

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

“Don’t let anything steal your joy!”

Somehow, “How the Grinch stole Christmas” keeps coming to my mind this Advent season. I think about all the anticipation and excitement of the Hoo’s down in Hooville (and I don’t mean Charlottesville!), and how the goal of the Grinch was to steal Christmas away from that happy Hoo’s.

In the end, the Grinch failed because Christmas, Dr. Seuss teaches us, is not the outward trappings of a season, but rather the inward state of the heart. Our Grinch is not green and furry, and he does not live on Mt. Crumpet.

Our Grinch is a pandemic and its latest name is Omicron. Our Grinch is worry and insecurity in a world we are afraid will never look the same. Our Grinch is the doubt that this Christmas season can make our hearts whole after such a devastating year.

But remember the lesson of Dr. Seuss and Jesus Christ who respond to those seeking to steal our joy with the quiet confidence in the power of transforming love. This Christmas season can be just as special and even more meaningful than those before, because we’ve learned how blessed we are, by what we’ve been denied and by what we’ve had to give up during these pandemic times.

What was the signal to the Grinch that Christmas still came without trappings and tinsel? It was the singing of the Hoo’s down in Hooville. This Christmas Eve, let there be singing again. Let us sing holy songs and hymns of faith to Him who is born into this Christmas season and into this pandemic world. Nothing will stop him or deter him from bringing us wholeness to our hearts. Let us sing together in person and online to be witnesses to a world that doubts and despairs.

It’s not the Grinch, but rather Jesus Christ who will not let the world steal our joy because He is the Joy of heaven given unto our hearts.

Thanks be to God, and Christmas blessings to all of you!

Christian Education for Adults Chart for Adult (Cyberspace) Sunday School

"EAVESDROPPING ON THE WORD"

(Continued) - See updated Sunday School chart below.
May you be strengthened by eavesdropping on the Gospel!

12/2	Luke 15: 25-32	A. Ray and Lisa
12/9	Matthew 20: 1-15	Richard and Rhea
12/16	Luke 13: 6-9	Lisa and Ruth
12/23	Matthew 25: 1-13	Roger and Ray J.

Music Notes - December 2021 – January 2022

Chancel Choir.....12/21 **Practicing for Christmas**

Thursday - 12/02/21 - 07:00 p.m. - 08:30 p.m.

Sunday - 12/05/21 - 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Thursday - 12/09/21 - 07:00 p.m. - 08:30 p.m.

Sunday - 12/12/21 - Lessons and Carols
presented to the congregation with
Roger Ball, dramatist at the 11:00
worship service.

Chancel Choir.....01/22

Will continue assisting the 11:00
worship service with solos, duets,
and trios.

Mallet-percussion choir...12/21 **Practicing for Christmas**

Sunday - 12/05/21 - 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday - 12/12/21 - 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday - 12/19/21 - Interpretive movement
for Christmas and xylophone accom-
paniment for the fourth Sunday in Advent.

Mallet-percussion choir...01/22

Rehearsal - classes will resume prior
to Easter.

Congratulations!

To John Russell who, like Ray Kyle, has become a Lay Servant at Mathew's Chapel, the congregation near the Bay where he and Betsye now belong. They are now affiliate members at St. Luke's, and we are glad to keep that heartfelt tie!

St. Luke's Helps Afghan Refugees

These items, dedicated on Thanksgiving, were delivered to the Afghan refugees at Ft. Pickett. The donations of items and toys for these new residents of our nation will be a godsend to those who receive them. Thank you for your generosity!



Thanks for the Turkeys!!

To date, we collected 21 turkeys, some food items, and \$120.00 for Belmont Food Pantry. Thanks to everyone who participated!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

DECEMBER 7TH - PEARL HARBOR DAY

DECEMBER 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 31ST - NEW YEAR'S EVE

JANUARY 1ST - NEW YEAR'S DAY

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>

“Sorrow and Love flow mingled down”

Our sympathy, love and prayers to Cheri Armstrong and family at the loss of her husband Bobby. Bobby, Pastor Lisa's uncle, claimed the promise of the resurrection on November 8th, 2021.

IN OUR TIME OF LOSS YOU HAVE GIVEN US

peace and healing

THROUGH YOUR COMFORTING WORDS

Dear Pastor Lisa & friends at St. Lukes,
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers and beautiful card, for the loss of my husband John who god gave such Talent & Strength. My little brother Andrew is the best you could ever ask for enjoy him and keep him strong.
Sincerely Thank you,
Tina Arnold

We Need You

Won't you join us?! The Congregational Care Committee, gearing up for 2022, could put your helping hands to good use! Whether it be sending cards just one month during the year, and/or being a Shepherd for someone who is Homebound and lonely for church friends, your visits will bless our congregation and extend Pastor Lisa's ministry to our Homebound. Please call the Church office to offer your help in any way during the year.

We'll meet in January by ZOOM, or in person, to pray the Lord's blessing on our "workers" and review helpful information!



