

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

APRIL 2026



Our Diverse Languages

At the convention in January where representatives from all the Diocese of Washington churches gather to conduct legislative and administrative business, worship is woven throughout our time together. When it came time to say the Lord's Prayer, Bishop Mariann invited all those present to say the prayer in "the language of their hearts." The people of the Diocese of Washington come from exceptionally diverse backgrounds, so many languages were used in that moment: English, Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, Arabic, American Sign Language.... I do not know all the languages named, but I do know that I love that moment in Diocesan events because it is a moment when our desire to be welcoming of all of God's children becomes incarnate; it takes on flesh. This moment that sounds a bit cacophonous is why I am okay with saying the Lord's Prayer together with a small group over Zoom on Wednesday at noon, and why I think it is okay that we don't all say the same version of the Lord's Prayer during our Sunday morning worship.

Our prayerbook gives us two options—they are titled "traditional" and "contemporary" designations that I am not sure are helpful. What is helpful for us to remember is that the Lord's Prayer comes from our Holy Scriptures; it is the prayer that Jesus offered when his friends asked him to teach them to pray. On Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 pm, I'll offer a 1-hour Zoom discussion on these two options from our prayerbook. During services, Sarah, Michelle, and I intentionally all say different versions, but if you listen carefully, you can hear when we meet up on certain shared words; the text is formatted in the bulletin so that we can say these certain words together.

A couple years ago, I recommended learning the Lord's Prayer in another language as an Easter discipline, and we said this prayer Jesus taught us together and yet all in different languages during our Pentecost celebration. I'd like for us to take this up again, but with a particular focus on strengthening connections that are currently strained and weakened. Consider learning the Lord's Prayer in Spanish, Haitian Creole, or Somali as a way to pray with our migrant and refugee siblings. You could learn the Lord's Prayer in a language of an area of the world affected by war: Ukrainian or Arabic. Learning the Lord's Prayer in Russian, Mandarin, or

(Languages, continued on page 4)

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 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 (online)
- 10 April New Leaf Shelter dinner
- 11 April Garden Guild workday
- 14 April Lunch Bunch
- 25 April Supper Group
- 28 April Bylaws Zoom
- 30 April Office closed

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

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

- 2 May St. Luke's plant swap
- 8 May New Leaf Shelter dinner
- 9 May Garden Guild workday
- 11-12 May Office closed
- 12 May Lunch Bunch
- 19 May Booklovers
- 23 May Garden Guild workday
- 25 May Memorial Day; office closed

May Birthdays

- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|--|
| Karin Bolte | 1 | | | | | |
| Linda Fong | 8 | | | | | |
| Marta Montoro | 9 | | | | | |
| Theresa Wambach | 9 | | | | | |
| Liz Votaw | 12 | | | | | |
| Fiona Nellist | 13 | | | | | |
| Gayle Countryman-Mills | 13 | | | | | |
| Laura Edwards | 13 | | | | | |
| Phoebe Milhollin | 13 | Zachary Bernier | 22 | Hannah Fourcard | 28 | |
| Joaquin Gonzalez | 17 | Roxanne Leal | 23 | | | |
| Luke Bergeron | 19 | Bennett Sharp | 26 | | | |
| Charles Rice | 22 | 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 at admin@stlukesbethesda.org. If you do not see your birthday listed during the year, please contact the office.

SENIOR WARDEN



Deb Marks

Thinking About St. Luke's

Although I am writing this during Lent, it may be published and read during Holy Week or Easter. Those feel like large shifts in tone. Hopefully, it will no longer be snowing by Easter, but certainly we will be proclaiming and singing, “*Alleluia! Alleluia!*” once again.

It feels like an odd thing to say, but I am enjoying my Lenten journey this year; or perhaps it is more accurate to say that I appreciate it more than I anticipated. In the midst of life's stresses and challenging current events, it has been a blessing to intentionally set aside space to be quiet and reflective. In saying that, I am admitting that I don't always set aside meditative, God-centered time. That's true. I gratefully benefit from the focus and inspiration I find through our liturgical seasons.

I also gratefully benefit from a thought-provoking question that I attribute to Jessica: “*Where is God in this?*” This question challenges me to pause and reflect, rather than to reflexively judge. Although I am also hit-or-miss in pausing to ask this question, when I do, it occasionally reveals inspiration in unexpected places.

One such unexpected encounter was while listening to an interview with comedian Pete Holmes. Let me be clear that I am *not* promoting Pete Holmes; however, I would like to share a shortened version of his interview response:

We think holiness is somehow avoiding reality, opting out. Like we're not supposed to be angry or confused, or enjoy heavy metal, or whatever. Holiness is wholeness. It comes from the same etymology. I would say that's the nature of God...

