

**MAY 2019** 



Jessica Hitchcock

#### Welcome

Every Sunday we have the honor of proclaiming that no matter what, you are welcome at God's table. We say it so that those present will know it to be true, but I believe it means a great deal to each of us to say those words and to know, "I am welcome. No matter where I am with my doubts and beliefs at this moment. No matter how crappy I have been to my loved ones. No matter how much I have neglected my connection to God. I am still welcome." This welcome is critical to our identity as a community—we learned that in our D&D (Discernment and Discovery) process. And the welcome isn't just limited to the table around which we receive our holy meal of bread and wine.

At the end of this month, we will provide welcome... hospitality... acceptance... acknowledgement... to women who are getting back on their feet while staying at Interfaith Works Women's Center. It isn't just about

feeding them; when we go there and serve the residents and talk with the residents, we see them. And in seeing them we can honor them. Seeing people, not looking away from their need and vulnerability, is a way of welcoming people. This past winter the IWWC needed more blankets, so we sent some because we wanted people to feel warm, to feel comfortable. Those blankets were a different kind of welcome, but a welcome all the same.

A pollinator garden is getting planted on the grounds at St. Luke's, providing welcome to bees and bugs and birds and providing welcome for people who want to DO SOMETHING in response to the climate crisis humanity faces at this moment.

And the people of St. Luke's welcomed guests and visitors to our community on Easter, fed people a yummy breakfast and sent children brand-new-to-us home with baskets full of Easter eggs filled with sweet treats, filled by loving hands. Our bathrooms and elevator had gorgeous flowers in them for Easter. THAT is an extravagant welcome if I have ever seen one!

What other ways do you see the people of St Luke's welcoming people—no matter what? Are there ways we could be more welcoming? What is \*YOUR\* favorite way to welcome people? What is something new that you could do to welcome people to this community?

The vestry has been, and will continue, considering ways that we can further embrace and develop our desire to follow in Jesus's footsteps and offer a radical welcome. You'll hear more about

(Welcome, continued on page 4)

#### **PARISH**

# Community Engagement Cluster: Human Rights, Dignity, and Safety



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. admin@stlukesbethesda.org.

The parish prayer list is printed in the Sunday *Hot News* bulletin.

If you do not see your birthday listed during the year, please contact the office.

# Community Engagement Cluster: Human Rights, Dignity, and Safety

June 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	MANA		June Special Dates
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		26 May –	
30		1 June	Interfaith Works Women's Center
Kathy Makos	1 <sup>st</sup>		Week
Margaret Roper	12 <sup>th</sup>	1 June	Supper Group
Sacha South	15 <sup>th</sup>	1 June	Prayers and Reserve Sacrament
Bob Allnutt	15 <sup>th</sup>	3 June	Last day of Ramadan
	15 17 <sup>th</sup>	8 June	Garden Guild Work Day
Catherine Nellist		14 June	MCPS last day of school
Linda Freeman	19 <sup>th</sup>	15 June	Prayers and Reserve Sacrament
Adrienne Davis-Lea		16 June	Loaves and Fishes
Dave Freeman	24 <sup>th</sup>	10 June	Loaves and Histies
June Alleyne	30 <sup>th</sup>		

#### SENIOR WARDEN



# A Milestone for St. Luke's

We will soon be in the final stage of our Priest-in-Charge process. As a reminder, after Stephanie's (our former Rector's) departure in January 2018, we entered into an agreement with Jessica that she would serve as our Priest-in-Charge for an 18-month period.

Over these past months, the Vestry and Jessica have conducted two performance reviews as directed by the agreement. These are mutual reviews—we reflect on the progress of the parish, the performance of the Priest-in-Charge and the performance of the Vestry. A third and final review will take place at the May Vestry meeting. It is our intention to use our July Vestry meeting to consider whether to call Jessica as our Rector. If

we decide to do so, we then enter into a discussion with Jessica and the Bishop about whether that is in everyone's "mutual interest." And if it is, we write a new Letter of Agreement with Jessica to be our Rector.

