

***"For unto you  
is born this day  
in the city of  
David a Savior,  
who is Christ  
the Lord."***

***Luke 2:11***

## Don't Let The Message Get lost!

Christmas is really all about the Message of Salvation that God sends us incarnated in an infant child. A message of welcome, in this world and the next. A message of Love. A message of Grace. A message not found in this world, but sent to it from Heaven Above. A message send with . . . or should I say "in . . . a child. Jesus, God's Son, born of Mary.

Kathy Merry, when she came for our fall Council Retreat, said something that I cannot get out of my head. She said that statistics show parents want their young children to be educated by the church – but not indoctrinated. They want the message, but are wary of the institution and structure. That got me thinking: How do we share the Christmas message with children and their families who want to know the story but are hesitant to enter into traditional worship? How do we invite the children into church at Christmas when a traditional Sunday morning often just isn't their thing?

Enter: Christmas Bible School! This joint adventure of our preschool and church brings together volunteers and staff from both to teach the simple message of God's salvation to the children. Over 4 weeks, one Wednesday each week, we introduce them to 4 characters of the Bethlehem Story: Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and the Angel. Each night is themed around one character, and the children learn about that character through lesson, story, drama, art and song. (We also feed the kids dinner!)

After an hour and a half of Bible School just for the children, parents rejoin their sons and daughters for half-an-hour of a kid-centric, casual worship in the sanctuary. Nearly 20 families are participating and we are helping them to share the Christmas story of Jesus' birth together as a family. One of the take-home activities is to decorate a manger, and then all during Advent, every time a child does a good deed for someone else, they get to add a piece of straw (a yellow strip of paper) to the manger to help get it ready to receive Jesus. Of course, our hope is that not only their manger, but also their heart, will receive our Lord and Savior.

The preschool parents have stopped me in the hallway to say how much their children are enjoying Christmas Bible School. Maybe this new adventure is a gift from God to us. Maybe we have figured out a way to offer the Bible stories, and God's message of salvation—some basic religious education, in a simple way that invites the children and their parents into the experience of church as they get ready for their celebration of Christmas!

In a secular world, these two things sadly don't always go together, but in Christmas Bible School, they surely do! May your heart be full of hope, and your spirit excited to share the message of God in Jesus Christ with others, this Advent Season! And may we as a church grow better and more innovative at doing the same!

May the Peace of the Christ Child be yours!  
Pastor Lisa

## Tremendous Thanks!

TREMENDOUS Thanks to EVERYONE who has made Christmas Bible School a Story-telling Success!

Becky Jenkins	Michele Hart
Carolyn Beeckler	April Osei
Donna Miller	Ofelia Dunlap
Riley Beeckler	Sydney Kaeser
Alex Wilson	Rhea Strum
Karla Lacy	Chris Halloran
The Taylor Family:	Nancy, Steve, Emma and Mar
Dixie Bowman	Kathy Tuten and her daughter Hannah
Ray Kyle	

## From Our Minister of Music

A tremendous THANK-YOU for all of your prayers, thoughts, remembrances and beautiful quilt that I received during my hospital stay and recovery. I shall treasure all of these keepsakes for a very long time.

It was so very good to be back with you on November 19, 2017. It felt great playing some of your favorite hymns and organ selections. I am looking forward to the Advent and Christmas seasons with renewed joy and anticipation.

The children's choir attendance numbered 10 (ten) k-6th graders on November 19, 2017 as we began learning praise songs for Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is heartwarming to see Lutheran and United Methodist children singing together in unison. We are now practicing in the music office from 9:15 - 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

Donna Miller will be leading the handbell choir through Christmas. Thanks to her invitation for Christmas ringing, the choir welcomed 5 (five) new ringers. We will look forward to hearing them on the third Sunday of Advent.

The sanctuary choir is busily preparing for our three-church "Lessons and Carols" service to be presented on Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. on December 17, 2017 at the Southminster Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at Southminster from 7:00 to 8:30. Demas Boudreaux, Michelle Huang, and I will be leading and accompanying the three-church choir. You are welcomed to attend and support our beautiful, ecumenical chorus in this most meaningful sacred concert.

The year 2018 will begin with an analysis of where we are in our community participation in musical education and performance. We will discuss rehearsal times and days for the adult choirs as well as the brass ensemble. I look forward to future collaborations with the Lutheran Church of our Saviour and Southminster Presbyterian Church. May God guide us in these steps as we journey forth in His Name.

## Christmas Celebration

This year's musical Christmas celebration is a 3-church effort: St. Luke's, LCOS and Southminster. We want you to enjoy this celebration of the Holy Season in song. Please sign up on the connection card if you'd like to carpool on Dec. 17th to Southminster. The service begins at 7:00 pm.

