



The 2026 Garden Gala

Supporting Our Outreach Partners

Friday, May 15, 2025 from 6:30-10 pm
Darien Community Association

Raffle Ticket Sales to end at 8:30pm
Silent Auction Bids to end at 9pm

Please Note: Raffle winners will be announced at approx. 8:45pm. Those not in attendance will be contacted by the Garden Gala Committee & may pick up items on Saturday, May 16 (10am-12pm) or Monday, May 18 (9-10am) in the Parish Office.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has supported
the 2026 Garden Gala, especially:

Darien Community Association
Michael Joseph's Catering
Intempo Musicians
Chuck Andreae
John Wall & Doug Frey
Jeanne & Per Sekse
Beverly Kelsey
Patty Young
Susan Doelp
Our Youth Volunteers
Saint Luke's Parish Clergy & Staff
The Saint Luke's Vestry
Saint Luke's Parish Outreach Committee



The 2026 Garden Gala Committee

Judy Barnett	Quay McKeough
Pat Cage	Jeanne Sekse
Best Cristini	Alex Taylor
Jenny Edwards	Emma Quigley
Fred Elliott	John Wall
Jen Kepner	

A Note From Our Rector

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 5th Annual Garden Gala! Thank you for being here!

Love in action. That's what tonight is all about: coming together as a Saint Luke's community to support our Outreach ministries. *Love in action.* That's what Outreach is all about too: taking the hope, joy, and possibility we have received from God, and sharing them with neighbors near and far. *Love in action.* That's what our Christian faith is all about: God coming among us in Christ to redeem and transform our world.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make tonight possible, and thank you for being here. Together, we can make a difference!

Saint Luke's partners with some of the finest organizations in our local community and beyond to put our love into action. We should be proud of the work we do together, and I hope through our generosity tonight, we can do even more.

With my love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Fleenor". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

The Rev. Ryan Fleenor, Rector

Supporting Saint Luke's Outreach Partners

Our Outreach Partners offer us all a way to put God's love into action. With flexible year-round volunteer opportunities, there are many ways for everyone - adults, families, and kids - to get involved!

Reach out to the contact for the organization that speaks to you, call the Parish Office at 203-655-1456, or visit www.saintlukesdarien.org/outreach to learn more.



Community Supper

"Dinner for \$1" is offered weekly on Thursdays from 5-6pm. New volunteers welcome for meal preparation and distribution, with flexible options on Wednesdays & Thursdays. Everyone is welcome for dinner!

Contact: Fran at mfprincipe@yahoo.com.



Cuba

Support and grow the Episcopal church community at our sister parish in Santa Cruz del Norte, Cuba.

Contact: Tony at tonylarino@outlook.com.



Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Gain greater insight into & understanding of the Holy Land, the mission of the Episcopal Church there, and the people they serve. Archbishop Hosam Naoum oversees parishes, hospitals, schools & institutes for the disabled in five Middle Eastern countries.

Contact: Anne at annelynn1121@gmail.com



Future 5

Future 5 connects motivated Stamford high school students with mentors, resources and experiences to transition them to college and a career. Service opportunities include tutoring at high school or college level, college prep and application support, or career mentorship for college seniors. 2 hrs/wk.

Contact: Rob at a.roboberto@gmail.com



HomeFront

Improve the lives of a local family in need, transforming their home with one-day projects involving yard work, painting, & carpentry. Work days are scheduled twice a year.

Contact: Blaine at blainehurty@gmail.com or
Charlie at charlie.koons@gmail.com.



Laundry Love

Help those in need get their laundry done! Two hour shifts between 1-7pm on the first Wednesday each month at Giant Laundry, East Norwalk.

Contact: John at johnjwall526@gmail.com



Person to Person (P2P)

Our on-campus partner, P2P provides individuals and families with essential resources to help them overcome daily challenges and put them on a path toward economic stability. Volunteer opportunities include helping in a Clothing Center, Food Pantry, Mobile Pantry, Food Warehouse, Reception and Office Tasks, and Van Drivers. Go to saintlukesdarien.org/p2p.

