

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5 o'clock Family-Friendly Christmas and Children's Choir  
7:30 pm Candlelight Communion Service

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

No Sunday School or Morning Worship  
There will be one service in the early evening At 5:00 pm.

... there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, [f] until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. Matthew 2:9

"Things are Looking UP!"

Christmas is a time of year when we have so many expectations. Many of these expectations are painted in our minds by advertisers. Christmas won't be complete without that motion-activated toy robot, or maybe it is the fancy car showcased by the sly Santa on TV, or maybe it is the size of the spread on the table? So many expectations.

Advent is a time to remind ourselves to step away from worldly expectations, knowing how wrong they often are and how quick to disappoint. The hope of Christmas does not come from a store or even a Norman Rockwell of a perfect Christmas. As a pastor, I am so aware that the struggles people have before Christmas continue during the holidays and even past them.

But what comes with Christmas is a hope not of this world. A hope of the dawning of a gift of God so great, that our lives, in good times and in bad, will never be the same again. The hope is spiritual, and I want your holy day to be spiritual too, full of thoughts of what Christ, God's greatest gift, gives to us:

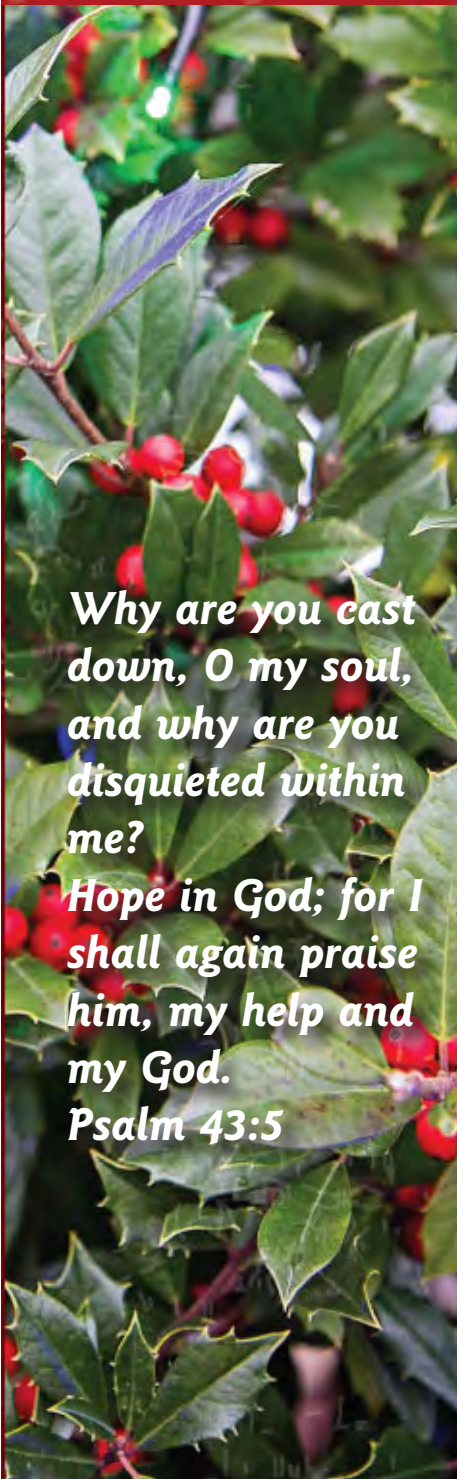
Endurance to meet life's challenges. Fellowship to light our way. Inspiration to open our spiritual eyes and see the world through God's Kingdom.

The scriptures above remind us that in life there are times we are downcast, but Christ's coming was heralded by the star, which demands of us that, no matter our state, we look up! We lift our countenance to see God shining brightly in Bethlehem's darkness, and also in the darkness of our world and any darkness we see in our own lives.

Christ came some two thousand years ago that, today, our souls might still be renewed and strengthened to look up, to see the dawning of God's salvation, in history, and in our own stories. What greater gift could there be?

Look up my friends, see the star in the sky and the hope God would place in your hearts.

Christmas blessings!  
Pastor Lisa



*Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?*

*Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.*

*Psalm 43:5*

# Bob Ford's Busy Choirs Prepare for Christmas

## St. Luke's UMC Children's Choir

The children are rehearsing on Sunday mornings in December on the 4th, the 11th and the 18th in the sanctuary from 9:15 to 9:45. A Sunday afternoon rehearsal will take place on the 11th of December at 4:30 p.m. This will be our dress rehearsal for the Christmas Eve presentation at the 5:00 family service on December 24, 2016. They will resume rehearsals on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 9:15.