Yes, there is a detailed process dictated by the Diocese. Yes, we have steps and procedures to follow. But we mustn't let checking the boxes of the process get in the way of how special this time is in the life of St. Luke's. I hope we can use the next few months to celebrate what has come before and what we are poised to achieve. For many churches, the departure of the Rector can be a tumultuous time, with attendance suffering and the unknown future causing unease. Instead, we've kept a steady course, making some changes to adjust to being a one-clergy parish, but maintaining our course and growing in some important ways.

This means we are in a great position as we reflect on our decision about our clergy leadership for the coming years. I invite you to join us, as this should be a time of reflection from all sides. It is a time for Jessica to reflect on her role at St. Luke's and whether continuing with us is the right step on her professional and spiritual journey. It is a time for us as a parish to consider what we need from our clergy leader. And, it's a time for you to reflect on your experience of St. Luke's over the past year. How have we done in supporting Jessica in her role? How well have we adjusted to being a one-clergy parish? Are we the welcoming community we aspire to be?

As always, the Vestry and I will be in listening mode, ready to hear from you. But especially in the next few months, we encourage you to reach out with your questions and your reflections as we reach this important milestone in the life of St. Luke's.

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#### **PARISH**

(Welcome, continued from page 1)

this. But for now, think of a small way you can intentionally welcome others to the St. Luke's community. Don't worry about whether you are welcoming newcomers or old timers! I work at St. Luke's and I still love being made to feel welcome by you guys. Wear your name tag, introduce yourself to a person who is new to you, exchange the peace with strangers and wait till coffee hour to catch up with friends. Maybe God is calling you to practice this radical welcome away from St. Luke's—at work or at school, in the neighborhood or at the gym? Welcoming takes time and energy but spending both of these on this humble and holy work makes the time and energy spent an offering to God.

Peace & Blessings,

Jessica

#### Iftaar

The Holy Month of Ramadan lasts from May 6-June 3, and during this time adult Muslims are expected to fast during the daytime. In keeping with the spirit of Ramadan, our brothers and sisters at the Islamic Community Center of Potomac have again invited St. Luke's and other congregations to share an *Iftaar* (break of fast), followed by dinner, during the evening of **Thursday, May 16**. The program will be as follows:

Venue:	Islamic Community Center of Potomac, 10601 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854
6:30-7:00 pm	Arrival and Registration
7:00-7:30 pm	Welcome and Brief Comments by faith leaders
7:30-8:00 pm	Q&A
8:00-8:15 pm	Iftaar (break of fast)
8:15-8:25 pm	Maghrib Prayer led by the ICCP Imam
8:30-9:45 pm	Dinner and socializing at the Barn - the formal close of the program
10:00-11:15 pm	<i>Isha</i> prayer followed by <i>Tarawih</i> prayer; which guests have the option to observe.

Signups and carpool options will be posted in Ludlum, or please email Marta Montoro by 6 pm on Monday, May 6 so we can provide our parish RSVP list by the requested date. Thank you.

Marta Montoro



#### **FELLOWSHIP**

#### **Book Lovers**

Start reading, Book Lovers. Then choose which get-together works best for you. The May book is A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

The Evening meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:30 pm at the home of Walt and Liz Tinling and the discussion will be facilitated by Dee Barish. Please call the Tinlings about attending.



The Daytime meeting will be on Friday, May 31st at 10:30 am at the home of Betsy Davis. Please call Betsy by Thursday, May 30, to let her know that you'll be

Nancy Reding

#### Women of St. Luke's

The Women of St. Luke's will meet at 11:30 am on May 21 in the Reaves Room. Please bring a brown bag lunch and tea will be provided.



