

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JULY & AUGUST 2020



Lesley Krauland
Deacon

On Summer's Doorstep

Summertime often connotes freedom as the school year ends and families take time away from work to play. School and work clothes are shed for flip flops and bathing suits. We travel to beaches and mountains, we visit family and friends, and explore and discover new places. This year, our mild and beautiful spring was unusually hard on us as the new coronavirus quarantined us to our homes. Additionally, the recent and senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Abernathy, and Rayshard Brooks have broken open the national dams of raw emotion regarding racial injustice, bringing forth thousands of people from their quarantine-couches onto their feet and into city streets to chant and wail for racial justice for the rights of black lives, for police accountability, and for reform. This year, summer will be different, not routine. COVID-19 continues to impose limits on our health, freedom, and life. Racial justice demands and requires us to speak out and to act more than ever before to extirpate the sin of racial injustice. Where are we right now as we stand on the threshold of summer?

In her June 7, 2020 sermon at the Washington National Cathedral, Bishop Mariann Budde described this unique season in which we now live as *Kairos* time. *Kairos* is an ancient Greek word which refers to the opportune moment or time for crucial action. It differs from *Chronos* time, which is ordinary time. Bishop Mariann asked, could this moment be the opportune time in which crisis brings forth change?

If we are living in *Kairos* time, let us ask ourselves to consider what will we DO, and how will we BE, and for what do we want to plan for the next ten to twelve weeks of summer. What is God calling us to BE and to DO in this historic time? How is the Spirit moving us to create something new and re-create ourselves? How can we participate in this time? What can we accomplish this summer?

Take out your calendar and look carefully at each week until Labor Day (the magic day when we used to put away our summer clothes). Brainstorm about several possible things to *do* which might bring you meaning and joy and help you *be* the person God calls you to be in this *Kairos* time and place. Make an intentional plan for how you will use and enjoy this summer. The Swedes play broom-ball, ski, or skate each day in winter to “use the winter” so the long, dark days don’t depress them. We

(Doorstep, continued on page 4)

PARISH



July 2020						
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	

July Special Dates

- 3 July Men's Shelter Dinner
- 4 July Independence Day
- 11 July Garden Guild
- 21 July Book Lovers

July Birthdays

- Wyman Stone 1
- Sandy Bjork 4
- Deb Marks 6
- Joan Kleinrock 8
- Tine Stone 10
- April Dodier 13
- Susie Casson 15
- Karen Schneider 16
- Holly Stone 17
- Jan Allnutt 17
- Treva Miller 20
- Amy Sloan 23
- Jenny Bradley 27
- Myrna Olsen 28
- Julie Paisley 29



August 2020						
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					

August Special Dates

- 7 August Men's Shelter Dinner

August Birthdays

- Colette Nichols 1
- Steve Lowe 1
- Kaya Le Boudier 3
- Ched Bradley 6
- Leah Bullock 10
- Ben Katulis 12
- Alison Rouleau 15
- Jessica Hitchcock 15
- Robin Woollatt 16
- Anne Elsbree 20
- Zina South 22
- Claire Milhollin 25
- Victoria Muth 25
- Mary Gant 30
- Seamus Welsh 30
- Sue Williams 31

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.

SENIOR WARDEN



Amy Elsbree

Proceed with Caution

We are all doing a lot of “proceeding with caution” these days. Every new step we take outside our homes, into our communities, into gatherings with family and friends brings with it a calculation of risk. No choice feels like a sure thing.

I find the expression itself—proceed with caution—full of conflict. We want to proceed, but at any point, we might just stop in our tracks. It’s like crossing a street. You know you want to go, but if the path is not clear, you stop and reassess.

Over the past month, St. Luke’s has been figuring out what it would mean for us to proceed with caution as we return to in-person worship and fellowship activities. This involves both a “how” question and a “when” question.

In terms of the “how” question, leaders from our Worship Council and our Building and Grounds Team are preparing a plan for how we can gather safely. They are using their creativity to re-imagine the worship experience. Just as we had to reinvent ourselves for virtual church and virtual fellowship activities, we will have to rethink everything about being together: how large a group can gather at one time, where we gather, how we share music, and how we share communion. We will also need to redesign our cleaning processes, our physical set up, and our traffic patterns in the building.

All this “how” work is tangible. We can dig our teeth into it and come up with a plan. We can start ordering supplies and arrange seating. St. Luke’s has always been good at this kind of work.

