

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Phillippians 4:8



“It’s a God Thing!”

I almost typed, “It’s a Good thing!”, and it is. But also, it is indeed a God thing. At St. Luke’s, over these past few years, we’ve been exploring ways to be in ministry in new ways. Prayer Walks, “Reaching New People,” tutoring at Jacobs Road, collaborating with our Lutheran neighbors . . .

of the way, we’ve gotten to know ourselves and our community better. But we were still looking for that little bit of inspiration. Something new and different in ministry that would help us create a door for new faces to enter into an ancient faith.

Then, the inspiration came. In a church that has such a vital and impressive outreach through the preschool, why not try to open a little door . . . ? A door to little ones. Half the families in our preschool do not have a church tradition, yet they know and love our preschool ministry.

What if we began a Wednesday School, rather than a Sunday School, and a kid-kinda-worship rather than a traditional one, and what if we opened our doors to these families with whom we already have relationships and those in the community? The result this past Christmas season was wonderful, and now the question: Where do we go from here?

When I visited with our Superintendent in December, a routine part of the Richmond District calendar, the Rev. Dr. Pete Moon was excited by our new start offered a resource new to me: Fresh Expressions. (<https://freshexpressionsus.org/about/#why>). It’s an international effort to bring the unchurched to church. Judging by our Christmas Bible School, we have found a very wonderful way to do that. And now we can explore this resource to help us offer Christ to these children and their families.

It’s a good thing—that we know for sure! But it, too, is a God thing—a little bit of inspiration from the Holy Spirit. We can keep what we already do and love in a traditional way, and add to that, something new and kid-centric to serve young families in the name of Christ.

At the conclusion of the last Bible School session this past Christmas, one of the parents said to me as they were leaving, “You ARE going to do this again, AREN’T YOU??!!” I giggled and rejoiced. The children came and learned and worshiped, but it seems the parents did too! So, Weekly Bible School will be back for Lent, and we pray to the Lord that these families and their receptivity will be too. Come, Holy Spirit, upon us all!

As the start of Lent nears this month, let us consider our call to offer the invitation, and wait to see what God will do, for it is a good thing, and it is a God thing, too!

Blessings upon you, as we wait to see what God will do!

In Christ,
Pastor Lisa

To Our Dear Church Family

You are a blessing to us each day, and have been a source of Christian love and fellowship since we arrived at St. Luke's. As a family, we could not be more blessed by St. Luke's, and your gift of encouraging the encourager, all the time. One of the ways you have shown your support and love and generosity for us has been with the gift you always prepare for us at Christmas. We want to express our thanks to you this year, as before, for the gift presented to us on Christmas Eve this past December. We received it with heartfelt thanks for a congregation that is so thoughtful and generous.

Our greatest gift is sharing in ministry with all of you!

Thank you most sincerely!

Lisa, Seth and the boys

Dear St. Luke's Family

I want to give a shout out to those that gave to Jacobs Christmas missions. I was overwhelmed with your generosity as we collected \$625. We were able to help four children, ages 3 through 7, and a mother and dad are expecting a baby in January. They are from the same family and have four nieces and nephews living with them. We were able to purchase all of their wants and needs. Check out the bulletin board on Sunday with pictures. Thank you again!!! —Debbie Smart

For All You Do This "Thanks!" Is For You

Few know how many hours Margaret Anderson has put into our new directory. All the pictures have been sent in to Lifetouch, and we can't wait to see our new directory in hard copy and online! Next time you see Margaret, give her a big pat on the back!

To all of those who were able to attend Richmond District Training despite Arctic Temperatures! To the Altar Guild, always so busy during the Christmas season. From finding the manger (just like the wise men) to returning nativity costumes to the shed, checking Christmas candle lights and decking not the halls, but the sanctuary! To Ray Jenkins, who has accepted the office of Boy Scout Charter Organization Representative. What a great fit of talent, know-how and leadership! To Karla Lacy, Katie Haley, and all who helped with the reception for the Halloran family. Thanks also to all those who provided food! To Katie Haley, Ibbie Smith and all their elves who provided a memorable Christmas celebration and time of food and gifts for the residents of Safe Haven. To the Methodist Men for our Annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange, which happens in January each year. If you have never attended, please put this on your 2019 calendar! To our cracker-jack team in the office, who in the busy seasons, rejoice, celebrate and work harder than anyone knows . . . To Michele Hart and Vicki Cash, two of the most talented preschool director/assistant directors anywhere! Enrollment is staying steady, well over 100 children enrolled. To Rhea Strum, Ruth Wickstrom, Karen Courtney and the whole congregational care team! God's work, your hands, and it shows! To everyone who has braved winter weather to worship the Lord. "Snow, snow go away; St. Luke's wants to sing each new day!" Finally, thanks to Andrew Russell who has overseen the snow plowing needed this year . . .