Leslie Roberts

May was full of promises, but she didn't keep 'em quick enough for some. And a crowd of doubtin' Thomases was predictin' that the summer'd never come... But it's comin' by gum, we can feel it come, . . . Look around! Look around! Look around! (Oscar Hammerstein II, Carousel)

JUNE will be bustin' out all over for all adult St. Lukers and friends at the

#### SUPPER GROUP SUMMER STARTER

6:30 pm on Saturday, June 1st

Home of Walt & Elizabeth Tinling

South of Jones Bridge Road, east of Rockville Pike, close to Walter Reed Hospital

Please contact the Tinlings to ask what is needed: entrée, salad/side, or dessert. If you'd like wine or beer, please bring some (other beverages provided).

Recall the euphoric feeling of "School's out!" Embrace the new season as you engage with fellow parishioners, long-time and new. Have the conversation that's not happening post-service.

And what will be bustin' out all over? Christian Fellowship—and maybe some hyyge\* and *gemutlichkeit\**—and, oh yeah, June! Please join us.

Questions? Ride? Contact Treva Miller.

Treva Miller

\* Translation available at Supper Group

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### Interfaith Works Women's Center

2 Taft Court, Rockville, MD

#### May 26 through June 1, 2019

It's almost that time of year again! The time of year when St. Lukers bake casseroles, prep salads, make desserts and bag lunches for the women at the Interfaith Works Women's Center in Rockville. This year, our week will be **May 26 through June 1, 2019**.



St. Luke's volunteers have a history of serving the Interfaith Works Women's Center in Rock-ville. They have done this for over 20 years: providing breakfast, lunch, and dinner for 35 women for the week of Memorial Day. There are so many ways to contribute to our week serving the Women's Shelter!

#### You can:

- Serve as a "Dinner Coordinator" for a night's meal
- Serve as the "Lunch Captain"
- Provide 18 or 35 bagged lunches
- Prepare a dish for a dinner
- Serve in the kitchen for dinner
- Assist with a Spa Yoga Night event (being organized by Marta Montoro)
- Donate new socks to be used for the Spa Yoga Night

Sign up sheets will be posted in Ludlum beginning in May. You can also sign up online. Sign up for lunch at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAEAC2FA20-lunches1
Sign up for dinners at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CAEAC2FA20-dinners2

If you have questions, please contact Michelle Bales or Andi Pringle.

Michelle Bales and Andi Pringle



#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



Interfaith Works is a non-profit social service agency that serves more than 16,000 Montgomery County residents in need each year. Interfaith Works operates 17 programs providing a wide array of services, including housing, emergency shelter, vocational training, family mentoring and access to free clothing and home goods. The agency's programs are aimed at helping people in need lift themselves out of poverty through **prevention**, **stabilization and empowerment services**.

Volunteers are essential to keep Interfaith Works programs running. The Interfaith Works Women's Center in Rockville is home to 70 formerly homeless women and depends entirely on volunteer donations to feed the residents 365 days a year for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Many of these women are also struggling to address mental health issues. The shelter recently moved into a brandnew facility, which will give residents exciting new opportunities for expanded services on-site, including access to vocational training and health care (medical, dental and behavioral).

Each resident is assigned a case manager. Together, they work to develop action plans for moving forward to find better housing and address the issues that have contributed to the resident's homelessness. The shelter provides a safe, stabilizing environment which helps give a sense of community to those who live there. Last year, the IW Women's Center served 259 women.

More information about volunteering and other needs is available at www.iworksmc.org.

Michelle Bales and Andi Pringle

#### **Basic Needs Cluster**

Please join us **between services on SUNDAY, MAY 5 in Ludlum Hall** to hear about the successful Basic Needs Cluster of activities over the past few months, and to hear about the upcoming plans for the Human Rights, Dignity, and Safety Cluster planned for the summer! Breakfast will be provided!

Marta Montoro

# Bethesda Help Thanks You

Thank you to all who so generously supported Bethesda Help during the month of March. St. Luke's sent to Bethesda Help:

28 bags of food weighing 261 pounds \$400 worth of Giant Gift Cards \$679 in monetary donations



These contributions will go directly to help our neighbors in the greater Bethesda area.

