember—some of whom are still living, and some of whom have died.

Coming out as LGBTQ+ is often seen as a single event or moment in time, but my own experience has been that it is a never-ending process. Even as someone who is very openly and publicly married to another woman, I have to keep coming out all of the time, as I meet new people and encounter new situations. Most of the time, I do this without a second thought, as I refer to “my wife” on a phone call or in a casual interaction – or in a sermon. Sometimes, I still choose not to reveal that my spouse is a woman, either because I don't feel safe, or because I don't want to deal with the anticipated reaction. Every time this happens, it's a reminder that this essential part of who I am is still regarded as “other” or “not normal” by much of society.

This month, I invite you to learn more about LGBTQ+ history and inclusion, and the ongoing movement for equal rights and recognition, by visiting www.glaad.org, www.thetaskforce.org, or www.lgbthistorymonth.com.

Blessings,
Diana+

September Vestry Highlights

Anne Arms and Alastair McGregor presented a summary report of the 236th Diocesan Convention held via Zoom, on September 12, 2020. Several preparation workshops were held via Zoom. Congratulations to our Rector who was elected to the Standing Committee. A video of our restoration project was featured as part of activities around the Diocese. Many resolutions were passed. An important resolution created a Diocesan reparation fund. A complete report of this and all other business can be found on the Diocesan website. Future Diocesan conventions will be held in the Fall.

In lieu of a St. Luke's vestry retreat, our members will attend the Diocesan Vestry Vitality Retreat on October 24, via Zoom.

Stewardship Chairperson, Alastair McGregor, announced the campaign will start October 18 and culminate on Commitment Sunday, November 8. Online pledging will be available.

Sunday worship services will start being offered via Zoom and Facebook from our sanctuary on Sunday, October 4. Pastor Diana plus an altar server will be present. Ildar will record music on our organ. The virtual choir will continue. Other congregants will participate from home. Richard Wilson-Smith is the Digital Verger for these services.

The vestry voted to reinstitute the withdrawal of \$1,000 per month from the Ameriprise account as needed, at the discretion of the Treasurer, Senior Warden and our Financial Advisor.

Junior Warden, Helen Leitch, reported the rectory roof needs replacing. Also, water leakage from a wall in the undercroft will be repaired. The vestry thanked Avedis Zarikian for repairing the front door lock.

Senior Warden, Richard Wilson-Smith, reported a new St. Luke's website design. Be sure to check it out.

Our Rector, Diana+, reported she has consulted with parents of children of the parish. She has shared potential formation resources. At this time, online formation does not seem feasible. The vestry did decide to order age appropriate Bibles for all the children. Monthly communication with the families will be coordinated by Dianne Crews.

Next vestry meeting is Saturday, October 17 at 10am.

Submitted by Dianne Crews, Registrar

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report	Aug-20	
<u>01/01/2020-8/31/2020</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Income	51,481	33,440
Pledges	<u>77,710</u>	<u>80,000</u>
Total Income	129,191	113,440
Expenses	124,388	124,028
Net Income (-loss)	<u>4,803</u>	<u>-10,588</u>
Assets:		
Cash	24,248*	
Investments	<u>73,760</u>	
Total	<u>98,008</u>	

*Approximately \$23k designated for Environmental Ministry.

Online Giving and Sending Checks

During this time when we are not meeting in person for worship, we ask everyone to please continue your regular giving to the best of your ability.

Secure online giving is available through Givelify at <https://goo.gl/Q4b37L>.

If you prefer to give by check, you can mail your donations to the church office. Although the office is closed, someone will periodically check mail and make deposits. The church address is:

1101 Bay Ridge Avenue Annapolis, MD 21403

Thank you so much for your faithfulness to our community during this time of uncertainty.

Heads Up! Incoming!

YOUR STEWARDSHIP LETTER IS COMING!

Fall is a beautiful time of the year – not too hot, not too cold, blue skies and temperate winds, well, most of the time. It's also when we have our St. Luke's stewardship season. During the second week of October you will be receiving the St. Luke's stewardship letter. Do please read it carefully – this is an extraordinary letter for an extraordinary year, and it talks about your part in supporting St. Luke's and particularly about your part in supporting your own faith and the faith of your friends in the congregation. On **October 18 and 25, and November 1**, three St. Luke's parishioners will give contemporary epistles during our remote worship services, and the season will culminate on **November 8** with Commitment Sunday. We are setting up an option that will allow you to submit your pledge online, and you can also mail the pledge card to the office.

