

# ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARCH 2026

## ***Intentionally Intergenerational***



**Jessica Hitchcock**

We're having TWO intergenerational Sunday School sessions during this Lenten season. I thought we'd be able to have children's church for the entire season of Lent but permitting and inspections are slowing us down and it seems like we won't be in the new office for a while. So—on to plan B!

Intergenerational Sunday School isn't particularly new at St. Luke's. I remember our doing it for a season in the winter of 2016, and then we've had periodic sessions to kick off Advent and Lent. By the time you get this newsletter, we'll already have had one session of Lenten Intergenerational Sunday School—but if you didn't come to that one, I hope you'll consider coming on March 15.

Church is intergenerational, and it is one of the only communities left in our culture that is intergenerational. I have a degree in Human Growth & Development. I am all about our having settings that are geared towards what stage we are in life—but I think it is helpful for us to balance that with some broad, intergenerational connections. When Jesus said, "Let the children come to me," he didn't specify a certain time—Jesus wanted them to come along with everyone else. Just like Jesus wouldn't want us to be separated out by ethnicity, he wouldn't want us to be separated out by ages either.

It is true that the activities we do in intergenerational Sunday School are geared toward younger participants, but that's okay. Our Sunday services are mostly geared toward adults, and our kids are very generous at managing that. We can do this for them. I think this is logistically the future of the church—that we will need to form friendships with our younger members in order to help them feel like this is a place for them as well. But I also think the blessings that we will ALL reap from friendships that cross generations will be significant. I heard from a friend that her 9-year-old's best friend at church is 77—they sit together in church, and people think they are grandmother and grandchild. But no, instead their connection is chosen, which adds to it a special kind of beauty. And I have heard from parents that kids who are integrated and woven into the regular life of the church, instead of designated kid programs, make the transition to attending church as a young adult more smoothly.

Come to intergenerational Sunday School on March 15th, but also—try speaking to our youngest members. Wait to hug them until they initiate but say "Hello!" Notice what book they have in their hands and ask them to tell you about it. Ask them what they did on Saturday. Say "What do you recommend from the snack table today?" Yes, they will likely stare at you and not say

*(Intergenerational, continued on page 4)*

**Editors: Tine Stone with Catherine Nellist, Deb Marks, Pat Rogers, Susie Casson, and Treva Miller**

To view the ACTS online go to [www.stlukesbethesda.org](http://www.stlukesbethesda.org)

# PARISH

## March Birthdays

Ann Blandamer	4
Margie Orrick	4
Lucy D'Agostino	6
Mandisa Griffin	6
Alex Votaw	10
Clay Miller	11
Kevin Curtin	12
Logan Zimmerman	23
Julia Schneider	24
Renata Gonzalez	24
Alby Williams	27
Bridget Legates	27
Stephane Le Boudier	27

## March

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				



## March Special Dates

1 March	Rise Against Hunger meal packing
8 March	Daylight Saving Time begins
10 March	Lunch Bunch
11 March	Men's Group (online)
13 March	New Leaf Shelter dinner
15 March	Intergenerational Sunday School
17 March	Booklovers
19 March	Ramadan ends
21 March	Garden Guild luncheon
22 March	Snack Bag packing
28 March	Garden Guild workday
29 March	Palm Sunday

## 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
Kristen Katulis	17
Sally Curtin	19
Nancy Voit	22
Eric Hutchins	24
Jack Orrick	26
Pete Rogers	27
Arlene Antonicelli	28

## April Special Dates

1 April	Passover begins
2 April	Maundy Thursday
3 April	Good Friday
4 April	Holy Saturday
5 April	Easter Sunday
6 April	Easter Monday
6-8 April	Office closed
8 April	Retired Men's Group (online)
10 April	New Leaf Shelter dinner
11 April	Garden Guild workday
11 April	Supper Group
14 April	Lunch Bunch

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 at [admin@stlukesbethesda.org](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org). If you do not see your birthday listed during the year, please contact the office.

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## SENIOR WARDEN

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### ***Thinking About St. Luke's***



For better or for worse, I spend time on social media. The content that I follow across various formats mostly includes updates from family and friends, nature photography, and artwork. My daughter is amused by the folder names that I use to organize and save items on my Instagram account. Some of these folder names include Skies; Prayers & Such; Moose; DIY; and Memes, Philosophy & Humor.

It is in the Memes, Philosophy & Humor folder that I recently stored a short video featuring Richard Rohr. Richard Rohr is an American Franciscan priest, internationally renowned for his writings and talks on spirituality.

