

*“ Now you
are the body
of Christ, and
each one of
you is a part
of it.”*

1 Cor. 12:27

More Than the Sum of our parts

2 plus 2 is . . . 4 plus 4 is . . . 8 plus 8 is . . . I remember problems like this in grade school. There were set answers, and if you did your addition wrong (which I frequently did!), you got a great big red “X” on your worksheet. Mathematics is rather precise. There’s a wrong and a right answer. Simple.

But what if 2 plus 2 is more than 4? And 4 plus 4, more than 8? Mathematicians might shake their heads in disdain, but theologians, well we are less certain and much more gracious. Why can’t 2 plus 2 be more than four? After all, where 2 or more are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them. That means the mathematical answer is already off by one powerful 1!

Church life and Christian faith is all about the fact that we are more than the sum of our parts—more than meets the eye. As the church, the Holy Spirit unites us and strengthens us, so that who we are is more than the sum of our parts: we are the body of Christ; and what we can do is more than what our individual strength would accomplish (John 14:13).

It is Good News and a source of hope that God in Christ messes with worldly calculations. There is so much today that would make us just want to give up, size up the challenges against us, and call it a day. Thankfully, it is not that simple. God gets into the worldly calculus; God amplifies the hope to make a difference; God emboldens those who have too little to believe that even a mustard seed of faith can grow into the greatest of bushes.

We must judge neither on the outward appearance, the numerical calculation, nor the worldly estimation of life, for the spiritual resists quantification and the power of faith cannot be measured. Every Sunday we gather as a community of believers aware that through one small but wonderful church, God can do incredible spiritual things, including ministry, mission, and the transformation of the world, one disciple at a time.

As we await the future direction of our denomination, let us never forget the wonderful progress of our incarnate church, where 2 plus 2, is so much more than 4 . . .

God bless you!

Pastor Lisa, gratefully returning for her 8th year as pastor

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON FINDING A “WAY FORWARD”

For those interested in following the faithful and hard work of the Way Forward Commission, which seeks to find a direction that preserves church unity while seeking a way forward in regard to the debate on human sexuality, you may watch the presentation from Annual Conference at:

<https://livestream.com/VAUMC/AC2018/videos/176376355>



Happy Hearts Were The Order Of The Day

On Sunday, June 24th, as St. Luke's congregation witnessed the re-enactment of a long-anticipated event. Joyous applause erupted as Chris deKrafft knelt before his intended, Haley Taylor, and popped the big question . . . again! Charlotte deKrafft, Chris's grandmother, was all smiles!

Although the original proposal took place in Charlottesville, the re-enacted version at St. Luke's left everyone with happy hearts full of good wishes for our youth leaders, Chris and Haley!

We're So Glad They're Back...

No, it wasn't Batman and Robin to the rescue! When our beautiful chimes broke and we feared they were too old to fix, it was Wilmer and Clinton to the rescue! After talking with the company that made them, and meeting with one of the representatives, Wilmer and Clinton decided the amplifier was causing the problem! And while the company that manufactured the chimes had no new amplifiers, they did have a trade-in available.

A very busy morning, and time and talent invested, and wahaah! The bells are back! The neighbors have actually been inquiring, since many of them look forward to our 12:30 and 5:30 pm chimes.

We're grateful they're back . . . and so much better than a bat signal!! Now that Wilmer and Clinton have rescued the bells, their melodies remind all who hear, that it is Jesus who comes to our rescue!

Our Next Mission Emphasis Is Sunday-September 30th

In June, Pastor Lisa attended a gathering of 7th District clergy at the invitation of Congressman Brat.

One of the presenters, Mercy House, which helps individuals recover from heroin addiction, will be our guest for the next Mission Emphasis Sunday on Sept. 30th. Be sure to be present for this time of celebrating recovery and sharing testimony!

St. Luke's wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the generous monetary gift made by Heather Jones in memory of her mother, Wanda Skeen.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRANDON AND SARA WISE on the birth of their daughter, Sophia Ruth, born June 18, 2018! She weighed 8 lbs., 12 ozs. George and Brenda Staehle are the proud grandparents.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROLAND AND SUE FUSSELL on a new family addition! Sue's granddaughter had a baby boy on June 12, 2018. His name is Carter Thomas Knott. Congratulations, Sue and Roland, on this new great-grandson!

SPARE MUSICAL KEYBOARD? If you have one you wish to donate, it would be very much appreciated by someone in the church. Just call the church office. Thank you!



CHERYL MEETS WITH BISHOP LEWIS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE. BISHOP LEWIS PRAYED FOR CHERYL AND HER VALIANT FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER.

PASTOR LISA WAS AMONG 1600 UNITED METHODISTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN CITY CLEAN-UP AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>



It's Time To Sign Up- CARITAS Will Be At St. Luke's August 18-25 2018

St Luke's will host 30 unaccompanied women as our guests to help provide shelter and comfort for our most vulnerable neighbors. Our guests will arrive at St. Luke's each night for dinner around 7:00 pm. They will participate in different events across the week and then spend the night in the fellowship hall before departing the next morning by 7:15 am. (Note: CARITAS just notified us that the women's group is the final pick-up in the morning and evening.)