Best Wishes

BEST WISHES TO WESLEY SYKES!

Wesley successfully completed his SOLs at Deep Run High School and will receive a standard diploma in June. Congratulations on your outstanding accomplishments, Wesley!

Estimate of Giving

If you have not filled out an Estimate of Giving card, please see Margaret Anderson to do so. This is only an estimate and can be changed at any time, but makes posting so much easier with the new software program.

UMW News

The United Methodist Women's Circle here at St. Luke's has taken on a project for 2018 to crochet mats for homeless veterans using plastic bags from food stores, Walmart, Kohl's, Target, Michael's, Bed, Bath & Beyond and almost all local stores. I have provided a link for your review that gives additional information regarding these mats: <https://alaforveterans.wordpress.com/2017/01/26/diy-make-plastic-sleeping-mats-for-homeless-veterans/>

Instead of recycling these used bags by returning them to the receptacles provided outside store entrances, we are asking, no, begging, that you save them for us and bring them to church and put them inside directly along the wall leading into the fellowship Hall. Since it takes approximately 700 plastic bags for each mat sized 3' by 6', we must depend on the kind hearts of our congregation, preschool teachers and parents as well. We will be happy to give you updates on our progress as we move forward.

We hope that you will look kindly upon this request for help. What a new and wonderful way to serve others as we begin a new year!

Sincerely, UMW

Children's Church

We're in need of Children's Church volunteers. Commitment is only once every 6 weeks. Please call or email Carolyn Beeckler at 276-3284 or beecks@com-cast.net. Thanks!!

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

A Note From Finance

As we put 2017 behind us and look forward to a glorious 2018, just a note on apportionments. As you may have heard, we paid 63.5% of all our apportionments. This 63.5% represented 100% of the apportionments we had earmarked to pay. Since we as United Methodists are a global church, all apportionments are important. The following are those apportionments selected, and a brief explanation of why they are important to St. Luke's:

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS FUND—APPORTIONMENT #403

This apportionment supports the work of 16 district superintendents of the Virginia United Methodist Conference providing salaries, pensions, travel, workers compensation and continuing education.

ACTIVE CLERGY HEALTH—APPORTIONMENT #407

This apportionment provides health care benefits for approximately 2,000 active clergy, incapacitated clergy, and widows of active clergy and their families.

RETIRED CLERGY HEALTH—APPORTIONMENT #408

This apportionment provides medical insurance benefits for approximately 800 retired clergy and spouses. Retirees who are not yet eligible for Medicare may enroll in the Conference-sponsored self-funded health plan, and Medicare-eligible retirees select from several fully insured insurance products designed to supplement Medicare benefits. Enrolled retirees pay a portion of the total cost of coverage.

PENSION LIABILITY ASSESSMENT—PRE 82—APPORTIONMENT #409

Active and retired clergy are provided a defined pension benefit for years of ministerial service, for the remainder of their life. Surviving spouses of said clergy will receive 70% of this amount for the remainder of their lives.

EPISCOPAL FUND—APPORTIONMENT #410

The Episcopal Fund provides assistance to approximately 170 active and retired bishops in five Jurisdictions (US) and central conferences (those outside the US) and surviving spouses by: Providing the salary, benefits and expenses of active bishops, providing benefits to retired bishops and the surviving spouses and minor children of deceased bishops.

AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND—APPORTIONMENT #415

A university in Africa is exciting to Africans who want to study in their own continent where the curriculum and instruction emphasize African culture, perspectives, and concerns. The cost and inconvenience for an African to travel to Europe, Latin America, or the United States for college or university education is great. To educate an African student in the United States costs approximately three times what it would to educate that same student in Africa.