Clay Miller, Catherine Nellist and Anne Elsbree

# St. Luke's in pictures...



Maundy Thursday
Simple Supper

Planting the Pollinator Garden!



Photograph in the new labyrinth brochure and of the new steps leading to the labyrinth.





#### **FINANCE**

#### FINANCE REPORT MARCH 2019

	2018	2019	'19 Actual	% of '19
	Actual	Budget	Thru March	Budget *
<u>RECEIPTS</u>				
Offering Plate	\$ 25,506	\$ 20,000	\$ 7,931	39.7%
Pledge Payments	457,441	443,000	222,698	50.3%
Donations for Facilities	45,358	43,000	12,223	28.4%
Altar Flower Donations	5,089	5,000	884	17.7%
Miscellaneous	84		76	
Operating Receipts	533,478	511,000	243,812	47.7%
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 287,242	\$ 299,275	\$ 77,873	26.0%
Program Support	26,432	24,050	2,307	9.6%
Parish Operations	111,301	129,600	34,619	26.7%
Outreach	20,000	22,000	4,000	18.2%
Diocesan Giving	44,000	50,139	8,352	16.7%
Operating Expenses	488,975	525,064	127,151	24.2%
Surplus/(Deficit)	44,503	(14,064)	116,661	
Additional Funding – 2018 surplus	0	14,064	0	
Net after Reserve funds	\$ 44,503	\$ 0	\$ 116,661	

#### **ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE**

\$69,985

\* YTD Mar.= 25.00 % of the year

Budget Analysis: We are off to a great start for 2019 with pledges received at 50% of the budget-ed amount. Expenses through March are only slightly under the expected amount for the first three months. The Vestry decided that the 2018 surplus would be used to cover the budgeted shortfall for 2019, plus \$15,000 would be directed to the Edmonds Fund for Replacement. The Vestry also decided to increase the contribution to the Diocese to match the amount requested by the Diocese to meet its expenses and program goals.

All financial obligations for the year- to-date have been met and bills paid.

If you need to be reimbursed for a purchase or need the Treasurer to pay an invoice, please obtain a Payment Request Form from the Office. An authorized person must sign the request. All requests for extra money or donations by committees, individuals or church members, should have prior approval of the Vestry before solicitation.

Jenny Bradley, Treasurer

# **CALENDAR**

# May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Samaritan Ministries Sunday 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:30 AM Walk the Labyrinth with Us 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	29 1:15 PM Staff Meeting	30 3:30 PM Cornerstone	1 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 1:00 PM Cornerstone	3 Men's Shelter Dinner 9:00 AM Center for Family Process	4 1:00 PM Your Dog's Friend 5:00 PM Prayers and Reserve Sacrament 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca
5 8:00 AM Eucharist 9:15 AM All Parish Community Engagement Meeting 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	6 10:30 AM OASIS 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM OASIS	7 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone	8 10:30 AM Retired Men's Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM OASIS 1:00 PM Cornerstone 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group	10 10:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 11:45 AM <i>OASIS</i>	9:00 AM Garden Guild Work Day 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca
12 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 1:00 PM Rock Creek Chamber Players 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	13 10:30 AM OASIS 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM OASIS 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	14 9:00 AM Harry Grattan funeral 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone	15 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Grosvenor Heights HOA 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM OASIS 1:00 PM Cornerstone 1:30 PM David Wacaster & Colleagues 5:15 PM GS Troop	17 10:00 AM OASIS 11:45 AM OASIS 8:00 PM St. Luke's Choir Concert	18 1:00 PM Your Dog's Friend 5:00 PM Prayers and Reserve Sacrament 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca
19 Loaves & Fishes 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 1:30 PM Camp Tuckerman 1:30 PM Your Dog's Friend 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	20 10:30 AM OASIS 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM OASIS 7:00 PM Vestry	21 11:00 AM OASIS 11:30 AM Women of St. Luke's 3:30 PM Cornerstone 7:30 PM Book Lovers	22 10:30 AM Retired Men's Group 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM OASIS 1:00 PM Cornerstone	24 10:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 11:45 AM <i>OASIS</i>	<b>25</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Cristo la</i> <i>Roca</i>
26 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 3:00 PM Dana Smith Piano Students 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	27 Memorial Day Office closed	28 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone	29 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM OASIS 1:00 PM Cornerstone	31 10:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 11:45 AM <i>OASIS</i>	1 5:00 PM Prayers and Reserve Sacrament 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca

