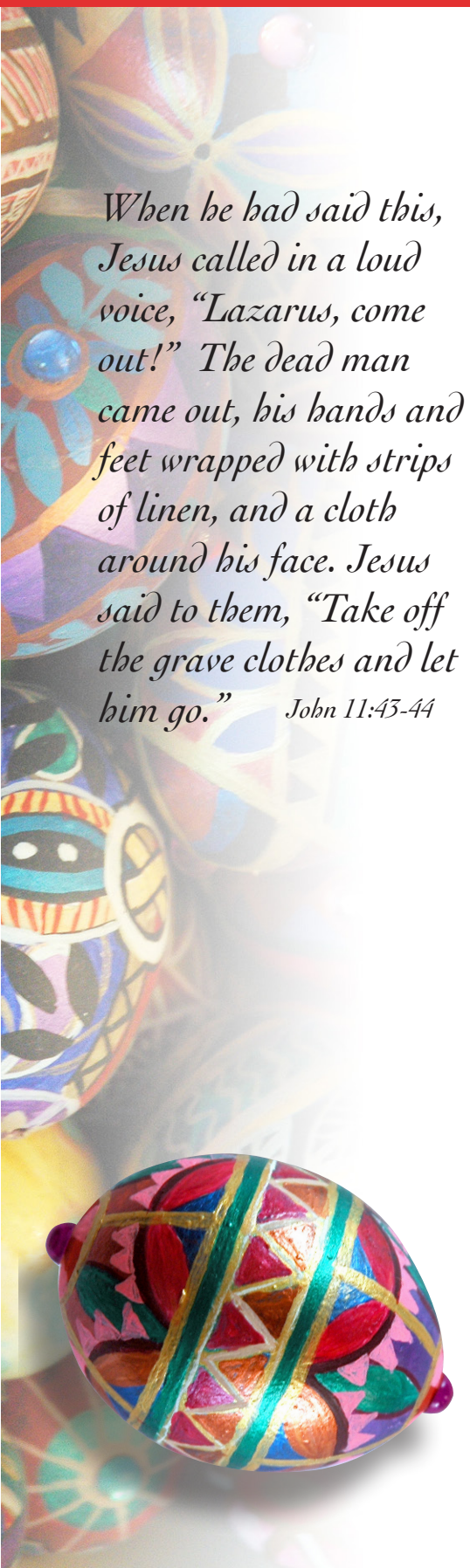


## Christ's Gifts: Restoration AND Resurrection



*When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." John 11:43-44*

In the Gospel of John, it is clear Jesus would give us life, in this world and the next. Abundant life now and eternal life to come, no matter the cost. Just consider his miracle of raising Lazarus.

Raising Lazarus from the dead not only raised our Lord's fame among the people but also it raised the odds that Jesus would go to the Cross. He does it anyway.

By invitation of Jesus Christ, Lazarus himself, Lazarus the dead man, walks out of his tomb, before those who have come to his funeral, alive!

Now friends, the great prize we await is heavenly, not earthly. Resurrection to eternal life, not a return to earthly life is the Easter triumph. And yet in this pandemic, it is the lesser prize, the restoration of finite human life in the person of Lazarus, that speaks especially to me.

For what effort must it have taken for Lazarus to come out of his tomb. And in the same way, what strength will it take for us to exit the confinement of the past year for us? Has it not been something of a tomb for us? Isolation. Surrender. Fear. Ambiguity. Boundaries everywhere. A dark night for our souls.

This Easter, I want to know if you can do what Lazarus did—if you can summon the strength to leave any dark place where you have been dwelling this pandemic and walk into the brightness of a new day?

Can your soul begin summon the strength to embrace long lost concepts of joy, confidence, rescue, and renewal, not in the perfect world to come but rather right here-and-now, amidst this pandemic stricken one?

We Christians, dare not die to life, if we are to proclaim Jesus' promise of life after death!

Let us seek life in all its fullness, and the Lord who would restore us to it, not only in the world to come, but here, and especially now!

