

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APRIL 2023

You're invited: April 7, 7 pm



On Good Friday, we've added a new option to our Holy Week offerings. We'll meet on Zoom at 7 pm to read through the Gospel of Mark, start to finish. We'll take turns reading and pause for a couple of bio/stretch breaks. I imagine we will get done just before 9 pm.

I've never done this before. I've never read any of the Gospels in one sitting before. You may remember that Bishop Mariann suggested this as a possible Lenten discipline, and I thought, "I want to do that"—AND I thought, "no better way to make sure that it happens than to invite others to do it with me." I hope you'll consider joining me, particularly if it isn't possible for you to attend the noon Good Friday service.

In her blog post, Bishop Mariann urged us to make an effort to get to know the story of Jesus's life, and she shared some wisdom from Rachel Held Evans: "Jesus did not simply die to save us from our sins; Jesus LIVED to save us from our sins. His life and teachings show us the way to liberation." Bishop Mariann wants you to know the story of Jesus's life so you can share about Jesus's story should someone ask you about Jesus—but also so that you have the story of Jesus in your heart to serve as a guide, a comfort, an inspiration, a challenge. In the Episcopal Church we hear a lot of scripture during the service on Sunday: four readings from different books of the Bible, plus many of our prayers and hymns that are based on scripture. Yet when I ask people to share with me a favorite story about Jesus, like I do in the funeral preparation worksheet, oftentimes people are stumped. I don't think it is because you don't know the story of Jesus, but that you aren't 100 percent confident you've got it just right, and out of respect for GOD INCARNATE, you feel like you have to be 100 percent right.

This Good Friday spiritual practice of reading through the Gospel of Mark is a chance to improve your confidence but also a chance for Jesus's story to take up residence in your heart. As Christians we are blessed that on Good Friday when we hear of Jesus's execution, we know the plot twist that is coming: Death does not get the last word, Love Wins, God is triumphant, Christ is Risen! How much more will this mean to us, having just heard the story of Jesus's life and all that led up to the cross and the empty tomb.

Jessica

PARISH



April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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

through 10 April	MCPS no school
1 April	Garden Guild workday
2 April	Palm Sunday
5 April	Passover begins
6 April	Maundy Thursday
7 April	Good Friday
	Reading the Gospel of Mark
8 April	Holy Saturday
9 April	Easter Sunday
	Family Fun Day
10 April	Easter Monday
	Office closed
11 April	Lunch and Conversation
14 April	Office closed
	Sugarloaf Mountain climb
21 April	Ramadan ends
23 April	Kite flying
30 April	Rise Against Hunger food packing
	Music for Food Benefit concert

May Birthdays

Karin Bolte	1
Linda Fong	8
Marta Montoro	9
Theresa Wambach	9
Liz Votaw	12
Gayle Countryman-Mills	13
Laura Edwards	13
Phoebe Milhollin	13
Fiona Nellist	13
Kendall Montgomery	16
Joaquin Gonzalez	17
Luke Bergeron	19
Zachary Bernier	22
Charles Rice	22



May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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

5 May	Office closed, 9 to noon
9 May	Lunch & Conversation
13 May	Garden Guild workday
14 May	Mother's Day
	Family Fun Day
18 May	Book Lovers
25-26 May	Office closed
29 May	Memorial Day
	Office closed
Roxanne Leal	23
Bennett Sharp	26
Hannah Fourcard	28
Andrew Mills	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.

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

SENIOR WARDEN

Thinking about St. Luke's



Deb Marks

It was about one week ago, as I wrote my article, that Jessica led an online parish meeting to discuss the church's financial health and sustainability. I had no idea that I could experience joy from such an event. (Having just said that, I double-checked to make sure that "joy" isn't a word that I've been misusing all my life. According to the Oxford Dictionary, it means "a feeling of great pleasure and happiness." That *is* what I mean.)

My great pleasure and happiness came from the fact that so many parishioners joined the meeting, listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and shared helpful comments and ideas. The degree of concern expressed was well matched by a desire to be part of the solution, and to be hopeful.

One of the information slides presented was titled: "What Parishioners Can Do." The first item on the list was, Pray. Rather, I should say that the first *action* on the list was Pray. My initial reaction was to regard prayer as a passive response. Thankfully, this thought prompted me to spend some time reflecting on the act of prayer.

The Episcopal Church website says:

"Whether in thought, word or deed, individually or corporately, when we pray, we invite and dwell in God's loving presence."

The phrase, "thought, word or deed" stuck out to me. These words make space for a range of actions. These words also speak to me of different gifts that we each have to contribute, from inspired ideas, to organized plans, to implementation. Each action is integral to the other, and each action, born from prayer, is necessary.