## St. Luke's UMC Handbell Choir

We will be rehearsing on December 1, 8, and 15 to prepare for a late December ringing. Rehearsals will resume on 1/5/17.

## St. Luke's UMC Sanctuary Choir

We are nearing the completion of rehearsing with the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour to present "Child of Wonder" at St. Luke's UMC on Sunday, December 11, 2016 and at the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour on Sunday, December 18, 2016. These will be presented during the 10:30 worship service. The rehearsal schedule is Thursday, December 1, 2016 at St. Luke's choir room. Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 12:30 at LCOS. (1ST DRESS REHEARSAL). Thursday, December 8, 2016 in St. Luke's sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. (2ND DRESS REHEARSAL). Sunday, December 11, 2016 Cantata presented at St. Luke's UMC at 10:30 a.m. Warm-up 9:45. December 18, 2016 cantata presented at LCOS. Warm-up at 9:45 a.m. We will resume rehearsals on Thursday, 1/5/17.

## St. Luke's UMC Variety and Talent Show

I wish to thank everyone who designed, planned and implemented our successful variety and talent show. The talent was exquisite and the food delicious. Wundebarr!

# Christmas Mission opportunities: Reach Out In Love:

St. Luke's has three Christmas Missions underway!

Coats for Safe Haven – See Margaret

Christmas toys and meals for two local families – See Debbie Smart or Dave Hay

Turkeys for Belmont Food Pantry—bring to church office by Dec. 11th.

## HUGE THANKS TO —

The United Methodist Women for the skit they offered us in worship on November 20!

To the choir and Bob Ford for sponsoring our wonderful November talent show, and to all the performers and those who took care of the preparations! What a great time! And over 400 dollars was raised for the church budget!

To Nancy and Steve Taylor, and the youth of our church and the Lutheran Church of our Saviour, for preparing our Christmas Dinner Theatre scheduled to take place December 18th.

To Wilmer Downs and Clinton Gary spotted doing lots of good when it comes to little things needing attention around the church!

To Christina Hylton for preparing our vendor and Santa event that took place on December 1st. Hope Santa took your list and told you that you had been nice!

The Altar Guild, busy decorating the church that we might see its beauty in this season of Advent.

To all those sharing in the new Sunday School STRENGTHS class. It is illuminating and allows those taking part a new and wonderful fellowship!

To the Trustees for seeing to our new heating system. It is wonderful to know we and our preschool are secure in this basic comfort this winter.

To Jerry Anderson for persistent and long-term work on our fellowship hall ceiling renovation! Progress is being made!

To Southminster Presbyterian for hosting our community Thanksgiving Service, and to Rev. Denise Watkins of Walmsley UMC who preached!

## Thanks from Marcia Grubbs, Worship Chair

A BIG "Thank You" to David Hay for conducting CPR/First Aid Training on November 18th for the employees of Southeastern Engineering Sales, Inc. The training was conducted in the Fellowship Hall with 11 in attendance. Dave generously donated his services and the church received \$715.00 from Southeastern Engineering Sales.

## BE INFORMED

Keep up with all that's going on within the Virginia United Methodist Conference by visiting —

<http://www.vaumc.org>

## The Bishop is inviting you to dinner.

Have you ever received an invitation from the Bishop before? Well, if not, now you have! Bishop Sharma Lewis has invited the clergy and the laity of the Richmond District to a “Chat and Chew” on December 11th, Woodlake UMC, just so we can share ideas and visions of ministry in the metro area and in our Virginia Conference! Clergy and laity will have dinner together from 4:30 to 6:00 pm, and then laity will meet from 6:15-8:15 pm. You are urged to attend!

## Elves in the Building

Christmas elves were in the building after church on Sunday November 20th! Dianne Johnson, Pat and Ken Knust, Margaret and Jerry Anderson, Shirley Weade, and Katie Haley, under the expert direction of Becky Jenkins, all helped to decorate the church in preparation for this Christmas season. Thanks for such a great team.

## Estimate of Giving Cards

Thanks to all who have turned in their estimate of giving cards. If you have not turned yours in yet, just leave it in the Church office. You make a big difference in our ministry by your support.

## Flower Calendar

The 2017 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board leading into the sanctuary. Please sign up for a week that you would like to remember or honor a loved one. Also, please indicate if you want to take the flowers or not. The cost is \$23.00

## Advent Bible Study

Advent Bible Study on “Underdogs and Outsiders” - Nov. 29th , Dec. 6th , 13th, and 20th, at 11:00 am (Karen’s Diner).

## Our Turkey Drive

Our Turkey Drive - in progress now through Dec. 11th. If you would like to participate, please drop off your turkey at the office during the week or on Sunday. The turkeys will be distributed through Belmont’s Food Pantry!

