

# HOT NEWS

March 24, 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](mailto: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)*



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.

Join us on Sunday, March 31! Easter Brunch is 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!



**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.



**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! *Please note that our next drop-off date to the BH Pantry will be Wednesday, April 17.*

**BETHESDA HELP PANTRY STOCKED ITEMS**



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

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.



**Update on Maryland Environmental Legislation**

Thank you to those of you who have written to your senators and delegates to support our environmental legislation priorities. We have some encouraging news! See updates on these bills, as of March 18, 2024 (source: Legiscan.com).

<p><b>Advocate for Environmental Justice!</b> <b>(HB 24 / SB 96)</b></p>	<p>The House version of the bill (HB24) passed on March 18 to the Senate’s Education, Energy and the Environment Committee for consideration.</p> <p>No updates on the Senate version of the bill.</p>
<p><b>Protect Maryland’s Watersheds!</b> <b>(HB 1165 / SB 969)</b></p>	<p>The House version of the bill (HB1165) passed on March 18 to the Senate’s Education, Energy and the Environment Committee for consideration.</p> <p>The Senate version of the bill (SB969) passed on its third reading, 44-0, and will pass to the House for review.</p>
<p><b>Maryland Needs a Bottle Bill!</b> <b>(HB 735 / SB 642)</b></p>	<p>The House version of this bill (HB735) remains in its Environment and Transportation Committee since February 7.</p> <p>The Senate version (SB642) remains in its Education, Energy and the Environment Committee since February 9.</p>

There is still time to make a difference! If you have not yet done so, please email each of your representatives a letter to voice your support for these bills, citing the bill numbers above.

**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



**Volunteers Needed - Help the Altar Guild Prepare for Holy Week!**

Please join us at church in-person next Wednesday, March 27 at 9:00am to help the Altar Guild prepare for Holy Week. We'll specifically be setting up for the Maundy Thursday service, as well as taking care of other preparatory tasks for this most important season in our liturgical lives.

Questions? Please call or text Chris Zakarka at 301-509-4989.



## **Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington**

SMGW was founded in 1986 by twelve Episcopal parishes, of which St. Luke's Bethesda was one. SMGW is a community partnership of over 50 Episcopal and Lutheran parishes and schools in the Greater Washington DC Metropolitan Area that brings together our neighbors who face poverty, homelessness or other debilitating challenges with partner leaders, donors, volunteers and staff in a shared ministry that improves the lives of all, one next step and neighbor at a time.

The mission of SMGW is (i) to empower its participants to develop capabilities and address barriers they face in order to live sustainable purpose-driven lives, guiding them to set goals, and take "next steps" to meet those goals; (ii) engage its partners to share in this ministry by offering their time, talent and treasure, cultivating relationships that nurture both their missions of community outreach and the mission of the Samaritan Partnership as a whole; and (iii) Identify the basic, systemic and unmet needs of our community that underlie poverty—and engage in organized, collective education and action to address those needs.

There are many ways to support the work of SMGW. First, you are always welcome to donate cash, either directly online or through your participation in any of the SMGW donor events including the Next Step Breakfast, which will be held this year on Saturday April 6 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the National Press Club, or the annual Gala which is generally held in the fall. You can donate clothing for men or women, in good condition suitable for work. You can donate toiletries. You can donate gift cards for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday parties. You can also volunteer your time and talent by becoming part of the SMGW volunteer staff. There are many opportunities to volunteer for positions at SMGW, including Front Office Coordinator, Clothing Closet Organizer, In-person Digital Literary Trainer, Volunteer Casework Associate, Toiletries Coordinator, Employer Specialist Assistant, and Academic Tutor. To learn more about these volunteer opportunities, please contact Sy Jones, Volunteer Manager at [sjones@samaritanministry.org](mailto:sjones@samaritanministry.org)

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## **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 & South Sudan threatens to trigger "the world's largest hunger crisis," with more than 25 million people facing significant food insecurity & displacement. The WFP is on the ground but lacks sufficient international funding & resources, & 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, & 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 & 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.



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## **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.