

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"
(John 1:1)

Every year, I begin watching the Hallmark Channel's 30 Days of Christmas long before December even arrives. I love Christmas that much. There is something about the season—its warmth, its spirit of love, its sense of togetherness—that I wish we could hold onto every single day. And I know I'm not alone. Many of the homes around our church already have their lights twinkling, and some even had their trees up in October. A few never took their decorations down at all! That longing for the peace and joy of Christmas is something many hearts share.

We cherish the gathering of family and friends, the cheerful busyness of people doing good, and the celebration of peace. Yet, as much as we try to recreate the feeling of Christmas, the true source of that feeling is Christ Himself.

Christ is the Prince of Peace. His birth is the reason we celebrate this season—but the celebration doesn't have to end on December 25th. Christmas can live in our hearts throughout the new year. If you have Christ, you truly have Christmas.

So how do we carry Christmas—with Christ—into the year ahead?

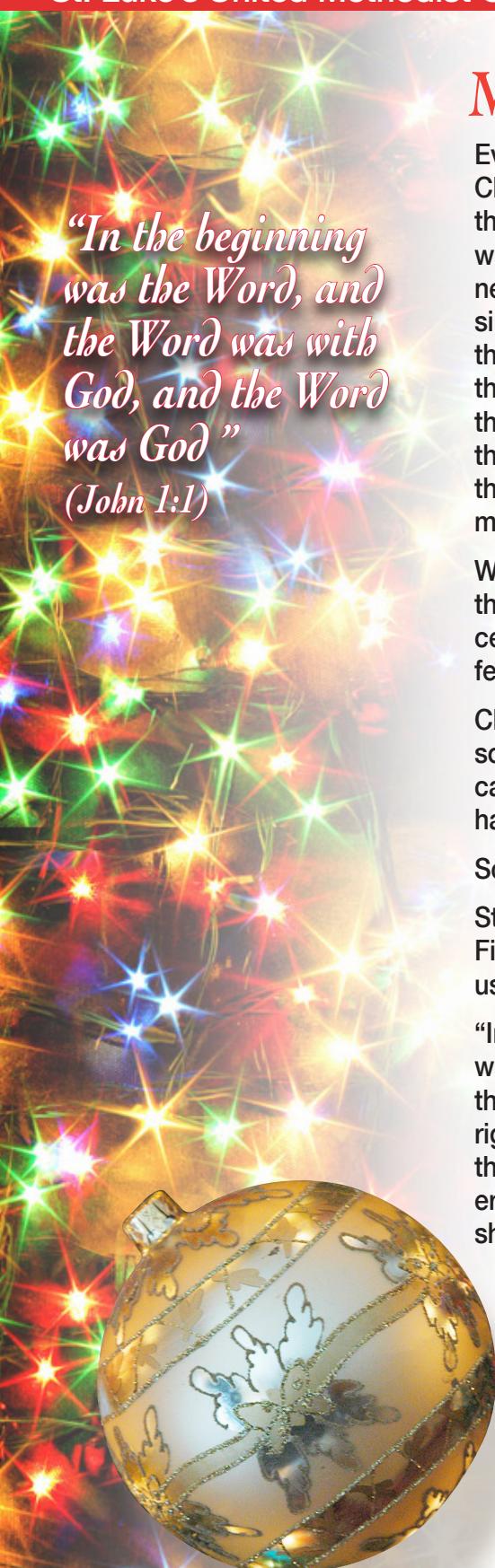
Start with reading God's word. Challenge yourself to read the Bible each day. Find a reading plan that helps you grow closer to Christ. Scripture reminds us that Christ is the Word of God by saying,

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1) Understanding Jesus as the Word means recognizing that He reveals the very nature and character of God to us—His love, mercy, righteousness, and compassion. Jesus came to show us how to live in a way that reflects God's heart. Each time we turn our eyes toward Him, we discover more of who He is. That deeper understanding strengthens our relationship with Him and inspires us to live lives that honor His name.

In Christ, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we remain connected to the peace and joy that Christmas represents.

So, as we celebrate this season, let us also draw closer to the One who is the reason for it all. And as the new year begins, may we carry Christmas—its hope, peace, love, and Christ Himself—with us all year long.

Pastor Tracey



Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve Communion Service, December 24th at 4:00 pm

Just for January....Communion will be on the second Sunday, January 11, 2026. We will resume our regular 1st Sunday schedule in February.

