Dear Saint Luke Parishioners,

We are in October, and on Sunday the 18th we will celebrate the Feast day of our beloved community, named in honor of our patron, Saint Luke the Evangelist.

Every parish church is meant and called to model the Kingdom of God. This is seen in our approach to one another, in the capacity we have for mutual love and fellowship, as well as our capacity for forgiveness.

In the early church, the sign of this new anticipatory life was in the Eucharist. It is still this today, and will be, until the Parousia (Second Coming). Gathered in table fellowship, the early Christians shared a meal and looked forward to the great Messianic banquet (Isaiah 25). We read:

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
  a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
  of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
  the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
  the sheet that is spread over all nations;
his will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
  and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
  for the Lord has spoken.
**Pastor- Fr. Panteleimon Klostri**

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

**Philochochos**
- President - Maria Londo
- Vice President - Melissa Kaitis
- Treasurer - Vaceleci Zaharis
- Secretary - Rosanne Desautels
- 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** - Volunteers Needed!
- **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

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**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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O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with our Merciful God, that He may grant our souls remission of sins
— Apolytikion of Saint Luke
It will be said on that day,
   Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

   This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.
   For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain

Paradise is presented as residing on a mountain, but that’s because the earthly Jerusalem is on a hill. In other words, Paradise is in the “high places.”

But notice the reference to the rich foods, to God’s personal comfort (He will wipe away the tears from all our faces), and the rejoicing of the people: “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, so that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited.”

Yes, in Paradise, God will comfort those who have been abused, neglected, mistreated, oppressed, and forgotten. No one will be alone in His Kingdom. The Father of all will save His people and bring them to rest and everlasting joy.

We have to share this Good News with one another. We have had enough of the other language, the “spirit of this world,” that is the language of fear, isolation, and distrust in God’s saving power.

Let us read the promise we find in Isaiah and re-read it. Do this every day until you memorize it and it is inscribed in your hearts.

With love in our Savior Christ Jesus,
   Fr. Panteleimon

Feast
Saint Luke came from the city of Antioch, probably of a pagan family. From his youth he applied himself to seek after wisdom and to study the arts and sciences. He traveled all over the world to quench his thirst for knowledge, and had particular skill as a physician and in painting. The Gospel he wrote shows his excellent command of Greek; he also knew Hebrew and Aramaic. There is a tradition that Luke was one of the Seventy Disciples that the Lord Jesus Christ sent before Him, two by two, to announce salvation in the towns and villages. Luke was in Jerusalem at the time of the life-giving Passion and, on Easter morning, walked with Cleopas (October 30) towards the village of Emmaus, distraught at the loss of the Master. But sadness was turned into unspeakable joy when Christ, whom they were unable to recognize when He joined them on the way, revealed to them in the breaking of bread that He was really and truly risen (Luke 24:35). After the descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Luke remained for a time in Jerusalem where there were already disciples. . . . It was . . . at Antioch where he met Saint Paul in the course of his second missionary journey and accompanied him thence to proclaim salvation in Greece.
Hello fellow parishioners, hope you and your loved ones are well.

Let me start by congratulating our Covid safety committee for an outstanding job of setting up our safety protocols and their continued monitoring of this very stressful and time-consuming task.

With 2 months left for the year, not only are the holidays approaching, this is also when our parish begins the process of nominating current or new candidates for the parish council. This year I want to thank Anthony Antonopoulos, George Katsoulis and Harry Georgiades for volunteering to head the Nominating Committee. If you’re interested, please leave a message with Paula or contact myself or the Committee directly.

With regards to the virtual Basile show coming up on Nov. 6, I find it concerning with the lack of response we have received from our community. I hope as we get closer to the show date we will see more enthusiasm for this unique event.

Since I am on this subject, another concern is the lack of response to the holiday bake sale. As I stated in my robo-call, with the Covid situation, many of our past volunteers are unable to help. As of this letter, no more then 5 or 6 parishioners have offered to help. Even if you only have one hour to volunteer, any amount of time is important!