It’s the “when” question that is harder. We are facing decisions we’ve never had to make before—decisions that could impact the health and wellbeing of our parish and their family members. While we will take guidance from our government and diocesan leaders, we are the only ones who can judge whether and when we can bear the risk of gathering.

I’m writing this just after the mid-June Vestry meeting. You need to know that in our discussions about “proceeding with caution,” caution has the upper hand. We are stopped at the crosswalk and not yet ready to move out into the intersection. My best guess is that it will be at least a month before we even consider any official church gatherings, and those will be small and likely outdoors and only if the measures of presence of the virus are declining.

The Vestry will stay in close touch with you all to share our thinking through the coming weeks. And as always, please feel free to reach out to Vestry members or me. We welcome your thoughts and ideas about both the how and the when of returning to our church building, and especially about your sense of readiness and risk.

Amy

FELLOWSHIP

(*Doorstep*, continued from page 1)

have to find ways to “use” this summer in ways that keep us active, engaged, fulfilled, and hopeful for the health and wellbeing of all people.

To lift your spirits, consider singing every day! Sing by yourself in a socially distant safe place. Be silly! Sing uplifting songs from any genre. Some uplifting hymns you might enjoy are “We are Marching in the Light of God,” “Wade in the Water,” “Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy,” “Day by Day,” “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God,” and “All Things Bright and Beautiful.” Try it! If songs move you to dance, then dance! Let your spirit soar.

One thing to do this summer is to increase knowledge and awareness of the issues regarding racial injustice so that we better comprehend the depths and history of this sin and mobilize ourselves and our neighbors to eliminate it through political reform and legislation. We can follow and support The Poor People’s Campaign in a variety of ways to advocate for the end of poverty and systematic racism, for equal protection under the law, to build unity across lines of division, and more. See <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/about/our-principles/>. Additionally, Netflix has a variety of films, shows, and documentaries that we can watch to expand understanding of racism. See <https://www.standard.co.uk/stayingin/tvfilm/netflix-uk-movies-shows-documentaries-racism-a4459721.html>.

Our own Karen Schneider has volunteered to lead a book group on Anti-Racism at St. Luke’s (notice will be forthcoming about when the first meeting will be scheduled). Some books you will find useful to read and to later discuss in the book group include *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander (2010); *White Fragility* (2018) by Robin DiAngelo; *I’m Still Here* (2018) by Austin Channing Brown; *Me and White Supremacy* (2020) by Layla Saad; *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1965) by Alex Haley and Malcolm X; *Stamped From the Beginning* (2016) and *How to Be Anti-Racist* (2019) by Ibram X. Kendi; and *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom* (2018) by David W. Blight. Other classic African- American writers you’ll want to read are James Baldwin, W.E.B. DuBois, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Zora Neal Hurston, Maya Angelou, and the writings Martin Luther King, Jr., James Cone and Howard Thurman.

Important ways to be this summer are to follow Paul’s wise words to the Corinthians: “Be patient and kind... Do not insist on your own way, or be irritable or resentful. Rejoice in the right, bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things, for this is love.” (1 Cor. 13:4-7) Love is the way to BE. Use prayer, fellowship, meditation, mindfulness, and physical exercise to manage tension. Remember that “the Lord has made everything for its purpose... The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.” (Proverbs 16: 3-4, 9)

This won’t be the summer we planned. Our vacation may have been cancelled or we won’t get down to the beach with family and friends as we usually do. Nevertheless, I believe we stand in the doorway of something new. How we step through that door into this summer, what we choose to do and how we choose to be, has the potential and hope for increasing freedom and love in this world. God is calling us to something special in these *Kairos* times. With God’s presence and help, and by our faith, devotion, and intentions, we will fill our days in new ways and will discover that this will be the summer of our lives.

God Bless.

Lesley +

PARISH

A Deacon Intern at St Luke's

My great joy at being assigned to St Luke's Bethesda at the end of January this year was a gift that many an intern would wish for. Your gracious welcome to me at a time when you were already experiencing an upfront change of characters in the arrival of my dear friend and mentor Deacon, Lesley Krauland, bespeaks a very open spirited and generously loving community. I knew so little of your expectations of me that my only mandate was to "show up" which I did with pleasure. The calling to the Diaconate is very much a call to servant ministry and one I believe in deeply and am so honored and humbled that I have been able to pursue this calling. The Diaconate is relatively new to the Diocese of Washington and as such is still somewhat unknown. There are not enough ordained deacons to supply one for each parish at the moment but slowly we are building the numbers and the program is gaining momentum. In the *Acts of the Apostles* the deacons were created to help the widows whose needs were not being met. This is a good way to look at a deacon today. We are here to help those needs not being met (as with the Greek widows in *Acts*). Bring the cares of the world into the church and take the church and its love and resources out into the world. The wonderfully committed parishioners of St Luke's already take their calling as Christ's hands and feet on earth most seriously and have the most energetic of outside missions in the Community Engagement program. What a great lesson you have given me in how a church should live its life as a holy community outside the church building. Only a small part of it takes place on Sunday mornings.