Contact Bion at bion.piepmeier@gmail.com.



Pacific House

Help prepare a meal from 12-3pm on the first Sunday of each month at Saint Luke's, then serve the meal from 6-7pm at Pacific House, a men's shelter in Stamford. Flexible volunteer time slots available - help once or every month.

Contact: Pam at pamdeming@icloud.com.

2026 Garden Gala

Raffle Prizes

Try your luck & win one of these
fabulous raffle prizes!



Gift Certificate for \$150 to Ten Twenty Post

Donated by Ten Twenty Post Oyster Bar & Bistro

Gift Certificate for \$100 to Barrett Bookstore

Donated by Barrett Bookstore

Gold Coast Mahjong Package

Includes Mahjong-themed goodies & a \$50 gift certificate

Donated by Gold Coast Mahjong

Champagne Celebration Package

2 Champagne bottles & delicious chocolates

Donated by Whitney Creutz

Facial at Williams Day Spa (\$155 value)

Donated by Williams Day Spa

Wine & Cheese Basket

*\$75 gift certificate from the Darien Cheese Shop
& a bottle of fine wine.*

Donated by Darien Cheese Shop & Jeanne and Per Sekse



Raffle Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100.

Raffle Ticket Sales close at 8:30pm.

2026 Silent Auction Catalogue

All items or services must be used within one year at the mutual convenience of the buyer & donor unless otherwise indicated.

1) Five NY Giants Tickets, Premium Seating

Treat yourself to a wonderful autumn outing watching the NY Giants play in their home stadium!! These tickets are in a fabulous location that have been in Fred's family for generations – so put your tailgate picnic together and head out for a memorable day of football! 2026 Fall Season, except Opening Day. **Donated by Fred Elliott.**

Estimated Value: \$800 Opening Bid: \$500

2) Sunset Cocktail Boat Cruise for 6 aboard Carpe Diem II

Enjoy a 2-hr sunset cruise on Long Island Sound for 6 on *Carpe Diem II*, a classic 31' Chris-Craft with Captain Fred Elliott. Drinks & hors d'oeuvres will be provided. May-Oct 2026, weekday or weekend evenings, leaving Noroton Yacht Club. **Donated by Fred Elliott.**

Estimated Value: \$600 Opening Bid: \$300

3) Fine Italian Leather Handbag from Harper-Lawrence

The classic "Lawrence" tote is perfect for any season and any reason. Large enough to accommodate a laptop or use as an everyday carry-all. To help keep you organized, our tote comes with a removable leather and suede zip pouch. Beautifully detailed with contrasting and monochromatic stitching. **Donated by Laura Lawrence Wilcock of Harper Lawrence.**

Estimated Value: \$645 Opening Bid: \$400

4) Golf at The Country Club of Darien for 3 Guests with Rob Roberto

One wonderful and challenging round of golf awaits you and two friends with CCD member Rob Roberto at the gorgeous Country Club of Darien. This outing includes lunch at the clubhouse! Restricted days & times according to CCD rules. We can arrange an agreeable time, including some weekends. Expires at the end of the 2026 season.

Donated by Rob Roberto.

Estimated Value: \$800 Opening Bid: \$500

2026 Silent Auction Catalogue

5) New York Botanical Garden Membership and Orchid Plant

Enjoy all the benefits of a one-year Friends & Family membership to the New York Botanical Gardens. Membership includes admission for 3 adults and 5 children, 6 Member passes, year-round half-price parking. Members enjoy free admission to NYBG including the Holiday Train Show & The Orchid Show. Membership includes discounts at NYBG Shop and on education programs. Enjoy a gorgeous orchid plant in your home. **Donated by Annie Slaughter.**