## UMCOR Applauds The Mission Team and St. Luke’s Generosity

In response to your monetary gift to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), St. Luke’s received a letter of appreciation for its generous support. UMCOR stated that the money, which will help in paying for health kits, enhances “the purchase of emergency response and disaster relief supplies.”

The letter continues, “Thank you for giving so generously” and for “joining with us to ‘BE HOPE’ to those who desperately need it.” Nice work, St. Luke’s!



## Youth Dinner Theater December 18th

“Jesus, the Original Superhero,” will be performed by the youth group (youth from St Luke’s and Lutheran Church of Our Saviour) on 12/18/2016 at 5:00 pm in the fellowship hall. The original story of the birth of Christ and a modern version will be performed.

**Youth**— reserve your spot on the tacky light tour today!

# Advent Observation

We wait with anticipation for the upcoming Advent Observation, which will include a joint cantata with the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. It will be a two-choir, four-hand piano, wonderful offering of praise, taking place here at St. Luke's on December 11th, during 10:30 am worship, and at the Lutheran Church on the morning of December 18th, during 11:00 worship. What a debt of thanks we owe to our Music Director, our choir, and our good Lutheran neighbors!

# Coats for Safe Haven

If you wish to donate a coat for Safe Haven, please contact Katie Haley, 276-3157, for size and gender. The deadline for turning in coats is December 12th. If you have any questions, Katie will be glad to answer them.

## “Sorrow and Love flow mingled down”

Our sympathy is extended to Bobbie & Rhea Strum. Bobbie's cousin, Nancy Redman, claimed the promise of the resurrection on November 25, 2016.

## Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

<b>Stephen Burnett</b>	<b>Jimmy deKrafft</b>	<b>Brian Kaeser</b>
<b>Cheryl Nester</b>	<b>Ron Halloran</b>	<b>Dean Smith</b>
<b>Rev. Tom Brown</b>	<b>Bill Coleman</b>	<b>Bill Brown</b>
<b>Opal Holshouser</b>	<b>Barbara Stone</b>	<b>Laura Patterson</b>
<b>Karen &amp; Reg Whitton</b>	<b>Marie Goodwyn</b>	<b>Muffin Morris</b>
<b>George Burnett</b>	<b>Betty Ward</b>	<b>Philip Hecker</b>
<b>Kim D'Esposito Lachelier</b>	<b>Renae Hedrick</b>	<b>Sarah Salisbury</b>
<b>Suzanne Beeckler</b>	<b>Florence Bartlett</b>	<b>Eden Kloss</b>
<b>Joan Bowker</b>	<b>Gayle Harbison</b>	
<b>Julie Ritterskamp</b>	<b>Marynell Kloss</b>	

### Our Military

<b>Robbie Bowen</b>	<b>Aaron Frankey</b>	<b>Cody Russell</b>
<b>Larry Russell</b>	<b>Holden Russell</b>	

### People to remember

**Margaret Tucker** — 9703 Groundhog Drive  
North Chesterfield, VA 23235

**Ron Halloran** — Hickory Hill Retirement Center  
900 Cary Shop Road  
Burkeville, VA 23922

## Birthdays

December 2	Larry Batten Laura Jarrett William Warriner
December 3	Kevin Jenkins
December 4	Danielle Beeckler Ronnie Bowman Tom Rohlk Joshua Sykes
December 6	Suzanne Beeckler
December 8	Ray Kyle Peggy Uglow
December 9	Chelsea Bowman Nicholas Bowman
December 10	Bettie Jones Sarah Estes
December 17	Susan Wertz
December 18	Annie Davis
December 19	Dean Smith
December 20	Conner Skeen
December 21	Dan Salisbury
December 22	Austin Morris
December 23	Gordon Reed
December 28	Michael Pearse
December 30	Kevin Parrish Betty Wellman
December 31	Reagan Gary

## Anniversaries

December 3	Ron and Chris Halloran
December 12	Keith and Donna Miller
December 28	Dean and Ibbie Smith
December 31	Gordon and Susan Reed



**Bring the kids for  
Cookies with Santa  
...then go  
Shopping with the Elves!**

**\*\*\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE!!! \*\*\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Thursday, Dec.1st, Vendors: 5:30-8:30, Santa 6:30-8:00

**WHERE:** St. Luke's UMC, 4101 Fordham Road

**WHAT:** This fundraiser for St. Luke's Preschool will have something for everyone!

- \* Santa, picture frame craft and cookies in the Social Hall (\$5/child at door)
- \* Ornament making in the Parlor (minimal charge benefits MOPS of St. Luke's)
- \* Lots of vendors throughout the church to help you take care of Christmas shopping without battling crowded stores!
- \* Door prizes!



