

*"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."*

*Ephesians 3:16-19*

## Immeasurable!

When I was little, the presents under the Christmas tree that got the most attention from me were the biggest ones. I remember stretching my arms open wide around big boxes wrapped in lovely paper with my name and a bow on top. I was always amazed by such big boxes, and even more, by their contents. Inside I would find a prized toy, one I thought too big to hope for . . . Over the years, these big gifts included dollhouses, ride-on ponies and a bicycle, just to name a few. You never forget having received those really big gifts, even when you grow older.

What you realize though, as you mature, is that the size of the gift can't always be measured in inches and feet. In fact, some of the greatest gifts are not only small in size (consider the box that contains a wedding ring) but even intangible—incapable of being boxed or wrapped.

Take for example, the gift you as the congregation of St Luke's, have given to me in the form of four and a half months of renewal leave. There is no measuring the size of this gift, my friends. It is such an extravagant gift that I would not usually even think to ask you for it. But two years of pandemic, with all its twists and turns for the church, and my family's need to find my son Wesley, who has autism, a home of his own (a slow and painstaking endeavor), and the experience of having COVID as a family a year ago, and the frustration of tremors in both my hands, and the push-and-pull of 32 years of ministry, I knew I had to ask for a gift from you, one so large that I would never have dreamed of asking for it before all of these things happened. Your response to my request has been so Christ-like. You have spoken not one begrudging word to me as I have pursued spiritual renewal leave, but instead, have affirmed this conference-endorsed time off for spiritual retreat and rest; and in addition, you've showered me with cards, thoughts and prayers.

I am better off for being St. Luke's pastor, and my family and I will never forget your extreme, extravagant and abundant generosity, and love and care shown in such a tangible way. It's bigger than any box you will ever find. Its dimensions are heaven-sent so that we may experience by such acts of kindness

"what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

My family and I give you heartfelt thanks, and I am especially grateful for the immeasurable way this lovely congregation ministers to its minister and the great, great gift you have given to me.

St. Luke's, THANK YOU! Grace and Peace be Yours always, Pastor Lisa



Straight from vacation to the Roslyn Retreat Center in Richmond, Pastor Lisa joined with people "from all over the country" attending the five-day session August 14 - 19, 2022.

## September Music Notes

The sanctuary choir held an organizational meeting on August 25th to determine direction and new approaches to assisting in leadership of corporate worship. If you have considered assisting in any capacity please contact a participating choir member.

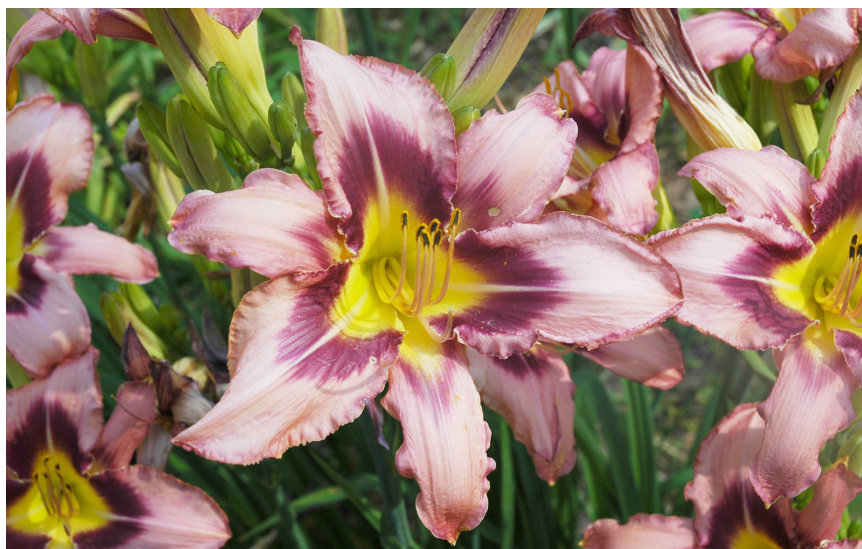
We would like to see you on Thursday, September 1st, at 7:15 p.m. in the choir room. PAX HOMINIBUS

## Calling All Bakers

In an effort to raise money and promote St. Luke's membership, Missions is teaming up with the United Methodist Men during their annual Brunswick Stew sale on October 15, 2022. We will host a bake sale and have an information table about St. Luke's, which will include our history and many programs, letting the community know we are here and welcome them to worship with us!!

