I hope you are all well.

Since the last issue of the Messenger in May, a lot has happened. At the end of May, we received the go ahead to begin opening up the Church to parishioners. Your Parish Council along with medical professionals worked diligently to create a Parish Safety Plan that would not only keep people safe, but also for people to recognize this. And, thank God, this is being done. Thank you for supporting the Safety Plan; in this way you show love for your fellow parishioners.*

I am pleased to say that so many of you have commented how wonderful it is to be back to Church, to be there for Liturgy, and of course, to receive the most Holy and precious Body and Blood of Christ, “for forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.”

This is wonderful for me, too. As you know I missed seeing you. It was, I thought, providential that we re-opened on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit breathes into us not only new life, but also courage. In the Acts of the Apostles, we hear that Peter, who was once timid and afraid, “found his voice” (Acts 2. 14) and proclaimed the Lord Jesus.

We have been given a Spirit of courage, not of fear. We have a voice we have been given to speak; let us be bold in Christ!

About the same time as many churches were reopening, a new wound, on top of the lockdowns and the job losses, entered the land. In the past month, we learned of the death of a man named George Floyd. In the wake of his death, caught on video, our country has experienced protests, as well as rioting. In the past few weeks, many monuments and statues of historical persons have been taken down.
**Bible Study**  Tuesday @ 6:30PM/ Friday @ 11:00AM  (unless otherwise stipulated)

**Orthodox Life**- Weds 6:30p

**Council Meetings**  2nd Monday of the month @ 7:00 PM (unless otherwise stipulated)

**Dance Practice**  TBA

**Loaves and Fishes**  Pick up on the 3rd Friday of the month

**Knitting**  1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month @10:30 (unless otherwise stipulated)

**Romeos and Juliettes**  4th Thursday of the month (unless otherwise stipulated)

**Choir**  Thursday @ 6:30 PM  (September 10th - June 10th)  (unless otherwise stipulated)

**GOYA**  3rd Sunday of the month following Liturgy (unless otherwise stipulated)

**JOY**  3rd Friday of the month  6pm-7:30 unless otherwise announced

**Endowment Meeting**  2nd Tuesday @ 6:30

**40 to 4 Club/Hope**- seeking a volunteer coordinator and meetings TBA

**Miles to Smiles**- Walking Ministry, TBA

**Health Ministry**- Monthly Blood Pressure during coffee hour, TBA

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**Pastor- Fr. Panteleimon Klostri**

**2020 Parish Council**
Ron Rookey — President
Judy Lelas-George — Vice President
Joseph Dasco — Treasurer
Nicles Lefakis — Recording Secretary
Rosanne Desaults
John Foscolos
Harry Georgiades
Assaad Hallak
George Katsoulis
Nick Vamvilis

**President** - Maria Londo
**Vice President** - Melissa Kaitis
**Treasurer** - Vaceleci Zaharis
**Secretary** - Rosanne Desaults
**Corresponding Secretary** - Evangelia Tsikrikis
**Past President/Advisor** - Dorsey Cokkinias

**Philoptochos**
President - Maria Londo
Vice President - Melissa Kaitis
Treasurer - Vaceleci Zaharis
Secretary - Rosanne Desaults
Corresponding Secretary - Evangelia Tsikrikis
Past President/Advisor - Dorsey Cokkinias

**Ministries**

**Chanters** - Aristidis Zaharis and Damian Zaharis

**Choir Director** - Toni Rizas  **Organist**- Kristen Flanagan

**Endowment Fund** - James Bologa

**GOYA Advisor** - Jennifer Russell

**JOY Advisor** - Sarah Kirchner

**Memorials** - Maria Laware

**Messenger** - Editor - Need a Volunteer  
Co-editor Presvytera Eleni

**Stewardship Chairs** - Joe and Meghan Dasco

**Sunday School Director** - Christina Nikolis

**Welcome Committee** — Judy Lelas-George, Maria Laware, Parris Ochsner, Ron Rookey

**Facilities Committee** - Nicles Lefakis

**Church Secretary**- Paula Assad

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**O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with our Merciful God, that He may grant our souls remission of sins**

— Apolytikion of Saint Luke
Orthodox Resources on Race & Reconciliation

There are some very good resources on race and reconciliation by Orthodox Christian priests in the United States.