## Thanks

Our THANKS to Steve and Nancy Taylor who direct so wonderfully, and to all our youth actors!

## Reserve Your Spot

Reserve your spot and mark your calendars now! The Youth invite you to attend the annual Christmas Dinner Theater at St. Luke's on December 10th at 5:30 pm. The evening will start with a delicious dinner of ham, baked potato, green beans and cake prepared and served by the youth of St. Luke's and LCOS. The performance will follow dinner. Adult tickets are \$10 and children (12 and under) are \$6. Tickets can be purchased from the youth before and after services on December 3 and 10.

## Coats for Safe Havens

Coats for Safe Haven If you would like to donate a coat to Safe Haven, please see Katie Haley. This is one of our Christmas Ministries.

## Lay readers

Sign Up Sheets for 2018 for Lay Readers, Crucifers, and Acolytes are on the bulletin board going into the Sanctuary. Please volunteer for these important ministries!

## Young at Heart

Young at Heart will be accepting Chesterfield Christmas Mother Donations through Sunday, December 11th. Suggested items for children are new, unwrapped gifts such as age-appropriate books, new clothing, large or small toys, and bikes with helmets. For senior citizens suggested gifts are: small blankets, food gift cards or toiletries. **All items must be new and unwrapped.**

## BE INFORMED

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

**<http://www.vaumc.org>**



## From Your Church Treasurer

I want to thank the St. Luke's church family for its generous financial support this year. As we move toward this wonderful Christmas season, you may want to consider adding St. Luke's to your holiday gift list. Best wishes for a blessed holiday season. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Church Treasurer this year. — Scottie Kyle

## An Early Reminder

On Sunday, December 31st, at 10:30 am, we at St. Luke's are invited to worship at the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. They joined us, if you remember, for Vacation Bible School Sunday in August. This is our opportunity to enjoy their hospitality and share in their worship, even as we gather as a Methodist church family surrounded by our Lutheran brothers and sisters. Please plan to attend!! (There will be no worship service on these premises that day.)

## Nursery Worker Needed

A NURSERY WORKER IS NEEDED for the 10:30 am Christmas Eve service. If you are able to help, please contact the church office (276-7000) as soon as possible. Thank you!

## 50th Wedding Anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS TO ZEB & HAZEL SAUNDERS on the occasion of their 55th Wedding Anniversary on November 10th.

## Handbell Practice

HAND BELL PRACTICE, FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY ONLY, will take place on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No practice will be held on December 26th.

### "Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

We extend our love and sympathy to Woody Smart and family at the passing of his uncle, Fred Smart.

We extend our love and sympathy to Cheryl Nester and family at the passing of her aunt.

## Birthdays

December 2	Larry Batten Laura Jarrett William Warriner
December 3	Kevin Jenkins
December 4	Danielle Hawkins Ronnie Bowman Tom Rohlk Joshua Sykes
December 6	Suzanne Steinhorst Jennifer Frankey
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 Robert White, III
December 19	Dean Smith
December 20	Conner Skeen
December 22	Austin Morris
December 23	Gordon Reed Joan Crawford
December 27	Karla Lacy
December 28	Michael Pearse
December 30	Kevin Parrish Marie Dunlap Betty Wellman
December 31	Reagan Gary

## Anniversaries

December 3	Ron & Chris Halloran
December 12	Keith & Donna Miller
December 20	James & Charlotte deKrafft
December 28	Dean & Ibbie Smith
December 31	Gordon & Susan Reed



## Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Andrew Schaeffer	Dean Smith	Bill Brown
Ron Halloran	T J Tucker	Cheri Armstrong
Barbara Stone	David Plummer	Heather Jones
Tom Brown	Marie Goodwyn	Sam McCoin
Jack Parsons	Wayne Kinney	Courtney Amick
Wilmer Downs	Gayle McGonigle	Bob Gardner
Kerry & Brian Myers	Opal Holshouser	The Murphy Family
Doris Courtney	The Hart Family	Karla Lacy
Rebecca Morris	Tom Olson	Kim D'Esposito Lachelier
Katherine & Raymond Fayle		

### Our Military

Robbie Bowen	Aaron Frankey	Holden Russell
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## Christmas Bible School

Christmas Bible School continues December 6 & 13th from 5:30-7:30 pm. We are so excited by the new outreach to young families and the community. Thanks to Michele Hart, our preschool director, and Carolyn Beeckler, our Education Chair, for great leadership; and to our whole staff, for making this new adventure happen!

## Members and Friends

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF ST. LUKE'S, Pastor Lisa, together with Billy Gill of the Belmont Food Pantry, extend their sincere appreciation for your generous donations of 16 turkeys to the Belmont Food Pantry.