In this specific video, Richard Rohr submits that we have become obsessed with the notion of sin as a moral category. According to Richard Rohr, identifying sin as a moral category starts us down the lane of judgment, reward, and punishment. This pathway is contrary to the prayer that Jessica shared in the February newsletter, that we turn towards God's mercy and comfort, and allow God to remind us that we are God's beloved children.

Jessica's prayer for us aligns with Richard Rohr's belief that remaining "in the Jesus Lane" helps us understand that the issue is not sin, but brokenness and the need for healing. It seems to me that it is not judgment, but rather healing that can restore us, make us whole, and draw us closer to God.

By the time the April ACTS newsletter is published, we will have made our way through another Lenten journey. Over the next month, who knows what other circumstances we will experience in our daily lives and shared world? I hope that Jessica's prayer that we turn toward God's mercy and comfort, and know that we are God's beloved children, is realized. And I pray that in place of a sense of sin and judgment, we experience healing within ourselves, within our communities, and with God.

*Deb*

She/hers

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## PARISH

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*(Intergenerational, continued from page 1)*

anything; that's a sign that we should be talking to them more, not less. These are all our children, and at baptism we promise to uphold them in their life with Christ. Helping them feel welcomed and wanted here at St. Luke's is a part of keeping that promise.

See you on March 15th, 11:15 am!

Peace,

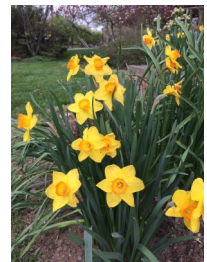
Jessica

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### GARDEN GUILD NEWS

*"Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is." — Jessica Harrelson*

As I write this notice, we are still in the throes of winter. So it's hard to believe that spring is right around the corner, and flowering plants will be popping up soon. Thus, the Garden Guild has scheduled a Potluck Luncheon and Planning Meeting for **Saturday, March 21**, at the home of Susie Casson, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Please bring a salad, main dish, or dessert to share. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Susie.



The Garden Guild is a group of parishioners who lovingly maintain our outdoor sacred spaces. If you love working in gardens, then you might consider joining us at the luncheon and the workdays. It's a great way to pick up gardening tips, get some exercise, and enjoy God's beautiful creation.

The first Garden Guild workday is scheduled for **Saturday, March 28**, from 9 am-12 noon. Time commitment and workday assignments are flexible—come as you are able. Other workdays are scheduled as follows: April 11, May 9, May 23, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, and October 17. *Please mark your calendar and join us!*

Susie Casson

### Lunch Bunch

Looking for respite from the snowcrete of February? Or for a break from the drab winter thaw of March? Want to have some stimulating conversation with friends? Missing socializing with other parishioners after the Pancake Supper?



Then come, bring your lunch, and join us on **Tuesday, March 10**, for the Lunch Bunch gathering. We meet at noon in Ludlum Hall to share conversation and fellowship over our brown bag lunches. There are no set topics; conversation can range from the Nationals' prospects for the upcoming season, what will be planted in your garden in a few weeks, your upcoming trips (any tornado chasing?), to what you think of the new Girl Scout cookie (can you name it?).

The knowledgeable attendees share lots of interesting information. What better way to spend time with friends on a chilly March day?! We ask participants to remember the Bethesda Help food pantry and to bring a non-perishable item to contribute. Questions? Please contact Bill Nellist at.

Bill Nellist

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## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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### **Community Engagement Reflections: March Happenings!**

Rev. Jessica reminded us that during this Lenten season, we are challenged to center God in our journey. That feels both incredibly easy and incredibly hard. I'd like to think that I'm open and ready to center myself in God's presence 24/7. On-call, on-duty, on-mission, all the time.

And then life happens, and I find myself on autopilot, muddling through another day as I stare at the same three items I have yet to do on my to-do list. And while I'm deciding if I should just set fire to my to-do list or drown my inner voice in hot sauce, it occurs to me that I'm forgetting something, maybe remembering that I'm not alone.



So, this Lenten season, I'm trying to leave space for God to join me on days when I think I've got it all figured out, and on all the other days that end in "y" when I don't. I am trying to do what Rev. Jessica suggested: be bold enough to make space and time to let God into my life. I gotta admit that's kind of scary. God's grace is mystifying to me. At St. Luke's, I am reminded that God's love and abundance are tangible when we just slow down and notice.

So, whether you want to be involved in St. Luke's Altar Guild, Flower Guild, the Finance Committee (numbers, sooo cool!), the Coffee Hour, Garden Guild, or the totally phenomenal, super-amazing, always fun Community Engagement Team, you have a home at St. Luke's.