As you can see, these apportionments are necessary to supply support to many people who have dedicated their lives to spread the gospel and nurture global congregations. I hope this explanation serves to applaud you on your giving as well as spur continued, or beginning, giving toward apportionments so that 2018 will be a successful year in the life of our church.

Prayerfully and respectfully submitted,
A. Ray Kyle, Finance Chair

Birthdays

February 1	Becky Jenkins Jason Williams
February 2	Randi Hayes
February 5	Kevin Russell Stephanie Burnett
February 6	Gayle McGonigle Ashley Driskill Nikki Driskill
February 8	Sean Wythe
February 10	Katie Haley Katherine Stefi Harris
February 12	Carolyn Beeckler
February 15	Ruth Russell Tom Proffitt
February 17	Robert Hall Rebecca Heath Matt Pritchard Tee Leigh
February 19	Andrea Brown Betty Hubble Justin Burnett
February 20	Maria Proffitt Wesley Pritchard
February 22	Scottie Kyle
February 24	Mary Nell Kloss
February 25	Thelma Edwards Rachel Jenkins Bruce Anderson Stewart Ball Scarlett Blu Butler

50th Anniversary Couples

Take note, 50th Wedding Anniversary Couples! If you have a 50th wedding anniversary this year, or have not celebrated your 50th here at St. Luke's, please let the office know as soon as possible! We look forward to recognizing your important milestone on Sunday, February 18th, during worship.

Contact the church office at 276-7000.

Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Jane Barto	Hope Russell	Donna Miller
Andrew Schaeffer	Dean Smith	Andrea Brown
TJ Tucker	Cheri Armstrong	Barbara Stone
David Plummer	Annie Davis	Marie Goodwyn
Jack Parsons	Wayne Kinney	Courtney Amick
Gayle McGonigle	Opal Holshouser	Kerry & Brian Myers
Doris Courtney	Margaret Tucker	Raymond Fayle
Wilmer Downs	Wayne Jenkins	Donna Kaeser
Kim D'Esposito Lachelier		
Sam Kaeser and Savannah O'Connell		

Our Military

Robbie Bowen	Aaron Frankey	Holden Russell
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"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

We extend our love and sympathy to Kay Callis and family. Kay's father, James M. Barker, Jr., claimed the promise of the resurrection on Thursday, December 14th, 2017.

We extend our love and sympathy to Joyce Johnson and family who suffered a miscarriage in late December.

We extend our love and sympathy to Ray Kyle and family. Ray's uncle, James G. Stowers, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Friday, December 29, 2017.

We extend our love and sympathy to Rachel Kaeser and family. Rachel's uncle, Andrew Carlson, claimed the promise of the resurrection on January 17, 2018.

We extend our love and sympathy to Chris and Shane Halloran. Ron claimed the promise of the resurrection on January 18, 2018.

We extend our love and sympathy to Clay Morris and family. Clay's grandfather, Richard Hyler, claimed the promise of the resurrection on January 18, 2018.

We extend our love and sympathy to Angie Bond, one of our Preschool Staff teachers. Angie's husband, Jeff Bond, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Sunday, January 28th.

Thank You

Thank you very much for all the cards, prayers & fruit & cheese tray for the passing of my father, James M. Barker, Jr. on December 14, 2017... You all are truly a blessing... Thank you again to my church family. Love you all! Kay, Keith Callis, Shannon & Brad Bridgeman, Cameron, Barbara & Sebastian Callis

Chris and Shane Halloran would like to thank everyone for their love, prayers, and support during Ron's illness and passing. The reception was lovely, and we greatly appreciate all everyone did to make it so.

Chris Halloran

From Our Youth Coordinator

First however, let us applaud Rachel's amazing hard work on behalf of our combined Youth program. As you know, our young folks are raising funds for a trip to Texas this summer, and she has been busy making sure the St. Luke's-LCOS youth calendar is full of fun activities that will also provide funds toward that goal. Thank you, Rachel, for your superlative efforts! Pastor Lisa

Hello everyone.

What a wonderful night! The youth did such an amazing job. The Christmas Dinner Theater is always a lot of work and the kids are always such troopers. They brought joy and laughter to a lot of people this evening and it was a fantastic way for our two congregations to celebrate the Christmas season together.