So, please, please, join in and take part in the remote Eucharists at St. Luke's at least over the next six weeks or so. We badly need each other, even if only from a distance, and St. Luke's badly needs all of us, even if only from a distance.

Alastair McGregor
Stewardship Chair

Remote Sunday Worship Services

Beginning October 4, our 10 am Sunday remote worship services may be joined using a computer, tablet, smartphone, or landline. This is the same access information we use for other remote activities, such as social hour.

How to join remote Worship & Activities:

From your computer, tablet, or smartphone, click this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/4102685419?pwd=RzB5TnFkQWZXMWc5a1hjYnlyck5Cdz09>
Then if requested, enter passcode: 1101

From your mobile phone or landline, dial:
1-301-715-8592
Enter Meeting ID: 410 268 5419
Then if requested, enter passcode: 1101

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your feathered, furry, and scaly friends to be blessed at St. Luke's **this Saturday, October 3, at 10 am**. The service will be held outdoors in our amphitheater. Everyone is welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors! If your pets are particularly averse to crowds, you can bring a photograph or a beloved toy to be blessed.

October Labyrinth Walk

Labyrinth walks are held at the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth on the front of St. Luke's grounds on the second Saturday of each month from **noon to 1 pm**. The gatherings include guidance for walking the labyrinth, an introduction to that month's theme, and time for reflection following the walk.

Masks are required to be worn while participating.

October 10 – LGBTQ+ Inclusion

Labyrinth walks are open to all and take place rain or shine. **If it is hot, please bring your own water to drink.** For questions, contact the parish office at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org.

Labyrinth Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Eastport Memorial Labyrinth Committee will take place on **Saturday, October 10 at 10:30 am** via Zoom. For more information, contact Rev. Diana Carroll at pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org

October Outdoor Eucharist

On **Saturday, October 24 at 5 pm**, we will hold our next monthly outdoor Eucharist in our amphitheater. All attendees are required to wear masks and remain at least six feet apart from others who are not members of their own household. You are welcome to bring your own chairs and blankets, if you wish, to use in addition to the log benches.

In case of inclement weather, a decision whether to cancel the service will be made by 4 pm that day. It will be posted to our website and Facebook page.

This will likely be our final outdoor service before taking a break for the winter. For questions, contact Pastor Diana at pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org or 410-921-0157.

Book Discussion Continues: “How to be an Antiracist”

Over the summer, St. Luke’s put up a Black Lives Matter banner on the front of our church building. When we did, the vestry recognized that making this important statement needs to be accompanied by taking action for racial justice. As a predominantly white congregation, part of the work we need to do is educate ourselves about racism and its ongoing impacts.

We invite everyone in our congregation to join in reading together the book “How to be an Antiracist” by Ibram X. Kendi. Open discussion sessions will be held via Zoom on **Wednesdays from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, starting September 23 and ending October 28**. We will cover about three chapters each session. See the Remote Sunday Worship Services notice on page 3 for access information.

In addition, we will have a Sunday Forum for conversation about the book on **October 25** following our remote worship service.

About the book (from ibramxkendi.com):

“Ibram X. Kendi’s concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America—but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Instead of working with the policies and system we have in place, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it.

“In his memoir, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science—including the story of his own awakening to antiracism—bringing it all together in a cogent, accessible form. He begins by helping us rethink our most deeply held, if implicit, beliefs and our most intimate personal relationships (including beliefs about race and IQ and interracial social relations) and reexamines the policies and larger social arrangements we support. *How to Be an Antiracist* promises to become an essential book for

anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step of contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society.”

Greetings from Charity Humm

Note: Charity was our Discerning Ordained Vocations intern in 2018-2019 as part of her process of discernment for ordination to the priesthood.

