

Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 1: 13-15

Imitation is the Highest Form of...?

Imitation is the highest form of . . . ? Can you complete the thought? If you follow the world's wisdom, the answer is "flattery." Imitation is the highest form of flattery. In a world of originality, invention and creativity, imitation is often frowned upon. Everything, and everyone, needs to be an original.

But as a Christian community, let's think theologically. Imitation is . . . is . . . the highest form of . . . ? Of what? My answer would be discipleship. Advent comes before Lent to remind us our lives are to be full of adoration, but Lent comes before Easter to remind us that our lives are to be full of sacrifice, after the example of our Lord. The hardest part of the Christian life is not adoring an infant. That's easy. The hard part is following a Lord with his face set toward Jerusalem and the Cross. That's hard! Really hard!

It demands a lot of us to imitate a self-sacrificing Savior, one intent on dying to save us. How often . . . or seldom . . . do you and I practice sacrifice? How often do you and I even consider what God is calling us to sacrifice? Spiritual wisdom comes from asking what we are being called to sacrifice of not only our abundance, but also our essentials, our non-negotiables, and all for the sake of others.

I hope during each week of Lent, you might ponder this question: What will it be pleasing to God if you give up . . . or give away? Is there a long-standing argument where it is perhaps just time to give in, that a relationship may be renewed? What outward appearance is not true to your inward spirit that can be given over to God, so that your Spirit may draw closer to the One who saves us? What assumptions and judgments have you held dear, that the Lord asks you to let go of . . . ?

Sacrificing is the ultimate spiritual discipline of Lent and life, and the call to give up chocolate may not go deep enough, spiritually speaking. Let grudges end. Let riches flow. Let newness come, by sacrificing the things that cause our spirits to wax old and heavy and burdened.

Imitate the discipline of sacrificing self, or at least the parts of ourselves and our lives that we covet, that God might make a way, sometimes a seemingly impossible way, for us to receive the newness that Christ promised us in his greatest of all sacrifices, the One upon the Cross.

May a solemn season bring your spirit new insights, and new possibilities, by letting go of what seems certain vs. what is only remotely possible by the Grace of God. Such spiritual daring by Jesus has bestowed salvation upon you. May you go and do likewise, letting God renew you, and by your sacrifice, make others new, too.

Blessings,
Pastor Lisa

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

is nearly here. Transfiguration Sunday is March 3rd, followed by the start of Lent, Ash Wednesday, March 6th. This holy season will be full of the Spirit, with new members received and a special dedication on the 10th; Youth Sunday is on the 17th; the baptism of C.W. and Addison Elizabeth, and membership for Kelly and C.W. on the 24th; our first 2019 Stewardship Sunday is March 31st; the Rev. Tom Brown preaches on April 7th; our Palm Sunday Cantata, March 14th; Maundy Thursday is here on April 18th, at 7:00 pm; Good Friday service at LCOS on, April 19th, 7:00 pm; and Easter on April 21st.

Please mark your calendars for this holy season!

Schedule for Music Ministry of St. Luke's UMC March 2019

- Sunday - March 03, 2019** - Children's percussion choir
Sanctuary choir warm-up and lead in worship
Youth and adult handbell choir
- Wednesday - March 06, 2019** - Sanctuary choir warm-up
Ash Wednesday service and abbreviated practice.
- Sunday - March 10, 2019** - Children's percussion choir
Sanctuary choir warm-up and lead in worship
Youth and adult handbell choir
- Wednesday - March 13, 2019** - Sanctuary choir rehearsal
- Sunday - March 17, 2019** - No children's percussion choir. Music Director away
- Wednesday - March 20, 2019** - Sanctuary choir rehearsal
- Sunday - March 24, 2019** - Children's percussion choir.
Sanctuary choir warm-up and lead in worship
Youth and Adult handbell choir
- Wednesday - March 27, 2019** - Sanctuary choir rehearsal
- Sunday - March 31, 2019** - Children's percussion choir
Sanctuary choir warm-up and lead in worship
Youth and adult handbell choir

GROW

Growing families and future families through Christ

We are starting something new at St. Luke's—the GROW Sunday school class is now forming. Our church is a community and a way for us to connect and grow in our faith. This group will meet on Sunday mornings, but we are looking to expand our reach outside our four walls, whether that be with community service, social outings and/or Parents' Night Out events. This group will set the course for what we want to do. If you are interested please come to our first meeting on Sunday, April 14th. During Sunday School the church nursery is open and there is Sunday School class for the little one. Let's GROW something amazing!