Part of a deacon's role is to assist in setting the table for Eucharist, to proclaim the Gospel during the service and finally at the Dismissal, to exhort everyone to go out into the world and be Christ's people. Serving you under the guidance of Jessica and Lesley in your beautiful sanctuary with Communion Table in the round provides a deeply intimate forum in which to share the body and blood of Christ, a deeply sacramental experience.

All too quickly our lives changed as we went into lockdown for COVID 19. What a sadness for all. Yet St. Luke's did not stop just because the doors of the church were locked—no indeed. The church, that is all of you dear people who make up this community of Christ, took to the streets and the airwaves, to cell phones and computers, as you continued to be the church and answered the call for compassion and continued to spread Jesus' love in our neighborhoods. You continued to collect food and supply the food pantries, you continued to be the voice in the community as our services went to Zoom, you continued to minister to each other and then stood firmly beside one another in solidarity for equality and social justice for all our hurting people.

I, too, yearn to be back with all of you in person but I also recognize that there are too many of us in very vulnerable positions and we should take our time to make sure no one is hurt in our haste to be together again. It has been a pleasure to be able to serve a few of you in our telephone ministry. We have tried to stay connected in this way and your response has been overwhelmingly positive and the conversations very rich. I thank you for allowing me into your life and entrusting me with your joys and concerns. I am so very privileged to be there for you. You too are present for me. You have welcomed me into your community not as a stranger imposed upon you, but as a new sister you had not met until this moment. Thank you, dear people of St. Luke's, and thank you, Jessica, for embracing a very green deacon intern. Lesley, thank you for guiding me and helping me avoid many missteps. I have learned much about God's love from being a part of St. Luke's these past six months.

Sally Lermond



Interested in Education for Ministry (Efm)?

Education for Ministry (Efm), a program of the School of Theology at Sewanee, is a four-year program to learn more about your faith and help you to discover how best to put that faith into action. The nucleus of the program is the Seminar Group, 6 to 12 participants and a trained mentor, who meet weekly for 2 hours over the course of a nine-month academic year.

The contents of the four years are: Year One: The Hebrew Bible; Year Two: The New Testament; Year Three: Church History; and Year Four: Theology, Ethics, and Interfaith Encounter.

Many members of St. Luke's have participated in Efm over the years. Jenny Bradley, Marie Holbrook, Deb Marks, and Phil Taylor from St. Luke's recently completed Year One and will be continuing along with other participants from our Diocese. We meet at St. James Church in Potomac on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 12 (or via Zoom).

If you are interested or have questions about possibly joining this Efm Seminar Group, please feel free to contact one of the participants. The new Seminar Group will start in September but the deadline for new members to register is August 1.

Phil Taylor

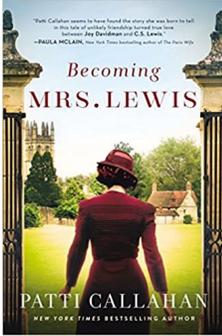


The Labyrinth—A Path to your deepest wisdom

Feeling stressed these days? Walking the Labyrinth quiets the mind, opens the heart, and grounds the body ... Some find answers to questions long asked, some find healing, creativity, a sense of wholeness ... What will you find on your labyrinth journey? To learn more about the labyrinth experience, visit the Veriditas website at <https://veriditas.org/New-to-the-Labyrinth>. Veriditas is a non-profit group dedicated to inspiring personal change and renewal through the labyrinth experience.

The St. Luke's Labyrinth and adjoining gardens are open 24/7. The Garden Guild encourages all parishioners to take advantage of this church asset, especially during these trying times. Please be respectful of others by wearing a mask and maintaining a social distance.

Susie Casson



The Book Lovers July selection

Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Callahan

“Patti Callahan seems to have found the story she was born to tell in this tale of unlikely friendship turned true love between Joy Davidman and C. S. Lewis, that tests the bounds of faith and radically alters both of their lives. Their connection comes to life in Callahan’s expert hands, revealing a connection so persuasive and affecting, we wonder if there’s another like it in history. Luminous and penetrating.”—Paula McLain, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Paris Wife*.