Lastly, the General Assembly meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, November 15 immediately following Liturgy. Everyone will receive reports 10 days prior to the meeting. In closing, this letter is not intended to offend anyone, but there are times I think we can all use some extra encouragement! God Bless, Parish Council President Ron Rookey

The Definition of Strange…..

“something that is unusual in a way that is unsettling or hard to understand; something not previously encountered; something that is unfamiliar”

Unsettling…Unfamiliar…Not previously encountered

These feelings are not uncommon to many of us as we find ourselves traveling through this COVID-19 Pandemic. Who would ever have thought that we would be looking at a sea of masks wherever we went; that our children would be going to school via remote learning; that we have to greet family and friends with an elbow instead of a kiss or hug...AND that we would have to pick up the phone to call the office to make arrangements to come to church on Sunday?

We were thrilled when the guidelines allowed us to open our doors to our parishioners and we worked hard to follow those guidelines to ensure that everyone coming felt safe. And thankfully, we are successful.

We appreciate the help we are getting to continue this feeling of safety. Strange to have to call the office to let us know you’ll be coming...yes. Strange to have us ask if you’ll be alone or with your family...yes. Our job is to assign seating according to the safety guidelines, and seating accommodations change accordingly due to numbers and proximity to others. So, continue to call ahead if you have been and try to do so if you haven’t.

Calls for seating should be made any time during the week by speaking to Paula (M-W-F 9:00 - 1:00); leaving a phone message; or sending an email. We appreciate your help!
“Well, that felt great!” Those were the words that resonated within me while leaving our most recent in person Philoptochos meeting. It’s been months of conference calls, texting, e-mails and even one meeting taking place from the hatchbacks of our socially distanced SUV’s within the church parking lot. This pandemic has certainly challenged us on many levels but somehow Philoptochos is determined to find normalcy among the chaos.

The new normal requires a lot more patience and planning. With that said, many of the campaigns we would have already completed by now have either been placed on hold or moved to a later date for further revisions adhering to the COVID guidelines. This is not an indication that the completion of these treasured campaigns will be lost just moved to accommodate a more convenient timeframe.

In the coming weeks Philoptochos will be sending out a bulk mailer including giving opportunities for the fall and winter campaigns. Please review this information carefully as some of the campaigns, such as the Christmas Card will require a deadline. Some deadlines may seem somewhat early but this is to allow for unexpected delays due to the current pandemic.

Board members will be available in the Narthex after liturgy to assist with questions regarding the upcoming fall and winter campaigns. Following liturgy packaged Kouloria will be available to parishioners while supplies last. Blessing Bags to support the homeless are also available for parishioners to assist in distributing to those individuals at risk within our local communities.

Again, with the support of the St. Luke Knitting Club we are calling on all creative knitters and crocheters within our community to help support the hat, mitten, glove and scarf tree. With the cold weather coming some of our neighbors are in need of these crucial items. All sizes, and color combinations are welcome!

Do you like to cook? Have a NOT so secret family recipe you’d like to share? If your answer is YES, we need your HELP! Philoptochos will be sponsoring and producing a NEW Lenten Cookbook!! This exciting adventure starts NOW! Please gather all your favorite lenten recipes in preparation. Further information will be forthcoming.

A special thank you to Vicki Laroche for continuing to protect, yet still serve and support our shut in’s. Your kindness never goes unnoticed. You bring joy, love, and hope to the most vulnerable within our community.

Lastly, Philoptochos will be requesting endowment funds to meet future fundraising goals, support ongoing campaigns, and to establish new events. To date we have been extremely fortunate to keep current all commitments to both the National Philoptochos and Metropolis. Without your continued support both spiritually and financially the Philoptochos ministry would not be possible.