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/>

THANKS FROM THELMA... "My deepest appreciation and thanks for all your acts of kindness shown during my recent back injury. I have been blessed by your prayers, visits, cards, phone calls and meals. Though my spirit wants to be with you at St Luke's, I must take more time for healing."
Fondly, Thelma Edwards

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As we approach the season of Lent, Easter and spring with it's fresh beginnings, I want to let you know that Stewardship is a year-round opportunity. So, beginning March 31, on a quarterly basis, the Finance Committee will be sharing pertinent information with the congregation to help make your stewardship/giving a lot easier and more meaningful..
Faithfully submitted,
Donna Miller - Stewardship Chair

SPEECHLESS...!

Pastor Lisa is not often at a loss for words. But when Seth told her they were going to Hawaii to celebrate 30 years of marriage, she didn't know what to say, until the word "Yes!" arrived loudly in Seth's ears. So, very unusually, Pastor Lisa will be away for two Sundays during Lent. Our lay servant Ray Kyle will cover one of those and Pastor Tom Brown will cover the other. Lisa will be back in plenty of time for the lead up to Holy Week, and thanks to all of those in the office, on the Altar Guild and Worship Committee who will see to it that our worship continues uninterrupted.

CHHASM OUTREACH DIRECTOR SENDS THANKS

"Dear Friends,
Thank you for your gift of \$100 to CCHASM. Your thoughtfulness is such a blessing to our clients. May the Lord richly bless each one of your members.

Yours truly,
Mary Ann
Outreach Director, CHHASM

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

Birthdays

March 1	Tommy Driskill
March 6	Steven Grubbs Charlotte deKrafft
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 Cody Russell Ken Knust
March 30	Debbie Smart
March 31	Bobbie Strum

Anniversaries

March 25	Bobbie & Rhea Strum
March 26	Patrick & Carolyn Beeckler
March 29	Andrew & Sevda Russell

Upheld in our Prayers

After General Conference, we pray for the unity of our denomination and the strength of its congregations and missions around the world.

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Thelma Edwards	Betty Wellman	Dean Smith
David Sherwood	Peggy Uglow	Jan Hall
Wilmer Downs	Kevin Leigh	Debi Clements
Margaret Tucker	Wayne Kinney	Kerry Myers
Opal Holshouser	Renae Hedrick	Karen Whitton
Andrew Schaeffer	Lori Jones & family	Sharon Hoyle
George Munford	Marie Goodman	Sarah Schiltz
Debbie (Andrew)		
Katherine & Raymond Fayle		

Our Military

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

Our sympathy and love are extended to the family of Dale Gipe. Dale claimed the promise of the resurrection on February 4, 2019.

With ongoing prayers for Elizabeth Butler and family at the loss of her mother, this is to let you know that a Celebration of Carolyn Johnson's Life will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2019, 1:00-4:00 pm at the Mechanicsville Moose Lodge, 7167 Flag Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

Easter Flowers

This year for Easter Sunday you will be given the opportunity to order an Easter Lily, Hydrangea, Azalea or Mum. All orders must be in the church office no later than March 31st. Make checks payable to St. Luke's UMC and be sure to designate on the check in the lower left corner "Easter Flowers". Please complete the following form and drop it in the collection plate with your check. The following flowers will be available: Easter Lily \$12.25; Hydrangea, assorted colors - \$18.25; Azalea, assorted colors - \$18.25; Mums, assorted colors - \$12.00

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

Plant Desired:

Easter Lily ___ Hydrangea ___ Azalea ___ Mum ___

Introducing our new “Coordinator Of Children and Young Family Ministry!” *Carolyn begins her new position on March 1, 2019. Please hold her in your Prayers*

Hi! I'm Carolyn Beeckler and I've attended St. Luke's for the past 30 years. I've played an active role in the children's programs over the years, helping in the nursery, teaching the children's Sunday school class, helping with numerous Christmas plays and programs, and teaching and coordinating children's church. For 24 of the 30 years, I've taught VBS. Why you ask? Well, not only did my three daughters grow up in this church, but I've always loved working with children. It is my passion. I don't know who benefits more from VBS, me or the children. The same holds true for the Wednesday night VBS Ministry Pastor Lisa has implemented at our church. It is enjoyed by children, teachers and parents alike. It is an informal, fun way to worship and for young families to be exposed not only to the love of Christ, but also to the love and support of St. Luke's Church.