To make this happen, we need your help! Missions is asking our members to contribute individually wrapped home baked items to have available during the Brunswick Stew sale. If you have a cake you love to bake, a cookie recipe you know by heart, a pie your family raves over or any other yummy baked items your friends and family can't wait to try, we need you! Contact Leann Nunnally if you wish to participate and contribute. She will have further details regarding drop-off at the church closer to the event. She can be available to talk with you on Sunday's before or after church services, or you may contact her any time by email, text or phone (info below):

**Leann.Adair@gmail.com    Leann - call/text 804-677-8810**



## 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-Methodis-Church-486188658201339/>

## United Methodist Women

Did you know that the United Methodist Women have adopted a new name? UMW is now **United Women of Faith**. It is hoped that the new name better reflects how women are living and engaging their faith in today's realities



**St. Luke's first official meeting as United Women of Faith is Wednesday September 7, 2022 At 11:00 a.m. Wanted and Needed: A few women of faith**

## Welcome Back to Worship!

September always seems like a time of new beginnings. Summer vacations are over, school starts, and we look forward to a new season.

We welcome Pastor Lisa back to the pulpit September 4th after her renewal sabbatical.

We were excited to see Lisa in church on August 28th, followed by a meet and greet reception.

Special thanks to Becky Jenkins for her luau décor and delicious appetizers.

## Sincere Congratulations

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO new parents Krystle and Brett Werblow who have been blessed with a new daughter! Lucille (Lucy) Virginia Werblow, born August 25th, weighed in at 8 lb., 2 oz., and is 19 in. long.

**CONGRATULATIONS** as well to proud grandparents Woody & Debbie Smart!

## Brunswick Stew

OUR UNITED METHODIST MEN will be making Brunswick stew on October 15, 2022. If you would like to pre-order, please contact the church office (804-276-7000), Monday-Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm. The cost is \$10.00 per quart.

## Belmont Food Pantry Collection

We are asking for canned goods or dry goods that you typically see on your Thanksgiving or Christmas table. Examples from the Belmont Pantry food list include - canned fruits or vegetables, instant potatoes, rice (boxed and instant). Please donate what you can.

No glass containers, please. Thank you!

## BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

## Fellow Saint Luke's Members and Friends

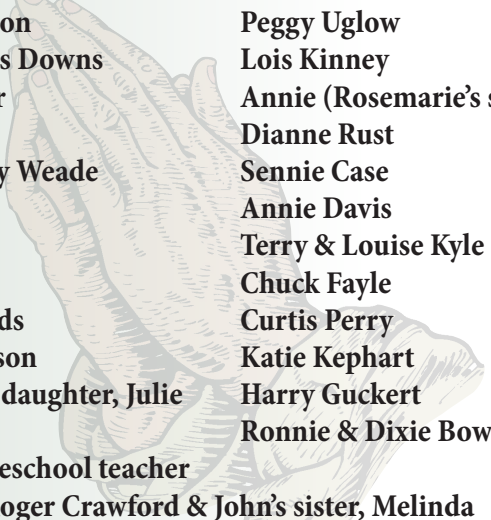
A special gratitude is sent to each of you for giving extra to replace the air conditioner emergency that recently occurred at our church. Your kind hearts and giving spirit have once again come to the rescue in a time of need. This is part of our Stewardship responsibilities, but not everyone can find the extras needed to make additional contributions. As a church, we understand this and do not pass judgement in any way. It does, however, create the necessity for having a budget to cover the required needs and unexpected needs of our church. Asking our congregation to complete a pledge card is merely a tool for preparing a budget and letting the church management know what opportunities might be available once the mandatory expenses are met.

In the near future we will be requesting that you complete a pledge card for Saint Luke's, but please understand this is a statement of your intentions; knowing well that life brings many changes that might cause you to amend the pledge you thought you could meet. Please keep these thoughts in mind when you decide your pledge, knowing that your church will always be you family. You are not buying admission, but assisting the church committees in planning for the upcoming year.