We will meet via **Zoom on July 21 at 7:30 pm** and Dee Barrish will facilitate.

Everyone is welcome! Questions: Contact Nancy Reding.

Nancy Reding

Pollinator Garden

Margaret Roper and Cliff Johnson planted 22 of their beautiful many-colored zinnias in the Pollinator Garden on Monday, June 8.

The garden is doing its thing now as bees and butterflies find flowers there to their liking.

Stop by and see what’s blooming.

Anne Elsbree



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Interfaith Works Donations Needed!

One of the organizations that we support, Interfaith Works, is looking for donations for their Interfaith Homes. These are clients with a history of homelessness who are able to live independently, and receive housing and on-going case management through an incredibly dedicated team of amazing people. Case managers support clients in finding and applying for housing, maintaining their units to continue to live independently, as well as providing referrals and coordinated care with other providers in Montgomery County. Because these clients often live on a very limited income, they are not always able to obtain many of the household items that we can take for granted. Luckily, YOU can help! Suggested items to donate include:

- Household cleaning supplies: multi-surface, glass cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner
- Full-sized shampoo, conditioner, or body wash
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Towels
- Mops and buckets
- Brooms
- Sponges or cleaning brushes/pads
- Towels of all sizes, especially wash clothes
- Queen-sized bedding
- Laundry detergent
- Vacuums
- Hand soap

Donated items can be left at the church, and Miranda Marks will be more than happy to drop them off where clients can get them.

Feel free to contact Miranda with any questions.



Miranda Marks

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Thank You, St. Luke's!

It took some extra time for coordinating, but the goodie-bags we made for the youth on the **Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota** have been delivered.

Earlier in June, the bags—which included a drawing pad, pencils, pencil crayons, and a supportive message from YOU!—were organized and distributed to the youth on the Rosebud.

Way to go, St. Luke's!

Miranda Marks



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



THANK YOU to those who contributed food or cash to Bethesda Help, our local food pantry, for our fellow parishioner Gloria Hamilton's 100th birthday on May 31st!

Our special collection in her honor totaled 216 pounds of food and \$2,575.00!



But the need continues. ***Right now Bethesda Help is especially in need of canned chicken, canned tuna, canned vegetables, and peanut butter.*** St. Luke's will continue to collect food throughout the summer, given the unprecedented demand and current supplier shortages resulting from COVID-19. **Donations will be taken to Bethesda Help on June 24, July 15, July 29, Aug. 12, and Aug. 26.** Other needed items are:

- Grains - instant oatmeal, unsweetened cereal, pasta, rice, mac-n-cheese
- Canned Protein - tuna (5 oz), chicken, salmon, low-sodium beans
- Canned Fruit - peaches, pineapple, pears, mandarin oranges (15 oz in light syrup/juice), also applesauce packs
- Canned Vegetables - green beans, corn, peas (or mixed)
- Other Items - canned spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, shelf-stable milk, jelly in squeeze bottles (no glass or expired containers, please)



There is a secure bin drop-off location at St. Luke's—facing the red doors on Grosvenor, just to the right. (see photo). *The code to the combination locks for both bins is 1-8-0-0; the combination faces upwards for easier access. When you arrive, set the combination to 1800, then push the shackle and lock body together briefly to release and unlock. Remove the lock and place your items in one of the bins. Then unscramble the lock (to anything other than 1800) and lock it again.* The bins will be checked regularly.

If you have questions or prefer to arrange a “safe” pickup, please email Marta Montoro. MANY THANKS to those who have contributed already!

Marta Montoro

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



BISHOP JOHN T. WALKER SCHOOL FOR BOYS

A SCHOOL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Below is a message from James Woody, founding BWS President and Executive Director, as he prepares to retire. St. Luke's has provided financial support and school supplies to BWS for several years, and James last visited us to preach in September 2019. Following are some photos from the school's Administrative Team, who recently visited the homes of each graduating 5th grade scholar to celebrate with their Certificate of Promotion.

Note: please watch the E-News later in the summer for how we can further support the BWS community as plans for the next school year are finalized.



A Farewell Message from James Woody

When the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys (BWS) first opened its doors to students in 2008, the country was in the throes of the Great Recession—a devastating economic downturn that caused countless people to lose their life savings, jobs, and homes. Tragically, twelve years later, the world is enmeshed in a global pandemic that threatens the health and well-being of millions, straining world economies, and rapidly upending the way we live our lives.