HUGE thanks to Nancy and Steve Taylor for all their hard work pulling the show together. I don't know how you keep everything so fresh each year, but you do and it's amazing to see what you come up with.

Another HUGE thanks to Carolyn and Rick Beeckler and Brian Kaeser for all the shopping, food preparation and clean up. A lot of planning, comparison-shopping and time goes into this event, and you guys knock it out of the park every time.

Finally, Chris and Hailey, thank you for being the fun and supportive couple that you are. You are with our youth every step of the way and they love you for it. Your energy, enthusiasm and guidance mean the world to them and to all of us.

To all the other parents who helped in the kitchen, set up tables and cleaned up after . . . "many hands make light work," and your support is always appreciated.

If you took any pictures or video this evening, please forward them to me and I will get them posted on the Youth Facebook page. I will also get some of them printed so they can be posted on the Youth boards at both churches.

That's a wrap for Christmas Dinner Theater 2018!"
Rachel



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

CHILLI COOK-OFF

11:30 a.m. Sunday, February 4th

Be sure to volunteer to make a pot of chili and participate in the chili-tasting competition!

Schedule for Music Ministry

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Sunday - February 04, 2018 - Assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday - February 07, 2018 - Sanctuary choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Sunday - February 11, 2018 - Assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday - February 14, 2018 - Assist in leadership of the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Sunday - February 18, 2018 - Assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday - February 21, 2018 - Sanctuary choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Sunday - February 25, 2018 - Assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday - February 28, 2018 - Sanctuary choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

We are inviting sopranos, altos, tenors and basses to join us for a short-term membership in the sanctuary choir in order to be able to lead the congregation in the special services for Lent; that being Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Those of you who are interested may attend rehearsals on February 21, 28 and March 7, 14, 21, and 28. The Good Friday service is on March 30, 2018 and Easter Sunday is April 1, 2018. Please consider this short-term commitment from which you will receive many blessings.

Donna Miller reports that the handbell choir is now six members strong. They will resume rehearsal for the Easter celebrations following recovery from health-related issues.

I have enjoyed directing the combined children from St. Luke's and LCOS. They will be returning to LCOS on February 18. Discussions are taking place for a new ensemble to utilize this time slot, that being Sunday morning 9:15 - 9:45. Our brass ensemble and a new group will occupy this time.

Chat n' Chew 2.0

Bishop Lewis will host a listening session, Chat n' Chew 2.0, on Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Ebenezer UMC in Stafford VA. This event is for both laity and clergy from the Alexandria, Arlington, Rappahannock River, and Richmond Districts. It will focus on the work of The Commission on the Way Forward regarding unity and human sexuality, allowing lay and clergy voices across the conference to engage directly in this important conversation.

Who: Laity & Clergy from the Alexandria, Arlington, Rappahannock River, and Richmond Districts

What: A listening session with Bishop Lewis focused on the work of the Commission on the Way Forward.

Where: Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

When: Ebenezer UMC: 161 Embrey Mill Rd., Stafford, VA 22554
Cost: \$10/person. Lunch is included.

Contacts:

Alexandria/Arlington: NoVaDistricts@vaumc.org

Rappahannock River: RappahannockRiverDistrict@vaumc.org

Richmond District: RichmondDistrict@vaumc.org



Bishop Sharma Lewis

Register: <https://eiseverywhere.com/chatnchew2>

IMPORTANT REMINDERS - FEBRUARY thru EASTER 2018

YOUTH FUNDRAISER ENVELOPES AVAILABLE!

FEBRUARY 4	CHILI COOK-OFF (FELLOWSHIP HALL)
FEBRUARY 11	BOY SCOUT SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 14	ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18	50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED
MARCH 10	U.M. MEN'S BRUNSWICK STEW
MARCH 29	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - 7:00 P.M. at LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR REV. LISA SYKES PREACHING
MARCH 30	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - 7:00 P.M. at ST. LUKE'S REV. KATIE POCALYCO PREACHING
APRIL 1	ST. LUKE'S EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES 7:00 A.M. SUNRISE SERVICE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE REV. LISA SYKES PREACHING

EASTER BIBLE STUDY (A. RAY KYLE LEADING)

Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 for 7 to 8 Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., at Anna's Italian Restaurant, 11027 Hull Street Road. We will be using the book, The Seven Sayings of the Savior on the Cross, by Arthur W. Pink.

