

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19



Good News At Easter

I admit it—I am scared to turn on the news these days. I still do it, but only after bracing myself for more bad news. “When is it going to stop?” most of us ask.

At every level of our world, there is sorrow and unrest, and evils we would have never imagined until the television narrated them to us. Our world, and not just the church, seems to be in this historic Christian season of repentance. It is the season, I teach our preschoolers, of saying, “I’m sorry!”

And I am so sorry. For young lives lost. For girls in far-off lands who have been kidnapped. I’m sorry for tensions between partitioned counties that once were unified. I’m sorry for the fact that there are the homeless and hungry right here in Richmond.

The bad news might overwhelm me, were it not for the Good News. No matter what news report I listen to, I know it is not the final word. The final word, not matter what the world says today, is what God will say tomorrow.

And while the world adds and adds to its litany of worst possible scenarios, God waits . . . with pardon, redemption, triumph, and newness. “Bring it on God; I’m ready!” If you have felt like this, then join me in waiting for God to decree that the last word is not the world’s . . . in fact, the Word is God’s. It is the same hopeful message from the start of creation until now.

God has been working to redeem his children, whether they behave or not, for all of human history, and when that finally happens, then we can celebrate it for all of eternity! Live as people of this promise, even in a world gone mad at times. Live as those who know Good will overcome evil, forgiveness will overcome grudge and life will overcome death.

Evil may score in the short term, but Christ will triumph eternally. Hold this hope; keep it close to your heart, especially when the world jars the sensibilities of your spirit.

Christ comes to know the full measure of human sin—to feel it in his flesh upon the Cross, that we might come to know the full measure, the breadth, the length and the height and the depth, and to know the wisdom

. . . which passes all understanding
. . . and surpasses all human headlines.

While the world gives you its grievances and grief, may you yet wait for Easter Day with hope!

Easter Blessings to you!
Pastor Lisa



Hazel Saunders

UMW honors Hazel Saunders

Hazel Saunders was honored at the February meeting of the UMW circle for her outstanding leadership and faithful service as its President for the last 12 years! She will continue to be an important part of this group of ladies and is presently spearheading its challenge to the congregation to join UMW ladies in raising funds during Lent by donating 10 cents for each pair of shoes, slippers and boots they own (and 5 cents for children). These funds will go to benefit women and girls. Watch for the shoe boxes which will follow the regular collection plates until Easter!

Have You Recently Wondered...

- Q: Where did that preacher get to?
 A: Why she's down there teaching the children.
 Q: Why is she doing that?
 A: Well, she loves kids and wants them to have a consistent teacher.
 Q: Really? Is that good for a church?
 A: Sure it is! It helps to grow the children's Sunday School, and when that grows so does the adult Sunday School.
 Q: Well, what if I want to bring my elementary-aged son or daughter?
 A: Just show up Sunday at 9:15. The class spends ½ hour learning to play mallets, and then they go for the Sunday School lesson across from Pastor Lisa's office?
 Q: But does Pastor Lisa like teaching the children?
 A: Are you kidding? (no pun intended!) She loves it!

Come to Children's Sunday School and mallet practice, Sunday mornings at 9:15! Everyone is welcome!

Easter is Almost Here

EASTER IS ALMOST HERE, and our GARDENERS-ON-THE-GO invite you to join them for fun and fellowship as they spruce up St. Luke's flower beds for Easter Sunday. You'll be welcomed with open arms any Wednesday in March (7, 14, 21, or 28), from 10 am until 12 noon. Bring gloves and garden tools (rakes, pruners, hedge trimmers). If you would like to help, call Karla Lacy at 674-8336.

Please Note:

Pastor Lisa will be on vacation April 2-11. If you need a pastor while she is away, contact the church office for the clergy person on-call.

A Holy Week and a Day To Rejoice

Remember to bring a flower Easter Sunday and place it on the Easter Cross. The Cross will be located outside the front sanctuary door.

Please share in these Holy Week Observations and Events:

March 25, 10:30 am: Palm Sunday Celebration, with a covered dish meal and Easter Egg Hunt to follow, here at church. Please bring a dish to share!

March 29, 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion at the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Pastor Lisa preaching. (This will be our communion service for the month of April, as Easter falls on the first Sunday in April and we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism on that day.)