A sign-up sheet is located on the hallway bulletin board and we are looking for volunteers for the evening shifts (welcoming and joining in a meal with our guests); the overnight teams (you work while you sleep!!). Just put out coffee and breakfast in the morning and hand over the pre-made lunches before the guests depart). Help is needed in setting up bedding on August 18 and taking bedding down on Aug 25. We also need some assistance during the week in tidying up the church during the day. Any groups wishing to provide meals should contact Chris Halloran and Karla Lacy to coordinate their preferred date and meal option.

A toiletry kit for each guest will be needed; and if anyone has spare magazines, books or movies that might be of interest to this group of women, along with any donations of women's clothing, those items would be greatly appreciated. We especially need INTERVIEW-TYPE CLOTHING. ANY SIZE IS WELCOME. PLEASE BRING TO CHURCH ON HANGERS.

We welcome everyone to join us in helping provide fellowship and the support needed for our church to host these important guests. No kindness or donation is too small to help make a difference to someone in need. Anyone who is interested in learning more, please contact Laurie and Dave Hay.



SOME OF ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PREPARING TO ASSEMBLE HYGIENE KITS

Birthdays

- July 2 Rick Beeckler
- July 4 Reinah Morris
- July 6 Woody Smart
- July 8 Jim Grubbs
Autumn Papzynski
- July 9 Chris Halloran
- July 10 Kay Callis
Cheryl Nester
Brian Smart
- July 12 Mandy Wellman
Jeremy Reed
- July 13 Matthew Wertz
- July 14 Jordan Calfee
Sara Wertz
- July 16 Kevin Johnson
- July 18 John Richardson
Brad Butler
- July 19 Stacy Pritchard
Amanda Nolen
- July 20 Jim Brown
- July 24 Shane Halloran
- July 26 Margaret Anderson
- July 28 Karen Miller
- July 29 Robbie Bowen
- July 30 Joel Calfee
LeAnn Nunnally

Anniversaries

- July 7 Kent and Rhea Calfee
Bruce & Robin Anderson
Elton & Kathy Gardner
- July 8 Vernon & Louise King
- July 15 Tommy & Cindy Driskill
- July 17 Tom & Maria Proffitt
- July 18 Ronnie & Shirley Weade
- July 20 Jason & Michelle Hart
- July 30 Brad & Elizabeth Butler



Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Jane Barto	Dean Smith	Cheryl Nester
Andrew Schaeffer	Cheri Armstrong	Bettie Jones
Wilmer Downs	Donna Kaeser	Heather Jones
Marie Goodwyn	Wayne Kinney	Joan Crawford
Gayle McGonigle	Opal Holshouser	Kerry Myers
Doris Courtney	Rena Hedrick	Raymond Fayle
Beverly Carlson	Sharon Hoyle	Peggy Utterback
Lori Jones & Family		

Our Military

Robbie Bowen	Aaron Frankey	Holden Russell
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PRAYERS PLEASE, FOR CW AND KELLY RICE as they await the birth of their first child, a baby girl, in November.

Prayers for Chris deKrafft and Haley Taylor at their engagement!

“Sorrow and Love flow mingled down”

Our sympathy and love is extended to Audrey Parsons whose husband, Jack, claimed the promise of the resurrection on May 23, 2018.

Our sympathy and love is extended to Bobby and Barbara Armstrong. Bobby's sister, Polly Elaine Bryant, was lost in an auto accident on Monday, June 4th.

Our sympathy and love is extended to Woody Smart whose friend Shelia Covier claimed the promise of the resurrection in June.

Our sympathy and love is extended to Phyllis and Wilmer Downs. Phyllis' brother-in-law, Joe Colella, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Sunday, June 3, 2018.

Great News from Our Preschool!

Great news!!! We have been voted the third best preschool in 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!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO DENNIS HALEY AND HIS SOFTBALL TEAM! THEY RECEIVED A GOLD MEDAL AT THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES. WAY TO GO BLUE JAYS!



A. RAY KYLE SERVED AS LAY DELEGATE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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/>

Mats Matter— Six Month Progress Report

Ladies of the UMW enlisted the support of the congregation, pre-school, families, friends and neighbors six months ago to donate used grocers' plastic bags and join us in our Circle's 2018 Mission. As we related at that time, we felt led to repurpose these bags by crocheting them into safe and comfortable mats for homeless veterans.

Your immediate response to our plea for these bags was outstanding and, in addition, this request went viral when posted on our Facebook page! Thanks to all of you for the many ways you have supported and strengthened us throughout these past six months. We could not have accomplished such satisfying results without God's blessings and your help!

