

When the Birds Sing: A Call to Morning Praise

“But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.”

(Psalm 59)

The sound of birdsongs greeted my morning today—a gentle but certain reminder that spring is drawing near. Their melodies carried me back to childhood mornings when the world seemed to wake up in harmony. I could hear the familiar calls of the Robin, the Mourning Dove, the Carolina Wren, the Tufted Titmouse, and the Song Sparrow, each adding its own distinct note to the dawn chorus. Together, their music felt like a symphony of praise rising toward heaven.

Listening to them, I couldn't help but wonder if God placed a song in their hearts to remind us to begin our own days with praise. Scripture declares in Psalm 59, *“But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.”* What a beautiful image—starting the day not with worry or haste, but with worship.

Morning praise is more than a ritual; it is a sacred practice. It is choosing to acknowledge God's presence before the demands of the day take hold. It is thanking Him for the gift of a new beginning, for blessings seen and unseen, and for opportunities to reflect His love in our lives.

During this Lenten season, many are renewing their commitment to worship and devotion. Through intentional Bible reading and listening to uplifting worship music, the early hours become moments of reflection and joy. These practices not only deepen faith but also reconnect us with cherished memories of mornings past.

As spring approaches and the birds continue their morning chorus, may we be inspired to lift our own songs of gratitude. Let us embrace each new day this Lenten season with hearts tuned to praise, remembering always God's enduring love and steadfast care for us.

Tracey B Lyons



From Our Music Director

I am looking forward to an Easter celebration in word and song on Palm Sunday! Both the choir and the congregation will get to sing hymns in honor of our Savior, Jesus Christ, in expectation of the glory and redemption of Easter Morning. I am excited to have a couple of surprise soloists join in our worship service!

March Madness Giving Fundraiser

Dear Members, Family, and Friends of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, grace and peace to you, and thank you for your continued faithfulness and support of St. Luke's. Your generosity helps sustain the ministries, outreach, and daily operations that allow our church to serve both our congregation and the community.

Beginning in March, we are excited to launch a new fundraiser called **March Madness Giving**. This simple and fun effort invites you to participate by choosing a date on the calendar and donating the corresponding amount.

For example: • Day 1 = \$1 • Day 15 = \$15 • Day 30 = \$30

It's easy — just Pick a Date and Donate!

You can give online at www.stlukesrva.org or mail your gift to St. Luke's UMC, 4101 Fordham RD, North Chesterfield, VA 23236. You can also scan the QR code on the right. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference and helps us continue the work God has called us to do. Thank you in advance for your support, prayers, and generosity.



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

Pat & Ken Knust

Chris Bowen

Zeb & Hazel Saunders

Chadd Ray Kyle

Bill & Andrea Brown

Shirley Weade

Diana Lee

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey

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>



Estimate of Giving Card- If you have not had an opportunity to fill out the Estimate of Giving Card and you plan to do so this year, please do so as soon as possible so that your information for 2026 may be adjusted .

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour- is hosting a free Medicare information session on Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m. We are opening this presentation to the community. Registration is at the following link: bit.ly/49zHh7p

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 Church and designate in lower left-hand corner of check "Altar Flowers".

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

St. Luke's Calendar Important Dates — March 2026

- March 1 — Sunday- 9:30 am. Sunday School
10:30 am Worship – 2nd Sunday
in Lent
- March 4— Wednesday- 10:30 am Women in Faith
7:15 p.m. Choir Practice
- March 6— Friday 10:00-2:00 pm - Home
Schooling
- March 8— Sunday, 9:30 am – Sunday
School
10:30 am.- Worship – 3rd Sunday
in Lent
- March 9— Monday, 10:00-10:15 –
Preschool Chapel
- March 10— Tuesday, 10:00-10:15 – Preschool
Chapel
7:00 pm – Finance Committee
Meeting by Zoom
- March 11 — Wednesday, 10:30 am. – Young at Heart
7:15 pm – Choir Practice
- March 13— Friday, 10:00-2:00 pm – Home
Schooling
— Sunday 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship – 4th Sunday
in Lent
- March 17— Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. – Administrative
Council Meeting by Zoom
- March 18— Wednesday, 7:15 p.m.. – Choir Practice
- March 20— Friday 10:00-2:00 pm – Home Schooling
- March 21— Saturday, Fellowship Hall, 12:00 Noon-
5:00 pm
- March 22— Sunday, 9:30 am. – Sunday School
10:30 a.m.-Worship Service –
5th Sunday in Lent
- March 23— Monday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. –
Preschool Chapel
- March 24— Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 am. –
Preschool Chapel
- March 25— Wednesday, 7:15 p.m. – Choir
Practice
- March 26— Thursday, 5:30-7:30 pm – Evening
Bible School
- March 27 — Friday, 10:00-12:00 Noon –
Quilting Group
- March 29— Sunday, Palm Sunday & Cantata
9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
10:00 a.m. - Worship