The Fellowship of Saint Moses the Black, named after the Desert Father known for his repentance and humility, provides resources, as well as an annual conference and books, for those who wish to learn more about the Orthodox Christian approach to reconciliation.

You may visit the Fellowship at mosestheblack.org

In addition, the following site is dedicated to Orthodox Christians in Africa, and provides articles on reconciliation and the African history of Christianity and great African saints:

http://grforafrica.blogspot.com

Father Moses Berry tells the story of when he first entered an Orthodox Church and how he experienced flowers in “The Garden” his mother always told him about:

https://youtu.be/FneNd9UvC_g

- The country is torn. It is wounded grievously. And there is confusion about what the future holds. In a situation like this, platitudes are not enough. However, there seems to be no capacity for dialogue.

- I am reminded of the story in Genesis, where Isaac would look for water and, upon finding it, establish a well. Abimelech and his men would come and force Isaac away. Isaac never fought back, he just moved. This amazed Abimelech, who wanted to understand why Isaac did not fight back. They eventually met and established a treaty between the two men and their families. We learn then that, upon concluding the peace treaty, Isaac’s family found more water (Genesis 26. 26 – 33).

- There is enough on this planet for everyone. I am convinced that, were we to see each other as co-sojourners on this Earth, not appropriating it but sharing its bounty, then miracles would happen and we would all have what we needed. If you can share this message of Genesis, and help one another see that, we not only harm one another but wound the land by our actions, perhaps we can begin to talk to one another.

- Finally, I wish to end with good news and congratulate two of our graduates. Nico Christakos graduated high school and will study Environmental Science at the University of Vermont; Nicole Vamvilis completed her Masters in Elementary Education from Westfield State University. Well done! We are proud of you!

- May God bless you! Stay safe and keep praying!

+ Fr. Panteleimon

* Please contact Paula M-F from 9 - 1 to indicate you will be attending Liturgy so we can prepare. Thank you!
Dear Fellow Parishioners,

On behalf of myself and the entire council, we welcome everyone in celebrating the re-opening of our beloved St. Luke’s Church.

While we continue to experience the frightening reality of COVID19 and the recent societal unrest of the past few weeks, for myself and hopefully for everyone we can take comfort knowing that our church is open once again to provide sanctuary and solace from the current worries and the ones that were once considered routine.

As you may have heard, after painstaking discussions with our Dancing with Heart and Taste of Greece committees, the Council has voted to have these events canceled in 2020 in light of the pandemic. The cancellation of both these events means we are anticipating approximately $100,000 in lost revenue for the year.

While this is a very concerning matter, it also provides our community with the opportunity to come together and develop new creative ideas for generating revenue and guarantee the future success of our community. We invite anyone with ideas or who is willing to contribute their time to these new challenges to contact any council member or Father.

Thanking everyone in advance for your help and ideas. We can only be successful with everyone’s help.

We will provide more details on additional matters in the near future.

Welcome back everyone. May God Bless us all.

Sincerely,

Ron Rookey
Parish Council President

The ladies of St. Luke Philoptochos Society although apart are still together fulfilling their mission of Philanthropy. Our chapter has continued to keep current our monthly obligations to both the National Philoptochos and the Metropolis, along with submitting our chapter’s membership dues for the upcoming year. We are proud to announce that although we are going through a very difficult time 63 members have pledged their support to our chapter. The generosity within our St. Luke community allowed for our chapter to disburse funds of $250 to each of the following local organizations: Mass Food Bank, The Springfield Rescue Mission and the Enfield Food Shelf. These institutions are addressing daily, food insecurity just one of the many challenges our communities are faced with because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ministry will also provide the meal for Loaves and Fishes for the month of July. In closing, please know that we miss our family at St. Luke and look forward to welcoming our beloved parishioners back to our table in the fellowship hall when it’s safe to do so. God Bless.

Philoptochos
Dear St. Luke Parishioner,

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all of you who have continued to send in your stewardship donations throughout this time of the pandemic even while our church has been closed. The costs to operate the church haven’t stopped and we are so grateful that you have kept the support of our church a priority.

As of June 7, we are so happy and relieved that our beloved St. Luke is now open and following CDC guidelines to have safe practices during weekly liturgy. Hopefully we are getting closer to back to “normal.”