March 30, 7 pm: Good Friday Worship at St. Luke's UMC as we host our Lutheran neighbors.

April 1, 7:00 am: Sunrise Service, as we greet the New Day that proclaims new life. BREAKFAST to follow, you early risers! Time: 7:30 am. 10:30 am: Easter Worship, with baptism and the reception of new members: Brad and Elizabeth Butler and their daughter Scarlett; and Joan Bowker.

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

For All You Do

Thanks to Kelly Rice who is doing this phenomenal job of evangelism as an online art! She makes it look so easy and knows so much about Facebook. Our evangelism is no longer door-to-door, which doesn't work well anymore. Now, we are online, networking and reaching out in a whole new cyber-way!

Thanks to Ray Kyle, our certified lay servant, who is helping in many ways here at St. Luke's. We appreciate his occasional preaching as well as his teaching! Ray is leading the Lenten Bible Study for Adults that meets on Wednesday at Anna's. Want to know more? Just call the church office!

Three cheers for our marvelous preschool director, Michele Hart, who with the help of Ronnie Weade, has overseen repairs to two preschool rooms affected by an unanticipated flood! Walkie-talkie messages reporting that it was raining inside and downstairs harkened to a plumbing problem upstairs which has taken weeks and the help of our insurance company to repair. Whew!

Thank you, Marcia, for working like a beaver, leading the Worship Committee in planning for Palm Sunday, Easter, Preschool Sunday and Anniversary Sunday. The spring is going to be BUSY, so be sure to mark your calendars everyone, offer to help, and don't miss the chance to share in celebrating God's goodness to us!

Sincere thanks to our church staff and volunteers who have provided extraordinary help in coordinating receptions when our members have found themselves in a time of mourning. This little church responds with a big heart. For all of you who have invested time and labor and love, caring for those who grieve, thank you!

United Methodist Women

Every year our UNITED METHODIST WOMEN have a program called "Call to Prayer and self-denial". We are the largest denominational faith organization for women with 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth and developing leaders who advocate for justice for women and children. So that our children will grasp that they can take part in raising funds for helping children who are less fortunate, we are including church families in our project this year. We ask each adult to donate \$.10 (or more) for each pair of shoes they own, and each child to donate \$.05 for each pair of shoes they own. The money raised from our "Call to Prayer and Self-denial" will go toward supporting our projects.

One of our projects this year is the Hope Foundation, which teaches women better agricultural and financial skills. They gain access to loans, credit and markets. As of 2016 more than 140 loans were granted with successful rates of payments.

Another project is in Manila where children live near a dump site. Community development with children and their families teach skills through informal education programs that teach the children to dream for a better future. Please help fill our shoe boxes.

Some of our projects are:

1. Child development and after-school programs
2. GED and ESL programs
3. Job readiness
4. Life skills and livelihood training, and
5. Scholarships, workshops and seminars, both formal and informal

Birthdays

March 6	Steven Grubbs
March 7	MaryJo Jones
March 10	Beth Ball
March 12	Christopher Hedrick
March 15	Kathy Bowen Elijah Jones Scott Brown
March 18	Eric Jones
March 19	Ronnie Jones
March 21	Elton Gardner Andrew Proffitt
March 24	Steven Hudson
March 26	Deanie Reynolds
March 30	Debbie Smart
March 31	Bobbie Strum

Anniversaries

March 25 Bobbie and Rhea Strum

Friendship, Fellowship and The 55TH Anniversary of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Remember to save the date, May 20th, as we celebrate the 55th anniversary of the founding of St. Luke's UMC. You are invited to bring a friend to church to help celebrate our Friendship, Fellowship and the 55th Anniversary Sunday.

Peter Moon, our district superintendent, will be preaching. This occasion will be a special service of music, baptism and reception of our confirmands. Stay for lunch after the service to greet our newest members and join in fellowship. Stay tuned for more details!

EASTER OFFERING

This year's Easter Offering, a sacrificial gift over and above regular giving, is a 50/50 split, designated for apportionments and general funds. It will be received any time between now and Easter.

Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Please keep in prayer our confirmands:

Sam Kaeser, Savannah O'Connell, Sophia Lorenzo & Autumn Papczynski.

