

## Can't Get Enough

Think of something that's only on the grocery store shelves at Christmas time--which these days begins the day after Halloween, doesn't it? Everyone has their favorite flavor. Seth's is peppermint chocolate chip--mine is pumpkin! Pumpkin creamer, pumpkin bread, pumpkin spice, pumpkin pie... I could go on forever!

Sometimes, rare and precious things are only widely available in the deep and the dark and the cold months of this world. We can think of our favorite flavors at Christmas time.... I know some of you will be fruitcake fans.... But there's something else that we just can't get enough of that is widespread in the deep and dark and cold times and places of this world.


The sacred story of salvation interestingly is something that many cultures reserve for the dark and cold of winter. The Hopi Indians are one such culture that only allows the telling of their most sacred stories in the darkest part of the year. God Almighty somehow knew that to make it through the cold and dark, we would need something we could just not get enough of. Something so memorable that it would last the rest of the year, and throughout the rest of our lives. Something so palatable that our hunger for it could not be assuaged until we tasted it again!

For we who are Christians, that season is Advent, and no matter how deep or how dark or how cold we find the place we inhabit, our physical, our spiritual, God's promise to us is this: the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. Think of the strength that affirmation brings to those who are in the darkest of places this Christmas--those who are in Ukraine or Israel or Gaza, those who are in grief or illness or mourning, those who are hungry or insecure or feeling lost. The Christmas story reaffirms to all, but especially to those who know darkness that comes very close, the light of salvation, the light of Christ always shines... but it shines most brightly my friends, in the darkness.

I remember a watercolor painting my son Wesley made for me in Sunday School when he was just a little boy. The message written upon it in crayon has never left my mind: "Stars shine the brightest in the darkest part of the night." And by faith, you and I know the brightest star of all!

To people who wait in great darkness, upon them my friends, upon us my friends, light has shined in Jesus Christ!  
Thanks be to God and a blessed Christmas to you and your families.

Pastor Lisa



*...the people who sat in  
darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the  
region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.'*  
Matthew 4:16

**Christmas Eve is on a Sunday.  
There will only be one service at 4:00 pm.  
No morning service.\***

## Christmas Talent Show

The Christmas program is December 10, 2023 at 5:30. It will be a catered dinner and a Christmas skit / talent show / Santa Claus. I have a list of people at the service on 11/19 who will be attending but realize there will probably be others coming also.

**Tickets will be sold December 3 after the morning service.  
They are \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children.**

**Anyone with a talent who would like to perform in the show please text Nancy Taylor at 804-387-7610.**

## Preschool News

The preschool families donated Thanksgiving "sides" to the Belmont food pantry. We had some great helpers to load up the van! What generous families we have!



*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, director of music**

**Blessings, Pastor Lisa**



**The Season  
of Advent  
is Here!**

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word "adventus" meaning "coming". For us, Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in anticipation of Christ's birth.

May we all experience the hope, peace, joy, and love the Christ child brings.

Important dates to remember:

**DECEMBER 3 - 10:30 am** -First Sunday of Advent & Communion

**DECEMBER 10 -10:30 am** - Brown Bag Nativity, every child gets a part!

11:30 am - Staff Parish Committee Meeting - In Person

5:30 pm - **Christmas Talent Show and Dinner**

**DECEMBER 17 - 10:30 am** - Christmas Cantata by Choir

**DECEMBER 24 - 9:30 am** - No Sunday School

10:30 am. - No Morning Worship Service

4:00 pm - Christmas Worship Service - Lessons & Carols

**DECEMBER 31 - 9:30 am** - Last Advent Study for Adult Sunday School Class

10:30 am - Wesleyan Covenant Service for the New Year

## 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>

## Birthday Visit to Opal



Sunday, November 19, 2023, Pastor Lisa, Ibbie, Katie, Bobbie and Rhea went after church to visit with our oldest member Opal Holshouser who turned 99 years young on November 19. The birthday greeting group extended well wishes and blessings and then they sang "Happy Birthday". Congratulations to Opal on this milestone.

## Thank You From Chris Jones

I want to offer my sincerest thanks and gratitude to everyone at Saint Luke's for the kindness and warmth you continue to show my grandmother Annie Davis. Annie is 95 years young, and resides at the Laurels of Willow Creek nursing facility. While her memory and mental acuity may not be what it once was, she understands warmth, compassion, and the well wishes that she continues to receive from you all, I have taken over as guardian for Annie since she is not able to care for herself so well these days - but I live the cross the country in Washington State and cannot get out to visit her but so often. It truly warms each of our hearts that you all continue to keep her in your thoughts and visit with her. She mentioned that she had been a member of your church since the 1960s, and it's wonderful you consider Annie part of your family

Sincerely,  
Chris Jones

## Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine

Prayers for our Military

**The Kyle Family**

Gayle McGonigle

John & Joan Crawford

Violet Smith

Vernon King

Wilmer & Phyllis Downs

Deanie Reynolds

Ibbie Smith

Sennie Case

Ronnie & Shirley Weade

Rebecca Morris

**The Beeckler Family**

Opal Holshouser

The Urbanski Family

Florence Smith

James deKrafft

Annie Davis

Peggy Uglow

Ronnie & Heather Jones

Margaret Anderson

Karla Lacy

Dan & Carol McSpadden

**Our Military**

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

**Prayers for all who are expecting**

Chris & Haley deKrafft

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

## "Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

The Rev. Mr. Hugh Harris claimed the promise of the resurrection on November 11, 2023. Keep Nancy, his wife, and family in your prayers.