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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Michele Hart
Preschool Director
director@stlukespreschoolva.com

Ray Jenkins
Superintendent of
Sunday Schools

December Birthdays

December 2	Larry Batten Laura Jarrett William Warriner
December 3	Kevin Jenkins Richard James Moyer
December 4	Danielle Hawkins Ronnie Bowman Tom Rohlk Joshua Sykes
December 6	Suzanne Steinhorst Jennifer Frankey
December 8	Ray Kyle Peggy Uglow
December 9	Chelsea Bowman Nicholas Bowman
December 10	Bettie Jones Sarah Estes
December 17	Susan Wertz
December 18	Annie Davis Robert White, III
December 19	Dean Smith
December 20	Conner Skeen
December 22	Pat Knust Austin Morris
December 23	Gordon Reed John Crawford
December 27	Karla Lacy
December 28	Michael Pearse Luke Daniel Boykin
December 30	Kevin Parrish Marie Dunlap Betty Wellman
December 31	Reagan Gary

Anniversaries

December 16	Jennifer & Roger Frankey
December 20	James & Charlotte deKrafft
December 28	Dean & Ibbie Smith
December 31	Gordon & Susan Reed

“The Chosen”

A reminder about Advent Video, “The Chosen”, immediately following the Worship Service on the following dates:

December 5, 2021, December 12, 2021, December 19, 2021(Christmas Special) then a short break and we will continue January 9, 2022 and January 16, 2022.

You have choices in deciding whether or not to attend. Lunch is furnished with a donation, but not required. If you plan to have lunch, please notify the church office by Wednesday of the week preceding the Sunday you plan to attend. You may also bring your own lunch, or, if you prefer, just attend the showing of the video. It is not necessary to attend every one in order to stay current. Looking forward to hearing from you! Blessings, Pastor Lisa

Thank You!

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my St. Luke's family for the prayers and contributions to my brother Curtis Perry's Go Fund Me Account. Curtis is now in an apartment that is handicapped accessible in a 55+ facility. He is currently in the process of getting new prosthetic legs. He has a new wheelchair and power chair. We are slowly furnishing his apartment. He is very thankful for all the blessings he has received this year.

Thanks again my friends.

Barbara Punnally

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation

Prayers for Gayle McConigle who is scheduled for knee surgery Dec. 1st.

Florence Smith	Wilmer & Phyllis Downs
Joan & John Crawford	Bob & Jan Hall
Katherine Peterson	Dianne Rust
Ronnie & Shirley Weade	Sennie Case
Dean & Ibbie Smith	Jim Raines
Bettie Jones	Terry & Louise Kyle
Jim Brantley	Chuck Fayle
Tom Brown	Deannie Reynolds
Curtis Perry	Brenda Staehle
Opal Holshouser	James Moore
Haley's Mother, Lisa	

Our Military

Robbie Bowen Aaron Frankey Holden Russell

Larry Russell who leaves for Fort Bliss mid December, and will go from there to Iraq in mid February. We also hold Cassie and Larry Robert in our prayers.

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

January Birthdays

January 1	Barbara Armstrong
January 2	Anna Hart
January 3	Elizabeth Thomas
	Debbie Tatum
January 4	Steve Taylor
	Karen Whitton
	Sarah Allen
	Adam Warriner
	Matt Strum
January 6	Audrey Vogen
January 7	Kent Calfee
January 11	Justin Stoneberg
January 12	Seth Sykes
	Brenda Staehle
January 14	Paul Brown
	Faye Sisson
January 15	Nancy Allen
	Krystal Worner
January 19	Ibbie Smith
January 20	Yvonne Morris
	Bradley Smart
January 22	Wendy Brown White
January 23	Cheryl Sanker
	Adam Jones
January 27	Wesley Sykes
January 29	Jerry Anderson
January 30	Sheri Stoneberg
January 31	Erin Cowardin Jacoby

Anniversaries

January 2	Jim & Cindy Self
January 7	Seth & Lisa Sykes
January 31	Ray & Scottie Kyle





VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
Protecting You and Your Environment

NOW OPEN

Pfizer (12 and Older), Moderna and J&J (18 and older)

**Vaccines will be offered at the Rockwood Vaccination Center
located in the former Big Lots building in Rockwood Shopping Center**

Mondays 3 - 7 p.m. Thursdays 3 - 7 p.m.

Tuesdays 3 - 7 p.m. Saturdays 9 - 12 p.m.

**Rockwood
Vaccination Center**

10161 Hull Street Road,
Midlothian, VA 23112

If you have questions call 1-877-829-4682

Conducted by The Chesterfield Health Department

**Vaccination Card
is required for
Booster Dose**

**Vaccination Card
is required for
Booster Dose**

**BOOSTER DOSE — If you are eligible, you can receive a booster dose of the
Moderna, Pfizer or J andJ COVID-19 vaccines.**

A COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is recommended for certain individuals, **at least 6 months** after completion of the primary series:

People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings,

People aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions.

Additional individuals may receive a booster shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at **least 6 months** after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks:

People aged 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions, and

People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting.

From the Finance Committee

2022 Estimate of Giving cards: Please return your card to the church office if you have not already done so. Estimates may be changed at any time but they greatly assist in planning and fiscal obligations.

