

HOT NEWS

March 17, 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.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 24 - Palm Sunday
8:30 am & 10 am
(10 am online and in-person)

March 27 - Wednesday Noon Prayers
online only

March 28 - Maunday Thursday
6:30 pm *in-person only*

March 29 - Good Friday Service
12 pm *online and in-person*

March 29 - Stations of Peter
7 p.m. *online only*

March 30 - Holy Saturday Prayers
10 am *in-person only*

March 30 - Easter Vigil
8 pm *in-person only*

March 31 - Easter Sunday
8:30 am & 10 am
(10 am online and in-person)



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.

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 or the QR code to the left. You may indicate whether it is a memorial or thanksgiving gift on the pew donation envelope or by emailing James at admin@stlukesbethesda.org. (There is not currently a way to include your dedication in the online donation form itself.)

Deadline for acknowledgment in the Easter bulletin is Monday, March 25.



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!

BETHESDA HELP PANTRY STOCKED ITEMS



GRAINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instant oatmeal packets (6 or 12 individual packs) Oatmeal (round box) Cereal White and Brown Rice (1 lb bag) Pasta (any type) white or whole grain (1 lb. box) Mac n Cheese (7.25 oz)
CANNED PROTEIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuna (packed in water) – 5 oz Chicken – 12.5 oz Salmon – 12 oz Beans – 15.5 oz (black, garbanzo, pinto, great northern—low sodium)
CANNED FRUIT (15 oz –in light syrup or juice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peaches Pineapple Pears Mandarin Oranges
CANNED VEGETABLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Beans Corn Peas Mixed Vegetables
OTHER ITEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canned Spaghetti Sauce Peanut Butter (18 oz) creamy or crunchy Shelf Stable Milk (not powdered)

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!

Advocating for Positive Change

People of faith, we must protect God's creation! The Maryland Legislature is in session, and will be voting on a number of environmental bills. We urge St. Luke's parishioners to raise your voices regarding three important environmental bills. These bills are supported by a range of environmental groups, including Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, the Sierra Club, the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, and others. Find out more about these bills at www.interfaithchesapeake.org/advocacy and Maryland Needs a Bottle Bill!

Advocate for Environmental Justice! (HB 24 / SB 96)	No state law requires agencies to meaningfully consider climate impacts, environmental justice (EJ) issues, health impacts, and labor implications resulting from their actions. This lack of consideration has led to poorer outcomes for many overburdened and underserved communities. This legislation will give the Maryland Department of the Environment the authority to approve, alter, or deny a permit based on an EJ score, and assessment of other permits and the underlying sociodemographic characteristics of the community.
Protect Maryland's Watersheds! (HB 1165 / SB 969)	The bill will establish a pilot program to identify up to 5 impaired watersheds across Maryland. Watersheds selected for the program will be subject to a comprehensive planning and permitting process bringing together all relevant stakeholders to improve water quality on an expedited timeline using a variety of practices. The goal of the program is to make real, measurable progress in water quality on an expedited timeline.
Maryland Needs a Bottle Bill! (HB 735 / SB 642)	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.

Now is the time to write to your delegates and senator! Email each one a letter of support for these bills, citing the bill numbers above. Tell them you are from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bethesda, and tell them why you care about these bills. Hearing from constituents makes a difference to legislators! Thank you for being stewards of God's creation.

Upcoming Parking Lot Drop-Off Opportunities Tomorrow – and Beyond!

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
Thursday, April 4	4:00-4:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baked goods for Small Things Matter • Food items for Bethesda Help
Thursday, April 18	4:00-4:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baked goods for Small Things Matter • Food items for Bethesda Help

SAMARITAN MINISTRY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Annual Next Step Breakfast



Saturday, April 6, 9:00-10:30 am

At the iconic National Press Club

Emcee: **Laura Barón-López**,
White House Correspondent,
PBS NewsHour

Compelling personal testimony
from volunteers & program participants

Contact Jack Orrick, Pete Stelnyk, or Deb Marks



Please help out the Easter Bunny by bringing eggs stuffed with stickers or wrapped candy or erasers etc by Thursday, March 27th. The eggs will be hidden, and then found during the Easter Sunday egg hunt.

Easter Offering – Emergency Aid to Sudan/South Sudan

Last week, the United Nations’ World Food Programme (WFP) warned that the ongoing civil war across Sudan and South Sudan threatens to trigger “the world’s largest hunger crisis,” with more than 25 million people facing significant food insecurity and displacement. The WFP is on the ground but lacks sufficient international funding and resources, and the fighting shows no sign of abating.

Given this dire situation, the St. Luke’s Community Engagement Committee has designated the World Food Program-USA, WFP’s American fundraising arm, as the recipient of this year’s Easter offering. Helping to address this global hunger crisis is particularly relevant during the current Basic Needs Cluster period.

To contribute, you can write a check to St. Luke’s with “Easter offering-WFP USA” in the memo line, and either place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office - or use the QR code to donate online through mid-April. Thank you!

World Food Program-USA has a 4-star rating on Charity Navigator and Platinum designation from Candid Guidestar, the highest ratings available. There is no duplicity with this donation as Episcopal Relief & Development does not operate in Sudan or neighboring Chad.

Thank you again for responding to world events with a faithful lens this Easter season and helping to save lives.



Maundy Thursday

To bring a dish to the Maundy Thursday Simple Supper, beginning at 6:30pm on Thursday, March 28, please sign up online to contribute to the meal or use the sign-up sheet posted in Ludlum Hall (they will be kept parallel). After Supper, we will have foot-washing, followed by Holy Eucharist and the Stripping of the Altar. Please join us for this very meaningful service.

Easter Brunch

Join us on Sunday, March 31!

It’s back again! We will offer a continental breakfast with additional goodies in Ludlum Hall, following both Easter Sunday services. If you can help with clean-up day-of, please email Marta Montoro at montoro75@yahoo.com Thank you!