David Lott, former member of St. Luke's, claimed the promise of the resurrection on November 11, 2023. Keep the family of David Lott in your prayers.


## Congratulations!!!

Congratulations to Zeb and Hazel Saunders as they are great grandparents again. He was born on October 31, weighed 9 lbs. pounds, 21.5 inches long. His parents are doing well.

Congratulations to Cassy & Larry Russell on the birth of their son on October 24th. Zane Gregory Russell weighed 6 lbs, 13 ozs. and 19.5 Inches long. Sevda and Andrew Russell are the proud grandparents.

We remember the following individuals who claimed the promise of the resurrection,

November 6, 2022—November 5, 2023



Anni Steinkops  
Terry Kyle  
Warren Blake  
Sue Moore  
Ronnie Bowman  
Curtis Perry  
Joe Chandler  
Katherine Peterson  
Norris Cross  
Fred Reynolds  
Robert Gary  
\*Jean Richardson  
Alice Louise Gott Glenn  
Marvin Saunders  
Zachary Griffin  
Robert Shockley  
Harry Guckert  
Harold Smart  
\*Jan Hall  
Sam Taylor  
Deana Hines  
Glenn Waugh  
Sharon Inge  
Marion West  
Audrey Johnston  
Dixie Wrench

## *December Birthdays*

- December 2 Larry Batten  
Laura Jarrett  
William Warriner
- December 3 Kevin Jenkins  
Ricky Moyer
- December 4 Tom Rohlk  
Joshua Sykes
- December 6 Suzanne Steinhorst  
Jennifer Frankey
- December 8 A. Ray Kyle  
Peggy Uglow  
(95years young)
- December 9 Chelsea Bowman  
Nicholas Bowman
- December 10 Sarah Estes
- December 17 Susan Wertz
- December 18 Annie Davis  
(96 years young)  
Robert White, III
- December 20 Conner Skeen
- December 22 Austin Morris  
Pat Knust
- December 23 Gordon Reed  
John Crawford
- December 27 Karla Lacy
- December 28 Michael Pearse  
Luke Daniel Boykin
- December 30 Kevin Parrish  
Marie Dunlap
- December 31 Reagan Gary

## *Anniversaries*

- December 16 Roger & Jennifer Frankey
- December 20 James & Charlotte deKrafft
- December 31 Gordon and Susan Reed

**Happy 61st Wedding Anniversary  
to Zeb and Hazel Saunders**

**Happy 53rd Wedding Anniversary  
to David and Bonnie Urbanski**

## Home School in November

We kicked off the month of November with a field trip to Taylor's chocolate. The kids learned the process of making chocolate and toured the factory. On our Friday of Friendsgiving we had a special guest (Pastor Lisa) visit who read us a book and discussed giving back to our less fortunate friends. After we all enjoyed a meal together. We are so very thankful to Pastor Lisa for sharing her time to come visit us.



# Young at Heart

Young At Heart had a great trip to Jamestown - motoring down Route 5, lunching at The Chickahominy House, riding the ferry to Surry and shopping for peanuts in Wakefield as our November meeting,

Our mission for December is to collect new and or gently used coats for Belmont Clothes Closet. Gloves, hats etc. are also helpful for children and adults. Fun for this summer:

We would like to sponsor a CHRISTMAS IN JULY SALE. As you get out or put away Christmas decorations perhaps you have a couple items you no longer use or want. Let's see if we can make a little CASH for St. Luke's. See Barbara Nunnally, 804-744-2110, 804-852-4136 or [bpn11900@gmail.com](mailto:bpn11900@gmail.com)



## Poinsettias for Christmas

Red Poinsettias will be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 17th and Christmas Eve, December 24th. The cost will be \$15.00 per plant. You may take your plant after the 10:30 am service on Dec.17th or the service on December 24th. Make your check payable to St. Luke's UMC. and designate "Poinsettias:"

**The deadline for ordering is December 3, 2023.**

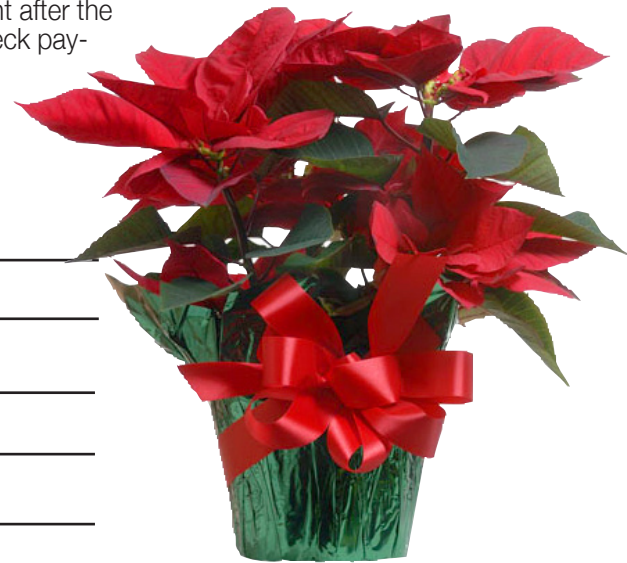
Name of individual purchasing Poinsettia:

Number of Poinsettias purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

[stlukesumc@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesumc@verizon.net)



*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)

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