God is like the screen and we're in the movie. We live and move and have our being in God and that's the screen. And the screen doesn't know subject to object what's happening in the movie—that's not what the screen does. The screen is so whole and so complete, it can't know something subject to object. That's not what the screen does. That's our job. That's what we're doing. And in the end, all there is, is the screen.

Perhaps you will or you will not find God in this excerpt. Maybe it will surprise or challenge you. I hope that in sharing this with you, we have shared a moment of reflection or God-centered thought. And as we enter the Easter season, I look forward to once again sharing “*Alleluia! Alleluia!*” with you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb".

She/hers

PARISH

(Languages, continued from page 1)

Cantonese may help remind us that none of God's children is our enemy, even if their leaders make decisions we disagree with.

This prayer that Jesus gave us is a true gift and contains within it much guidance about what it means to live as a follower of Jesus. This prayer has been prayed worldwide and for millennia. It has the power to remind us that we are all connected and all beloved children of God. This Easter season, during the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday, take up the practice of learning the Lord's Prayer in a different language in thanksgiving and praise that God made us all, loves us all, and gives us to each other as a gift and blessing.

Jessica

Bylaws Update and Articles of Incorporation

Save the date! We will hold a special all-parish online meeting on **Tuesday, April 28**, to discuss and vote on proposed updates to our parish Bylaws and proposed Articles of Incorporation. Periodic review of the Bylaws is required to ensure they reflect best practices, align with diocesan requirements, and ensure efficient governance of our parish. Articles of Incorporation are a new requirement. Previously, all Episcopal parishes in Maryland were recognized as legal entities under the 1798 Maryland Vestry Act. In 2024, Maryland repealed the Vestry Act, and now Episcopal parishes must file Articles of Incorporation, just as other denominations have always done.

A committee consisting of Vestry members Theresa Wambach and Michelle Canick, and parishioners Linda Freeman, Pat Rogers, and Mike Bernier worked together to review and edit the Bylaws and draft the Articles of Incorporation. We incorporated feedback from the full Vestry, the Finance Ministry, and the EDOW Chancellor.

Substantive updates to the Bylaws include adding immigration status to the preamble statement of inclusion, referencing current MD Corporations and Associations Law instead of the now-repealed Vestry Act, adding provisions to allow for virtual meetings, and including the Financial Ministry (FinMin) as a standing committee. In addition, we edited or added language where the Vestry or Chancellor recommended doing so for clarity or to comply with EDOW or Episcopal Canons.

While the Bylaws are an internal document describing parish governance and operations, the Articles of Incorporation are a public document, establishing the parish as a legal entity, with the ability to hold bank accounts, own property, and enter contracts. More specifically, the parish is recognized as a religious corporation and a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

There will be two informational sessions before the vote on April 28 to learn more and to ask questions about the proposed changes to the Bylaws and the proposed Articles of Incorporation—one in-person between services on **April 19**, and another by Zoom on **April 20**. More details about the information sessions and the all-parish meeting, including Zoom links, will be shared soon. In the meantime, you can find the full text of the current Bylaws, the proposed updated Bylaws, and the proposed Articles of Incorporation on the Resources & Policies page of the St. Luke's website.

Michelle Canick

PARISH

Supper Group Sustains the Celebration

Just as Christmas is not a single day but a whole liturgical season of the church year, Easter continues for 50 days after Easter Sunday. We are an Easter People, so let's continue to celebrate at an Easter Season **Supper Group** Potluck, on



Saturday, April 25, at 6 pm

Home of Wyman and Tine Stone (yes, *again!*)

Please contact Tine to ask what is needed: entrée, salad/side, or dessert. Do remember to bring what you yourself would like to drink. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Talk about a good excuse to party! Now the terrifying daily News of the World is not the ONLY news. Easter has ridden in with the cavalry bringing the Good News. All adult St. Lukers, their spouses, partners, and friends are invited to celebrate. Neither bunny ears nor chocolate eggs are required. Hungry for some good conversation and delicious food? Join us!

Questions? Ride? Contact Treva Miller.

Treva Miller

Booklovers

Booklovers are meeting at 1 pm on **Tuesday, May 19** at church.

We'll discuss ***Old God's Time* by Sebastian Barry**, a novel set in Ireland about a retired policeman forced to return and confront his past. Longlisted for the Booker Prize.

Join us!