Jane Barto

Dave Hay

TJ Tucker

Wilmer Downs

Marie Goodwyn

Courtney Amick

Opal Holshouser

Doris Courtney

Our Military

Robbie Bowen

Hope Russell

Andrew Schaeffer

Cheri Armstrong

David Plummer

Jack Parsons

Jean Richardson

Raymond Fayle

Margaret Tucker

Cheryl Nester

Dean Smith

Barbara Stone

Donna Kaeser

Wayne Kinney

Gayle McGonigle

Kerry & Brian Myers

Aaron Frankey

Holden Russell

"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

We extend our love and sympathy to Rose Kessler and family. Ron claimed the promise of the resurrection on February 14, 2018.

We extend our love and sympathy to Missy Kloss Moore who recently lost her paternal grandmother.

Rose Kessler and the Calfee family would like to thank everyone for their prayers and messages of support during Ron Kessler's hospitalization and passing. It is always comforting to know how many others care about you in times of sadness. The reception was lovely, and it was a blessing to have the burden of planning that off of our shoulders. We cannot express our gratitude enough for your kindness.



Good Morning friends

I hope you're doing well! Our next Foster Care Information Session is coming up on March 20th.

Also, I'm very excited to tell you that the newest member of our HopeTree team is Alexandria (Alex) Denny, our Church & Community Relations Coordinator. Alex may be reaching out to you in the near future, so please give her a warm welcome.

As always, thank you for your continued support. We couldn't do the work we do if we didn't have so many churches partnering with us to raise awareness about this important need.

Blessings on You,

Abigail Schreiner, MSW
Foster Parent Recruiter
HopeTree Family Services
11745 Chester Road | P.O. Box 3779 | Chester, VA 23831
Office: 804-545-1205
Cell: 804-698-9370

St. Luke's Face Book Page

Make sure you like the St. Luke's Facebook page to keep up with everything going on at church. Also, please like and share the posts and events. The more we share and like, the more others will see what a wonderful place St. Luke's is -- and all the things that we are doing!

Here's a link to our page:

<https://m.facebook.com/St-Lukes-United-Methodist-Church-486188658201339/>

Schedule for Music Ministry of St. Luke's UMC

Tuesday - March 06, 2018 - Handbell choir rehearse in the sanctuary - 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

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

Sunday - March 11, 2018 - Mallet-percussion choir rehearse in music office - 9:15 - 9:45. Sanctuary choir to assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday - March 13, 2018 - Handbell choir rehearse in the sanctuary - 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday - March 14, 2018 - Sanctuary choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Sunday - March 18, 2018 - Mallet-percussion choir rehearse in music office - 9:15 - 9:45. Sanctuary choir to assist in leadership of the morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. Brass ensemble to rehearse in sanctuary following the 10:30 worship service.

Tuesday - March 20, 2018 - Handbell choir rehearse in the sanctuary - 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

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

Sunday - March 25, 2018 - Tentative choirs warm-up in the sanctuary at 9:15 (mallet-percussion, handbell and sanctuary choir) for the Palm Sunday special music.

Tuesday - March 27, 2018 - Handbell choir rehearse in the sanctuary - 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

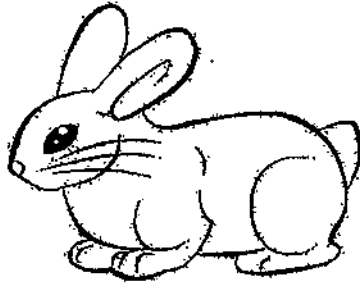
Wednesday - March 28, 2018 - Sanctuary choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Good Friday - March 30, 2018. Sanctuary choir to assist in the Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.



Way Up On The Mountain Top

From February 16-19, 2018, 12 youth and 3 chaperones (Thanks, Haley, Chris and Helen!!) scaled the heights in Lynchburg at Eagle Eyrie -- the Baptist Retreat Center. The youth had a fabulous time and got a workout physically, walking up and down the mountain for meals, and a spiritual workout, studying, praising and praying! Thanks to Rachel Kaeser who got all the paperwork in place and to this great group of young Christians who grew stronger and closer in spirit, to each other and our Lord!



**Give Kids MORE than just a BUNNY
this Easter!**

Boys and Girls, 3 years old thru 3rd Grade, are invited to

Easter Bible School:

Wednesday, March 7, 14, and 21
from 5:30 to 7:30 pm,
with the last 1/2 hour being a celebration for the whole family.

