



*“Heaven and earth
will pass away, but
my words will not
pass away.”*

Matthew 24:35

The Test of Time

On March 18th, at the Washingburgh Inn in Lincoln, England, Seth and Kate Sykes celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary! As one of their three daughters-in-law, and the one married to his father's namesake, I was amazed by their marriage that has stood the test of time. Seth Sr. is a

retired village doctor; Kate is a homemaker and a gourmet cook! Together they raised four children and have 11 grandchildren, including one by marriage.

As we all gathered for high tea, looking around this huge table in a lovely British dining room, I was struck by all the days, each one with its separate joys and sorrows, that passed in those 60 years! No one day was remembered in isolation, but rather the celebration was about the unbroken progression of time, one day following on after the other. “How did we all get here?” we asked, looking at one another in happy amazement?

Now I could go into flight details for the American branch of the Sykes, and the many separate car journeys made by children and grandchildren to arrive in Lincolnshire, but that really misses is the point. We were not there primarily to celebrate and marvel at the miles covered, many though they were, to reach this occasion. Instead, we had made our journeys—our pilgrimages to this cathedral city, where Christian pilgrims have come for centuries—to marvel at a love that has stood the test of time! A love that now spans continents, thanks to me spiriting Seth away to America.

But what if we had come to Lincoln to celebrate a love that lasted 600 years? Or even a 1000? Or 2000?! How amazed would you be, by a love that endured the joys and the sorrows, day after day, year after year, until you found yourself beholding your beloved, and knowing that your love had stood the test, the weight, the challenge, the joys of all those years? Imagine how many people might become part of a family in all of its generations and all that time! And imagine just how far you have fairly wide stretch, crossing not just one, but many oceans.

And now imagine yourself the Pilgrim--the one making the journey to Lincoln--if you like. Only you go there for a different anniversary, one coming up soon. This anniversary is a celebration of love that's lasted through centuries, thousands of years; it has endured the test of time . . . for you.

Make your Easter pilgrimage to wherever you find yourself beholding your beloved Christ this Easter, the anniversary of His resurrection and the greatest festival of the Christian faith. Lincoln Cathedral is wonderful, but St. Luke's has a world class fellowship. Join us at 10:30 am Easter morning for a celebration you will not forget. Look around, not as an invited guest, but as a loved member of the Christian family, loved and cherished, made a brother or sister by the love of Jesus Christ, which has spanned continents and has stood—and always will stand—the test of time.

As He has always been faithful to us, let us be faithful to him, and sing loud Hallelujahs to Christ our King!

Easter blessings,

Lincoln Cathedral,
Lincolnshire, England

Dear Family and Friends of St. Luke's

Seth, Adam and I are safely home and delighted we were able to share in Seth's parents' 60th wedding anniversary celebration!

Thank you for understanding this priority for my family, even during a very holy season. Our trip to England and back went smoothly, and the weather was even sunny on occasion!

Because I have been on international flights, I want to be protective of all of you in this era of COVID now that I'm back. So this week in the office, I am wearing a mask and keeping my distance from people. I will resume visits not this week, but next, to eliminate any chance of exposing you to COVID. Lord willing, none of us caught it on the trip, but we won't be sure until the end of the week, the time frame for symptoms to appear.

If you need to talk with me, please call the office.

My prayers and thanks again to you all,
God bless,
Lisa

Spring Is Here, and Easter Will Be Soon

Spring has been blossoming all around us for a few weeks now. Nature is displaying a brilliant array of white, yellow, purple, and pink, indicating that winter is ending and a new life for all the plants and animals around us is beginning once again. I think that Easter comes to us at the perfect time of year- when the reawakening of still seeds in the earth can lead our thoughts to the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The bright yellow daffodils are my favorite early springtime flower; their bright yellow color resembles the sun. Without the sun there could be no life on earth, and without the Son of God there could be no life after death.

I am really looking forward to the Palm Sunday service with all of the lovely choral music that the choir will perform. I thoughtfully selected each piece, making sure that with each one the Savior was central in the texts, and that each one will be a musical reminder of what to focus on in the following week as it leads us to Easter- the sacrifice that He made for each of us. "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." Job 19:25

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/>



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday: April 2, 10:30 am - mini cantata; Maundy Thursday Service: April 6, 7pm; Good Friday: April 7
Sanctuary will be open for private prayer noon-2pm; Easter Sunday, April 9 - no sunrise service, but a special service at 10:30 am. Easter Egg hunt after worship service. Please remember to bring your basket to the Easter Egg Hunt.

- April 2** – Palm Sunday, 10:30 am
The choir will present special music.
- April 6** – Maundy Thursday service at 7pm
- April 7** – Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open for prayer between noon and 2 pm
- April 9** – Easter Sunday, 10:30 am.
Our Easter theme is "New Life". Don't miss this celebration of praise through word, song, and dance.

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

Three Notch'd District

As you may know, what was the Richmond District of the Virginia United Methodist Church has been combined with the Charlottesville District to form the Three Notch'd District under the leadership of District Superintendent Hyo Lee.