## Estimate of Giving

IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN YOUR ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS, you may still do so. You're invited to see Margaret Anderson, or put them in the offering plate.

## Sunday School News

Our Lutheran & Methodist 2-church Sunday School Collaborative continues! The children's Sunday School joins us right here! The combined Youth Class and the Prospectors' Class meet at LCOS. It is exciting to build faith and two congregations through our shared commitment to studying the Word of God!

## Birthdays

January 1	Barbara Armstrong
January 3	Elizabeth Thomas
	Debbie Tatum
January 4	Steve Taylor
	Karen Whitton
	Sarah Allen
	Adam Warriner
January 6	Audrey Vogen
January 7	Kent Calfee
January 11	Justin Stoneberg
January 12	Seth Sykes
January 14	Paul Brown
	Lori Jones
	Faye Sisson
January 15	Nancy Allen
	Krystel Worner
January 19	Ibbie Smith
January 20	Yvonne Morris
	Bradley Smart
January 22	Wendy Brown White
	Benjamin Pritchard
January 23	Cheryl Sanker
	Adam Jones
January 27	Wesley Sykes
January 29	Jerry Anderson
January 30	Sheri Stoneberg
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







# RED POINSETTIAS ONLY 10<sup>00</sup>

per plant

Red Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th. You may take your plant after the 10:30 a.m. service or the 7:00 p.m. service. The cost will be \$10.00 per plant. Please fill out the following form and place it in an offering plate. Make your check payable to St. Luke's U.M.C. and designate in left hand corner of check "Christmas Poinsettia".

*The deadline for ordering is December 3, 2017*

Name of individual(s) purchasing Poinsettia \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias purchased \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

[stlukesumc@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesumc@verizon.net)




## CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER

**\$10<sup>00</sup>** ADULT      **\$6<sup>00</sup>** 12 and under

The Youth invite you to attend the annual Christmas Dinner Theater at St. Luke's on December 10th at 5:30 PM. The evening will start with a delicious dinner of ham, baked potato, green beans and cake prepared and served by the youth of St. Luke's and LCOS. The performance will follow dinner. Adult tickets are \$10 and children (12 and under) are \$6. Tickets can be purchased from the youth before and after services on December 3 and 10.





*The Staff of St. Luke's United Methodist Church,  
Wish you and your family the most blessed  
Of times this Christmas.  
May the Peace of the Christ Child abide in  
Your home and your heart,  
And continue to guide us in Mission  
And Ministry in 2018.  
Merry Christmas, and  
Blessings in the New Year!*

*Lisa K. Sykes  
Bob Ford  
Margaret Anderson*

*Shirley Gary  
Michele Hart  
Scottie Kyle*



# December, 2017 CALENDAR

## Sunday, Dec. 3

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Administrative Council (F.H.)  
4:00 pm-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

## Monday, Dec. 4

4:45 pm-6:45 pm  
Safe Haven  
5:30 pm-7:00 pm  
Al-Anon (P)  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Boy & Cub Scouts (Entire Building)

## Tuesday, Dec. 5

7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

## Wednesday, Dec. 6

10:00 am-12:00 noon  
Susannah Wesley Circle (F.H.)  
5:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Christmas Bible School  
6:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Girl Scout Troop 337 (F.H.)  
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

## Thursday, Dec. 7

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Girl Scout Troop 5228 (B)  
7:00 pm-9:00 pm  
NAMI (P)

## Friday, Dec. 8

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

## Sunday, Dec. 10

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Finance Committee (P)  
4:00 pm-5:30 pm  
Youth (F.H.)  
5:30 pm Youth Theatre (F.H.)

## Monday, Dec. 11

5:30 pm-7:00 pm  
Al-Anon (P)  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Boy & Cub Scouts (Entire Building)

## Tuesday, Dec. 12

7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

## Wednesday, Dec. 13

10:00 am-12:00 noon  
Young at Heart (F.H.)  
11:00 am-1:00 p.m.  
District Clergy Meeting  
5:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Christmas Bible School  
7:30 pm-9:00 pm  
Chancel Choir (S)

## Thursday, Dec. 14

9:15 am Sunday School  
7:00 pm-9:00 pm  
NAMI (P)

## Sunday, Dec. 17

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Pastor/Parish (P)  
4:00 pm-5:30 pm  
Youth (F.H.)  
7:00 pm @ Southminster Presbyterian  
Lessons and Carols  
3-Church Musical Program

## Monday, Dec. 18

4:45 pm  
Safe Haven  
5:30 pm-7:00 pm  
Al-Anon (P)  
7:00-8:00 pm  
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts (Entire building)

## Tuesday, Dec. 19

7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

## Wednesday, Dec. 20

6:30 pm- 7:30 pm  
Girl Scout Troop 337 (F.H.)  
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

## Thursday, Dec. 21

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Girl Scout Troop 5228 (B)  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
NAMI (P)

## Friday, Dec. 22

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

## Sunday, Dec. 24

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Children's Christmas Service  
7:00 pm  
Candlelight Service

## Monday, Dec. 25

(Christmas Day)  
**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL!**

## Tuesday, Dec. 26

**NO HAND BELL PRACTICE**

## Wednesday, Dec. 27

**NO CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE**

## Thursday, Dec. 28

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
NAMI (P)

## Friday, Dec. 29

9:00 am-12:00 Noon  
Quilting Group (F.H.)