The second part of the quote, "when we pray, we invite and dwell in God's loving presence," brings me back to an experience of joy. As we move forward together, I pray that we remain hopeful, contributing our many gifts, and always seeking God's presence and guidance.

Deb

You can see The Financial Health & Sustainability slides by going to:

<https://www.stlukesbethesda.org/annualgiving>.

Click on the far-left "Welcome" tab, and then the "Financials" tab.

PARISH

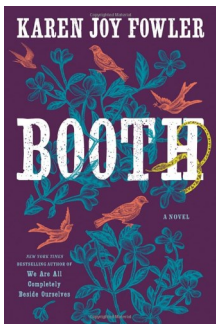
A Gift Toward Easter Flowers

If you wish to make a gift toward flowers for the Easter services, feel welcome to use the special envelope in the pews. You may indicate whether your gift is a memorial or thanksgiving. If you prefer, you may scan the QR code below to give online.

Deadline for acknowledgement in the Easter bulletin is **April 3**.

Thank you.

The Flower Guild



BOOKLOVERS

Booklovers will be meeting in person in the Reaves Room at St. Luke's on **Thursday, May 18, at 1 pm**. We'll be discussing Karen Joy Fowler's ***Booth***. You are welcome to come at 12:30 pm and bring your lunch to have some social time before the discussion.

From the Man Booker finalist and bestselling author of *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* comes an epic and intimate novel about the family behind one of the most infamous figures in American history: John Wilkes Booth.

Here is the schedule for the rest of 2023:

Tuesday, July 18: ***Pachinko*** by Min Jin Lee

Tuesday, Sept 19: ***A Waiter in Paris*** by Edward Chisholm

Tuesday, Nov 28: ***Lincoln Highway*** by Amor Towles

We still need facilitators for May's *Booth* and July's *Pachinko*. It's super-easy, all you have to do is read the book and show up. This group isn't usually shy about talking.

Everyone is welcome to join. To get on the Booklovers email list, or to say that you'd like to facilitate, please email Nancy Reding.

Nancy Reding

PARISH

Memories

Recently, I was invited to reflect on my memories of Holy Week as a child. I remember being handed a lofty palm branch to wave as we processed around the block of my Episcopal church, which was also my elementary school. I remember the smell of the incense, the sound of drums, and the joyous singing. I remember stations of the cross during the week, moving from icon to icon around our 19th century cruciform space. I remember Maundy Thursday Eucharist and foot washing, but mostly I remember the night watch. I remember trying to stay awake in St. Mary's Chapel for just two hours in the middle of the night. I remember failing and falling asleep. I remember Good Friday and the stark bareness of the altar—the tabernacle left open as if someone had stolen its contents. And I remember the light of Easter being lit and carried into the church. I remember the slow raising of the lamps and the explosion of music. I remember putting flowers on a tall wooden cross covered in chicken wire, and I remember the ensuing egg hunt.

Whether these experiences resonate with your own memories of Holy Week or whether you are experiencing it for the first time, I invite you to immerse yourself in the rhythms of the week. There is something about celebrating the life of someone whose words and actions still have impact today. There is something about mourning the death of someone who was killed unjustly. There is something about realizing what resurrection means for us, that there is life for us, renewing and healing our broken places, and making death work backwards. My hope for you as you move into the week is that you remember how much you are beloved by God, through this work of Jesus, in the power of the Spirit. And if, like me, you find yourself asleep on the watch, know that there is grace for you, too.

Katie Beth, Deacon

Community Engagement Update

St. Luke's Community Engagement program is in transition. For quite some time, Marta Montoro and Miranda Marks served as co-chairs of the Community Engagement Committee, and both have concluded their terms. Deacon Lesley Krauland is serving as coordinator of Community Engagement in this interim period, and you'll hear more from her about ways the entire St. Luke's Community can participate in this transition.

I want to make sure we offer both Marta and Miranda big thanksgivings for their service as chairs of Community Engagement. Miranda strengthened our ties with Interfaith Works and called us into new partnerships that broaden our desire to work with loving kindness alongside marginalized communities. She blessed us by sharing with us some of her experiences in ministry with Indigenous Episcopalians, coordinated our sending craft kits to the Rosebud reservation, and represented St. Luke's at the Rainbow Families' conference in May 2022. Marta recently helped us celebrate 15 years of partnership with Episcopal Relief and Development, nurtured our connection with the Bishop Walker school, and developed (with Bill Casson) the donation bin system that allowed us to continue to gather food donations during the fiercest days of the pandemic. Marta managed the Committee's administrative/communications work and helped each of us find ways to serve our neighbors, both near and far. She will continue to collaborate with the Bishop Walker School and serve as a Ministry Partner for Episcopal Relief and Development.