Maybe it is not a coincidence that this year’s Stewardship theme is: A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven. We have considered that now in 2020, maybe God has a specific message for all of us who have been too busy, too stressed, too much in a rush, too focused on themselves and too far away from our morals and values. Now that we’ve been forced to quarantine, to stay home, to slow down, maybe we now have the time to come back to what’s important. Let us consider some positive side-effects of this pandemic. Relationships have strengthened, we have had regular family dinners, called friends who have been out of touch, and used technology and social media to “see” each other. We have all learned and initiated lifestyle changes in personal hygiene. There have been positive outcomes in our environment with less air traffic, less commuting and less manufacturing. Have you noticed how blue the sky has been lately and how vibrant the flowers have bloomed this year?! There are negative and positive forces at work, but with the verse from Ecclesiastes, we are reminded to experience them all.

Now that it is official that we have had to cancel our Taste of Greece and Dancing with Heart for 2020, please be mindful that we depend on your stewardship contributions to help make up the shortfall we will experience. Many of you are now using our online giving option which can be accessed via our website. It is simple and can also be used to make regular gifts to St. Luke. Thank you!!

Yours in Christ,

Joe and Meghan Dasco
co-chairs, Stewardship Committee
Treasurer's Report

Summary of Our Financial Statement for the Five Month Period Ending May 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan-May 2019</th>
<th>Jan-May 2020</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship*</td>
<td>$69,071</td>
<td>$70,669</td>
<td>$1,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loose Offerings (candles, collection, etc.)**</td>
<td>$13,816</td>
<td>$7,566</td>
<td>$(6,250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing With Heart***</td>
<td>$44,852</td>
<td>$12,207</td>
<td>$(32,645)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$22,548</td>
<td>$21,984</td>
<td>$(564)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$150,287</td>
<td>$112,426</td>
<td>$(37,861)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong>*</td>
<td>$154,692</td>
<td>$124,703</td>
<td>$(29,989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income (Deficit)</td>
<td>$(4,405)</td>
<td>$(12,277)</td>
<td>$(7,872)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As of May 31, 2020 we had 154 parishioners giving a total of $70,669 towards Stewardship. In 2019 for the same period ending we had 147 parishioners giving a total of $69,071 towards Stewardship. There are approximately 25 parishioners who still have not given towards Stewardship in 2020.

** As highlighted above, while we have been able to maintain our Stewardship giving, loose offerings are down 50% due to the Pandemic.

*** Total expenses are down primarily due to the fact that in 2019 we held our DWH event which incurred $18,596 of total expenses. In 2020 while this event in now canceled we still incurred $5,540 of expenses offset by ticket sales collected. In addition our utilities and building/property maintenance are down by approximately $12,000 in 2020.

A Story of Faith

A True Story by Leo Michaels

A lot of discussions and opinions, even some non-sense regulations, have been with us - on and off - concerning the hygienic aspect of Holy Communion. It is not my intention to elaborate on the subject and neither am I qualified to discuss the dogmatic and theological aspect of it. I would only state for the moment that as I believe that when I receive Holy Communion, I receive the blood and body of the Lord, it has never occurred to me that there should be any health issues to worry about. The purpose of this article is to show that disease and Holy Communion have NOTHING in common.

As many of you may know, my father was a priest and I grew up literally in the church. I could chant hymns before I could hold a conversation. My earliest childhood memories are around the services of the church.

During my first five years of life, between 1935 and 1940, my father was the chaplain of the Sanatorium for Lepers on the Island of Chios, where there was a church, Saint Lazarus, and my father performed all the services there for the inmates, including Holy Communion. Science has cured the dreadful disease of leprosy since a few decades ago and it is now almost extinct, but back in the 1930s it was still a health hazard. You may not know the symptoms or conditions of this extremely communicable disease, except from what you may have learned from the Bible, where there are well known stories and documentation of isolation of the lepers to keep them away from the population. Some of the symptoms are characterized by deformation of facial features and actual loss of small body parts, such as fingers and toes. I personally saw some of them and still remember the anguish in their faces.

The church of Saint Lazarus was open to the public and many neighbors came to the services, all of which as well the Staff of the Institution, myself and my family received Holy Communion from the same chalice as the lepers. None of us ever got sick. But what about my father? He had to consume the leftover Holy Communion. Well, he lived a healthy life and died at 95!