WHAT'S UP!!



**Christmas Bible School
was a big success.**

**We had a great group to
deliver the coats we
collected to Safe Havens.**



February, 2018

Thursday, Feb. 1

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

Sunday, Feb. 4

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am-12:30 pm
12:00 Noon Chili
Cook-off (F.H.)
Trustees (P)
4:00-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)
4:30-5:30 pm
Confirmation Class

Monday, Feb. 5

4:45pm-6:45 pm
Safe Haven
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Boy & Cub Scouts (Entire building)

Tuesday, Feb. 6

3:00 pm-4:00 pm
Exercise Group (F.H.)
7:00 pm-8:15 pm
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

Wednesday, Feb. 7

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, Feb. 8

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

Friday, Feb. 9

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

Sunday, Feb. 11

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.)
4:30 pm-5:30 pm
Confirmation Class

Monday, Feb. 12

(Lincoln's Birthday)
10:30 am-10:45 am
Preschool Chapel (S)
5:30-7:00 pm
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts
(Entire Building)

Tuesday, Feb. 13

10:05 am-10:30 am
Preschool Chapel (S)
3:00 pm-4:00 pm
Exercise Class (F.H.)
7:00 pm-8:15 pm
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

Wednesday, Feb. 14

(ASH WED - VALENTINE'S DAY)
10:00 am-12 Noon
Young at Heart (F.H.)
6:00-7:00 pm
U.M. Men's Pancake Supper
7:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, Feb. 15

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

Friday, Feb. 16

Youth Retreat -
Feb. 16-18-Eagel Erie

Sunday, Feb. 18

(50th Anniversary Recognition)
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.)
4:30 pm-5:30 pm
Confirmation Class

Monday, Feb. 19

4:45pm-6:45 pm
Safe Haven
7:00-8:30 pm
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts
(entire building)

Tuesday, Feb. 20

10:00-3:00 pm
Dist. Clergy Meeting
3:00 pm-4:00 pm
Exercise Class (F.H.)
7:00 pm-8:15 pm
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

Wednesday, Feb. 21

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

Thursday, Feb. 22

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

Friday, Feb. 23

9:00 am-12 noon
Quilting Group (F.H.)
3:00-9:00 pm
Boy Counts Green & Gold Banquet

Sunday, Feb. 25

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

Monday, Feb. 26

10:30 am-10:45 am
Chapel (S)
5:30 pm-7:00 pm
UMM (F.H.)
7:00-8:30 pm
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts
(entire building)

Tuesday, Feb. 27

10:05 am-10:30 am
Preschool Chapel (S)
3:00 pm-4:00 pm
Exercise Class (F.H.)
7:00 pm-8:15 pm
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)



Wednesday, Feb. 28

7:30 pm-9:30 pm
Chancel Choir (S)

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 4 - CHILI COOK-OFF
FEBRUARY 11 - BOY SCOUT SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 12 - LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
FEBRUARY 14 - ASH WED - VALENTINE'S DAY
FEBRUARY 18 - 50th ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION
FEBRUARY 19 - PRESIDENTS' DAY
FEBRUARY 20 - DISTRICT CLERGY MTG

LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH 10 - U.M. MEN'S BRUNSWICK STEW
MARCH 29 - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - 7:00 P.M.
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
REV. LISA SYKES PREACHING
MARCH 30 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - 7:00 PM
ST. LUKE'S UMC REV. KATIE POCALYCO PREACHING
APRIL 1 ST. LUKE'S EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE
7:00 A.M. SUNRISE SERVICE
10:30 A.M. - REV. LISA SYKES PREACHING

YOUTH FUNDRAISER ENVELOPES AVAILABLE!

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

Pastor
The Rev. Lisa Sykes
stlukespastor@verizon.net

Shirley Gary
Office Manager
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Bob Ford
Minister of Music
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director@stlukespreschoolva.com

Ray Jenkins
Superintendent of
Sunday Schools



*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