## Sunday, Dec. 30

10:30 am Worship Service @ LCOS (no worship service @ St. Luke's)



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### NO EXERCISE CLASSES DURING DECEMBER

**December 6** - 10:00 am - Noon  
Susannah Wesley Circle

**December 13** - 10:00 am - Noon  
Young at Heart

**December 17** @ Southminster Presbyterian  
Lessons and Carols Musical Program

**December 24** - 10:30 am  
Children's Christmas Program

**December 24** - 7:00 pm  
Candlelight Service

**December 26**  
No Hand Bell Practice

**December 27**  
No Chancel Choir Practice

**December 31** - 10:30 am  
St. Luke's invited to Worship Service at LCOS

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



*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)

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**Preschool Director**  
[director@stlukespreschoolva.com](mailto:director@stlukespreschoolva.com)

**Ray Jenkins**  
**Superintendent of Sunday Schools**

# January, 2018 CALENDAR

**Monday, Jan. 1**  
(Office closed)  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Tuesday, Jan. 2**  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Exercise Group (F.H.)

**Wednesday, Jan. 3**  
10:00 am-12:00 noon  
Susannah Wesley Circle (F.H.)  
6:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Girl Scouts -Troop 337 (B)  
7:30 pm-9:00 pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Thursday, Jan. 4**  
6:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)  
7:00 pm-9:00 pm  
NAMI (P)

**Sunday, Jan. 7**  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Trustees (P)

**Monday, Jan. 8**  
10:30 am-10:45 am  
Chapel (S)  
5:30 pm-7:00 pm  
Al-Anon (P)  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Boy & Cub Scouts (Entire building)

**Tuesday, Jan. 9**  
10:05 am-10:30 am  
Chapel (S)  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Exercise Class (F.H.)  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

**Wednesday, Jan. 10**  
10:00 am-12 noon  
Young at Heart (F.H.)  
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Thursday, Jan. 11**  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Girl Scout Troop 5228 (B)  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
NAMI (P)

**Friday, Jan. 12**  
9:00 am-12 noon  
Quilting Group (F.H.)

**Sunday, Jan. 14**  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Finance Committee (P)  
4:00-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

**Monday, Jan. 15**  
(Martin Luther King Day)  
4:45 pm - 7:00 pm  
Safe Haven  
5:30-7:00 pm  
Al-Anon (P)  
7:00-8:30 pm  
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts (Entire Building)

**Tuesday, Jan. 16**  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Exercise Class (F.H.)  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

**Wednesday, Jan. 17**  
6:30 pm-7:30 pm  
Girl Scout 337 (B)  
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Sunday, Jan. 21**  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Pastor/Parish  
4:00 pm-5:30 pm  
Youth (F.H.)

**Monday, Jan. 22**  
10:30 am-10:45 am  
Chapel (S)  
5:30 pm-7:00 pm  
Al-Anon (P)  
6:30 pm-9:30 pm  
UMM (F.H.)  
7:00-8:30 pm  
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts (entire building)

**Tuesday, Jan. 23**  
10:05 am-10:30 am  
Chapel (S)  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Exercise Class (F.H.)  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

**Wednesday, Jan. 24**  
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

**Thursday, Jan. 25**  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Girl Scout Troop 5228 (B)  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
NAMI (P)

**Friday, Jan. 26**  
9:00 am-12 noon  
Quilting Group (F.H.)

**Sunday, Jan. 28**  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am-12:30 pm  
Administrative Council  
4:00 pm-5:30 pm  
Youth (F.H.)

**Monday, Jan. 29**  
5:50 pm-7:00 pm  
Al-Anon (P)  
7:00-8:30 pm  
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts (entire building)

**Tuesday, Jan. 30**  
3:00 pm-4:00 pm  
Exercise Class (F.H.)  
7:00 pm-8:30 pm  
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

**Wednesday, Jan. 31**  
7:30 pm-9:30 pm  
Chancel Choir (S)



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**January 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**January 15 - MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**

**Location Codes:** F.H. – Fellowship Hall, P – Parlor, B – Basement, M.R. – Music Room, S – Sanctuary

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