But that is not the end of the story. The resident doctor was an atheist and he was sarcastic about my father consuming the leftover Holy Communion. He was spreading rumors that my father was actually hiding in the altar and spilling it down the sink! And, to prove his point, one day after my father had administered Holy Communion to the inmates, the doctor hid himself behind a curtain and waited to see what my father would do. When he witnessed the Katalysis, the consumption of the leftover Holy Communion, by my father, a miracle took place: the atheist doctor became a believer!

Epilogue.

In 1940 my father was “promoted” to the position of chaplain of the City of Chios General Hospital and performed all the services at the hospital chapel of Saint Stephen, where he remained until his retirement. During this time, my father was administering Holy Communion to all the patients of the hospital, some of whom had a more extremely communicable disease, namely tuberculosis. Need I say more?

I have lived my life through the inspiration of my father’s faith. May he rest in peace!
**Sunday School**

Zoom Sunday School was continued and completed with sessions being held on Thursday afternoons. Separate sessions for primary, grade school and high school students. We wish to acknowledge several students who were exemplary in their attendance and interactions.

Sophia Lopes
Aris and Antonia Zaharis
Ella
Charlie and Luke Rizas
Lukas, Jason and Teddy Piacentini
George, Nicholas and Demitri Kedas
Ryan Clay
Peter and Alex Krzywicki

In addition to these students - we would like to compliment their mothers!!!
Keeping the children on track and attending to schoolwork and church was no easy task through the pandemic months. You are amazing ladies.

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**Ushering Ministry**

Please call the church office if you are interested to assisting on ushering duties on Sundays.

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**Loaves & Fishes**

We wish to thank all our parishioners for serving this ministry.
Food was purchased and delivered to maintain COVID restrictions.

June- The Klostri, Antonopolous and Antiaris Families
July- Philoptochos Committee

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**FROM THE CHOIR LOFT**

Hope everyone is well and staying safe.
As of now, we do not have a return date for choir to resume. Let’s keep each other in thoughts and prayers.

Miss you all!  Toni

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Proper ways to wear your mask for your safety and the safety of others.

“Bear one another’s burdens and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ”

Galatians 6.2
Vicki and I felt that it would be a great idea if we could get some of our seniors together for a "parking lot get together". Being alone in their apartments with the "stay at home" edit (as well as their families' orders!), made for a very lonely stretch of time. In keeping with the guideline of a 10 person limit for gatherings, we figured that those seniors who sat at the tables that stay after coffee hour until 3:00 in the afternoon would be a good place to start. Telephone calls were made and were received with a "YES"! They came with masks, lunches, and drinks in hand along with a chair if they had one. Extra chairs and umbrellas for the sun were available for them also. Some were a little confused at the reason for the gathering at first. Doris asked..."Why are we here...do you have something that you want to tell us or something you want us to do?" But they soon got the hang of it, and sat around and chatted for a couple of hours. i don’t know who got the most out of the afternoon...them for the chance to be together or us for the chance to see them enjoying the time with each other.

judy
Hello to my St. Luke Family,

I would like to express my heartfelt thank you to all of you that participated in my wonderful drive-by parade on May 3rd. I very much appreciate all of the birthday wishes expressed in words, decorations, cards and notes! It was quite a surprise for me and a pleasurable, fun day. I really wasn’t prepared for such a showing of love and admiration! Leave it to my daughter Kathy to come up with something to replace the original surprise party that she had to cancel because of the coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately we all stayed out of danger of getting the virus and got to see one another, which we all miss so much. It sure was a site to behold! So thanks again to everyone that was there for me. I love you all and I’m (we’re) blessed for our St. Luke community, as well as my other family and friends. I don’t think I’ll be able to make my 91st, but if I do maybe we could try again!! Haha!

I do wish this virus would pass soon, but at least we’re all trying to do the right thing for the safety of everyone. I look forward to seeing everyone in the near future. Thanks again and God bless you all.

Love & Kisses, Bea

We wish to congratulate Dorsey Cokkinias, our 2020 Metropolis Ministry Award Recipient!

Dorsey has been involved in a mosaic of parish ministries since the beginning of Saint Luke Church. As one of the earliest parishioners, Dorsey was a valued member of the parishes 10th year anniversary celebration, as well as the Consecration committee in 1988. She has served on the parish council, as well as a member and leader of the parish philoptochos chapter. When a parishioner is called by the Lord, Dorsey prepares the bereavement gift. In the past few years she has applied her talents to organizing and spearheading Dancing with Heart, a large fundraiser to benefit the Shriner’s Hospital for Children in Springfield, MA and St Luke Greek Orthodox Church. This outreach effort has involved numerous public and private enterprises in Western MA and has helped provide medical care for children. Dancing with Heart is a respected outreach and we congratulate Dorsey for this!