Estimated Value: \$250 Opening Bid: \$150

6) \$250 Gift Certificate for Sails in Rowayton

Whether it's a Sunday brunch in front of the fire, al fresco dining under the trees or pulling up a seat at the paneled nautical bar, Sails offers a friendly atmosphere reminiscent of a private yacht club. Sails always exceeds expectations, serving a delicious offering of seafood and non-seafood dishes with an extensive wine list. Bonus: Hear our own Ron Wilson play live there on certain dates! **Donated by Sails.**

Estimated value \$250 Opening Bid \$150

7) Your Two Outdoor Planters Professionally Designed by Nielsen's

Let Nielsen's designers create two timeless, bespoke planted arrangements to enhance your front entrance or patio this SPRING '26! Show Nielsen's your containers for shape or size, and their professionals will make them a feast for the eyes! Plants will be potted in an inset container for pick-up, following consultation with you.

Donated by Nielsen's Florist & Garden Shop.

Estimated Value: \$300 Opening Bid: \$150

8) Your Two Outdoor Planters Professionally Designed by Nielsen's

Let Nielsen's designers create two timeless, bespoke planted arrangements to enhance your front entrance or patio this AUTUMN '26! Show Nielsen's your containers for shape or size, and their professionals will make them a feast for the eyes! Plants will be in an inset container for pick-up, following consultation with you. **Donated by Nielsen's Florist & Garden Shop.**

Estimated Value: \$300 Opening Bid: \$150

2026 Silent Auction Catalogue

9) Lobster Dinner for 6

A delicious ready-to-cook or pre-cooked (your choice!) lobster meal awaits you! Grab your beach chair, board your boat, head out to your deck or to a local park... the possibilities are endless on a beautiful summer evening!

Dinner includes: (6) 1-1/4 lb. Lobsters, 3 dozen Little Neck Clams, 3lb Steamers or 6lb Mussels, 6 Red-Skinned Potatoes, 6 Ears of Corn, Seaweed & Butter. Pick up from the convenient ShopRite of your choice! Available during summer '26 season. **Donated by Jane Lyons & Joe Cingari.**

Estimated Value: \$250 Opening Bid: \$150

10) Dinner by Michael Joseph's Catering for Your Guests

All the deliciousness and none of the work! Use this \$300 Gift Certificate and let top caterer Michael Joseph's prepare a sumptuous dinner for you and your friends on a night when you don't have the time or energy to prepare a gourmet meal. Just agree on a menu and pick up from their store – it doesn't get better than this! Call Justin at 203-656-9616 to arrange your meal! **Donated by Michael Joseph's Catering.**

Estimated Value: \$300 Opening Bid: \$175

11) Diana Ross Concert Tickets

At 81, Diana Ross isn't just "still performing", she's commanding the stage with the same charisma that made her a global superstar in the 60's. This is a rare chance to see a Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient while she is still delivering high-energy, full-length sets. Get these 2 FRONT ROW Orchestra tickets at the Palace Theater on Sunday, August 16th at 7pm. **Donated by Patrick & Merrill Peterkin.**

Estimated Value: \$800 Opening Bid: \$450

2026 Silent Auction Catalogue

12) Group Yoga Class

When you need a little Zen in your life, but could also use a good workout, what better than a yoga class! Sign up for this 60-minute yoga experience for up to 8 people. This could be a beachside yoga session (on the sand or nearby firm ground, depending on the location) for a grounding, energizing experience, or a beginner-friendly class designed to introduce people to yoga in a welcoming and accessible way. Mats and props (blocks) are available if needed. The experience would include mindful movement, breathwork, and a thoughtfully sequenced flow with options for all levels, creating a session that feels both uplifting and approachable. **Donated by Rachel Hedley.**

Value: \$300 Opening Bid: \$150

13.) Golf Bag & Box of Pastel Colored Balls

This attractive golf bag can be switched out for any color & style at Golf Galaxy in Norwalk. Shop for the latest fashion, equipment, and accessories in their extensive store, sure to improve your game on every level! Their friendly, knowledgeable staff can help you make the best possible selections. Regripping service available! **Donated by Golf Galaxy 595 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk, CT.**