Easter Blessings,  
Pastor Lisa

## Palm Sunday Applause for Our Young Musicians

St. Luke's was inspired on Palm Sunday, March 28 which featured the mallet-percussion choir for both live worshippers and online congregation members. We used liturgical movement to interpret the song "Blessed Be the Name" and rhythm instruments and palm branches for "Sing Hosanna." These talented youngsters were extremely attentive, well-behaved and mannered during the three weeks of classes from 11:45 - 12:30 following the worship service. Thanks to Carson and Elijah Barefoot, Jean-Kathryn and Mabel Cassada, Cameron and Sadie Jones, Jack and Richard Moyer and Mary Wise who followed Mr. Bob so attentively.

It would not be Easter without "Lord of the Dance" which Jean-Kathryn and Mabel Cassada choreographed so beautifully. Hats off to these two siblings whose proud parents are Colleen and Paul Cassada and whose grandparents are Beth and Roger Ball.

A special thank you to those chancel choir members who contributed time and talents to helping lead Holy Week services.



Bob Ford and members of the Percussion Choir offered special music through instrument, motion and chant. This choir spans older preschool, elementary and middle school students, and Bob does an amazing job blending ages and levels of difficulty, not to mention notes, all into a praise-worthy performance!

Despite restrictions on singing, our Palm Sunday celebration was made joyful with praise in motion when Mabel and Jean-Kathryn led worship, dancing to "Lord of the Dance".

### 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/>

### BE INFORMED

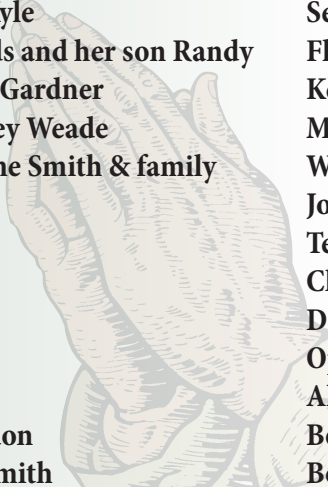
Keep up with all that's going on within the Virginia United Methodist Conference by visiting —

<http://www.vaumc.org>



## Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation



Scottie & Ray Kyle	Sennie Case
Thelma Edwards and her son Randy	Florence Smith
Bob & Barbara Gardner	Kevin Updike
Ronnie & Shirley Weade	Matt Stowers
David & Suzanne Smith & family	Wilmer & Phyllis Downs
Wayne Johnson	Joyce Arrington
Bettie Jones	Terry Kyle
Jim Brantley	Chuck Fayle
Doris Teeter	Deannie Reynolds
Tom Brown	Opal Holshouser
David Higgins	Alan Huffman
Taylorann Bradon	Bob & Jan Hall
Dean & Ibbie Smith	Bob Gary

### Our Military

Robbie Bowen      Aaron Frankey      Holden Russell

Congratulations to Berkley and Danielle Hawkins on news that they are expecting their first child! Grandparents-to-be (again) are Rick and Carolyn.

Please remember the family of Charles Dabney, his wife, Alita, and their sons. Charles, just a couple months shy of his 49th birthday, died from COVID. He gave much of himself through little league sports.

*See our weekly Tuesday email for a complete listing of all prayer requests.*

## “Sorrow and Love flow mingled down”

Our love, prayers and sympathy are extended to Vernon King whose niece, Rhonda Summey, claimed the promise of the resurrection in early March.

Our love, prayers and sympathy are extended to Carolyn & Rick Beeckler and family. Carolyn’s father, Bob Gardner, claimed the promise of the resurrection on March 28, 2021.

## April Birthdays

April 1	Emmett Jones
April 2	Roland Fussell
April 4	Wayne Jenkins Melissa Moore
April 6	Winnie Brown Ruth Wickstrom
April 7	Stella Jones
April 8	Nancy Taylor Susan Reed Andrew Gold
April 10	Rebecca Morris
April 12	Roger Ball David Wellman
April 13	Rebecca Rohlk
April 14	Holly Phillips
April 15	Ray Jenkins Richard Jenkins
April 17	Shirley Gary
April 18	Heather Jones
April 19	Steven Edwards
April 24	Chris Bowen
April 26	Jane Barto
April 28	Keith Miller

## Anniversaries

April 1	Reg & Karen Whitton
April 18	Wilmer & Phyllis Downs
April 20	Wayne & Doris Jenkins
April 22	Woody & Debbie Smart
April 27	Mike & Jennifer Pavlensky

## Thanks

Thanks to our “Convicted” Sermon Series Prosecutors who assisted Pastor Lisa with oral arguments during the trials of 6 biblical characters during Lent: Ray Kyle, Bill Brown, Bobbie Strum, Ray Jenkins



## Mark Your Calendar

### **Maundy Thursday Service, April 1, 2021, 7 pm**

Online Only—Lutheran Church of Our Saviour will be hosting.