I am writing to you as a remote seminarian of Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). I was able to complete my first seminary class during the August Term and am about two weeks into the Fall Term at VTS. We are busy little bees in our household. All three of our sons are enrolled in online school, my husband Rev. Matthew Humm is working from home, and all of my seminary classes are online...thanks be to God, the internet is holding up for the most part. I am currently taking Old Testament Interpretation, New Testament Interpretation, Historical Witness, Crossing Cultures Well, and Resistance Theologies. I am absolutely enjoying the content and discussions in these classes, and am finding so much depth within our Church History that speaks to the current climate of our times. I am also delighted that I have found VTS to be a compassionate community—even though it has been virtual, I still sense a deep bond and a joint mission built upon creating a loving and just community of faith. It is somewhat miraculous that this type of soulful connection can exist online, and it seems like an important time for us to discern what our world, nation, and communities are needing in this time of societal transformation. I am deeply grateful that I have the privilege of being formed and equipped at VTS and am seeing God work even amidst the disruptions that we are all experiencing. Praying that the same is true for you all—that within the chaos, you sense the Spirit hovering in your midst and supporting and guiding you in this season of change. Sending prayers for you all at St Luke’s and am grateful for your support along the way. Peace and all good, Charity Humm

October Environmental Minute

"Welcome home to St. Luke's!" With these words Pastor Diana+ has been opening our worship services since before I began attending. When we heard these words spoken in the amphitheater last July to begin our

first outdoor Eucharist since the start of the pandemic, not surprisingly, the congregation broke into enthusiastic applause. It has felt like a form of exile to be prohibited from gathering weekly in the sanctuary to partake of the Eucharist and pass the peace with a handshake or a hug—practices that cannot be replicated on Zoom. The cautious re-gathering afforded an occasion to rejoice.

Exile is a common theme in the Bible, recapitulated in the accounts of expulsion from the Garden, enslavement of the Hebrew people in Egypt, and their exile to Babylon. It is given as a picture of estrangement from God caused by our opposition to God's will in our lives, both personal and corporate. And it is a cause for groaning and longing (see e.g. Exodus 3:7ff, Psalm 137). Equally, return to home from exile is presented as an occasion for great joy, with mountains singing, trees clapping, and flowers replacing thorns (Isaiah 55:12). Indeed, the theme of exile and return is reiterated in the events of Passion Week, as Jesus experiences our exile ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?", Mark 15:34) and is joyously reunited with the disciples in resurrection.

The notion of home is a guiding principle of the Restoration of Nature. The root for our word 'ecology' is the Greek word *oikos*, meaning home, house, household, or family. While the science of ecology is defined more dispassionately as the study of organisms within their habitat, in our practice of restoration we seek to make a welcoming home for native flora and fauna. And so it was a cause for celebration as we welcomed the arrival of the Virginia saltmarsh mallow, *Kosteletskya virginica*, to the living shoreline this summer. The flower is attractive and produces a boatload of pollen, attracting bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Seeds of the saltmarsh mallow float and are easily spread by tidal currents.



As I've kayaked around the creeks and tributaries of the Chesapeake, I've noticed that the saltmarsh mallow does not occur along shorelines that are eroded and undercut, or armored with seawalls or riprap, or where marshes have been overtaken by *Phragmites*.

Installation of the living shoreline at the Restoration of Nature replaced eroded, undercut banks with gently sloping sands stabilized by native marsh grasses—a place where floating seeds can take root. While it is not known how long the saltmarsh mallow has been absent from these shores, it only took two seasons for them to find their way back. "Welcome home."

Chuck Gallegos
Co-chair, Environmental Committee



Honoring the Faithful

Seeing God's light shine in nature is profound especially in a place that holds so much meaning for our congregation. This photo was taken by Natasia after she and Paul installed the memorial plaque for Delia Stark. Delia brought joy to our St. Luke's community in worship and in spirit. Even now, the tears are welling in my eyes as I write this, because this photo reminds me of Delia's shining spirit and joy for life. Delia lived the way of love, and her spirit in heaven was shining through to our earthly life in this moment.

The vision behind this campaign was to recognize the faithful, either living or passed, in a setting that realizes our values as Christians and stewards of creation. As the

amphitheater is now our only place to worship together in-person, it symbolizes our Christian community in a more visible way. I want to thank Pete Stark and his family for choosing to remember Delia in the Restoration of Nature with a memorial plaque in the amphitheater. This space now holds even more special meaning knowing her faithful spirit is honored here.

St. Luke's encourages you to prayerfully consider honoring your family or an individual with a bronze plaque on a log bench in the St. Luke's Restoration of Nature amphitheater. The church is now offering the ability to make the donation in installments and will coordinate the personalization of the plaque as well as installation.

Please contact Natasia Thompson at nthompson31824@gmail.com or Claire Miller at ctmsailor@gmail.com for more information.