From the start, the number of bags donated was overwhelming and created anxiety as the realization kicked in that we needed many, many hands to collect bags, cut, create plarn (a new word-combination of plastic bag and yarn) and crochet 3' x 6' mats. Prayers were answered and God's blessings continued as we were able to enjoy fellowship as we worked; and soon we had plenty of bags, cutters, plarners and crocheters. This team effort resulted in 10 completed mats on April 4th.

Our excitement level was high as we hosted a luncheon for From the Heart and delivered our first batch of mats to their representatives that same day for distribution. An unexpected problem arose, however, when we learned from that original community service organization (and other service organizations) that because of a storage problem McGuire Hospital will accept no additional donations until winter! We needed to pick up 7 of the original mats that had not been placed since From the Heart's sources had withdrawn their assistance. While we thought we had problems when we needed people to crochet, we never thought for a moment our mats would have a problem finding a home of their own with a veteran!

Having learned about the mats from an on line American Legion newsletter, we contacted the American Legion Auxiliary Virginia State Office in Richmond for assistance. We were told to bring the mats there and they would try to place them in the right hands. We delivered them May 10th. On June 5th, I got the answer to another prayer when Yvonne Burgess of that office called to report that American Legion representatives had picked up all 7 mats, were thrilled about them and knew exactly where homeless veterans in the Richmond area could be found. Furthermore, they indicated that they would be happy to have as many as we can provide. In the meantime, we had completed another 10 mats that were taken to the American Legion Virginia State Office June 19th.

In closing, the above can be summarized by saying, "In the first six months of 2018, we have completed and delivered 20 mats to organizations around Richmond to be distributed to homeless veterans." This Mission has brought all of us at St. Luke's UMC closer together. We can boast that, with God's blessings and guidance, based on the premise forecast on line, it takes 700 plastic bags to complete one 3' x 6' mat. We produced 20 mats and share in the handling of 14,000 plastic bags. This Mission is our way to thank those men and women who gave so much of themselves to preserve our freedom and now have fallen on hard times.

Can I hear a resounding Amen?!

CONGRATULATIONS!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES! WESLEY SYKES (DEEP RUN) AND HUNTER WHITE (CLOVER HILL)



Youth Reach Houston



Announcing VBS 2018 – **SHIPWRECKED!!**

July 15-19, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Sunday Celebration July 22, 10:30 a.m.

Please put these dates on your calendar and register early! Three 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!

Register early to reserve your spot!

Our VBS is a combined ministry of St. Luke's United Methodist Church and the Lutheran Church of Our Savior

More details and registration can be found on line at:

<https://www.vbspro.events/p/events/slumc-lcos>

Volunteers: Use the 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.

Sunday, July 1

(Communion - Youth return from Texas)
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees (P)

Monday, July 2

4:45 pm-8:30 pm
Safe Haven
7:00-8:30 pm
Cub Scouts (Basement & Rms. 106, 108, 110, 112)
Boy Scouts (FH and all rooms upstairs)

Wednesday, July 4

(Office Closed - 4th of JULY)
10:00 am Susannah Wesley Circle (F.H.)
6:30-7:30 pm Girls Scouts, Troop 337, (F. H.)

Thursday, July 5

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

Sunday, July 8

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

Monday, July 9

7:00-8:30 pm
Cub Scouts (Basement & Rms. 106, 108, 110, 112)
Boy Scouts (FH & all rooms upstairs)

Wednesday, July 11

10:00 am
Young at Heart (FH)

Thursday, July 12

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

Friday, July 13

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

Sunday, July 15

(YOUTH WITNESS/VBS BEGINS)
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary
11:30 am Pastor/Parish (P)
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
VBS

Monday, July 16

4:45 pm-8:30 pm
Safe Haven
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
VBS

Tuesday, July 17

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
VBS

Wednesday, July 18

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
VBS

Thursday, July 19

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
VBS

Saturday, July 21

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
VBS

Sunday, July 22

(VBS Sunday)
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Administrative Council (FH)

Monday, July 23

6:30 pm UMM (FH)
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Cub Scouts (Basement & Rms. 106, 108, 110, 112)
Boy Scouts (FH & all rooms upstairs)

Thursday, July 26

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

Friday, July 27

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

Saturday, July 28

(Church Workday)
9:00-12:00 noon
Workday at church
FH in use from
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sunday, July 29

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

Monday, July 30

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Cub Scouts (Basement & Rms. 106, 108, 110, 112)
Boy Scouts (FH & all rooms upstairs)



DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 4th IS ON WEDNESDAY

JULY 15th - YOUTH WITNESS SUNDAY
VBS BEGINS (6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.)

JULY 22nd - VBS SUNDAY

JULY 28th - CHURCH WORKDAY
(9 A.M. - noon)

LOOKING AHEAD

AUGUST 18-25 - CARITAS

SEPTEMBER 30 - MISSION EMPHASIS SUNDAY

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

Pastor
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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