With most prayerful regards,  
Roger Ball and the Stewardship Committee

## Upheld in our Prayers

### Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation



<b>Florence &amp; Marion Wilmer &amp; Phyllis Downs Opal Holshouser Bob &amp; Jan Hall Ronnie &amp; Shirley Weade Ibbie Smith Bettie Jones Jim Brantley Deannie Reynolds Katherine Peterson Joan Crawford's daughter, Julie Glenn Waugh Deana Hines, preschool teacher Joan &amp; John &amp; Roger Crawford &amp; John's sister, Melinda</b>	<b>Peggy Uglow Lois Kinney Annie (Rosemarie's sister) Dianne Rust Sennie Case Annie Davis Terry &amp; Louise Kyle Chuck Fayle Curtis Perry Katie Kephart Harry Guckert Ronnie &amp; Dixie Bowman</b>
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### Our Military

**Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell**

**Ibbie Smith asks that you continue to remember Dean's cousin, Charles Bell, and his family. They ask for prayers for themselves and for all of Ukraine. Ibbie hopes an update on their current whereabouts will be coming soon. In the meantime, please ask God's every blessing upon them and pray for their continued safety.**

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

## September Birthdays

September 4	Adam Bowman
September 6	Shirley Weade
September 7	Cindy Driskill
September 7	Mary Wise
September 8	Jared Calfee
September 9	Brady Hart
September 12	Troy Gary
September 13	Linda Engel
September 14	Reg Whitton
September 15	Sydney Kaeser
September 16	James Papczynski
September 20	Dianne Johnson
September 21	Amanda Jones
September 24	Todd Gary
September 26	Sue Fussell Jesse Bowman
September 29	Heather Burnett Latham Tad McGonigle

## Anniversaries

September 1	Ronnie & Dixie Bowman
September 2	Chris & Kathy Bowen
September 5	Steve & Terri Edwards
September 13	John & Joan Crawford
September 19	Chris & Haley deKrafft
September 26	Clinton & Shirley Gary
September 29	Mary & Pete Meador

## Thank You!

Huge and Heartfelt THANKS to all, and especially these, who gave leadership while Pastor Lisa was on Renewal Leave:

A superlative staff: Shirley, Scottie, Margaret, Bob and Michele, along with Michele's assistant Vicki

Our excellent lay leader Bobbie, and our wonderful lay servants (1 borrowed) Ray and John, along with Bill who also supplied our pulpit  
All the clergy and other lay speakers who brought the message each Sunday

Our talented Council Chair Andrea and each member of the Council

Our dedicated choir and all worship leaders

Our AV cyber guy Brian and all our nimble tech volunteers

Our amazing newsletter team: Karen and Richard

Our industrious Congregational Care team

For all these, and all you do, we give thanks for continuing in ministry and showing the strength of lay leadership in this place!

AUG 23 2022



August 18, 2022

Saint Lukes United Methodist Church  
4101 Fordham Rd  
Richmond, VA 23236

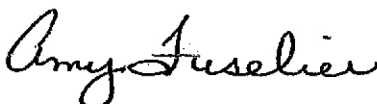
Dear Friends:

We have received a donation to our Advance# 901440 in the amount of \$48.00 to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sager Brown. Thank you for your loving support. Gifts such as this, help us perform the mission that we have been called to fulfill.

UMCOR, a 501(c) three tax-exempt organization, is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church, a worldwide denomination. UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering. Compelled by Christ, UMCOR has responded to natural or human made disasters for over 82 years.

Thank you again for your support. Please extend our appreciation to all who were involved with this gift.

Grace and Peace,



Amy Fuselier  
Director of Relief Supplies

**UMCOR is the relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church.**

RECEIVED

AUG 23 2022



August 18, 2022

Saint Lukes United Methodist Church  
4101 Fordham Rd  
Richmond, VA 23236

Dear Friends:

We have received a donation to our Advance# 901440 in the amount of \$443.93 to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sager Brown. Thank you for your loving support. Gifts such as this, help us perform the mission that we have been called to fulfill.

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Grace and Peace,

Amy Fuselier  
Director of Relief Supplies

**UMCOR is the relief and development agency of The United Methodist Church.**



Unwavering champions  
for children and families

3900 West Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23230

804.353.4461  
804.355.2334

UMFS.org

June 23, 2022

Saint Luke's UMC  
4101 Fordham Rd  
North Chesterfield, VA 23236-1135

Dear Friends,

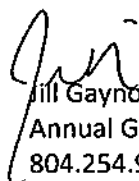
It is with deep appreciation that I write to thank you for your recent donation of \$291.00 made on Wednesday, June 22, 2022! From our founding in 1900 as the Virginia Conference Orphanage to the present day state-wide agency bringing hope and healing to the whole family, UMFS has partnered with churches and church members to live out our mission. We are unwavering champions for high-risk children and families across Virginia, collaborating with communities like yours to help them reach their full potential by providing foster care and adoption services, residential treatment services, and specialized schools.