Also new is the optional Simplified Board Structure which our district has adopted. Starting July 1, 2023, three committees will be administering the various functions of the District: the District Leadership Board, the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and District Board of Church Location and Building.

I have been elected by the Three Notch'd District Conference to serve on the District Leadership Board. The Board, composed of 12 members, serves as the district's administrative executive committee, with the duties and responsibilities of the District Superintendency Committee and District Trustees, as well as nominations and finances. The DLB will administer the district budget, assets and real property, and personnel support. The more specific roles of the other two bodies are described in their names.

My term begins July 1, 2023, and ends on December 31, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. Bill Brown

From the Desk of Scottie Kyle, Church Treasurer

On-line Giving, through our website, will be available soon. This feature will be up and running in a few days. Instructions for use will follow.

Payment of "old" bills -

The Preschool gave us part of its annual donation early (\$2,200.00). I used these funds along with the \$750.00 that has been received from the "special offering" request, and a small amount of regular weekly donations to pay the "old" bills that needed to be paid.

The Preschool tries to pay some Preschool-related church expenses. Once again this year, they will share the grass cutting cost with the church. They recently paid for a heat pump repair that was necessary in the basement area.

Many thanks to both the Preschool and those generous church members who contributed to our requests for "special funds" to pay these bills. St. Luke's members' generosity, always, is very much appreciated!



THANK YOU!

St. Luke's congregation extends to A. Ray Kyle, Lay Speaker, and to Bill Brown, Speaker-Whenever-Called-Upon, our sincere thanks for leading Sunday worship services during the two weeks Pastor Lisa was away. We are blessed to have such capable members in our midst, and appreciate your willingness to lend a hand.

THANK YOU, YOUNG AT HEART

To each of you who gave so generously of your time and talents to create the pretty EASTER bags, please know it was a sincere pleasure to receive them! Such great gifts and greetings!

Gifts of the nicest kind came in the form of candies and much admired art work (I hope every recipient opened that cute pinwheel posie to see what was inside!). And that's just the beginning! Also included were a cut-out, decorated and steepled church, along with Easter wishes! And wait – there's more! Hand cream and tissues were included, as was a pen, along with flower-like butterflies that herald spring's arrival!

With love and limitless energy, the Young at Heart have seen to it that those unable to be at church in person on this extraordinary day still experience the true meaning of Easter. Distributed by friendly folks, and happily welcomed by the homebound as well as by some who aren't, these colorful little bags speak volumes about the special people who make up this St. Luke's group. We feel your love. THANK YOU, one and all!



CONGRATULATIONS to Ken and Pat Knust! Married August 5, 1972, they recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary a year late because of Covid.



Pastor Lisa did a dramatic monologue of The Woman at the Well on March 12th, surprising the congregation with her costume and sermon.



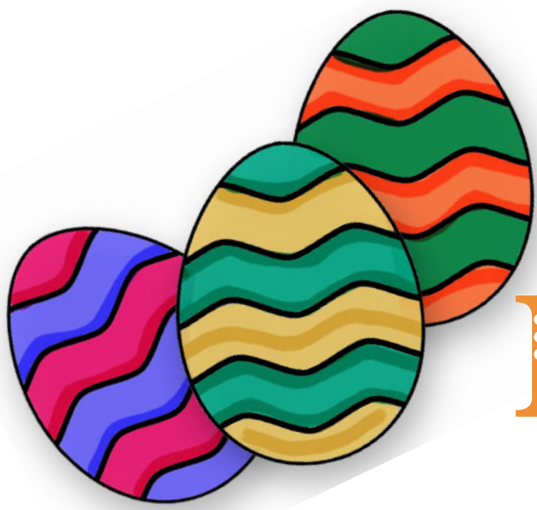
Every 2nd Sunday is family time at St. Luke's. with a special Children's Time, Children's Church lesson and craft for the kids. Special thanks to Heather Jones and Colleen Cassada and their children for assisting the little ones.



Our dedicated teachers attended the VAAEYC (VA Assoc. for the Education of Young Children) Conference, Richmond!



During Children's Church time, Pastor Lisa asked all the children to be flower seeds, asking "What does it take for a seed to grow?" Answer: Soil, sun and rain, and faith in God's son, as the children demonstrated.



Easter Egg Hunt

St. Luke's annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 9th, Easter Sunday, at 11:30 a.m.

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the Easter Sunday service! We will have games and treats as we hunt for eggs. Bring your Easter baskets and meet in the Fellowship Hall after church. This is always a wonderful time for families and friends to share in together. There will be plenty of eggs to go around! Hope to see you there!