#### **Calendar of Upcoming Community Engagement Events in March**

- March 1** Rise Against Hunger, Ludlum Hall, Bang-A-Gong!  
Sunday after both services, all-parish event
- March 13** New Leaf Shelter Dinner Drop-Off, Watch for details!
- March 14** Next Steps, Samaritan Ministries: Ticketed event, 8:30 am–10:00 am,  
National Press Club, 1400 F Street, Washington, D.C.
- March 22** Snack Bag Brigade, Ludlum Hall for Bethesda Help
- March 27** SugarCane Movie, St. Mark's Capitol Hill, 301 A Street SE, Washington, DC,  
6:45–9:30 pm

*Irene Schindler*



**SAMARITAN MINISTRY'S**  
**Next Step Breakfast**

**Saturday, March 14 8:30 am**  
**National Press Club**

[www.samaritanministry.org](http://www.samaritanministry.org)  
[bit.ly/nsb26](http://bit.ly/nsb26)



[bit.ly/nsb26tickets](http://bit.ly/nsb26tickets)

**REGISTER**



[bit.ly/nsb26](http://bit.ly/nsb26)

**FULL INFO**

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## PARISH

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### **A SUPPER GROUP CELEBRATION –AND YOU’RE INVITED!**

What would add to the joy of winter’s end and the uplift of Easter? Supper Group!

Stay  
tuned

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11 at 6pm**

Home of Wyman and Tine Stone (yes, *again!*)  
(a few blocks from church)

### **Bethesda Cares Thanks You**

The January donations for Bethesda Cares were delivered and were much appreciated. The following were given: \$925 in gift cards, 8 hoodies, 59 pairs of socks, 141 rolls of toilet paper, 3 collections of silverware, 20 sweatshirts, 8 pants, 7 shirts, 6 sweaters, 2 jackets, 29 towels and washcloths, a beanie cap, 2 pillows, 3 blankets, 3 coats, and 2 sets of sheets. Thank you.

*Clay Miller*



### **Think of Spring! Think of rebirth! Think of Easter!**

Easter is coming... eventually! Mark your calendars: Easter Sunday is April 5.

Do you want to honor a loved one with Easter flowers this year? Grab an envelope from the pews or scan the QR code.

Be sure to enter your dedication in the memo field using one of these formats:

“In thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_” “In memory of \_\_\_\_\_”

Don’t worry, you have some time: our deadline is Monday, March 30.

*Barbara Roybal & Catherine Nellist*



### **FINANCE REPORT – ANNUAL BUDGET for 2026**

The Finance Ministry presents the Vestry-approved operating budget for 2026. This budget shows a deficit, but we believe this deficit can be covered through the investment of various funds, available surplus funds, and parishioner generosity. In 2025 St. Luke’s met all its obligations and reduced its deficit by \$54,600, with a result of a \$18,899 surplus.

St. Luke’s finances are reviewed monthly by the Finance Ministry, an oversight structure that can readily make budget adjustments as needed in order to meet our financial obligations. Overall, the parish is in a stable financial position, with qualified resource support.

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](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org) and include the receipt, the amount, the purpose for the expense, and the budget account to be charged. All requests for extra money or donations by committees, individuals, or church members should have prior approval from the Vestry before solicitation.

*Sandy Swab, Treasurer*

## **FINANCE**

### **Financial Report—Annual Budget for 2026**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Expenditures Church Activities (Cont.)</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
Plate	\$30,000	Vestry Exp/Conference	\$1,000
Pledge Payments	\$445,000	Christian Formation	\$2,500
Facility Use	\$105,162	Fellowship	\$4,000
Altar Flowers	\$5,000	Communication	\$500
Grant/Gifts	0	Community Engagement	\$24,000
Miscellaneous	0	<b>Total Church Activities</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$585,162</b>	<b>Diocesan Giving</b>	<b>\$53,400</b>
		<b>Parish Operations</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>		Administration	\$14,000
<b>Staff Compensation</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	Audit	\$5,200
Rector	\$214,692	Property Insurance	\$15,000
Parish Administrator	\$75,188	Church Maintenance	\$54,000
Minister of Music	\$101,127	Garden & Labyrinth	\$1,500
Nursery	\$11,755	Leased Equipment & Contracts	\$8,000
Temporary Staff	\$8,071	Computer Equipment	\$500
Seminarian	\$500	Utilities	\$17,500
Workman's Comp	\$1,600	Property Tax (User Fees)	\$3,200
Accountant	\$12,000	Furniture & Fixtures	\$500
<b>Total Staff Compensation</b>	<b>\$424,933</b>	Security	\$1,200
<b>Church Activities</b>		<b>Total Parish Operations</b>	<b>\$120,650</b>
Altar Guild	\$3,000	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$624,483</b>
Worship	\$1,500		
Flowers	\$5,000	Net <b>Deficit: \$585,162—\$624,483</b> (Total Revenue—Total Expenditures)	<b>\$57,321</b>

