

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."

John 3:3-5

Reflections on St. Luke's 55th Anniversary

Having celebrated the 55th Anniversary of St. Luke's, with wonderful praise, music, preaching and fellowship, with reunion and, too, the presence of the Rev. Dr. Peter Moon, our District Superintendent, I wanted us to think not only about the life in this church that is past, but also the life that is to come.

With the church, new life is evident in new members, new outreach, new professions of faith (Welcome Confirmation Class of 2018!); and new life is evident in our faith that we are saved not only in this life but in the life to come.

New life is what God is always trying to offer us. It is ours to receive, if we will but believe and bring others to belief. May St. Luke's continue in its primary mission, of sharing the Gospel and welcoming the neighbor and the stranger in Christ's Name.

In both celebration of this accomplished in the past, and in hope of this continuing in the future, I offer you a story from my May 27th Sermon that will make you think anew about the new life we would receive and proclaim, for 55 more years, and beyond!

("The story I am about to tell you has been credited to Henri J. W. Nouwen. However, many scholars now attribute it originally to Pablo Molinero. I hope it helps you to discern the light YOU can only see with your soul.")

"In a mother's womb were two babies.

The first baby asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?"

The second baby replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense," said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What would that life be?"

"I don't know, but I am sure there will be more light there than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths."

The doubting baby laughed. "That is absurd! Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous. The umbilical cord supplies nutrition. Life after delivery cannot exist. The umbilical cord is too short."

The second baby held his ground. "I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here."

The first baby replied, "No one has ever come back from there. Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery, there is nothing but darkness."

"Well, I don't know what comes next," said the twin, "but I am certain we will see mother and she will take care of us."

"Mother?" The first baby guffawed. "You believe in mother? Where is she now?"

The second baby calmly and patiently tried to explain. "She is all around us. It is in her that we live. Without her there would not be this world."

"Ha. I don't see her, so it's only logical that she doesn't exist."

To which the other replied, "Sometimes when you're in silence, if you listen carefully, you can hear her. I believe there is a reality after delivery and we are here to prepare ourselves for the change when it comes. . ."

For the sake of the new life God gives, may we prepare ourselves to receive it, both now and in the life to come!



NANCY LADD, CHARTER MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S UMC, ATTENDS THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ITS FOUNDING.



PASTOR LISA OFFICIATES OVER BAPTISMS AND CONFIRMATION WITH ASSISTANCE OF BOBBIE STRUM, LAY LEADER, AND THE REVEREND DR. PETER MOON, GUEST SPEAKER, ON ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY.



PASTOR LISA AND THE REVEREND DR. PETER MOON, GUEST SPEAKER, SHARING CHILDREN'S TIME ON ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

Heartfelt Thanks—

*to All Who Helped in Momentous Ways
for our Anniversary Sunday Celebration*

Pete Moon for preaching this Anniversary Service, and to both him and his wife Lynn for sharing their presence as we marked our 55th Anniversary!

Our Chancel Choir Members:

Sopranos: Andrea Brown, Marcia Grubbs and Leanne Rohlk; Altos: Jane Barto, Hazel Saunders, Elizabeth Butler, Ruth Wickstrom and Yvonne Morris; Tenors: Andrew Russell and Steve Taylor; Baritones: Bill Brown, Ray Kyle and Ken Knust; and our Director of Music, Bob Ford

Our Brass Instrumentalists:

Trumpets: Steve Beverly and Ray Jenkins; Euphonium: Carlton Hudson

Our Youth Choir: Sydney Kaeser, Riley Beeckler, Joshua Sykes, Autumn Papczynski, Sofia Lorenzo, Savannah O'Connell, Sam Kaeser, Chris de Krafft, Haley Taylor, Emma Luerssen, and Mar Jimenez; and our Youth Choir Directors, Steve and Nancy Taylor

Lay Leader: Bobbie Strum

Certified Lay Servant: A. Ray Kyle

Speakers: Ray Jenkins, Betsye Russell, Richard Jenkins, Doris Teeter and Zeb Saunders