*Birthdays*

January 3	Elizabeth Thomas Debbie Tatum
January 4	Sarah Allen Adam Warriner
January 6	Audrey Vogen
January 12	Seth Sykes
January 14	Paul Brown Faye Sisson
January 15	Nancy Allen Krystal Worner
January 19	Ibbie Smith
January 20	Bradley Smart
January 22	Wendy Brown White Benjamin Pritchard
January 23	Cheryl Sanker Adam Jones
January 27	Wesley Sykes
January 29	Jerry Anderson
January 31	Erin Cowardin Jacoby

*Anniversaries*

January 2	Jim & Cindy Self
January 7	Seth & Lisa Sykes
January 16	Matt & Stacy Pritchard
January 31	Ray & Scottie Kyle



# December, 2016 @ CALENDAR

## Thursday, Dec. 1

5:30-8:30 pm Preschool Santa Vendors  
6:30-7:30 Adult Hand Bell Practice, S  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts, Troop 5228, B  
7:30 Choir Rehearsal- St. Luke's M.R. (Cantata Practice)

## Sunday, Dec. 4

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Trustees, P  
12:30-1:30 pm 1st Cantata Dress Rehearsal at LCOS  
2:00 pm Administrative Council  
4:00-5:30 pm Youth, F.H.

## Monday, Dec. 5

10:05-10:45 am Preschool Chapel  
4:45 pm Safe Haven  
7:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts, B & 106, 108, 110, 112  
7:00-8:00 pm Boy Scouts, F.H. and all rooms upstairs

## Tuesday, Dec. 6

10:05-10:30 am Preschool Chapel  
11:00 - 12:00 noon Advent Bible Study  
Karen's Diner  
6:00 pm Dinner with Friends F.H.

## Wednesday, Dec. 7

10:00 am Susannah Wesley Circle, Hazel's  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts, Troop 337, F.H.

## Thursday, Dec. 8

6:30-7:30 pm Adult Hand Bell Practice, S  
7:00 pm NAMI, F.H.  
7:30 pm Cantata Rehearsal - 2nd Dress Rehearsal  
St. Luke's Sanctuary

## Friday, Dec. 9

9:00-12:00 Noon Quilting Group, F.H.

## Sunday, Dec. 11

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Christmas Cantata - St. Luke's Sanctuary  
Warm-up - 9:45 am  
11:30 am Finance, P  
4:00-5:30 Youth, F.H.  
4:30-6:30 pm Chat and Chew w/Bishop Woodlake Methodist.

## Monday, Dec. 12

9:45 am-11:45 am MOPS, F.H.  
1:00 pm Staff Lunch at Brio's

## Tuesday, Dec. 13

9:45 am Preschool Christmas Program  
11:00 - 12:00 noon Advent Bible Study  
Karen's Diner

## Wednesday, Dec. 14

9:45 am Preschool Christmas Program  
10:00 am Young at Heart, F.H.  
7:00-8:00 pm Cub Scout Parents, B

## Thursday, Dec. 15

6:30-7:30 pm Adult Hand Bell Practice, S  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts, Troop 5228, B  
7:00 pm NAMI, F.H.  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, M.R. & S

## Saturday, Dec. 17

Youth Dress Rehearsal - Time (tba)

## Sunday, Dec. 18

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship - Lessons & Carols  
11:00 am Christmas Cantata - LCOS  
Warm-up - 9:45 am  
11:30 am Pastor/Parish, P  
5:00 pm Youth Dinner & Youth Lessons & Carols, F.H.

## Monday, Dec. 19

4:45 pm Safe Haven

## Tuesday, Dec. 20

11:00 - 12:00 noon Advent Bible Study  
Karen's Diner

## Thursday, Dec. 22

6:30-7:30 pm Adult Hand Bell Practice, S  
7:00 pm NAMI, F.H.  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, M.R. & S

## Friday, Dec. 23

9:00-12:00 Noon Quilting Group, F.H.

## Saturday, Dec. 24

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Service  
7:30 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service

## Sunday, Dec. 25

NO Sunday School  
5:00 pm Christmas Day Service

## Monday, Dec. 26

6:30 pm U.M. Men, F.H.