In the decade and a quarter between these two cataclysmic moments, the Bishop Walker School became a place of refuge for boys whose lives are often buffeted by treacherous storms, even when the world around them appears peaceful and prosperous.

At BWS, many unsung heroes have worked faithfully and anonymously, performing tasks for which they've gained little acclaim. While I am exceedingly grateful for each individual and group that has toiled and sacrificed over these years, I owe a singular debt of gratitude to one person in particular. Valerie, my wife of 45 years, has been—in addition to a keen chronicler of the school's history through her professional photography services—the anchor who has kept me grounded to our mission. When I look back across all the special moments, both monumental and mundane, I will see her fingerprints on each one and cherish how she chose to immerse herself so fully in the fulfillment of my calling.

As I conclude my tenure at BWS, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to play a part in such an audacious undertaking. I am honored to have gotten to know so many of you and will think of you often. The school is on solid footing and I leave it in strong, capable hands. By the grace of God and with your continued support, BWS will weather this current crisis, just as it withstood the one during which we were launched. The boys who look to us for refuge are counting on you to provide an anchor that will hold them fast as they cling to their dreams of a future full of promise and possibility. I know their trust is well-placed, and look forward to cheering everyone on as you continue the important work that has both inspired and united us.

*James R. Woody
Executive Director and President*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bishop Walker 5th Grade Graduation!



FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT MAY 2020

	2019	2020	'20 Actual	% of '20
	Actual	Budget	Thru May	Budget *
RECEIPTS				
Offering Plate	\$ 18,175	\$ 20,000	\$ 17,194	86.0%
Pledge Payments	479,984	460,000	299,237	65.1%
Donations for Facilities	49,796	48,000	14,375	29.9%
Altar Flower Donations	4,825	5,000	466	9.3%
Miscellaneous	186		38	
Operating Receipts	552,966	533,000	331,310	62.2%
EXPENSES				
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 308,102	\$ 324,214	\$ 131,919	40.7%
Program Support	18,418	25,000	4,019	16.1%
Parish Operations	107,090	123,900	44,817	36.2%
Outreach	22,527	22,000	8,112	36.9%
Diocesan Giving	50,139	52,000	17,340	33.3%
Operating Expenses	506,276	547,114	206,207	37.7%
Surplus/(Deficit)	46,690	(14,114)	125,103	
Additional Funding – 2019 surplus	0	14,114	0	
Net income	\$ 46,690	\$ 0	\$ 125,103	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE

\$79,629

* YTD MAY = 42% of the year

Budget Analysis: Thank you! Your continued support is very impressive as we all manage through challenging times.

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

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Zoom Service Joseph	29	30 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	1 12:00 PM Zoom Service	2	3 Men's Shelter Dinner	4 FOURTH OF JULY
5 9:00 AM Zoom Service Freedom for All Sunday; Moses	6	7 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	8 12:00 PM Zoom Service	9	10	11 9:00 AM Garden Guild Work day 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers
12 9:00 AM Zoom Service Samuel, David, and Solomon	13 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	14 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	15 12:00 PM Zoom Service	16	17	18 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers
19 9:00 AM Zoom Service Esther	20 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	21 1:20 PM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Book Lovers	22 12:00 PM Zoom Service	23	24	25 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers
26 9:00 AM Zoom Service Job	27	28 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	29 12:00 PM Zoom Service	30	31	1 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers

The calendar was accurate at publication.
 All events can change at a moment's notice.

For further details, check the calendar on the church website

CALENDAR

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 AM Zoom Service Job	27	28 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	29 12:00 PM Zoom Service	30	31	1 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers
2 9:00 AM Zoom Service Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego	3	4 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	5 12:00 PM Zoom Service	6	7 Men's Shelter Dinner	8 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers
9 9:00 AM Zoom Service Jonah	10 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	11 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	12 12:00 PM Zoom Service	13	14	15 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers
16 9:00 AM Zoom Service Jerusalem	17 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	18 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	19 12:00 PM Zoom Service	20	21	22 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers
23 9:00 AM Zoom Service Creation 1	24	25 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	26 12:00 PM Zoom Service	27	28	29 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers
30 9:00 AM Zoom Service Creation 2	31	1 1:20 PM Staff Meeting	2 12:00 PM Zoom Service	3	4 Men's Shelter Dinner	5 5:00 PM Zoom Prayers

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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 & August.

ACTS Deadline: 15th of the preceding month



A beauty from the
Labyrinth

Itoh peony