# **CALENDAR**

# **June 2019**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 3:00 PM Dana Smith Students 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	27 Memorial Day	28 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone	29 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 9:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 10:30 AM <i>OASIS</i> 1:00 PM <i>Cornerstone</i>	31 10:00 AM OASIS 11:45 AM OASIS	1 5:00 PM Prayers and Reserve Sacrament 6:30 PM Supper Group 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca
2 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	3 10:30 AM OASIS 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM OASIS	4 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone	5 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM OASIS 1:00 PM Cornerstone	7 Men's Shelter Dinner 10:00 AM OASIS 11:45 AM OASIS 7:00 PM Vasily Popov Performance	8 8:00 AM Insight Meditation 9:00 AM Garden Guild Day 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca
9 Pentecost 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	10 9:00 AM Franklin Funeral 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM OASIS 6:30 PM Wildwood Manor HOA 7:00 PM Finance	11 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone	12 10:30 AM Retired Men's Group 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist	13 9:00 AM OASIS 1:00 PM Cornerstone 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group Meeting	14 10:00 AM <i>OASIS</i> 11:45 AM <i>OASIS</i>	15 12:30 PM Your Dog's Friend 5:00 PM Prayers and Reserve Sacrament 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca
16 Loaves & Fishes Trinity Sunday 8:00 AM Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	17 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM OASIS 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	18 11:00 AM OASIS 11:30 AM Women of St. Luke's 3:30 PM Cornerstone	19 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist	20 9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM OASIS 1:00 PM Cornerstone	21 10:00 AM OASIS 11:45 AM OASIS	22 12:30 PM Your Dog's Friend 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca
23 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 1:15 PM Dog's Friend 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	24 10:30 AM OASIS 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM OASIS	25 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone 7:00 PM Grosvenor Homeowners Association	26 9:00 AM Cornerstone 10:30 Retired Men's Group 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist	27 9:00 AM OASIS 10:30 AM OASIS 1:00 PM Cornerstone	28 10:00 AM OASIS 11:45 AM OASIS	7:00 PM Cristo la Roca
30 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Children's Church 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Cristo la Roca 8:00 PM Youth AA	1 10:30 AM OASIS 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM OASIS	2 11:00 AM OASIS 3:30 PM Cornerstone	3 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist	4 Independence Day	5 Men's Shelter Dinner 10:00 AM OASIS	6 8:00 AM Insight Meditation 5:00 PM Prayers and Reserve Sacrament 7:00 PM Cristo la Roca

For further details, check the calendar on the church website

#### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Trinity Parish

6030 Grosvenor Lane Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1852

#### St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Phone: 301-530-1800 Fax: 301-530-1802

email: admin@stlukesbethesda.org
website: www.stlukesbethesda.org

THE REV. JESSICA K. HITCHCOCK
Priest-in-Charge
email: jessica@stlukesbethesda.org

#### ACTS of St. Luke's

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

**ACTS Deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month Send articles and comments to ACTS@stlukesbethesda.org

# May 26 through June 1 Interfaith Works Women's Center

2 Taft Court, Rockville, MD

Staff a dinner, create a lunch, serve a meal, donate women's socks, and... be a friend.