Value: \$325 Opening Bid: \$160

14) Great Wines in a Great House

Dinner and Wine Tasting for eight (8). Enjoy a festive gourmet dinner prepared by Chef Jerry of Sails American Grill while at the same time partaking in a tour de vin featuring wines from California, France and Italy. This is a chance to enjoy good company, great food and compare wines from some of the premier wine growing regions in the world. Start setting up your group! **Donated by Skip Hooper and George Khoury.**

Estimated value: \$3,000 Opening Bid:\$1,800

2026 Silent Auction Catalogue

15) Basket from the Diocese of Jerusalem

This basket includes 2019 Badim Merlot from Taybeh Vitnet, a Christian village in the West Bank visited by our pilgrims and home to Iyad Qumri's family; a shawl embroidered in Gaza; small coffee tray made in the sheltered workshop at the Princess Basma Center; handmade fabric camel sewn in the sheltered workshop in Jofeh Jordan; olivewood cross from Ibrahim's shop in Jerusalem. This gift basket supports people living in our Diocese of Jerusalem, our Outreach partner. **Donated by Anne Lynn.**

Estimated value: Priceless Opening Bid: \$125

16) A Week in Telluride!

The mountains are calling! Whether you are a skier or just want a getaway to the great Rocky Mountains, you are going to want to bid on this! Enjoy a stay in this recently constructed 4-Bedroom, 4-Bathroom house that sleeps 8-10 and includes a home office, gym, and hot tub. Overlooking the Meadows Ski Run (Chair 1) and walking distance to the center of Mountain Village. Available during the ski season or in the summer months. Telluride Ski Resort is typically open Thanksgiving through the first week of April. Blackout dates (Dec. 20, 2026 to Jan. 2, 2027). **Donated by Eric and Jeanne Bickford.**

Estimated Value: \$10,000 Opening Bid: \$5,000

17) Boat Cruise & Cocktails for 6

There is only one way to beat the summer heat, and that is on a boat! Up to 6 people will join captains Beth and Dave Cristini on their 30' Chaparral boat for a 3-hour cruise. (This 3 hour tour will not end like it did on Gilligan's Island!) You will leave from the Saugatuck Harbor Yacht Club and enjoy the scenery of the Norwalk islands. The boat will then anchor in a cove where drinks and appetizers will be served. Summer 2026. **Donated by David and Beth Cristini.**

Estimated Value: \$1,000 Opening Bid: \$450

2026 Gala Experiences - NEW!

NEW! This year's silent auction features parties where guests can purchase individual spots at hosted events throughout the year! Purchase a seat at one of our hosted gatherings and enjoy an evening of food, laughter, and fellowship. Whether you're reconnecting with familiar faces or meeting someone new, these experiences help strengthen our parish community while supporting our outreach partners.

18) **Hands-On Sourdough Bread Baking Lesson with Wine & Cheese** **Tuesday, October 13 from 6-9pm in Saint Luke's Parish Hall**



Back by popular demand!! Join Chuck Andreae and members of the Outreach Committee for a fun night baking sourdough bread in the Parish Hall Kitchen. Chuck will lead you through the steps and provide a starter kit which you will use as you work the dough from raw ingredients to deliciousness! If you attended this class before, be prepared to be much more hands-on this round! Wine, a cheese board, and dessert nibbles will be enjoyed while the bread cooks. Chuck will include sourdough bread starter and basic equipment to take home. **Donated by Chuck Andreae and the Outreach Committee.**

Purchase one of 12 available spots @ \$100 per person

19) **Black Tie Dinner with Rev. Ryan Fleenor** **Saturday, October 24 at 6pm at 42 Beach Drive, Darien**



Let's get FAAAANCY! Roll out your tuxes and evening gowns for a night of laughter while enjoying an intimate and delicious 5-course autumn dinner at the waterfront home of Per & Jeanne Sekse with special guest Ryan! Donated by Per & Jeanne Sekse