Many of you also realize that I am a teacher at St. Luke's Preschool. This is my 15th year teaching. I'm so excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Coordinator for the Children and Young Family Ministry Project. I feel I can utilize my experience and passion to do exciting things for our church!

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

BISHOP SHARMA D. LEWIS will hold an address entitled “State of the Church: Where do we go from here?” on Monday, Mar. 4, following the Special Session of General Conference. The event will be live-streamed from 10 to 11:30 am at www.livestream.com/vaumc/stateofthechurch. It will feature an address by Bishop Lewis as well as time for Q & A. Questions for the Q & A may be sent to wayforward@vaumc.org prior to the event and during the event.



Youth Update

The youth attended the annual Eagle Eyrie retreat in February, along with other Virginia youth groups. It was a weekend of small groups, speakers, music and worship. Everyone had a wonderful time, as always. A big “Thank You” to Haley Taylor and Chris deKrafft for accompanying our youth and their continued support of our youth.

March Activities:

Youth Sunday is scheduled for March 17 at St. Luke's and March 24 at LCOS.

There will be no youth group on March 31 due to Spring Break.

OUR “FAT TUESDAY” PANCAKE SUPPER actually happens on Wednesday just before our Ash Wednesday Service, so we can share fellowship and food before we mark the start of Lent. The United Methodist Men will be doing the cooking March 6th. Pancakes will be served from 6:00 -7:00 pm with our Ash Wednesday service to follow at 7:30 pm. Please join us for the meal as well as worship!

OUR LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

meets at Anna's on Tuesdays at 11:30 am. Ray Kyle leads this class, and our study is “That's What The Man Said” (The Sayings of Jesus) by Maxie Dunnam. All are welcome to attend. The class will meet next on Tuesday, March 5th. Please sign up on the connection card in your bulletin and place it in the offering tray to reserve your spot at the table.

EASTER BIBLE SCHOOL will take place March 13, 20 & 27th, from 5:30 -7 pm, with kid-friendly family worship to follow from 7:00-7:30 pm. Wednesday Nite Bible School is for kids 3 years old thru 2nd grade. Our Easter theme is “So Tempting: Saying ‘No!’ to Bad Choices.” Please invite a child you know to attend!



In February, youth from St Luke's and the Lutheran Church of our Saviour enjoyed a mountain-top experience at Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg with leaders Chris and Haley.

Pave it Forward

Pave it forward! How's that for a campaign slogan? The campaign of paving our parking lot. Go ahead and laugh. That's what I did when the Pastor told me of her idea for a slogan. But when you think about it, it's not that awful. Most likely it comes from the movie that came out in 2000, Pay It Forward, in which young Trevor McKinney is caught up by an intriguing assignment from his new social studies teacher, Mr. Simonet. The assignment: think of something to change the world and put it into action. Trevor conjures the notion of paying a favor not back, but forward--repaying good deeds not with payback, but with new good deeds done to three new people. Well, we need to pay it forward in order for the paving company to pave it downward.

Acting on principles of faith, and in keeping with God's charge to us to take care of what He has given his people, the Trustees and Finance Committee boldly voted to repave our parking lot. Estimates were received and the Trustees chose Harrison Paving to pave our parking lot, based on their reputation and estimate.

Your Finance Committee was challenged to come up with the funding. The cost of paving, sealing, and striping the upper and lower lots was \$56,298.

Payable in three installments, as follows:

1st installment— 1/3 (\$18,766) is due at signing at the end of February.

2nd installment— 1/3 (\$18,766) when the job starts, first week in April. Paving is to be scheduled to coincide with Pre school Spring Break, weather permitting, otherwise the first week of June.

3rd installment— Upon completion of the job, end of first week of April.

We decided funding for the project, "Pave It Forward," will be as follows:

\$56,298

Memorial gift—\$15,500

\$40,798

Foundational Givers—Members who have been very generous in the past.