Kids will learn about:
Greeting Jesus with Palm Branches,
Jesus having dinner with his friends
The "Opposites" of the Cross

We'll have dinner, art, music with Ms. April, drama, and a kid-friendly lesson written by Pastor Lisa and taught by preschool staff and church volunteers. Cost: \$5/session.

Easter Bible School kids are also invited to be in the Parade of Palms on Sunday March 25 at 10:30 am. Bring the whole family!

(Registration form on opposite side of this flyer!)

REGISTRATION FOR EASTER BIBLE SCHOOL

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 7, 14, AND 21

5:30-7:30 pm, ST. LUKE'S UMC

(Please fill out a separate form for each child who wants to attend)

Participant's Name _____

Participants Address _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Contact Phone Number _____ email address _____

Alternate Contact's Name _____

Alternate Contact's Phone Number _____

Emergency Phone Number _____

Grade _____ Date of Birth _____

Allergies _____

Medical Conditions of which we need to be aware _____

Spaces are not guaranteed until registration is received and recorded. Spaces will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis. An optional \$5.00 donation per night for meal and craft is requested. (\$15.00 for the 3 sessions). Any questions, contact 276-7000.

Please plan to share in a special Worship Service on Palm Sunday, March 25th, at 10:30 am. followed by an Easter Egg Hunt!

March, 2018

CALENDAR

Thursday, Mar. 1

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

Friday, Mar. 2

Lay Servant Academy
Smith Mountain Lake

Sunday, Mar. 4

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

Monday, Mar. 5

4:45pm-6:45 pm
Safe Haven
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Boy & Cub Scouts (F.H.)
& all rooms upstairs)

Tuesday, Mar. 6

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

Wednesday, Mar 7

10:00 am-12:00 noon
Susannah Wesley Circle (F.H.)
11:30 a.m.
Easter Bible Study (Anna's)
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Easter Bible School
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Girl Scouts -Troop 337 (B)
7:30 pm-8:45 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (M.R. & S)r

Thursday, Mar. 8

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

Friday, Mar. 9

9:00 am
Preparation for Brunswick Stew
9:00 am-12 noon
Quilting Group (F.H.)

Saturday, Mar. 10

UMM Brunswick Stew

Sunday, Mar.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.)
4:00 pm-5:30 pm
Confirmation Class

Monday, Mar. 12

10:30 am-10:45 am
Preschool Chapel (S)
7:00-8:30 pm
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts
(Entire Building)

Tuesday, Mar. 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, Mar. 14

10:00 am-12 Noon
Young at Heart (F.H.)
11:30 am
Easter Bible Study (Anna's)
5:30 pm-7:30 pm
Easter Bible School
7:30 pm-8:45 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (M.R. & S)

Thursday, Mar. 15

10:30 am-Noon (P)
Clergy Women
7:00 pm-9:00 pm
NAMI (Parlor)

Saturday, Mar. 17

3:00 pm-6:00 pm
Boy & Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet (F.H. & S)

Sunday, Mar. 18

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, Mar. 19

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

Tuesday, Mar. 20

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

Wednesday, Mar. 21

11:30 a.m.
Easter Bible Study (Anna's)
5:30 pm-7:30 pm
Easter Bible School
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Girl Scout Troop 337 (B)
7:30 pm - 8:45 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, Mar 22

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

Friday, Mar. 23

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

Saturday, Mar. 24

Set up for Palm Sunday (F.H.)

Sunday, Mar.25

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

Monday, Mar. 26

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

Tuesday, Mar 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, Mar. 28

7:30 pm-8:45 p.m.
Chancel Choir (S)

Thursday, Mar 29

(MAUNDY THURSDAY)
7:00 pm LCOS
REV. LISA SYKES
PREACHING

Friday, Mar. 30

(GOOD FRIDAY)
7:00 pm ST. LUKE'S UMC
REV. KATIE POCALYCO
PREACHING

DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 10 – U.M. MEN'S BRUNSWICK STEW

March 11 — Daylight Savings Time begins

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

Looking Ahead

APRIL 1 ST. LUKE'S EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

7:00 A.M. SUNRISE SERVICE - REV. LISA SYKES PREACHING

7:30 BREAKFAST

10:30 A.M. - REG. SUNDAY MORNING

SERVICE - REV. LISA SYKES PREACHING

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

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