God Bless,
The Philoptochos Board
Dear Fellow Parishioner;

Believe it or not, we are well into the fourth quarter of the year. Certainly, 2020 has brought challenges not ever imagined to our parish, our community, our country and the world. Even considering all of these difficulties, we are resilient and we have hope for a better future.

At St. Luke’s we have always depended on our big fundraisers such as Dancing With Heart and The Taste of Greece to generate the funds we need to pay our bills. However, this year, it is not possible to host these events in the midst of a pandemic. We now rely on you, our devoted St. Luke stewards to generate the funds needed to keep our doors open. Truly, this is the true meaning of stewardship. It is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence and responsibility before God. It is about offering Time, Talent and Treasure. We make this commitment to God and to our parish, and in turn we are blessed. The fundraisers we put so much effort into are wonderful examples of our Time and Talent, but really, they should not be depended upon to pay our bills. Ideally, the church fundraiser is a charitable source of community outreach and an opportunity for fellowship.

Next month we will introduce our 2021 Stewardship campaign, “…the greatest of these is love.” Archbishop Elpidophoros of America has commented on the 2021 theme as saying, “My hope is that we will seize the opportunity that is literally being forced upon us, to become more altruistic, more compassionate toward others, more patience, and indeed more faithful.” As this difficult year comes to a close, it is joyful to be reminded of Jesus’ teaching that we should love and show compassion for one another.

If you have not done so already, now is the time to fulfill your 2020 stewardship commitment. There are still many of you whom we have not heard from. Also, please be reminded that our website stlukego.org has a ‘donate’ tab for your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Joe and Meghan Dasco
co-chairs Stewardship Committee
Our next GOYA event will be on Sunday, October 25 at 2:30 pm. We will be going to Laughing Brook for some hiking and socially distant activities.

Also, we are asking parents to volunteer to facilitate an event each month. We are looking for a November volunteer. In December, we will be singing outside Christmas Carols at Chestnut Hill Nursing Home of East Longmeadow, MA.

Hello Sunday School Families,
I pray you are all well during this time. I am very excited to announce that we will be having Sunday School this year! Sunday school will be using a hybrid model where we will be having one in-person class per week. This will take place in the Parish Hall which allows for students to spread out. The other grades will have Zoom meetings from home with their teachers after church is over. Typically this will begin around 11:30, however, you will learn more once you have registered your child and connected with their teacher. The anticipated start date is Sunday, October 25th!

Sunday school teachers understand that this can be a scary time. We want you to know that we feel this is the safest way to teach our children moving forward. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Father Panteleimon or me at (860) 836-7524 or through email at ChristinaNikolis@gmail.com. Thank you, Christina Nikolis
Have you gotten your ticket yet to join in on the virtual, live, and interactive comedy concert?

It’s easy:

• Go to stlukego.org and you will see Basile
• Click on Eventbrite
• Click on tickets and indicate how many
• Continue and input your email address and credit card information
• You’re DONE!

You will receive the zoom link and password 24 hours prior to the show on your email.

On the evening of the show, when you click on your Zoom link, you will see Basile and the 5 people from the Greek community that will interact with him. What fun to see and hear your friends interact and share their stories with everyone.

Please don’t delay, secure your spot for some laughs and more importantly to support our beloved St. Luke.

With love, joy, and peace,

Parris Ochsner
1-413-224-1416
Event Chairperson
Thank you so very much for this very generous gift that was very much needed. We donated some to St. Jude Children's Hospital. Our family donated the extra $300 to Boston Children’s Hospital. They have not only cared for one of us but {as I recall} others members of the St. Luke’s community. They are truly a special hospital working to save childrens lives and this extra donation complements what we have already given and continue!

Our friend an neighbor lost her husband in a tragic accident two years ago. We reached out to her to get her opinion on Mary's Place, a non-profit that helps children heal after losing a parent. She shared she has put her children into private therapy, and could not provide a reference. After thinking hard and long, it came to us to give our neighbor the gift directly to help pay for her children's therapy. Having lost my dad when I was a child, I knew how important grieving is and having professional help.