AV and Video: Keith Miller, Margaret Anderson and Jerry Anderson

Ushers: Bobbie Strum, Shirley Jones, Chris de Krafft and Lori Jones

Greeters: Winnie Brown, Shirley Jones and Debbie Smart

Parking Lot Attendants: Woody Smart and Zeb Saunders

Acolyte: Hunter White

Crucifer: Savannah O'Connell

Nursery: Sherri Thornton; Children's Church: Carla Collins and Alison Reining

Worship Chairperson: Marcia Grubbs

Invitation Chairperson: Richard Jenkins

Worship Committee: Jerry Anderson,

Becky Jenkins, Dianne Johnson,

Pat Knust and Donna Miller

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

Marcia Grubbs, Worship Chairperson Also Says Thank You!

Hats off to the many volunteers who made our St. Luke's 55th Anniversary Sunday such a wonderful celebration. Richard Jenkins created the invitation. Kelly Rice made sure we got the invite. Becky Jenkins designed the table decorations with the theme of doves and flames to celebrate Pentecost. Keith Miller set up the slideshow. A big thank you to the following people for addressing and stamping envelopes for the invitations, cleaning and organizing the sanctuary, setting up and decorating the fellowship hall, helping in the kitchen, and/or cleaning up: Becky Jenkins, Margaret Anderson, Katie Haley, Debbie Smart, Donna Miller, Pat Knust, Dianne Johnson, Chris Halloran, Rhea Strum, Karen Courtney, Keith Miller, Jerry Anderson. And a round of applause to all the good cooks who provided dishes to share!

St. Luke's UMC Music Ministry

St. Luke's UMC sanctuary choir, handbell choir, brass ensemble, and the mallet-percussion choir have ended their spring semester rehearsals and participation in the leadership of the worship services. No further rehearsals are scheduled until August and September, 2018. Those exact dates will be announced in future articles. Soloists, duets, trios, and ensembles participating in the leadership of summer worship services will practice on Sunday mornings at 11:30 a.m. to prepare for the following week's music. Have a great summer and see you in September.

UMW'S News to the Pews

Our 2018 mission of creating mats for homeless veterans continues in full swing. The congregation, along with our families, neighbors and friends, has been so supportive of this project. For those who wish to join us, we meet in the fellowship hall each Tuesday afternoon @1:30 p.m.

Our ladies have been shopping for the specific provisions required to complete much needed UMC Hygiene Kits. We will have purchased, assembled and delivered to Conference 27 of these kits by mid-June. Thanks for the generous donations from the congregation that allowed us the means to send this number of kits.

Ladies Night

All are welcome! The United Methodist Men's Fellowship is sponsoring its annual Ladies' Night dinner at St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Monday, June 25, 2018 at 6:30 pm. The meal will be steak (New York Strip), baked potato, salad, beverages and dessert. The cost is \$20 per person. Payment is requested at the time reservations are made. The sign-up deadline is June 17, 2018. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hall leading from the sanctuary to the main hallway.

Birthdays

June 3	Carla Collins
June 4	Richard Sineath
June 5	Shannon Bridgeman Donna Miller
June 6	Michele Hart
June 7	David Hay
June 8	Betsy Russell Bonnie Gold
June 9	Marcia Grubbs Karen Courtney
June 12	Andrew Rohlk
June 14	Jean Martin
June 16	Emily Anderson Rose Kessler
June 22	Jo Ann Jackson Ashley Worner
June 23	Jan Hall
June 25	Mitch Glover
June 28	Mary Meador Amber Gardner
June 29	Kathy Gardner
June 30	Dennis Haley Doris Jenkins

Anniversaries

June 6	E.W. & Linda Toney
June 9	Bill & Andrea Brown
June 12	Jim & Marcia Grubbs
June 14	Brian & Rachel Kaeser
June 16	Roland & Sue Fussell
June 18	Bobby & Deanie Reynolds
June 19	Jerry & Margaret Anderson Wayne & Katie Haley William & Betty Hubble
June 22	Kevin & Tee Leigh
June 24	Roger & Beth Ball
June 26	Dave & Laurie Hay
June 28	Bob & Jan Hall



Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Jane Barto	Hope Russell	Cheryl Nester
Andrew Schaeffer	Dean Smith	Reg Whitton
Cheri Armstrong	Bettie Jones	Wilmer Downs
David Plummer	Donna Kaeser	Marie Goodwyn
Jack Parsons	Wayne Kinney	Dave Hay
Jean Richardson	Gayle McGonigle	Opal Holshouser
Kerry & Brian Myers	Doris Courtney	Renae Hedrick
Lori Jones & Family	Raymond Fayle	Beverly Carlson
Karla LacySharon Hoyle		

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 CW and Kelly Rice at the passing of her Great-uncle Clyde in early May. He was 96.

We extend our love and sympathy to Dave and Laurie Hay at the passing of their dear friend, Larry Ashley. Larry died suddenly of a heart attack in mid-May.

We extend our love and sympathy to Samantha Jones and family at the passing of Samantha's uncle, Hank Meyer, who claimed the promise of the resurrection on May 21st.

Our sympathy and love is extended to Audrey Parsons in the death of her husband, Jack, on May 23, 2018.

Father's Day Dedications

In celebration of Father's Day you are invited to make dedications in honor and/or in memory of the special men in your life. Deadline is June 3, 2018.

Thank You, St.Luke's Family

Thank you St. Luke's Family for your many kindnesses over the past few months. Your prayers, cards, calls, rides, visits, food and concern have truly lifted my spirits. There isn't a better congregation anywhere.

Jane Barto



JRES ROARS RECIPIENTS SADIE JONES AND REINAH MORRIS

Congratulations to Reinah Morris and Sadie Jones

CONGRATULATIONS TO REINAH MORRIS AND SADIE JONES, recently acknowledged as outstanding Jaguars at Jacobs Road Elementary. Reinah and Sadie were nominated by their respective teachers for the JRES' ROARS Award in recognition of these qualities: Respect, Organization, Accountability, Responsibility and Self-control. It is presented annually to a student in each grade level who best demonstrates these commendable attributes. Well done, Reinah and Sadie! We applaud your selection as deserving recipients of this special award!



Get Prepared — CARITAS is coming back to St. Luke's August 18-25, 2018

St Luke's will welcome 30 guests to help provide some shelter and comfort during hard times. We are hosting the unaccompanied women's group this year. Our guests will arrive at St. Luke's for dinner each night around 5 pm. They will participate in different events across the week (a worship service, laundry, showers) and spend the night in the fellowship hall before departing the next morning.

We ask you to consider how you, your committee, group or others can meet a need – donate necessary supplies or laundry money, prepare a meal, pack lunches, stay overnight with the guests. No effort is too big or too small to make a difference to the lives of people in need of shelter, support and care! We invite you to serve as evening and/or overnight coordinators and can always use some friendly faces to help welcome these guests to St. Luke's during their time of difficulty.

Please join us to help provide both fellowship and the support needed for our church to host these important guests. LCOS will be partnering with St. Luke's again to support this important mission! Anyone who is interested in learning more, please contact Chris Halloran, or Laurie and Dave Hay.



Youth Reach Their Goal

We have reached our Youth Gathering fundraising goal!! Many thanks to the congregations of St. Luke's and Lutheran Church of

Our Saviour, for their unwavering support of our youth. We will be heading to Houston on June 27th and look forward to coming back and telling you all about it on Sunday, July 10th.



OUR NEW CONFIRMANDS PICTURED HERE WITH PASTOR LISA AND YOUTH LEADERS CHRIS DE KRAFFT & HALEY TAYLOR

Congratulations Graduates

Congratulations to our Graduates: Members: Wesley Sykes, (son of Lisa & Seth Sykes), Deep Run High School; Hunter White, (nephew of Elizabeth & Brad Butler), Clover Hill High School; and Friends: Matthew Boyd (grandson of Shirley & Ronnie Weade), Rockbridge County High School; Bonnie Smith (granddaughter of Ibbie & Dean Smith), Hanover High School; Brady Hart (son of Michele and Jason Hart), Cosby High School; Nathan Hudson (grandson of Rose & Carlton Hudson), Monacan High School and our foreign exchange students, Mar Jimenez and Emma Luerssen.