Purchase one of 8 available spots @ \$250 per person

2026 Gala Experiences - NEW!

20) Bourbon and Bites Cocktail Party

Friday, June 5 from 6:30-8:30pm at 16 Beach Drive, Darien



Enjoy an evening of culinary wonders cooked and curated by Saint Luke's own Music Maestro, David Pulliam; Parishioners and Gourmet Chefs, Wilder Gleason, Jennifer Boyd and Sandy McDonnell, and hosted by Priest Associate the Rev. Dawn Stegelmann. Inspired by their spring trip to Charleston and sponsored by TOUR (Transforming our Understanding of Race), these pilgrims are offering an evening of Southern hospitality that will include bourbon tastings accompanied by homemade recipes. The food—a blend of West African, European and Native American traditions—will reflect the city's rich heritage of local Lowcountry bounty. **Donated by David Pulliam, Wilder Gleason, Jennifer Boyd, Sandy McDonnell and Rev. Dawn Stegelmann.**

Purchase one of 16 available spots @ \$200 per person

21) Wreath Making and Holiday Cheer

Wednesday, December 9 from 7-9pm on Saint Luke's Campus



Celebrate the season with an evening of creativity, fellowship, and Christmas fare! Guests will design and decorate their own fresh door wreath to take home, with light festive refreshments provided. **Donated by John Wall & Doug Frey.**

Purchase one of 12 available spots @ \$100 per person

2026 Gala Experiences - NEW!

22) Roses and Rosé Floral Arranging

Sunday, June 28 from 4-6pm on Saint Luke's Campus



Spend a delightful evening learning the art of floral design while sipping rosé or sparkling water with fellow parishioners. Guests will be guided through creating a beautiful rose arrangement to take home, with plenty of tips, creativity, and fun along the way. No experience necessary- just bring your enthusiasm for flowers, friendship, and a relaxing night out! **Donated by John Wall & Doug Frey.**

Purchase one of 6 available spots @ \$125 per person

23) French Macaron Baking Class with High Tea

Thursday, June 25 from 5-8pm, Saint Luke's Parish Kitchen



These delicious tasting and beautiful cookies require a number of important steps and specialized ingredients for success! Come and learn from our own master baker, Cherie Pearson, on the secret to creating these exquisite sweets! We will serve a high tea with Prosecco to enhance your experience! **Donated by Cherie Pearson.**

Purchase one of 6 available spots @ \$100 per person

Thank you for supporting the Garden Gala!

We appreciate your generosity! All proceeds from ticket & raffle sales go directly to support the good work of our amazing Outreach Partners!



THE GIVING TREE

Your donations help our giving garden grow

\$25:

- Treats 25 **Community Supper** clients to our \$1 dinner
- Feeds a senior for a week – or a child for a week – at **Person to Person**
- Provides vital medications for a parishioner at Santa Cruz in **Cuba**

\$250:

- Pays for two Baskets of Hope for **Pacific House**
- Buys hearing aids for a child in **Jordan**
- Pays for 5 gallons of paint for a **HomeFront** project

\$500:

- Pays the salary of a nurse in **Gaza** for a month
- Buys groceries & supplies for one Pacific House meal
- Pays for four backpack supplies for a Future 5 student at beginning of term

\$1000:

- Fills the gas tank for the **P2P Mobile Food Pantry**
- Sends a student in **Jerusalem** to vocational high school for ten months
- Pays for five weeks of senior lunches at **Santa Cruz**

\$1500:

- Pays for two children to attend summer camp from **P2P**
- Pays for one day's worth of a **Laundry Love** wash & dry session
- Pays for three weeks of **Community Supper** groceries

\$2000:

- Provides tutoring, SAT prep, and summer math programs for high school & college students at **Future 5**
- Stocks the Darien **P2P Food Pantry** with two weeks' worth of fresh fruits and vegetables
- Pays for one **HomeFront** supply of building materials