## Saturday, Dec. 31

New Year's Eve

## Location Codes:

F.H. - Fellowship Hall,  
P - Parlor, B - Basement  
M.R. - Music Room,  
S - Sanctuary

DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Dec. 1</b>	<b>5:30-8:30 pm Santa Vendors</b>
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS CANTATA</b>
<b>Dec. 13</b>	<b>9:45 am Preschool Christmas Program</b>
<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>Preschool Christmas program</b>
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family service</b> <b>7:30 pm Christmas Eve Communion</b>
<b>Dec.25</b>	<b>No Sunday School</b> <b>5:00 pm Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>Dec. 26 thru 31</b>	<b>Pastor Lisa working from home</b> <b>feel free to call</b>



# January, 2017 CALENDAR

## Sunday, Jan. 1

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Trustees, P  
4:00-5:30 pm Youth, F.H.

## Monday, Jan. 2

4:45 pm Safe Haven  
5:30-7:00 pm Al-Anon, P  
7:00-8:00 pm Cub  
Scouts, B & 106, 108,  
110, 112  
7:00-8:00 pm Boy  
Scouts, F.H. and all  
rooms upstairs

## Tuesday, Jan. 3

6:00 pm Dinner with  
Friends, F.H.

## Wednesday, Jan. 4

10:00 am Susannah Wes-  
ley Circle, F.H.  
6:30-7:30 pm  
Girl Scouts, Troop 337,  
F.H.

## Thursday, Jan. 5

6:30-7:30 pm Adult  
Hand Bell Practice, S  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl  
Scouts, Troop 5228, B  
7:00 pm NAMI, F.H.  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir  
Practice, M.R. & S

## Sunday, Jan. 8

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Finance, P  
Youth - After Church  
Mission Trip to Pathways

## Monday, Jan. 9

9:45-11:45 am.  
MOPS, F.H.  
10:05-10:45 am  
Preschool Chapel

## Tuesday, Jan. 10

10:05-10:30 am  
Preschool Chapel  
7:00-8:00 pm  
Cub Scout Parents, B

## Wednesday, Jan. 11

10:00 am  
Young at Heart, F.H.

## Thursday, Jan. 12

6:30-7:30 pm Adult  
Hand Bell Practice, S  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl  
Scouts, Troop 5228, B  
7:00 pm NAMI, F.H.  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir  
Practice, M.R. & S

## Friday, Jan. 13

NO QUILTING  
9:00am-2:00 pm  
First Aid (Preschool and  
Staff), F.H.

## Sunday, Jan. 15

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Pastor/Parish, P  
Youth, Dodge Ball Tourna-  
ment

## Monday, Jan. 16

4:45 pm  
Safe Haven

## Wednesday, Jan. 18

6:30-7:30 pm  
Girl Scout Troop 337, F.H.

## Thursday, Jan. 19

6:30-7:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice, S  
7:00 pm  
NAMI, F.H.  
7:30 pm  
Chancel Choir Practice,  
M.R. & S.

## Saturday, Jan. 21

5:00 pm-8:00 am  
Cub Pack Lock-In

## Sunday, Jan. 22

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Administrative  
Council, P  
4:00-5:30 pm Youth, F.H.

## Monday, Jan. 23

9:45-11:45 am  
MOPS, F.H.  
10:05-10:30 am  
Preschool Chapel, S  
6:30 pm  
UM Men, F.H.

## Tuesday, Jan. 24

10:05-10:30 am  
Preschool Chapel, S

## Thursday, Jan. 26

9:30 - 3:00 pm  
Ministers Meeting  
6:30-7:30 pm  
Girl Scouts, Troop 5228, B  
6:30-7:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice, S  
7:00 pm  
NAMI, F.H.  
7:30 pm  
Chancel Choir Practice,  
M.R. & S

## Friday, Jan. 27

9:00 am-12 noon  
Quilting Group, F.H.

## Sunday, Jan. 29

Souper Bowl Sunday  
Bring Can of Soup  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Trustees, P  
4:00-5:30 pm Youth, F.H.

## Location Codes:

F.H. - Fellowship Hall,  
P - Parlor, B - Basement  
M.R. - Music Room,  
S - Sanctuary



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan. 8 Youth—after Church Mis-  
sion to Pathways
- Jan. 13 First Aid (Preschool and  
Staff) FH
- Jan. 15 Youth, Dodge Ball Tour-  
nament
- Jan. 29 Souper Bowl Sunday,  
bring a can of soup



*St. Luke's seeks to be a spiritual community  
where all God's children experience Christ's  
love and redemption and where we share this  
through worship, fellowship, education and  
mission for the community and the world.*

[www.stlukesumconthehill.org](http://www.stlukesumconthehill.org)

**Pastor**  
**The Rev. Lisa Sykes**  
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**Ray Jenkins**  
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Sunday Schools**