Within the past month, our parishioners received a unique challenge in the mail, which is called the Good and Faithful Steward Challenge. Inspired by the Parable of the Talents in the Gospel of Matthew (chapter 25), we have come to embrace the call of stewardship in the service of others, as a trust and a responsibility. Thank you to all who have returned your postcards letting us know how the gift was used to help others! A sampling of the responses is included in this issue of *The Messenger*.

Typically, in this time of year, we have the return of our Choir and the Church School after a brief summer hiatus. We love our Choir, but it is not possible at this time to have a return, for obvious reasons. I know they cannot wait to sing, and we pray that time may come soon!

The return of students to formal schooling has been an issue many school districts and parents have discussed. Some districts are using a hybrid teaching model; other districts are doing full distance learning. This matter of how to teach also, of course, extends to Church School.

*That we must have a Church School program is without question; how we will have it is fluid.* My view is that we can have our own hybrid model, where one grade each week meets in the Pappas Hall, while the other classes do virtual learning during the week; the next week, a different grade meets, and so on. This is something worth trying and I would ask our parents to strongly consider this and share their feedback.

Another matter we ought to be discussing is Church Attendance. As we came out of lockdown in June, we knew that people would be coming back to Church slowly. I am so pleased that our attendance over the summer has been very good, but we also miss seeing the rest of our parish.
**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

**Philoptochos**
- 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
Feast

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, “Lord have mercy.” It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Rest from labor.
A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.

Schedule of Services
Orthros, 8:30, Divine Liturgy 9:30

SUNDAY SERVICES

We return to Regular Hours on September 13

WEEKDAY SERVICES

September 14 — Exaltation of the Holy Cross (8:30/9:30)

Confession can be heard by appointment

Psalm 46:1–3
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

As autumn approaches, I call on our parishioners to please make every effort to return to church. We have done our human best to keep the church welcoming and safe, as many people will attest, without compromising the spiritual tradition of the Orthodox Church.

Moreover, I do know there are people who still have a fear of the virus and its attendant issues. I can only relate to you the promise of God that we should not live in fear. We can live our lives with joy and still be prudent in our actions.

Watching the news over the past few months, we came as a society to think and believe that only a full proof life, without any risk is worth living. But since when has life ever been without risk and challenges? Remember: it was the modern world that promised us stability and predictability – and where is all this now? Remember, the only anchor we have for sure is God.

Beloved in Christ, let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as Saint Paul says. Fellowship (koinonia in Greek) means being together. Let us share in God’s fellowship, and show how it can be done with prudence and care.

God bless you! See you soon!
+ Fr. Panteleimon

cont from page 1

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God bless you! See you soon!
+ Fr. Panteleimon
Dear St. Luke Family,

As we look back at the first half of 2020, we have all been impacted, spiritually, personally, professionally, and financially as we have adapted to life with COVID-19. Through the spring the Parish Council worked tirelessly to put the requirements set forth by the metropolis, and our state and local governments in place.

Due to many of these restrictions we were unable to hold a Spring General Assembly. At this time, we do plan to hold an Assembly meeting later this Fall. Again, this all depends on what kind of restrictions will still be in place. We included in this message a budget report along with other committee reports.

By now everyone should have received your Good & Faithful gift of $300.00. While there has been some questioning of why we are proceeding with this project at this time, the majority of everyone’s responses has been very positive. If now is not the right time to extend a helping hand to those in need, when is the right time? As you all begin to send in your cards, we are excited to hear how this gift has helped others in their time of need.

Also, as you know, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we had to cancel Dancing with Heart and the Taste of Greece. Now, as your President, I believe it is important that we find alternate ways to provide fellowship and yes generate income for our church. An idea that Parris Ochsner proposed to the council is holding a virtual show with Basile the Comedian. We have set the date of the show for November 6th and more detail will be provided soon. If you have an idea for Fellowship or fundraising, please contact myself or any Council member.

Finally, please be patient with us. The Parish Council has to look way outside of the box to keep our community moving in a positive direction. Again, we welcome everyone’s thoughts and ideas.

I pray for your continued health and wellbeing.

Ronald J. Rookey – Council President
Dear Fellow Parishioner;

Welcome back to a new Ecclesiastical year! What a change this year is from any other in memory!

We all miss the routine and schedule of “back to school” as normal. This time of year is usually the busiest here at St. Lukes, but there is nothing normal as we start this new season. Our “back to church” is still mandated by state COVID-19 guidelines and therefore we have limited attendance numbers and no Sunday School and no fellowship opportunities in our hall. We have had to postpone our Dancing With Heart fundraiser again, and we have had to cancel our annual event The Taste of Greece.

We still have need to keep our doors open and to offer the sacraments that our faith requires. We still have bills to pay and operating costs to finance. Please don’t forget your stewardship obligations. Now, more than ever, we depend on our parishioners to fund our budget. We would like to thank all of the parishioners who have stepped up (some of you above and beyond!) during this time to help meet our obligations.