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/>



Pastor Lisa Shares The Following With Us

On April 28, the Rev. Dr. Peter Moon and members of the laity and clergy of the Richmond District dedicated a Saturday morning to receiving an update on the UMC Commission on a Way Forward. (For those on Facebook, you can follow the work of the Commission by typing “UMC Commission on a Way Forward” into the search function of by going to “<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>” in your web search engine.)

As most are aware, our denomination is being what we usually are: methodical, careful and thorough, as we approach a contemporary issue that may dramatically impact our church in the future. Deeply committed Christians have a difference of opinion on the issues of, not just homosexuality, but sexual orientation. Our Discipline does not address or even imagine the variety of terms now in use (LGBTQ). Many of us find this alphabet soup to be very confusing.

Pastor Pete gave a presentation about the developing responses to this controversial issue in a global church like ours. The possibility of keeping a united church, where local congregations or conferences are free to set their own policy on this issue, is among the proposals. What will come out of the specially called General Conference, being convened in St. Louis in February 2019, is unknown. But delegates, clergy and lay, will seek to find a “Way Forward” through this controversy while maintaining the unity of the global UM church and its world-wide missions.

Key to moving forward, said the Rev. John Hall at this meeting, are some basic principles of

respect for others, even those with different opinions from our own. These include:

- Seeing each person involved in conversation and dialog as a Child of God.
- Understanding that differences of opinions can be shared without harming the “spirit” of the other person(s) with whom you/we are having a conversation
- Realizing that unity does not mean we agree on each issue; however it does mean we are a community of faith based upon God’s love for each one of us. As we respond to God’s love and grace for us, we are to love each other.

And the most important observation of all:

- Affirming that Christians should never be satisfied knowing what they believe, but must explore why they believe it.

May the United Methodist Church, through the Commission on the Way Forward, find a way forward in unity and love.

From the Bishop

Bishop Lewis has announced the Annual Conference Offering: the mission offering goal is \$200,000 to focus on the following missional priority projects: Cambodia: \$50,000 - Church Growth and Development and Community Health and Agricultural Development; Brazil: \$25,000 - Shade and Fresh Water Ministry with Children; Mozambique: \$25,000 - Lay Leadership Development; Native Americans: \$10,000 - Support for Volunteers in Mission teams working with Native American Ministry and Tribal Youth; Cuba Recovery: \$25,000 - Hurricane Recovery for Churches in Cuba; Haiti: \$25,000 - Funds to support Volunteers in Mission teams; Puerto Rico Recovery: \$25,000 - Hurricane Recovery and support for Puerto Rican churches; Moscow Seminary: \$15,000 - Support for student scholarships. Mark your gift “Conference Offering” in the memo line of your check.



Great News from Our Preschool!

Great news!!! We have been voted the third best preschool is Richmond's Style Weekly Magazine!! First and second places were multiple location daycare centers so I think it's fair to say we are the number one Preschool! Be on the lookout for a banner for our award! Thank you for all of your support to help us be the best!!

We graduated 33 children and they are off to succeed in Kindergarten! A special congratulations to Colton Morris and Luke Owens!



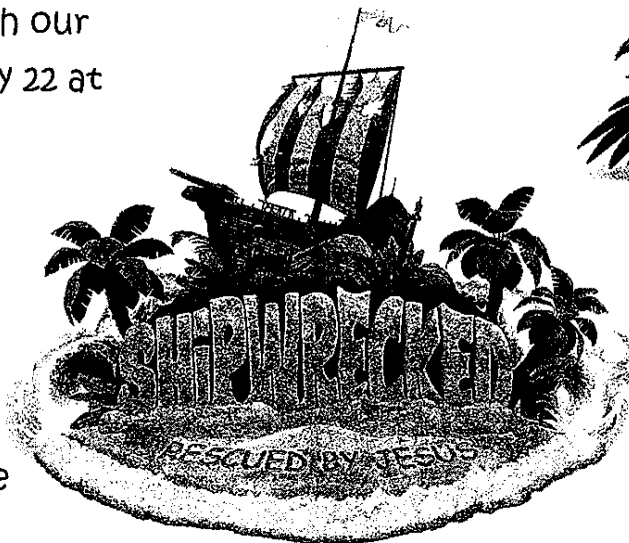
CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. LUKE'S 2018 PRESCHOOL'S 33 GRADUATES!