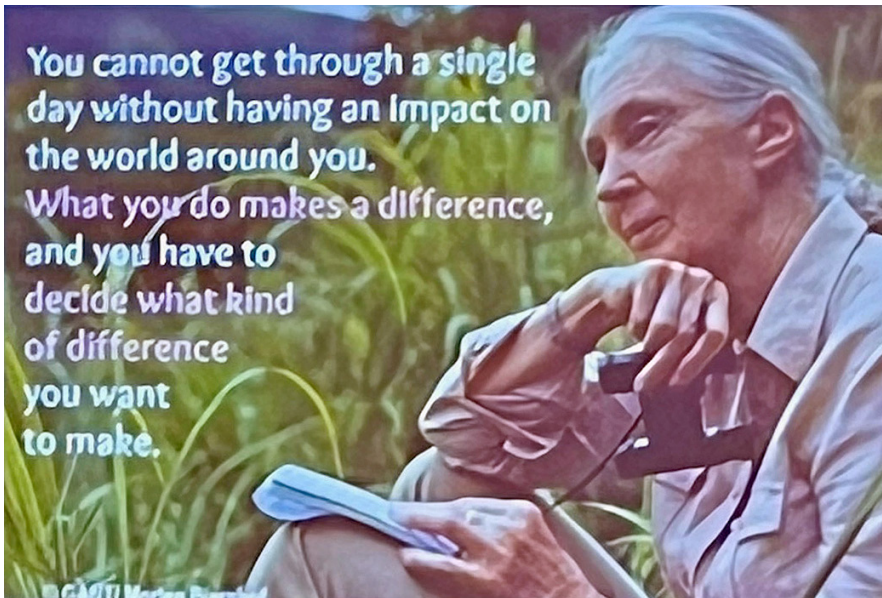
Please contact Colleen Cassada at cbbcassada@gmail.com if you have any questions.

April Birthdays

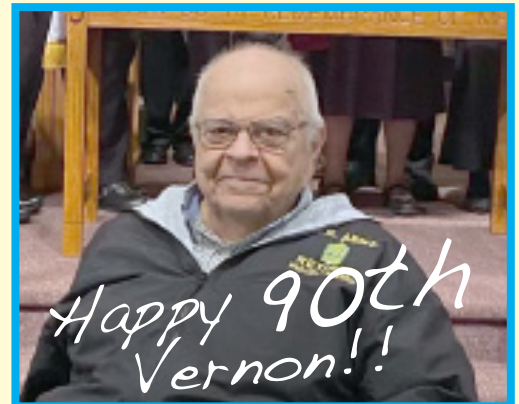
- April 1 Emmett Jones
- April 4 Wayne Jenkins
Melissa Moore
- April 6 Winnie Brown
Ruth Wickstrom
- April 7 Stella Jones
- April 8 Nancy Taylor
Susan Reed
Andrew Gold
- April 12 Roger Ball
David Wellman
- April 13 Rebecca Rohlk
- April 14 Holly Phillips
- April 15 Ray Jenkins
Richard Jenkins
- April 17 Shirley Gary
- April 18 Heather Jones
- April 19 Steven Edwards
- April 23 Vernon King
- April 24 Chris Bowen
- April 26 Jane Barto

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



Deciding what kind of difference you want to make was the theme of the VAAEYC (VA Assoc. for the Education of Young Children) Conference, held in Richmond and attended by our dedicated Preschool teachers.



Vernon King will be 90 years old on April 23rd





Mother's Day Candle Burning

May 14, 2023

What do you give to a Mother who has everything?

Remember your mother or a special woman this Mother's Day by dedicating the burning of a special Mother's Day Candle. Names will be listed in the bulletin to honor/remember a special woman in your life. (\$10.00 per name).

Name of Woman/Women to be listed:

Please Check One:

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

Deadline: April 30, 2023

On your check indicate Mother's Day Candle Burning and all proceeds will go toward United Methodist Missions and Ministries.

Blessings, Shirley Gary Office Manager
stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org



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

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation

Ronnie & Dixie Bowman	Peggy Uglow
Ruth Wickstrom	Margaret Anderson
Opal Holshouser	Florence & Marion
Wilmer & Phyllis Downs	Rose Hudson
Rosemarie Adkins	Joan Varner
Ronnie & Shirley Weade	Sennie Case
John & Joan Crawford	Ken Knust
Gayle McGonigle	The Beeckler Family
Deannie Reynolds	Vernon King
Annie Davis	Katherine Peterson
Suzanne Hall	Rhea Strum
Mary Meador	
Kip and Drew Barefoot	
Terry & Louise Kyle & Family	

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

UMCOR— Help for Mississippi

If you wish to help the devastated people in Mississippi and other Tornado ravaged areas in the Mid-West you can do so by contacting UMCOR United States Disaster Response - Global Ministries online using the link below or by sending your donations to the Virginia Conference Business Office (P. O. Box 5606 Glen Allen, VA. 23058).

United States Disaster Response - Global Ministries
<http://umcmmission.org>

Preschool Sunday

We are excited to celebrate the preschool school year with the congregation, teachers, and preschool families on Preschool Sunday, April 30th. We will give a special recognition to our graduates as well. Afterwards, we will enjoy the petting zoo!

Pastor
The Rev. Lisa Sykes
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Ray Jenkins
Superintendent of
Sunday Schools