Are you still celebrating Christmas in January? If you said yes, you are in good company. Epiphany is celebrated every year on January 6th or the closest Sunday to that date. Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi, the three wise men, to visit Jesus, bringing gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.



Flower Calendar

2026 Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board going into the church sanctuary. If you would like to put flowers on the altar for a particular Sunday in honor or memory of a loved one, please sign up on the flower calendar. The cost is \$35.00. Make your check payable to St. Luke's United Methodist Check and designate in lower left-hand corner of check "Altar Flowers".

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine

Prayers for our Military

Scottie & Ray Kyle

John & Joan Crawford

Doris Jenkins

Wilmer & Phyllis Downs

Deannie Reynolds

Bobbie Strum

Diana Lee

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey

Chris Bowen

Zeb & Hazel Saunders

Bonnie Urbansky

Bill & Andrea Brown

Shirley & Ronnie Weade

Chadd Ray Kyle

Kay Callis

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



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://www.facebook.com/share/162y11mMZw/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

December Birthdays

December 2 Larry Batten
Laura Jarrett
William Warriner
December 3 Kevin Jenkins
December 4 Tom Rohlk
December 6 Suzanne Steinhorst
Pastor Tracey Lyons
Jennifer Frankey
James deKrafft
December 8 Ray Kyle
December 9 Chelsea Bowman
Nicholas Bowman
December 10 Sarah Estes
December 17 Susan Wertz
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

January Birthdays

January 1 Barbara Armstrong
January 2 Anna Hart
January 3 Elizabeth Thomas
January 4 Debbie Tatum
Steve Taylor
Karen Whitton
Sarah Allen
Adam Warriner
Matt Strum
January 6 Audrey Vogen
January 7 Kent Calfee
January 11 Justin Stoneberg
January 12 Brenda Staehle
January 14 Paul Brown
Faye Sisson
January 15 Nancy Allen
Krystel Worner
January 19 Ibbie Smith
January 20 Yvonne Morris
Bradley Smart
January 22 Wendy Brown White
January 23 Cheryl Sanker
Adam Jones
January 26 Joseph Lyons, III
January 29 Jerry Anderson
January 30 Sheri Stoneberg
January 31 Erin Cowardin Jacoby

Anniversaries

January 2 Jim and Cindy Self
January 31 Ray and Scottie Kyle



St. Luke's Calendar Important Dates — December 2025

December 3	7:15 pm – Choir Practice
December 5	10:00-2:00 pm – Home Schooling
December 7	9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service
December 8	10:00-10:15 am – Preschool Chapel
December 9	7 pm Finance Committee Meeting by Zoom
December 10	10:00-10:15 am – Preschool Chapel 10:30 am – Young at Heart 7:15 pm – Choir Practice
December 12	10:00-2:00 pm – Home Schooling
December 14	9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service
December 16	9:45-12:00 Noon – Preschool Christmas Program 7 pm – Administrative Council Meeting by Zoom
December 17	9:45-12:00 Noon – Preschool Christmas Program 7:15 pm – Choir Practice
December 18	10:30 am – Coloring with the Spirit 5:30-7:30 pm- Evening Bible School
December 19	10:00-2:00 pm – Home Schooling
December 21	9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service
December 22	6:30 pm – U.M.M.
December 24	4:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service
December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!
December 28	9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service

St. Luke's Calendar Important Dates — January 2026

January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR
January 2	10:00-2:00 pm - Home Schooling
January 4	9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service
January 7	10:30 am – Women In Faith 7:15 pm Choir Practice
January 9	10:00-2:00 pm - Home Schooling
January 11	9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service
January 12	10:00-10:15 – Preschool Chapel
January 13	10:00-10:15 – Preschool Chapel 7:00 pm – Finance Committee Meeting by Zoom
January 14	10:30 am – Young at Heart 7:15 pm Choir Practice
January 16	10:00-2:00 pm - Home Schooling
January 18	9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service
January 20	7:00 pm – Administrative Council Meeting by Zoom
January 21	7:15 pm Choir Practice
January 23	10:00-12:00 Noon – Quilting Group 10:00-2:00 pm. – Home Schooling
January 25	9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Service
January 26	10:00-10:15 – Preschool Chapel
January 27	10:00-10:15 – Preschool Chapel
January 28	7:15 pm Choir Practice
January 30	10:00-2:00 pm – Home Schooling



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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