Because UMFS does not receive apportionment funds or Conference grants, your financial support is crucial to allow us to continue advancing our mission. Without your support, many children and families will fall through the cracks in our foster care, mental health and educational systems.

I would be honored to have you join us for a tour of our Richmond campus. You can learn more and sign up for a tour on our website at [UMFS.org/campus-tour](http://UMFS.org/campus-tour). Please contact me ([jgaynor@umfs.org](mailto:jgaynor@umfs.org) or 804.254.9463) if you have any questions.

We envision a world where caring, opportunity, and generosity are passed on from generation to generation, empowering all children to contribute to society as engaged citizens. Thank you again for your support and for your partnership with us as unwavering champions for high-risk children and families!

With Gratitude,

  
Jill Gaynor  
Annual Giving Officer  
804.254.9463  
[jgaynor@umfs.org](mailto:jgaynor@umfs.org)

*Thank you again for the warm  
welcome and generous support!*

*UMFS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. The IRS requires us to state that you received no goods or services in exchange for this gift. Please retain this written acknowledgment as a receipt for your tax records. EIN: 54-0505969.*

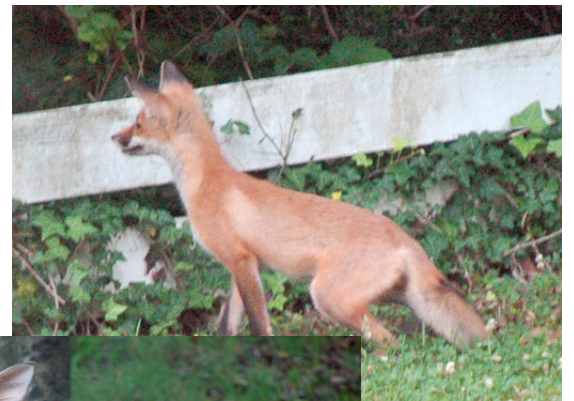


# WELCOME BACK!

We were excited to see Lisa in church on August 28th, followed by a meet and greet reception. Special thanks to Becky Jenkins for her luau décor and delicious hor d' oeuvres



## Summer Backyard Visitors



Karen and I wanted to share some shots of the special visitors to our backyards this Summer



## From the Finance Committee

Members and Friends: Thank you!!! Your quick response to the appeal for additional gifts to fund a heat pump replacement (the second one this year!) and to remove dead trees between the parking lot and two adjacent houses has been most generous. The heat pump in the education building has now been replaced (just in time for preschool opening) and the tree work has been scheduled. God is good.

In addition, a huge thank you is due to Michele Hart and the preschool who have had the fellowship hall floors cleaned and waxed and the grounds spruced up with new mulch, stone and shrub pruning. It looks awesome!

Again, thank you for your generous giving and faithful stewardship which continues to see us through the lean times and enables us to carry out our ministries. St. Luke's is truly blessed.



A look at a portion of St. Luke's landscape improvements (paid for by the Preschool - work provided by Michele Hart's son's company - Hartcare Lawn Management)

### “Sorrow and Love flow mingled down”

Our love, prayers, and sympathy are extended to Phyllis Downs and family at the passing of her sister, Mary Colella. Mary claimed the promise of the resurrection on July 25, 2022.

Our love, prayers and sympathy are extended to Woody & Debbie Smart and family at the passing of Woody's Aunt Sue. She was married to Woody's uncle, Harold Smart, of Charlottesville, for 65 years.

Our love, prayers and sympathy to Ruth Wickstrom and family at the passing of dear friends Scotty and Nancy Cox. The couple were killed in a car accident in Montana while on vacation in July. Special prayers for their sons and friends at home in Colorado.

Our love, prayers and sympathy to Lauren & Justin Burnett at the passing of Lauren's grandmother, Brenda Burns.



*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.stlukesrva.org](http://www.stlukesrva.org)

**Pastor**  
**The Rev. Lisa Sykes**  
[stlukespastor@stlukesrva.org](mailto:stlukespastor@stlukesrva.org)

**Shirley Gary**  
**Office Manager**  
[stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org](mailto:stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org)

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**Margaret Anderson**  
**Financial Secretary**  
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**Michele Hart**  
**Preschool Director**  
[director@stlukespreschoolva.com](mailto:director@stlukespreschoolva.com)

**Ray Jenkins**  
**Superintendent of**  
**Sunday Schools**