Treva Miller

Lunch Bunch

T. S. Eliot wrote that "April is the cruelest month." Obviously, he had not seen the Washington area blooming with cherry blossoms, dogwoods, redbuds, and our other flowering trees. So, what are your favorite spring flowers? What is your favorite baseball team? (Or are you just crossing off the days until you can watch football again?)



Come to **Lunch Bunch** on **April 14** at noon and share with your friends about what you like most, or least, about Spring. We may not have Vivaldi playing in the background, but we will have lively conversation so that you won't notice. Or... we can talk about what has to be done on the following day. In any case, we will meet in either Ludlum Hall or in the remodeled Reaves Room, which has yet to be decided; we will have better information as the lunch date approaches.

We do ask participants to remember the Bethesda Help food pantry and to bring a non-perishable item to contribute.

Questions?

Please contact Bill Nellist.

Bill Nellist

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington

St. Luke's Bethesda is a founding partner of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW), a faith-based organization that addresses the needs of homeless, poor, and other at-risk populations in the Greater Washington DC Metropolitan area. It is supported by over 50 parishes and schools located in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The values of SMGW are inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). We are called to practice:

- Compassion—To be neighbors and love our neighbors as God loves us, sharing one another's suffering and joy, treating each other as we would like to be treated, with kindness, mercy, and justice.
- Transformation—To participate in one another's growth and development in ways that encourage one another's strengths and abilities, empowering one another to live fuller, more meaningful lives.
- Dignity—To honor one another's inherent worth by promoting one another's self-respect and confidence, sharing our common struggles, and celebrating the transformational journey that binds us together.
- Community—To work collaboratively with one another, seeking unity while celebrating our diversity, thereby creating a foundation to do together what none of us can do alone.

Our parish representatives to SMGW are Jack Orrick and Peter Stelnyk. We are planning a Samaritan Ministry Sunday at St. Luke's on **April 12**. More details to follow.

Jack Orrick



FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT February 2026

	2026 Budget	'26 Actual Thru Feb	% of '26 Budget *
<u>REVENUE</u>			
Offering Plate	\$ 30,000	\$ 4,033	13%
Pledge Payments	445,000	153,173	34%
Donations for Facilities	105,162	5,767	5%
Altar Flower Donations	5,000	600	12%
Gifts/Grants for Operations			
Miscellaneous			
Operating Revenue	\$ 585,162	\$ 163,573	28%
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Compensations	\$ 424,933	\$ 72,894	17%
Church Activities	19,500	1,712	9%
Parish Operations	120,650	18,514	15%
Community Engagement	24,000	0	
Diocesan Giving	53,400	8,900	17%
Operating Expenses	642,483	102,020	16%
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(57,321)	61,553	
Additional Funding – reserves	0	0	
	(\$ 57,321)	\$ 61,553	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE \$183,829

* YTD February = 17% of the year

Finance Ministry: St. Luke's is in a stable position by meeting its financial obligations to date. This year St. Luke's is embarking on a venture to enhance our financial viability and provide the community with an additional childcare provider. This Easter season is bringing hope and imagination to St. Luke's.

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, 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 of the Vestry before solicitation.

Sandy Swab, Treasurer

CALENDAR

April 2026

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

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

CALENDAR

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	27 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	28 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:00pm By-law vote (online)	29 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	30 Office closed 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	1	2 10:00am Plant Swap
3 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	4 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	5 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:30pm Outside group	6 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	7 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	8 New Leaf Shelter Dinner food drop-off 5:30pm <i>Outside group</i>	9 9:00am Garden Guild Workday 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)
10 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 1:00pm <i>Outside group</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	11 Office closed 7:00pm Finance meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	12 Office closed 12:00pm Lunch Bunch		14 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	15	16
17 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	18 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	19 1:00pm Booklovers 2:30pm <i>Fitness class</i>	20 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online) 7:30pm <i>Girl Scout leaders</i>	21 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	22	23 9:00am Garden Guild Workday
24 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 2:00pm <i>Outside group</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	25 Memorial Day Office closed 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	26 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:00pm <i>Vestry meeting</i>	27 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	28	29	30
31 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	1 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	2 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:30pm <i>Outside group</i>	3 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	4	5	6

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

St. Luke's Plant Swap Saturday, May 2nd 10 a.m. - Noon



- Bring your outdoor +/- indoor plant in a container to give away.
- Please label your healthy plant with name & basic care info.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Trinity Parish

6030 Grosvenor Lane

Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1852

Phone: 301-530-1800

email: admin@stlukesbethesda.org

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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 & July.

ACTS Articles Deadline:

15th of the preceding month