[I was/We were] able to provide a nice dinner for our brother for his new baby's welcome home. Our A/C broke amid the extreme heat wave and we didn't have money for a new one. We were able to get one.

Great idea! We tripled the donation and gave to the Springfield Rescue Mission.

Donated it to St. Francis House, which I know does good work. Was able to do it when they were having a matching gift office, so it in effect was doubled!

I sent a $500 donation to the charity Unbound. It's an international Christian organization that helps vulnerable children and families. I have sponsored 2 young girls many years in Guatemala. I feel the need is great to share with people who have to struggle for basics just to exist.

Donated to Springfield Together, Inc. Provides healthy foods for elementary school families in need. This organization was beyond grateful! The need is so great with the pandemic. Thank you St. Luke Endowment Fund!

I donated $300 to Charity Water. 100% of donation goes to funding clean water projects. Everybody deserves clean water.
Congratulations

Nicole (Vamvilis) and Justin Andrews on the 40-day blessing of their baby Callie Nicole!

Congratulations to Melissa (Vamvilis) and Kevin Bailey on the baptism of their daughter Camille Anna on September 27. Congratulations to Godfather Taki and honorary sponsor Kennen

May Saint Luke always intercede and be with all of you!

We wish to congratulate Tarah and Steve- the new Mr and Mrs Pappas.

They were married at St Luke on October 2nd, 2020.

May every good and every perfect gift from above be with them.
Happiness Messages are Back!!!

Happiness messages were a traditional part of our Messenger way back several years ago. It was a means of giving someone a special wish...birthday, anniversary, new job, retirement, get well, marriages, engagements, births, etc. You would send your one or two line wish in with a donation which would go to St. Luke. (if I remember that donation was $2.00) Your wish would read something like this....

“Happy Birthday, Mark! Enjoy your special day.” Love, Sue
“Jack and Donna...Congratulations on your new baby girl.” Love, Thea Anna

The reinstitution of this old tradition couldn’t happen at a better time. During this Covid-19 pandemic, how many times have you looked in your stash of cards wanting to send out a get-well card or a birthday card only to find out that you have none. Wishing you could head out to the store to purchase a card, you remember that health officials or your kids remind you all the time that “at your age, you shouldn’t be out in a public place during this pandemic”. Or, you’re one of those who have been asked to pick up a card for someone, and you go from store to store only to find shelves with barely a card left on them. Frustrating to say the least!

This traditional gesture would not only help us “well-wishers”, it would also help our church out a bit. And best of all, it would put a smile on the faces of those who receive the wishes. It’s a win, win situation!

If you are interested in taking part, please send/bring your message/check/cash in to the church by the 15th of the month. Make sure you indicate “Happiness Messages “ on your check or on a note accompanying cash. This will give Presvytera Eleni time to incorporate it into the layout for the next month’s Messenger.

Have any questions? Feel free to contact me!

Judy (413-525-4640)
Tarah and Steven...Congratulations on becoming Mr. and Mrs. Steven Pappas!! May you share many more years of good health and happiness together...judy

Thank you to Philip Dimitroglou, Alecco Dimitroglou, Ryan Rookey, and Jacob Kirchner for helping Father during Liturgy over the summer months...judy

Welcome to our most recent baptized Orthodox Christian, Camille Bailey...judy

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**Bible Study Opportunities**

**Simultaneous Bible Study In Person and ZOOM**

**Gospel of Luke**

**Mondays 6:30pm**

in the Parish Hall

Call Father 978-587-6488 or email him to receive the Zoom link.
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<td>In memory of Kathy Rodolakis</td>
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<td>In memory of Tula Karamallis</td>
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<td>In memory of Mixalis Deliyannis</td>
<td>Tom and Maria Laware, Thomas Laware Jr</td>
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Thank You

Doris, Anne and Judy dropped off checks for the East Longmeadow emergency food pantry/mobile food pantry.