

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." --Matthew 1:19-21

Angelic Interruptions

During Vacation Bible School for Advent, one of the characters we have studied from the Bible story of the nativity is Joseph. Joseph gets second billing, far behind Mary and baby Jesus, and yet he brings us a lesson suitable not only for children, but also for adults.

Like many young people, Joseph had a plan for his life. He would marry Mary and settle down to a quiet family life. God interrupted this plan dramatically with visions of angels and a divine plan to save humanity! What was Joseph to do when faced with such a daunting change to his plans? His first response was the normal human response: "God, if you won't let me do it my way then I'm not gonna' do it at all." We often overlook this small detail in the Bible story, that Joseph, being a kind man, decided to dismiss Mary quietly.

God's plan and Joseph's plan were different, and Joseph liked his own plan better. In his opinion, it would be his way or no way at all; but God had a different idea. God sent an Angel to Joseph in a dream telling him it would all be all right, and that he should take Mary as his wife. The impact of that vision cannot be underestimated because Joseph was able to surrender his plan for the future and follow the path God was showing him.

In this Season of Advent, Joseph reminds us that following God sometimes interrupts our plans, not only the small ones, but even our huge plans for a lifetime. We can be reluctant to let God call the shots, or change our minds and accept His new plan. It is by doing this that God is able to work amazing happenings in our lives. Joseph never expected to parent the divine Child any more than Mary expected to be His mother. But both understood, after dramatic angelic interruptions, that this was God's intention for their lives.

I hope you will let God interrupt you this Advent season! I hope you will be open to receiving a new vision for your life, or maybe just a tweak on your old one. I hope you will notice God trying to get your attention, and ponder how God calls us to be family to one another, even in the most unexpected circumstances. From all of this can come a new sense of call and direction.

May these Spiritual gifts be yours, along with the others that will await you underneath the Christmas tree!



Chris deKrafft played Joseph at Advent Bible School.

In Christ, With Christmas blessings,
Pastor Lisa

A Staff Beyond Compare!

This year, like no other, has been one in which St. Luke's staff members have faced challenges, both in our own lives and in keeping the church going as we transition out of the pandemic. Many do not realize that while I, as pastor, was on renewal leave, the staff made the decision not to take any summer vacations for the sake of St. Luke's ongoing ministries. It is with heartfelt thanks that I as pastor commend our staff for exemplary dedication and wonderful support, as well as camaraderie in the office during health challenges, including unique demands created by the times in which we live.

On behalf of this dedicated staff, a true gift to our church and our community in this season of giving, we wish you a blessed Christmas and the same experience of finding support near at hand when you most need it.

We give thanks to God for St. Luke's staff who serve us and our Lord Jesus Christ not only in the Christmas season, but in all seasons of our lives!

Merry Christmas

from the St Luke's Staff:

Shirley Gary, office administrator

Michele Hart, preschool director

Scottie Kyle, treasurer

Margaret Anderson, financial secretary

Laurel Jones, substitute musician

Blessings, Pastor Lisa

United Women in Faith

St. Luke's Women in Faith will meet on **Thursday, December 8** (note change of date) at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

All sisters of faith are invited.

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| December 2 | Larry Batten
Laura Jarrett
William Warriner |
| December 3 | Kevin Jenkins
Richard James Moyer |
| December 4 | 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 20 | Conner Skeen |
| December 22 | Pat Knust
Austin Morris |
| December 23 | Gordon Reed
John Crawford |
| December 26 | Elliott Sorenson |
| 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 31 | Gordon & Susan Reed |

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/>

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 1** – Preschool “Cookies For Santa” 5:30 - 7:30 pm
- December 4** – Worship Service – 11 am
Second Sunday in Advent,
Advent Series ,
“Conversation with the Angels”
Youth Practice for
Christmas Program
12:00 - 1:30 pm
- December 6** – Evening VBS – 5:30 - 7:30 pm
- December 8** – Women in Faith
Meeting – 10:30 am
- December 11** – Worship Service - 11 am,
Third Sunday in Advent,
Advent Series, “Conversation
with the Angels”
Brown Bag Nativity – 11 am
Worship Service, Casual dress
Birthday Party for Jesus after
Worship
Youth Practice for Christmas
Program – 12:00 - 1:30 pm
- December 13** – Preschool Christmas Program
9:45 - 10:45 am
Administrative Council Meeting
– 7:00 pm by Zoom
- December 14** – Young at Heart – 9:30 am
Preschool Christmas Program
9:45 - 10:45 am
- December 18** – Worship Service – 11 am,
4th Sunday in Advent,
Advent Series, “Conversation
with the Angels”
Youth Dinner & Show – 5:30 pm
- December 24** – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 pm
- December 25** – Worship Service – 11 am

**Church Office will be opened as needed
December 24 - December 31**



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AGES 3 THROUGH KINDERGARTEN

ONE HOUR DANCE INSTRUCTION EACH WEEK:
1/2 HOUR **TAP** & 1/2 HOUR **BALLET**
WITH **YOGA** & AGE-APPROPRIATE **HIP HOP** MIXED IN
\$65 PER MONTH

CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 10, 2023
classes will be held on Tuesdays at 4:45pm

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Classes fill up quick.