\$25,000 (approximate and rounded)

On March 3, 2019, Transfiguration Sunday, giving will be opened to the whole congregation with a need of \$16,000.

At the beginning of the project, I think, I was in the minority of people that thought 100%, without a doubt that a small church like St. Luke's could raise such a daunting amount. But I know St. Luke's people, I love St. Luke's people, and I know that St. Luke's people will see the need. See the need? Is a good looking, smooth, well marked parking lot a need, a necessity? I say yes. It shows the community and people passing by that St. Luke's people are good stewards of God's resources. So the parking lot is a huge investment for the future. Seeing the need, I know that St. Luke's people will get down on their knees and pray and come up with their individual best gift to God, His Church, and yes, His parking lot.

A Ray Kyle, Finance Chair

St. Luke's UMC Endowment Committee 2/26/2019

Committee members:

Jerry Anderson, Zeb Saunders, Ray Kyle, Scottie Kyle, Rachel Kaeser, Nancy Taylor, Lisa Sykes

Current committee undertaking: Review present endowment investments as to performance and conformity to church principles as stated in the Book of Discipline and the church Social Principles and the Endowment Charter.

The committee met on 2/12/19 with John Scott, the administrator of the fund for Ameriprise.

Mr. Scott reviewed the present investments in the fund and elaborated on the structure (bonds, stocks or otherwise) and performance of them.

He stressed an asset allocation approach in selecting the funds.

The average total return of the investments for the last three years has been above eight percent.

We briefly discussed the desire for fund investments to be in alignment with church doctrine. The existing funds have not been reviewed as to their compliance.

The committee is presently reviewing the data from this meeting and going forward will be meeting with a representative from the United Methodist Development Fund to access their investment strategy and funds.

The goal of the committee is to answer the following four questions:

1. What amount of return would be satisfactory from the money invested?
2. What amount of risk would be acceptable to achieve this return?
3. What or which companies or other investment opportunities will be acceptable to comply with United Methodist doctrine?
4. Can there be any compromise between doctrine and world practices?

Thanks,
Jerry Anderson

Easter Bible School Presents:

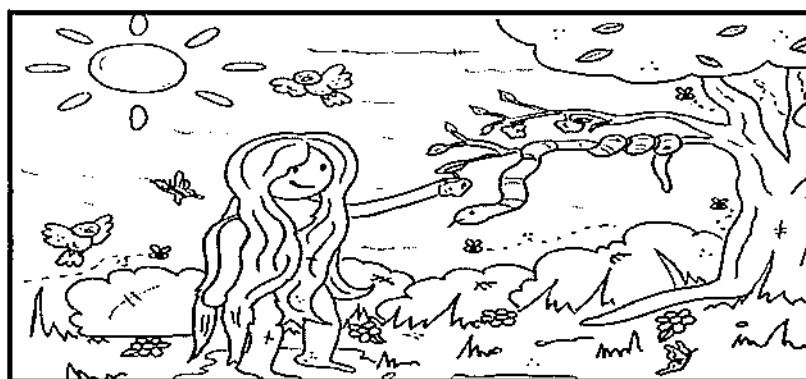
"SO TEMPTING!" How to Say "No!" to Bad Choices

A Wednesday Nite Bible School for Ages 3—2nd Grade

March 13, 20 and 27th from 5:30-7 pm
with kid-friendly family worship from 7-7:30 pm

Resisting temptation is hard enough for adults! Imagine being just a kid and really wanting something that is a "No-no"! Through four scriptures, the kids will learn about the importance of saying "No!" to bad choices, and the forgiveness we get from God, even when we goof!

Where better to begin than with the beginning: Adam and Eve and that bad ole snake. Forgetting to say "No!" to bad choices can cost us big time!



From Eden we will travel to the wilderness, where Jesus was tempted three times! Jesus is the only one who ever lived who never said "Yes!" to bad choices. He gives us a great example to try and follow. He also teaches us that the Bible helps us to say "No!" to bad choices.

Finally, we will eaves-drop on Jesus last conversation in this world at the Cross. There, a thief who said "Yes!" to the temptation of stealing, wonders if Jesus will ever forgive him. Jesus not only forgives him, but promises him a place in heaven. *In Eden we lost paradise, but with Jesus we get it back!*



Our theme is from the Apostle Paul, Romans 7:

"I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do good, but I don't do it. Instead, I try not to do bad, but then I go and do it anyway!"