# CALENDAR

## March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> Rise Against Hunger meal packing after both services <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>2</b> 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>3</b> 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:30pm <i>Outside group</i>	<b>4</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 1:00pm <i>Outside group</i> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Finance meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>10</b> 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i>	<b>11</b> 10:30am Retired Men's Group (online) 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>12</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>13</b> New Leaf Shelter Dinner food drop-off	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>16</b> 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>17</b> 1:00pm Booklovers 2:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:00pm Vestry meeting	<b>18</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b> 7:30pm <i>Girl Scouts leader meeting</i>	<b>19</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Lenten Morning 11:30am Garden Guild Luncheon
<b>22</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 1:30pm <i>Outside group</i> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>23</b> 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>24</b> 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i>	<b>25</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>26</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00am Garden Guild workday
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm Youth AA	<b>30</b> 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>31</b> 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i>	<b>1</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>6:00pm</b> <b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> <b>(in person)</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Good Friday Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Holy Saturday Prayers</b> <b>(in person)</b> <b>8:00pm</b> <b>Easter Vigil</b> <b>(in person)</b>

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to [stlukesbethesda.org](http://stlukesbethesda.org), click on Calendar.

# CALENDAR

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>31</b> 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i>	<b>1</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday</b> <b>Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Maundy</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>6:00pm</b> <b>Maundy</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>Service</b> <b>(in person)</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Service</b> <b>(in person</b> <b>&amp; online)</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>Prayers</b> <b>(in person)</b> <b>8:00pm</b> <b>Easter Vigil</b> <b>(in person)</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	<b>6</b> <b>Easter</b> <b>Monday</b> <b>Office</b> <b>closed</b> 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>7</b> <b>Office closed</b> 7:30pm <i>Outside</i> <i>group</i>	<b>8</b> <b>Office closed</b> 10:30am Retired Men's Group (online) 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday</b> <b>Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>9</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>10</b> New Leaf Shelter Dinner food drop-off	<b>11</b> 9:00am Garden Guild workday 6:00pm Supper Group at the Stones
<b>12</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 1:00pm <i>Outside group</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Finance meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>14</b> 12:00pm Lunch Bunch	<b>15</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday</b> <b>Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b> 7:30pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> <i>leader meeting</i>	<b>16</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	<b>20</b> 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Vestry meeting	<b>22</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday</b> <b>Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>23</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person only)</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>Worship Service</b> <b>(in person &amp; online)</b> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	<b>27</b> 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 11:00am Staff meeting <b>12:00pm</b> <b>Noonday</b> <b>Prayer</b> <b>(online)</b>	<b>30</b> 7:30pm Choir rehearsal		<b>2</b>

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to [stlukesbethesda.org](http://stlukesbethesda.org), click on Calendar.



This March, our Community Engagement efforts will focus on Bethesda Help, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that delivers groceries and Giant gift cards to individuals and families in need. It was established in 1968 by a committee that recruited 14 congregations to participate and answered over 500 calls for assistance that year. The daughter of a founding member still serves on the board today. It is truly a story of neighbors coming together to serve the community.

Bethesda Help faced significant challenges in 2025, with both a shortage of management team volunteers and a notable increase in demand driven by SNAP benefit insecurity, increased grocery costs, and the government shut-down. Despite the challenges, Bethesda Help delivered almost 90,000 pounds of food to 8,929 clients, over a third of whom were children. And now, with a new Executive Director, Assistant Treasurer, and support for both the pantry and database management, the organization is ready to take on the challenges of this year.

St. Luke's continues to be a vital community-based partner and in 2025 donated over 1,400 pounds of food and 400 boxes of cereal. Parishioners serve in numerous ways, including bagging groceries, making deliveries, answering calls, shopping for groceries, serving on the board, and transporting food from our church to the pantry. It takes a village!



**This month, we will be packing kids' snack bags on March 22 after both services in Ludlum Hall.** We will also be highlighting more ways to get involved in the *Hot News* and during announcements. Please reach out to Meg Shematz with any questions. Thank you for your continued support!

*Meg Shematz*

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

**Trinity Parish**

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**The Rev. Jessica K. Hitchcock**

Rector

email: [jessica@stlukesbethesda.org](mailto:jessica@stlukesbethesda.org)

**ACTS of St. Luke's**

Newsletter for members and friends of St. Luke's;  
published monthly, except January & July.

**ACTS Articles Deadline:**

15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month