Sign up today so you won't be put on the waiting list!!!
Join our Facebook group St Luke's UMC Dancing Little Stars:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2994008497583093//>

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation

Florence & Marion	Peggy Uglow
Wilmer & Phyllis Downs	Ruth Wickstrom
Opal Holshouser	Annie (Rosemarie's sister)
John & Joan Crawford	Bob & Jan Hall & Family
Dianne Rust	Ronnie & Shirley Weade
Sennie Case	The Beeckler Family
Annie Davis	Bettie Jones
Terry & Louise Kyle	Ronnie & Dixie Bowman
Tee Leigh	Deannie Reynolds
Curtis Perry	Katherine Peterson
Clinton Gary	Margaret Anderson
Wesley Sykes	Steve Taylor
Gayle McGonigle	Rose Marie Adkins
Vernon King	

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

Ibbie Smith's family members from Ukraine are now safely settled in Prague. Ibbie asks that you continue to remember them as they ask for prayers for themselves and for all of Ukraine.

All victims of Hurricane Ian

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

"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Barbara Nunnally in the loss of her dear friend, Jeannette Moore, on November 2nd, 2022.

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Haley, Chris and Lia deKrafft, and their extended family, at the recent death of Haley's grandfather, Sam Taylor.

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Ray and Becky Jenkins and Richard Jenkins at the loss of their brother-in-law, Harry Guckert, on November 26th.

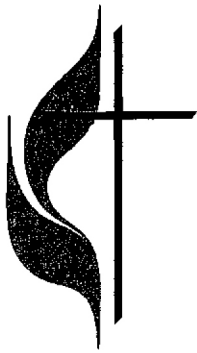
January Birthdays

January 1	Barbara Armstrong
January 2	Anna Hart
January 3	Elizabeth Thomas Debbie Tatum Richard James Moyer
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





St. Luke's United Methodist Church

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stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org

November 28, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of St. Luke's United Methodist Church:

In this season of Thanksgiving let us be mindful to give thanks and express gratitude for the blessings St. Luke's has received this year. Among them are:

- A return to in-person worship on February 27 – and nearly a full year of continued live-stream worship
- Short-term online Sunday School and resumption of in-person Adult Sunday School
- Children's Church, monthly celebration of children and resumption of weeknight Bible school
- Our thriving preschool program
- Children's dance and soccer programs
- Two successful Brunswick stew sales sponsored by the United Methodist Men
- Missions committee-sponsored bake sale
- Support for the Belmont Food Pantry and Jacobs Road Elementary School
- Resumption of meetings of the United Women In Faith and Young at Hearts
- Active Shepherding program

Additionally, in November we had the joy and special privilege of welcoming missionary Jennifer Moore with us in worship and Sunday School to share her experiences of ministering to children in North Macedonia. Pastor Lisa stated that while we have often prayed for those in ministry around the world, it is not often we have the opportunity to meet and hear their witness in person. We are reminded to be thankful for a connectional church that spans the globe.

Your financial support makes these ministries possible. Your generosity has allowed St. Luke's to keep up with day-to-day costs to operate and maintain an aging but lovely church facility and grounds and to contribute to missions and clergy support through our denomination.

To meet remaining year-end expenses and catch up support of our global church, we have set a goal of \$30,000 for our end of year fund raising campaign in November and December. Please prayerfully consider an extra gift this season. Your prayers and faithful giving will see us through. Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you and yours all the blessings of the Christmas season and a joyous and healthy New Year.

Bobbie Strum
Lay Leader

Jane Barto
Finance Chair



MERRY CHRISTMAS

JOIN US FOR DINNER AND CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

December 18 @ 5:30 PM

DINNER CATERED BY DEEP RUN ROADHOUSE
FESTIVE MUSIC, SINGING, & SKITS

\$10

**Purchase tickets before and
after church on Dec 4 & 11
(\$5 for children)**



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

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