Claire Miller



Flower Ministry & Dedications

As we transition to livestreaming our Sunday worship services from the sanctuary, we will again be beautifying our worship space with two flower arrangements each week. These arrangements are funded through individual donations. If you would like to dedicate the flowers for a particular Sunday in memory of someone or in honor of a special occasion, please contact our administrative assistant Dalyn Huntley at 410-268-5419 or office@stlukeseastport.org. The requested donation amount is \$50 and may be made either by check or online with the memo

"Flowers." Most weeks, following the service, the flowers are delivered to a member of the congregation to enjoy.

You don't need to be able to arrange flowers to join the Flower Ministry! If you're interested in learning more, contact Anne Arms at 707-479-4303 or ARMSPNA@aol.com.

Community-Wide Outdoor Communion Service

October 7, 2020 (Rain Out: October 14th)
6 pm

Calvary United Methodist Church
301 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, MD 21401

You are invited to join members of other local congregations for this ecumenical service. Bring a chair & wear a mask. Individual communion elements will be distributed.

Weekly Social Hour on Thursdays

Pour a beverage of your choice and join us every **Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 pm** for a social hour over Zoom. No agenda other than to catch up and connect with one another.

Access via your device or phone using our St. Luke's Zoom room. See the Remote Sunday Worship Services notice on page 3 for details.

Appreciating the Food Pantry "Village"

Mike and I want to show our appreciation for the whole "village" of people who made it possible to continue the food pantry during the pandemic.

St. Luke's had to make some drastic changes to keep the food pantry open. People could no longer come inside to register, have refreshments, and visit with each other before moving along open tables filled with non-perishables, breads, and produce. While COVID

persists, our neighbors must now pick up bags handed to them outside. Likewise, we cannot safely have so many volunteers come in to help.

Mike and I filled in temporarily during those months when Dianne Crews needed to stay at home. In truth we shared that job with two more volunteers—Lesley Margerrison, one of our newer members of St. Luke’s, and Pat Montague, a long-standing volunteer from the community. What a team! How hard we have worked on Mondays and Tuesdays supporting and helping each other to see that the food pantry runs smoothly! But then there is the rest of the “village” who have done so much to keep the food pantry alive. Lynda McIntyre and Annette Staubs come in on Tuesdays to do the paperwork, and Annette’s sister-in-law, Tracy Tullier, helps Lesley hand over the bags. Patrick Fleeharty delivers food and produce to a few shut-ins. Recently, Ann Van Allen returned to help.

Lawrence Coleman and Pat’s son, Walter Queen, lend a hand to lift and carry the heavy boxes. This includes a full truck load of our monthly Federal allocation brought in by employees of Richard Wilson-Smith, as well as our weekly donated and purchased food. Dianne and Norm’s son-in-law, Rusty, also has filled in to bring food to the church.

Greg Trowell faithfully brings in overstock bread and desserts. St. Luke’s member, Chris Kienstra, goes to the food bank in Crownsville every Tuesday to bring produce. Thanks to monetary donations, St. Luke’s former diocesan intern, Kris Paul, goes shopping every Monday and fills her car with cases of non-perishables to fill in the gaps in needed goods.

During the depth of the pandemic, an anonymous donor helped the Boatyard Grill continue to operate until they could open for business again. The food pantry was fortunate to benefit from the many huge frozen casseroles they brought in each week. Great Harvest Bread Company still gives us bakery bread which Phyllis Suhr picks up and delivers.

We at St. Luke’s are so grateful for the many monetary and food donations that have come in. The food pantry is open Monday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 for donations. People want to help, and we have been inspired by the many people who have come by. Individuals from the neighborhood, from St. Luke’s, as well as a contingent of people from St. Anne’s Church

bring their smiles, bags, and their what-do-you-need-next-weeks.

Mike and I are extending our huge appreciation for all the people who help each other out in a time of need. Thank you everyone for being a “village.”

Eve Waldman

Contemplative Prayer Practice



The Contemplative Prayer Practice is continuing to **meet remotely** at our normal time on **Fridays from 10 to 10:45 am**. Access via your device or phone using our St. Luke’s

Zoom room. See the Remote Sunday Worship Services notice on page 3 for details.

This practice invites us to experience rest and internal nourishment through silent prayer together. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. No experience necessary. For more information, contact co-facilitators Eve Waldman at eleanoreewaldman@gmail.com or 757-387-2367 and Chuck Gallegos at gallegoscl@verizon.net or 410-571-0562.