Together with other Committee members, both Marta and Miranda have also coordinated various 5th Sunday "Be the Church" Day servant activities since 2018. The impacts of both of these women on St. Luke's ministries and community partnerships will be long-lasting.

Please join me in thanking Marta and Miranda for sharing their gifts with us: thanking them in word, by continuing to strive for justice and peace among all people, and by respecting the dignity of every human being.

Jessica

Raising Our Voices for Justice

During Lent, we focused a lot on the themes found in Micah 6—to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. Some of you may have thought to yourselves “Hey, wasn’t there a hymn we used to sing with those words? Something about us being called?” Or perhaps you’ll get to Easter Sunday and wonder why we’re still using a different Gloria than the one we’d used for years on end. Or you may not have noticed any of that and are wondering why you’re still reading an article from the music lady...but here’s why.

Those hymns, those pieces of music, were composed by someone who has since been identified by many victims as an abuser. (I wrote about this in the October 2020 issue of *ACTS* when the news first broke and we first removed this repertoire, but it’s worth revisiting.) There have been many discussions in recent years about whether one can “separate the art from the artist” or whether we *really* have to throw out great artworks because of the personal actions of the creator. And I will say unequivocally that at St. Luke’s, we firmly believe that there is no hymn, no piece of music, no circumstance worth continuing a creative relationship with an abuser. No piece of music is worth the pain and isolation that using it can cause the victim.

We will unfailingly stand behind victims of abuse, of unwanted attention, of inappropriate behavior. By intentionally removing hymns like these from our repertoire, I hope we can send a clear message to those who may have been affected by similar events in their own lives that we have their backs. We refuse to choose convenience or nostalgia or our own comfort over justice. We will create a place of care, safety, and mercy for victims. And to those who have been victims of abuse, whatever the circumstances: we are honored to walk humbly alongside you.

Sarah Horick



FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT FEBRUARY 2023

	2023 Budget	'23 Actual Thru Feb.	% of '23 Budget *
REVENUE			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,492	12%
Pledge Payments	425,716	152,503	36%
Donations for Facilities	45,000	8,342	19%
Altar Flower Donations	4,000	460	12%
Miscellaneous		23	
Operating Revenue	494,716	163,820	33%
EXPENSES			
Compensations	\$ 385,466	\$ 61,856	16%
Church Activities	22,500	696	3%
Parish Operations	99,200	20,937	21%
Community Engagement	20,000	0	
Diocesan Giving	50,000	8,334	17%
Operating Expenses	577,166	91,823	16%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(82,450)	71,997	
Additional Funding – reserves	82,450	0	
	\$ 0	\$ 71,997	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

\$141,015

* YTD February = 16.7% of the year

Budget Analysis: Donations for Plate and Flowers were less than straight-line budget projections, but Use by Outside Organizations and Pledge Payments exceeded projections. Expenses for Staff Compensation, Church Activities, and Diocesan Giving were either equal to or under straight-line budget projections, but Parish Operations exceeded projections, resulting in Net Revenue of \$71,997 for February 2023.

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.

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 and 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

To see the slides from the March 7 All Parish Finance Meeting please go to
stlukesbethesda.org/financials.

CALENDAR

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:30am Lenten Book Study 5:00pm Cristo La Roca 8:30pm Bethesda Youth AA	27 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting	28 7:30pm Dog training classes	29 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7:30pm Lent Yoga 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting	31	1 9:00am Garden Guild 2:30pm Dog training classes 5:00pm Talk & Pray (in-person only) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca
2 Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:30am Lenten Book Study 12:30pm Dog training classes 5:00pm Cristo La Roca 8:30pm Bethesda Youth AA	3 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting	4 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Dog training classes 7:30pm Suicide Bereavement Group	5 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 7:30pm Lent Yoga 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Maundy Thursday service (in-person only) 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting	7 Good Friday 12:00pm Good Friday service (in-person & Zoom) 7:00pm Reading the Gospel of Mark (Zoom)	8 Holy Saturday 10:00am Holy Saturday prayers (in-person only) 2:30pm Dog training classes 8:00pm Easter Vigil (in-person only)
9 Easter Sunday 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:00am Family Fun Day 5:00pm Cristo La Roca 8:30pm Bethesda Youth AA	10 Easter Monday (Office Closed) 7:00pm Finance Meeting 8:00pm Men's AA	11 12:00pm Lunch & Conversation	12 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom)	13 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting	14 Office Closed 9:00am Sugarloaf Climb (meet at church)	15 11:00am Lent Yoga makeup 2:30pm Dog training classes 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca
16 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 12:30pm Dog training classes 5:00pm Cristo La Roca 8:30pm Bethesda Youth AA	17 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting	18 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	19 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 3:00pm Piano Lessons 8:00pm Choir	20 3:00pm Piano Lessons 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting	21	22 2:30pm Dog training classes 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca
23 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:00am Kite flying (at Woodlin ES) 12:30pm Dog training classes 5:00pm Cristo La Roca 8:30pm Bethesda Youth AA	24 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting	25	26 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting	28	29 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca
30 Jessica's last Sunday before her sabbatical 5th Sunday Be The Church Rise Against Hunger at 9:15am and 11:00am 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 12:30pm Dog training classes 2:00pm Music for Food Benefit Concert 5:00pm Cristo La Roca 8:30pm Bethesda Youth AA	1 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting	2 7:30pm Suicide Bereavement Group	3 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting	5 9:00am - 12:00pm Office Closed	6 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca

