

HOT NEWS

March 3, 2024

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

WELCOME!

Are you new or visiting St. Luke's? We are glad to have you join us in this celebration of God's hope for our lives and dream for the world: LOVE! If you want more information or to speak with a priest, please complete a Voice from the Pew Card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate OR email Jessica

jessica@stlukesbethesda.org

Children are fully welcomed in worship!

We have nursery care available from 9 - 11:30 am, but it is totally optional.

Masks are strongly encouraged.

Lent Yoga & Fitness Class on Thursday Evenings!

Please join certified instructors and fellow parishioners Veronica Walgamotte and Marta Montoro for an opportunity to move, breathe, stretch, build strength, and meditate as a complement to your Lenten journey. The first part of each session will focus on building strength and balance (while wearing athletic shoes) and the second half will be for gentle yoga and a short meditation at the end. Please bring a mat, water bottle, and hand weights; other props will be provided. We look forward to deepening the body-mind connection with you during this Lenten season!



5 Thursdays during Lent in Ludlum Hall from 6:30-7:30PM - Feb. 29; Mar. 7, 14, & 21

Please RSVP with the dates you can attend using SignUp Genius or via email to montoro75@yahoo.com and veronicaw.instructor@gmail.com

Please note we will follow St. Luke's/MCPS closures in cases of inclement weather.



Garden Guild

The Garden Guild is a volunteer group that maintains the gardens on the church grounds. We are a very welcoming group and encourage those who love to garden, or who want to learn more, to join us. The first Garden Guild workday is scheduled for Saturday, March 23 from 9am - 12 noon. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Susie Casson at (301) 983-3898 or scasson@comcast.net for more information.

Bethesda Cares January Clothing Drive-results

We collected 20 coats and jackets, 28 beautiful scarves, 133 pairs of socks, \$465 of gift cards, and various other items. Thank you. They were very appreciative.



Upcoming Parking Lot Drop-Off Opportunity in Two Weeks

Date	Time	Items Dropped Off
Thursday, March 14	4:00-4:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baked goods for Small Things Matter Food items for Bethesda Help



"Will You?" A Five Week Lenten Study of Baptismal Promises

February 11 - March 10, 2024, 11:30 am, Conference Room next to Reeves

You're invited to join Deacon Lesley in a five-week Lenten group study about our Baptismal promises, their meaning and their doing, as together we read *Will You? A Lenten Study of Baptismal Promises* by Amanda Perkins McGriff.

This five-week group study offers daily reflections, examples of evangelism in action, and an invitation to think in new ways about the promises we make to God, each other, and ourselves in baptism.

Want to join? Contact or email Deacon Lesley (lesley@stlukesbethesda.org) or James, our parish administrator (admin@stlukesbethesda.org), to sign up.

A Gift Toward Easter Flowers

If you wish to make a gift toward Easter flowers, please feel welcome to use the special envelope in the pews. You may indicate whether it is a memorial or thanksgiving gift. Deadline for acknowledgment in the Easter bulletin is Monday, March 25.



Volunteer Opportunity



If you are interested in being on a Counter Team at St Luke's, please talk to Clay Miller. We count cash, parishioner checks, & facility user checks that have come in that week after the 10 AM service in teams of 2-3 persons about every 5-6 weeks.

Basic Needs Community Engagement Cluster – Featured Organization for March

Bethesda Help is a multi-faith all-volunteer nonprofit organization that delivers groceries, Giant gift cards and kid snack bags to local individuals and families in need. St. Luke's has been an important ongoing contributor donating food, time and money. During 2023 alone, St. Luke's collected more than 1,400 lbs. of canned food including regular donations of cereal boxes, much appreciated by families with school-age children! A special thank you to Mary Kimelblatt for driving the food over every six weeks!



For the month of March, we will have a food drive to help stock Bethesda Help's pantry. Items to donate are listed below with a special emphasis on canned tuna, spaghetti sauce in non-breakable jars and cereal. You can drop off the food in the labeled boxes in the welcome lobby or in the Community Engagement room downstairs. If you would like to host your own food drive at work, school, with Boy Scout or Girl Scout troops, etc., please contact Meg Shematz at 301-257-8058 or megshematz@gmail.com for ideas, information and help transporting food.

Thank you again to all who have donated in the past!

Maryland Needs a Bottle Bill! HB 735 / SB 642



Courtesy of Anacostia Watershed Society

People of faith, we must protect God's creation! After 10 years of trying and failing, the Maryland Assembly is once again considering a Bottle Bill that would add a small deposit to the purchase price of beverage containers that is refunded to customers when the containers are returned by customers for recycling. Based on evidence from other states with such recycling programs in place, a Maryland program could capture more than 3 billion additional beverage containers annually, including 2 billion plastic bottles.

This year's bill has sponsors from both the House of Delegates and the Senate, with hearings scheduled this week and next. Now is the time to write to your delegates and senator! Send each one a letter of support for the bottle bill, citing the bill numbers above. Tell them you are from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bethesda, and tell them why you care about this bill. Hearing from constituents makes a difference to legislators! Thank you for being stewards of God's creation.