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 meeting will be held remotely via Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday October 1, 2020**



All are welcome to attend. For questions, contact Chuck Gallegos (gallegoscl@verizon.net) or Anne Arms (armspna@aol.com).

Amazon Smile

Amazon.com donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Sign in to your account using the link on the church website, stlukeseastport.org, and St. Luke's will receive the donation.

Are you on our email list?

If you have an email address but are not receiving our weekly email newsletters each Wednesday, please let us know by emailing office@stlukeseastport.org. These weekly emails are an important means of communicating information to our community in between editions of the House Call. If you are not on email but would like to have a printout of the weekly "News from St. Luke's" sent to you by hard copy, please contact Dalyn Huntley in the church office: 410-268-5419.

Temporary Weekly Schedule

Sunday Worship

Online or By Phone
10:00 am Rite II

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
By Appointment Only

Food Pantry

Tuesday 11 am - 12 noon

Social Hour

Online or By Phone
Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Contemplative Prayer

Online or By Phone
Friday 10 - 10:45 am

House Call Deadline

The deadline for submission of materials to the September edition of House Call is no later than **October 22**. Submissions may be mailed or delivered to the office or emailed to the office at office@stlukeseastport.org



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).

October Birthdays

1	Linda Cunningham
8	Olgui Zarikian
17	Jacob Williams
20	Elizabeth Porcelli
26	Sandie Kirkland
28	Levern Riley

October Anniversaries

5	Jack & Helen Wheeler
13	Charles & Phyllis Suhr
13	Vrej Zarikian & Michele Morgado
14	David Dent & Heather Ackroyd

Prayer List

Prayers for Our Church Community

Ongoing Needs: Connie Harold; Sunniah Ngonzi Magogo; the Palermo Family; Heather Cook; Linda Cunningham; Pepe Grau (cousin of Olgui Zarikian); our seminarian Tom Clement & his husband Ron Hafliidson; Sydney Ponturo; Fred & Sally Sandford ; Nicole DeVino (friend of Dianne Crews);Patty Peterson (friend of Helen & Jack Wheeler); Hilda Uribe (friend of Avedis & Olgui Zarikian); David Fogle; Matthew (brother of Kate Porcelli); Dr. Parker (Porcelli family friend); Brynn Brouse (cousin of Diana Carroll).

Immediate Needs: **Diana** McGregor; **Jimmy** Riccardi; **June** Beach (sister of Claire Miller); **Honora** Karslo; **Sandie** Kirkland; **Sarah** Lamming; **Diana** Carroll.

In Thanksgiving for Healing: **Dorothy** Thomas (mother of Claire Miller); Kate Smith (daughter of Jack & Helen Wheeler).

For the Departed: **Bill White, Greg Nealy; Waynette Beavers; Ken** (brother of Diana McGregor) **Stan Kahn** (friend of Eve & Mike Waldman)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

410-268-5419 ~ office@stlukeseastport.org
www.stlukeseastport.org ~ Tw: [@stlukeseastport](https://twitter.com/stlukeseastport)
www.facebook.com/stlukeseastport

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, Assisting Bishop

Parish Staff

The Rev. Diana E. Carroll, Rector
pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org
Dr. Ildar Khannanov, Director of Music
drkhannanov@gmail.com
Dalyn Huntley, Administrative Assistant
office@stlukeseastport.org
Nadine Barber, Childcare Coordinator
The Rev. Norman Crews, Priest Associate

Parish Officers

Richard Wilson-Smith, Senior Warden
443-822-1978, richard@openpathproducts.com
Helen Leitch, Junior Warden
410-263-2783, leitchhelen@verizon.net
Nancy Jones, Treasurer
410-268-6469, catfancy1@aol.com
Avedis Zarikian, Assistant Treasurer
410-713-7842, avedis3e@outlook.com
Dianne Crews, Registrar
410-268-9741, dmackcrn@verzion.net

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild	Dawn Moorehead 443-852-0371, dmorehead9@aol.com
Environmental Committee	Chuck Gallegos and Anne Arms 443-758-3036, gallegoscl@verizon.net 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Food Pantry	Dianne Crews 410-268-9741, dmackcrn@verizon.net
Flower Ministry	Anne Arms 707-479-4303, armspna@aol.com
Labyrinth Committee	The Rev. Diana Carroll 410-921-0157, pastordiana@stlukeseastport.org

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