Link will be sent.

### **Good Friday Service, April 2, 2021, 7 pm**

Online only—St. Luke's UMC will be hosting.

Link will be sent.

### **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services**

will be held jointly with Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. Both services will be broadcast from church, with the congregations online only.

### **Easter Sunday Service, April 4, 2021, 11 am**

In Person and Online Services.

We will start the service, for all who are able, outside singing, and then process into the Sanctuary. Those who are unable to stand may be seated early. Everyone must wear a mask and observe social distance.

## New Guidelines for Worship

We are THANKFUL for these new guidelines for Safe Worship from the Virginia Conference:

- Children under 2 who cannot wear a mask are now permitted in worship.
- We may sing, masked, outside.
- Communion elements may be eaten while seated in the pew.

***These guidelines are effective immediately!***

## Easter Egg Hunt Moves to Raindate

Come with your baskets on **April 4th**, for the Hunt! Candy-filled eggs and prize bags await little ones through 5th Grade.

Bring your basket and meet on the patio behind the fellowship hall at noon!

Reservations strongly encouraged. Call the church office to be included.

Egg Hunt is for members, their extended family and close friends of St. Luke's.



CONGRATULATIONS to Ruth Wickstrom at the birth of her great granddaughter, Adeline Rose, on March 15th. This beautiful little girl weighed 8 lb., 12 oz., and is 20.5" long. All are doing very well!



A little, wonderful bit of new life amid the pandemic! Meet Elliott Sorenson and his proud grandmother Nancy who surprised Pastor Lisa with a visit in March! Elliott is the 5th baby in the St. Luke's boom!



Cameron Jones read the triumphal entry scripture on Palm Sunday. The Word of God for the People of God. Thanks be to God!



**Our new Jeep brings joy! Thank you to Lowman Electrical for the generous donation to purchase new playground equipment, and to Oakland Masonry for the free installation. What an awesome community we are a part of!**



# Flowers for The Easter Sunday Worship Service were placed in honor and in memory of by:

Karen Courtney in honor of the Sykes Family

Karen Courtney in memory of loved ones

Troy, Julie & Family & Todd, Rachel & Family in honor of  
Clinton and Shirley Gary

Marcia & Jim Grubbs in honor of Colton

Marcia & Jim Grubbs in honor of Austin

Ray & Richard Jenkins in memory of Reverend Ray and  
Arlene Jenkins and in memory of Preston and Lucile Dodson

Ray, Scottie, Sara, Patrick & Luke in honor of Ronnie & Shirley  
Weade, Nana & Gramps

Kelly & C. W. Rice in memory of our grandparents.

Kelly & C.W. Rice in honor of our parents, Dianne & Craig Rust and  
Nancy and Bob Rice, and our children, Addison & Cole

Rhea & Bobbie Strum in memory of our parents & Mary Hale  
Strum

Adam, Wesley & Joshua in honor of Karen Courtney, our Granna

David & Bonnie Urbanski in memory of John Urbanski

David & Bonnie Urbanski in memory of Gene Urbanski

David & Bonnie Urbanski in memory of Noah Fishburn

David & Bonnie Urbanski in memory of Lillian Fishburn

David & Bonnie Urbanski in honor of Captain Merlin Robert  
Kehrer

Karen Whitton in memory of Debi Clement

Ruth Wickstrom in honor of Kaci Wickstrom and new  
Daughter, Adeline Rose

St. Luke's UMC in honor of Scottie Kyle

(If you do not remember which plant you ordered, a list is on the  
table as you enter the sanctuary)