Dorsey is a dynamic, engaging and bright woman who is loved and appreciated by her community and church. Dorsey, you are a gift to us all.
Dancing With Heart

Dancing With Heart - 2021

Due to the guidelines set by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the CDC stating the health and safety edicts that have been put in place, “Dancing With Heart -2020” has been postponed until Saturday, May 8, 2021. We hope that this date will allow us to enjoy an evening of fun and entertainment without worry. All donation monies, dance lesson monies, program book monies, and ticket monies will be held in place until then and honored at that time. Please mark your calendars with this new date. Updates will continue to be available throughout the coming months.

Thank you in advance as we realize that this is a time at which we all need to understand the depth of the situation and work together to control its spread.

Thank You,

Judy Lelas-George and Dorsey Cokkinias

Co-Chairs of “Dancing With Heart -2021”
Keeping our parishioners safe and the church clean and disinfected involves a lot of work. We are so very grateful to Bob Granger for the many hours he has given (gratis) to keep us safe. God bless you, Bob!

We appreciate you!

We wish to congratulate all the Dads!!

Also to congratulate our two newest fathers in the community

Kevin Bailey and Greg Laware

Both received with their lovely wives, beautiful daughters who recently were welcomed into the church with their 40 day blessings.

God Bless these new sweet families!
Memorials

In memory of Kathy Rodolakis
Catherine Darmochwat
Mary Poulos
Irene Sergentanis
Peter and Lanie Alexopoulos
George and Magda Galiatsos
Tom and Kathy Themistos
Elaina Mendrala
Mary Ann Rodolakis
William and Louise Leventis
Gregory and Katerina Laware
Joe and Meghan Dasco
Anita and John Themistos
Tom and Maria Laware
Vicki and Lou LaRoche
The St. Luke Knitters
Victor and Mary Galiatsos
Chris and Eleni Bazos
Pat Vamvilis
Thia Ploubides
Tina Katsounakis
Vange and Jordan Chatis
Doris Henault
Kiki Trial
Helen Kostas
Joseph and Christine Babineau
Patricia and Luciano Grimaldi
Ann Flynn
Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Papas
Kiki Coidakis
Patricia and John McLaughlin
Efstathia Fisher
Timothy and Mary-Beth McNair
Bernard and Kalliopi Szostek
Monica and Kevin Bradlee
Pat and Peter Fecke
Stamos and Sara Metzidakis
Connie and George Manioudakis
Angelo Metzidakis
Collette Maguire

In memory of Tula Karamallis
Anita and John Themistos
Tom and Kathy Themistos
Mary Poulos
Nick Votze
Ann Flynn
Vange and Jordan Chatis
Domma Moropoulos
Joe and Meghan Dasco
Helen Kostas
Patricia and Luciano Grimaldi

In memory of Charles Bonatakis, Sr.
Anita and John Themistos
Mary Poulos
Nick Votze
Ann Flynn
Vange and Jordan Chatis
Joe and Meghan Dasco
Victor and Mary Galiatsos
Brendan Reilly
Martha and Jerry Pangakis
William and Marlene Pepin
Paul and Jeanne Marie Phaneuf
Helen and Nicholas Stavarakis
Lynn Kuseliad
Cretans Association Minos Crete Inv.
Carolyn Beaudin

In memory of John Pappas
Doris Henault

In memory of Bessie Metzidakis
George and Magda Galiatsos

In memory of Emilies Mavroudis
Ann Flynn

In memory of Michael Pahos
Ann Flynn

In memory of Michael Papadopoulos
Ann Flynn

In memory of Christos Tapases
Ann Flynn
Tom and Kathy Themistos
Sylvia and John Cardone
Kiki Trial

In memory of Ann Votze
Nick Votze

In memory of Angelo Bilionis
Nona Bilionis

In memory of Harry Malandrinos
Doris Henault

In memory of Sue Lemnios
Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Papas

In memory of Anthony Heropoulos
Tom and Maria Laware

May Her Memory Be Eternal

Katherine (Spanos) Rodolakis fell asleep in the Lord on May 12. Her funeral was on May 16, 2020. May her memory be eternal!