End of Year Fund-Raising Campaign:
Our end of year fund-raising campaign has set a goal of \$35,000 to cover remaining expenses for the year and catch up our share of apportionments. Please prayerfully consider an extra gift this season. Look for the "thermometer" that will chart our progress. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting St. Luke's.

Kroger Community Rewards: Did you know – If you are a Kroger shopper your rewards card may be linked to St. Luke's and the church will receive a percentage of sales at no cost to you? To sign up go to the Community Rewards page on the Kroger website. Thank you.

Wishing each of you and your families a blessed Christmas season and a safe and healthy New Year.

RED POINSETTIAS



Red Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 19th and Christmas Eve, December 24th. The cost will be \$11.50 per plant. You may take your plant after the 11:00 am service on December 19th or the 7:00 pm service on December 24th. Make your check payable to St. Luke's UMC. The deadline for ordering is December 5, 2021.

Name of individual purchasing Poinsettia: _____

Number of Poinsettias purchased: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org

Has your child ever been in a CHRISTMAS PLAY?

Wouldn't you like to give them that experience, no practice required...?

Would you like relatives to be able to watch either in person or remotely ?

**THEN, YOU ARE INVITED TO ST. LUKE'S
LIVESTREAMED
NATIVITY PLAY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021
6:30 - 7 pm**

Each child will get a part based on the prop they choose:

ears, halo, crown, etc. And come up when called.

**It's fun and entertaining for all, and a great way for
kids to act out the true meaning of Christmas.**

(Casual attire welcome! Please arrive by 6:15 to get your part!)

You will get a link to the recording which you can replay Christmas day!





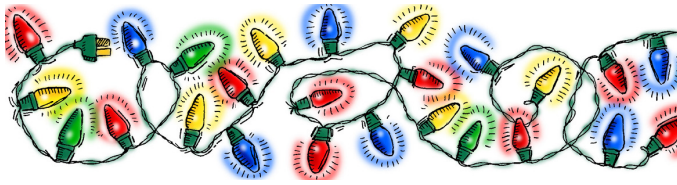
*The Staff of St. Luke's United Methodist Church,
Wish you and your family the most blessed
Of times this Christmas.*

*May the Peace of the Christ Child abide in
Your home and your heart,
And continue to guide us by His Grace
through this very frightening time of Pandemic
in our Mission And Ministry in 2022.*

*Merry Christmas, and
Blessings in the New Year!*

*Lisa K. Sykes
Bob Ford
Margaret Anderson*

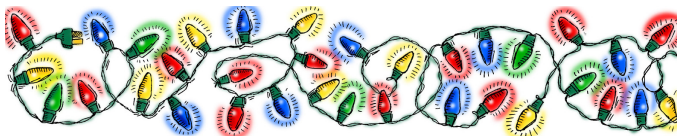
*Shirley Gary
Michele Hart
Scottie Kyle*



Welcome Riley Grace!

Riley Grace Buncy was born Monday, November 22, 2021, weighing 5 lbs., 15 ozs., and measuring 18 ½ inches.

There's no measuring the pride of Grandparents David and Bonnie Urbanski, nor of their daughter and son-in-law, new parents Jessie and Rick!



Advent Dates for Newsletter

Advent "Soup for the Soul" series began after church on November 28, 2021 and will continue each Sunday during Advent. Reservations due by Wednesday, 10 am prior to the week of attendance.

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Christmas Cantata – 11 am Worship Service

3:00-3:30 pm– Neighborhood Christmas Parade (starts at 3:00 pm and will end at St. Luke's-3:30 pm)

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Preschool Christmas Program

9:45 am – Sanctuary

6:30-7:00 pm

Neighborhood Nativity

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Mallet Percussion Performing

11 am Worship Service

Friday, December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve

7:00 pm - Lessons in Carols

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Hymn Sing



My Heroes A Veteran's Day Poem

By: Jean-Kathryn Cassada

Today we celebrate veterans just like you
Who helped serve this country through and through Hard nights
and hard days, you pave the way
You have made all the reasons I am here today
My life is fun because of the freedoms you've granted This is the
amazing, free place you have planted
All the forces joined as one, make you the bravest ones

Injuries will not bring you down
You should be the ones to wear the crown
Even though the world is not yet all a team
You inspire us to reach for that dream
Through the dirt and mud you always gleam
In uniforms or not, you are my number one thought
I aspire to have the courage and bravery you have in every way
So remember, you are always special— not just on Veteran's day!



Jean-Kathryn and Mabel Cassada received their Bibles from Sunday School Superintendent Ray Jenkins, Jr. during the 11-o'clock worship service on November 21, 2021.



HAPPY 97TH OPAL!

To celebrate Opal's 97th Birthday, a small crew from Congregational Care visited with her in her home, arriving with cake and cards. Opal was delighted with the attention and the company, and, with no trouble whatsoever, blew out the candles on her cake! We wish her every happy return on such a momentous birthday!



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AGES 3 THROUGH KINDERGARTEN

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Classes fill up quick.

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Join our Facebook Group St. Luke's UMC Dancing Little Stars:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2994008497583093/>

****Please see the back of this flyer for DLS Guidelines****