We are very excited and enthusiastic about our “Good & Faithful Steward” challenge. We learned about this radical lesson in giving last fall at the Metropolis Stewardship Seminar in Boston. Our wonderful neighboring church, Sts. Constantine and Helen in Webster, undertook the challenge during Christmas last year. They were very successful and their results and testimonies are on their website schwebster.org. We felt that during this time of a worldwide pandemic, there are so many in need that could use our charity; this was a perfect time to roll-out our own challenge. How can we glorify God though noticing and helping others? Our hope is that each parishioner will use the monetary gift that was sent to them to leverage or multiply the gift as in the Parable of The Talents from Matthew 25:14-30. We hope that you will be conduits to help St. Luke’s do good in our community and beyond. This is the true meaning of what it is to be Christian: a person who exemplifies in his or her life the teachings of Christ. And the testimonies are coming in! So many of you have stepped up to the challenge and embraced it! Check out our website to read some incredible responses. Thank you!!

Sincerely,
Meghan and Joe Dasco
# Treasurer's Report

## Summary of Our Financial Statement for The Seven Month Period Ending July 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan-July 2019</th>
<th>Jan-May 2020</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stewardship</strong>*</td>
<td>$88,395</td>
<td>$96,793</td>
<td>$8,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loose Offerings (candles, collection, etc.)</strong></td>
<td>$17,681</td>
<td>$10,139</td>
<td>$(7,542)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dancing With Heart</strong>*</td>
<td>$46,602</td>
<td>$12,953</td>
<td>$(33,649)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>$29,589</td>
<td>$23,285</td>
<td>$(6,304)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$182,267</td>
<td>$143,170</td>
<td>$(39,097)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong>*</td>
<td>$207,448</td>
<td>$163,410</td>
<td>$(44,038)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>income ( Deficit)</strong></td>
<td>$(25,181)</td>
<td>$(20,240)</td>
<td>$4,941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As of July 31, 2020 we had 160 parishioners giving a total of $96,793 towards Stewardship. There are approximately 20 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 45% 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 $14,000 in 2020.

We LOVE seeing you!!
Ministry News...

The Good and Faithful Steward Challenge—please take note of this new ministry which allows all to participate actively in living their faith.

Ushering Ministry

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

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

Loaves & Fishes

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

August- The LaRoche, Laware & Nystrom families
September- Parish Council

Knitting Group

Knitting Group meeting
Outdoor Meeting
September 9th 10:30 AM
New members welcome

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
The Good and Faithful Steward Challenge

Testimonials (These are just a few of the incredible responses we have received!)

We wish to thank our beautiful community for actively living your faith at this difficult time in history.

I sent $100 to the Domestic Abuse shelter as more people are having problems and must find help and places to put them.

From someone laid off recently -- "food for neighbor"

[This] has renewed my faith in the church because of this act of kindness.

First let me congratulate you for one of the nicest and thoughtful gestures you have come up with! I have decided to give my check (money) to a young woman who had to close her small shop and who is in much need of help! I have tripled the sum so she can pay her rent and stay another month with her family. I thank you for thinking of me and St. Luke for its incredible gesture! God be with us!

My family decided to donate $600.00 to the Gray House in Springfield. It is a nonprofit that helps underprivileged and minority families. We are helping six children attend Kids Club for a month.

At first I wasn’t sure what to do with the Endowment money. But the more I read the letter, the purpose was to help someone or something that had a need. I gave the money to a college student very dear and near to our hearts at {}. The virus has limited her income. It was wonderful to pass it along to her and she was really excited and most grateful to receive it.

We were able to match the gift to a young couple with small children. One of the parents were diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, right after purchasing their first home. The other parent has always worked in the human welfare occupation, always helping others.

We were happy to make a donation with the stewardship money and our own money to Feeding America. We believe that with the current health and economic crisis in our country this was a worthy cause. Thank you to St. Luke for allowing us to make this donation.
Congratulations

We wish to offer our congratulations to the Newly Illumined One, Tarah Jacques who was received into the faith with the name Maria.

Nouna - Elisa Papadonikolakis

God grant you both many years!!!

August 15, 2020
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)
Happy Grandparents Day💕
to all those in our St. Luke community who have the ultimate pleasure of belonging to this group!
Enjoy...judy

Kudos to Trio Zaharis — Aristidis, Peter, and Damien. Your loyalty and love for what you do is commendable! Thank you for being at every service held at St. Luke during this Covid-19 Pandemic whether it be a Sunday Liturgy, a weekday service, or an evening Vesper service . . . judy

In honor of Dorsey Cokkinias receiving the ministry award as Parishioner of the Year. Congratulations and Well-Deserved. God Bless, Ann Flynn

In honor of Dorsey Cokkinias, recipient of the 2020 Diocese of Boston Award
Dorothy and Peter Davis

Congratulations to Dorsey Cokkinias receiving the Laity Award
Kiki Trial
Memorials

In memory of Kathy Rodolakis
Phyllis LaVallee
Domna Moropoulos
Katherine Metzidakis
Cindy Rodolakis
Ann Heropoulos
Bob and Gina Goyette
Peter and Dorothy Davis
Thomas Laware Jr.

In memory of Tula Karamallis
Ann Heropoulos
Lorraine and Luke Ahladas
Jane Hadjimichael

In memory of Charles Bonatakis, Sr.
Ann Heropoulos
Lorraine and Luke Ahladas

In memory of Christina Kakoulidis
Elaine Sgueglia

In memory of Sue Lemnios
Peter and Dorothy Davis