ANNOUNCING: VBS 2018 — Shipwrecked!!

July 15-19, 6:30-8:30 pm, with our Sunday Celebration on July 22 at 10:30 am.

Please put these dates on your calendar and register early!

3 years old through rising 6th graders are all welcome to be part of our team as we learn how Jesus is our anchor in life's storms and rescues us when we get stuck!



More details and registration

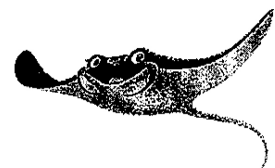
can be found on line at:

www.vbspro.events/p/slumc-lcos



Register EARLY to reserve your spot!

Our VBS is a combined ministry of St. Luke's UMC and the Lutheran Church of our Saviour!



Volunteers: Use this same site to register as a member of the crew! All volunteers must have been involved in our churches for at least 6 months and have completed a background check and child protective training.

Friday, June 1

9:30am-12:30 pm
Preschool Summer Camp

Saturday, June 2

2:00-6:00 pm
Cub Scouts'
Graduation (F.H.)

Sunday, June 3

(Communion & Graduation Sunday)
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Reception for Graduates (F.H.)
11:45 am Trustees (P)
4:00 pm-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Monday, June 4

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

Tuesday, June 5

7:00 pm-8:15 pm
Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)

Wednesday, June 6

10:00 am Susannah Wesley Circle (F.H.)
6:30-7:30 pm
Girls Scouts, Troop 337, (B)
7:30 pm-8:45 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (M.R. & S)

Thursday, June 7

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

Friday, May 11

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

Sunday, June 10

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 Finance Meeting (P)

Monday, June 11

9:30 am-12:30 pm
Preschool Summer Camp
7:00-8:30 pm
Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts (F.H. & all rooms upstairs)

Tuesday, June 12

(Election Day)
9:30am-12:30 pm
Preschool Summer Camp

Wednesday, June 13

10:00 am
Young at Heart
9:30am-12:30 pm
Preschool Summer Camp
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Girl Scout Troop 5228 (B)

Thursday, June 14

9:30 am-12:30 pm
Preschool Summer Camp
7:00 pm-9:00 pm
NAMI (P)

Friday, June 15

VA Annual Conference
(Hampton)

Saturday, June 16

VA Annual Conference
(Hampton)

Sunday, June 17

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
11:00 am Move to Fellowship Hall for live-streaming of Annual Conference until noon (Bishop Sharma Lewis preaching)

Monday, June 18

4:45 pm-8:30 pm
Safe Haven
7:00 pm Staff/Parish (P)

Wednesday, June 20

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

Thursday, June 21

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

Friday, June 22

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

Sunday, June 24

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Administrative Council (F.H.)
1:30-5:30 pm
Bob Ford Recital (F.H. & S.)

Monday, June 25

6:30 pm
UMM

Wednesday, June 27

Youth Trip to Texas,
June 27-June 30

Thursday, June 28

6:30-7:30 pm
Girls Scouts, Troop 5228 (B)
7:00 pm-9:00 pm
NAMI (P)



DATES TO REMEMBER

June 14 - Flag Day

June 17 - Father's Day & Live-streaming from Conference

June 18 @ 7:00 pm-Pastor/Parish

June 24 @11:30 am-Administrative Council

June 25 @ 5:30 pm-UMM Ladies Night

June 27-30 - Youth Trip to Texas

LOOKING AHEAD

JULY FOURTH IS ON WEDNESDAY

JULY 10 - YOUTH REPORT ON TEXAS TRIP

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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