Come to Wednesday Nite Bible School, winner of a \$30,000 grant!



**RYAN
KLESKO**

FORMER RICHMOND BRAVE

APRIL 4TH

SPECIAL OPENING NIGHT GUEST
Featuring in-game autograph session



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20 OR MORE:
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TERRACE LEVEL: \$8
GENERAL ADMISSION:
\$5.50

2019 FAITH NIGHT
AT THE DIAMOND

3001 N. BOULEVARD
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH GATES OPEN: 5:00PM GAME TIME: 6:05PM

WWW.SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM

MEDIA
PARTNERS:



**FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFO: CONTACT HAYDEN NACHTIGAL
804.359.3866 X 318 OR HAYDEN.NACHTIGAL @SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM**

**IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE FLYING SQUIRRELS BASEBALL GAME
ON FAITH NIGHT, SATURDAY, MAY 18, PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OF-
FICE KNOW (276-7000). THANK YOU!**

March, 2019

CALENDAR

Friday, Mar. 1

6:00 pm-9:00pm
Scout Banquet (F.H. & Sanctuary)

Sunday, Mar. 3

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am-12:30 pm Trustees (P)
1:30 pm-2:30 pm Handbells (S)
4:00-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Monday, Mar. 4

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

Tuesday, Mar. 5

Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday, Mar. 6

(Ash Wednesday- Pancake Supper)
10:00 am-12:00 noon
Susannah Wesley Circle (F.H.)
6:00-7:00 pm Pancake Supper
Girl Scout Troop 337
WILL NOT MEET

7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, Mar. 7

7:00 pm
NAMI (P)

Friday, Mar. 8

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

Sunday, Mar. 10

(DST Begins)-5 Talent Grant Ded.
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, Mar. 11

10:00 am-10:30 am
Chapel (F.H.)
7:00-8:30 pm
Scouts & Cub Scouts (F.H. & all rooms upstairs)

Tuesday, Mar. 12

10:05 am- 10:15 am
Chapel (F.H.)
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
BPSA (P)

Wednesday, Mar. 13

10:00 am-12 noon
Young at Heart (F.H.)
5:30pm-7:00 pm
Easter Bible School
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, Mar. 14

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

Sunday, Mar.17

(Youth Sunday/St. Luke's)
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.)

Monday, Mar. 18

7:00-8:30 pm
Scouts & Cub Scouts (entire building)

Tuesday, Mar. 19

7:00-8:30 pm
Scouts & Cub Scouts (entire building)

Wednesday, Mar. 20

Girl Scout Troop 337
WILL NOT MEET
5:30pm-7:00 pm
Easter Bible School
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, Mar. 21

7:00 pm
NAMI (P)

Friday, Mar. 22

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

Sunday, Mar. 24

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, Mar. 25

10:00 am - 10:30 am
Chapel (F.H.)
6:30 pm
UMM (F.H.)
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Scouts & Cub Scouts (Basement & Sanctuary)

Tuesday, Mar. 26

10:05 am-10:15 am
Chapel (F.H.)
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
BPSA (P)

Wednesday, Mar. 27

5:30pm-7:00 pm
Easter Bible School
7:00 pm-8:30 pm
Chancel Choir (S)

Thursday, Mar. 28

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

Sunday, Mar. 31

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



DATES TO REMEMBER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019 (LENT BEGINS)

6:00-7:00 Pancake Supper

7:30 - Ash Wednesday Service

6:30-7:30 pm

Girl Scout Troop 337 **WILL NOT MEET**

MARCH 10 - DST BEGINS!

MARCH 17 - YOUTH SUNDAY - ST. LUKE'S

MARCH 20

6:30-7:30 pm

Girl Scout Troop 337 **WILL NOT MEET**

MARCH 24 - YOUTH SUNDAY - LCOS

MARCH 30 - APRIL 7 (PASTOR LISA-VACATION)

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL 14 - PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 18 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 19 - GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 21 - EASTER DAY

SUNRISE SERVICE - 7:00 AM

BREAKFAST FOLLOWS SUNRISE SERVICE

TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE - 10:30 AM

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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Shirley Gary
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Ray Jenkins
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Sunday Schools