CALENDAR

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 Jessica's last Sunday before her sabbatical 5th Sunday Be The Church Rise Against Hunger 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves Room) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 12:30pm Dog training classes 2:00pm Music for Food Benefit Concert 5:00pm Cristo La Roca 8:30pm Bethesda Youth AA</p>	<p>1 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting</p>	<p>2 7:30pm Suicide Bereavemet Group</p>	<p>3 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Nooday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting</p>	<p>5 9:00am - 12:00pm Office Closed</p>	<p>6 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca</p>
<p>7 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves Room) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00pm Cristo La Roca</p>	<p>8 7:00pm Finance Meeting 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting</p>	<p>9 12:00pm Lunch & Conversation</p>	<p>10 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Nooday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:00am Garden Guild Workday 5:00pm Talk & Pray (In-person service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca</p>
<p>14 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves Room) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 11:00am Family Fun Day 5:00pm Cristo La Roca</p>	<p>15 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting</p>	<p>16 7:00pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>17 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Nooday Prayer (Zoom) 3:00pm Piano Lessons 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 1:00pm Book Lovers 3:00pm Piano Lessons 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca</p>
<p>21 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves Room) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00pm Cristo La Roca</p>	<p>22 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Nooday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 Office closed 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting</p>	<p>26 Office closed</p>	<p>27 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca</p>
<p>28 8:30am Worship Service (in-person only) 9:30am Children's Church (Reaves Rm.) 10:00am Worship Service (in-person & Zoom) 5:00pm Cristo La Roca 8:30pm Bethesda Youth AA</p>	<p>29 Memorial Day Office closed 8:00pm Men's AA Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 10:30am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Nooday Prayer (Zoom) 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>1 8:00pm Women's AA Meeting</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 5:00pm Talk & Pray (Zoom service) 6:30pm Cristo La Roca</p>

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to stlukesbethesda.org and click on Calendar

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday 8:30 am & 10 am
(10 am online & in-person)

Wednesday Noon Prayers
(online only)

Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm
(in-person only)

Good Friday Noon Service
(online & in-person)

Reading of Gospel of Mark 7 pm
(online only)

Holy Saturday Prayers 10 am
(in-person only)

Easter Vigil 8 pm
(in-person only)

Easter 8:30 am & 10 am
(10 am online & in-person)



**Concert to support Bethesda Help
Sunday, April 30, at 2 pm**

Tempo Giusto **Music for food**

Sunday, April 30, 2023, 2 PM
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
6030 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

Program

Bach: Concerto for Two Violins
Bach: Brandenburg Concerto #6
Bruch: Romanza for Viola and Orchestra
Coleridge-Taylor: Four Novelletten

Artists

*Tempo Giusto Ensemble, Kathy Judd, concertmaster
Christopher Whitley and Kumiko Sakamoto, violins
Aria Chereghosa and Lauren Spaulding, violas*

A concert to benefit Bethesda Help
Please donate whatever you can afford to support a great cause. Tempo Giusto musicians will match all donations.
Donate at musicforfood.net/donate or at the door
More info at musicforfood.net/washington-dc



Sunday, April 30

Join us for an all-parish, all-ages-welcome 5th Sunday *Be the Church Day* servant activity following both services – as we pack 10,000 meals for our siblings in Christ all over the world. More information to come!

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Trinity Parish**

6030 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1852
Phone: 301-530-1800 Fax: 301-530-1802
email: admin@stlukesbethesda.org
website: 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