Church of the Nazarene Calendar Important Dates — March 2026

- March 1 — Sunday- 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments
and worship service
- March 2— Monday- Report figures to Shirley
- March 6— 7:00-9:30pm Discipleship class
- March 7— Saturday, 97:00-8:00 Leadership class
8:00-11:00am Morning Prayer
- March 8— Sunday, 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments
and worship service
5:30-7:30 Board meeting
- March 9— Monday, Report figures to Shirley
- March 13— Friday, 10:30 am. – Young at Heart
7:15 pm – Choir Practice
- March 13— Friday, 7:00-9:30pm Discipleship class
- March 14— Saturday, 5:00-6:45 Band Practice
7:00-8:00 Leadership class
- March 15— Sunday, 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments
and worship service
- March 16— Monday, Report figures to Shirley
- March 20— Friday, 7:00-9:30pm Discipleship clas
- March 21 — Saturday, 5:00-6:45 Band Practice
7:00-8:00 leadership class
- March 22 — Sunday, 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments
and worship service
- March 23— Monday, Report figures to Shirley
- March 27— Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 am. –
Preschool Chapel
- March 25— Wednesday, 7:15 p.m. – Choir
Practice
- March 26— Thursday, 5:30-7:30 pm – Evening
Bible School
- March 27— Friday, 7:00-10:00pm prayer service
at end of month
- March 28— Saturday, 5:00-6:45 Band Practice
7:00-8:00 leadership class
- March 29— Sunday, 1:30-5:30 Install Instruments
and worship service
- March 30— Monday, Report figures to Shirley

St. Luke's Easter Worship Dates

April 2 – Maundy Thursday Service – 6:00 pm

April 5 – Easter Sunday:

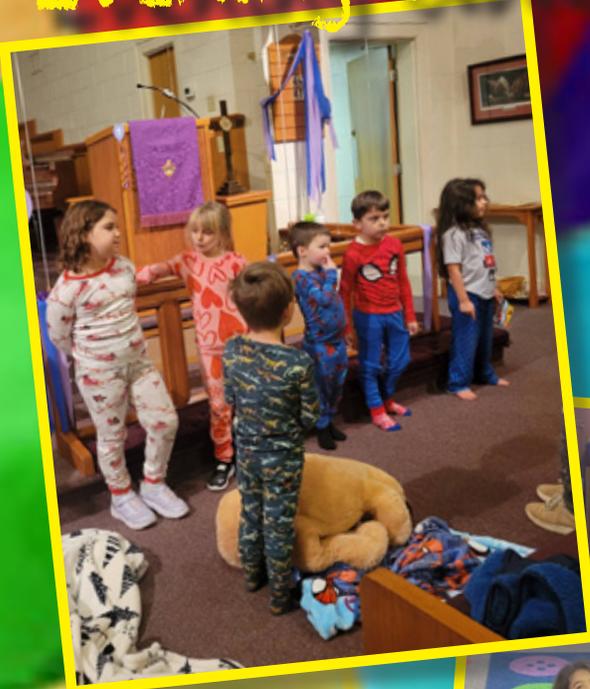
7:00 am – Sunrise Service

**7:30 am – Sunrise Breakfast sponsored by
the U.M. Men**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship

Evening Bible School Pajama Party



Fun Preschool Activities



Easter Flowers

This year for Easter Sunday you will be given the opportunity to order an Easter Lily, Hydrangea, Mums, Tulips, and Hyacinths. All orders must be in the church office no later than March 22. Make checks payable to St. Luke's UMC and be sure to designate on the check in the lower left corner "Easter Flowers". NO SPECIFIC COLOR MAY BE GUARANTEED. Please complete the following form and mail to church or drop it in the yellow box on the left side of the carport door. The following flowers will be available:

Easter Lily 6.5" pot, 4-6 blooms \$16.50

Hydrangea 8" asst. colors based on availability, 5-6 blooms \$24.00

Tulips 6.5" pot, asst colors based on availability \$15.50

Hyacinths 6.5" pot, asst colors based on availability \$15.50

Mums 6.5" pot, asst. colors based on availability \$15.50

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Number of Plants Desired: _____

Easter Lily _____ Hydrangea _____

Tulips _____ Hyacinths _____

Mums _____

Total Amount: _____

stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org

March Birthdays

March 6	Steven Grubbs Charlotte deKrafft
March 7	MaryJo Jones
March 10	Beth Ball
March 12	Christopher Hedrick
March 15	Kathy Bowen Elijah Jones Scott Brown
March 18	Eric Jones
March 21	Elton Gardner Andrew Proffitt
March 24	Steven Hudson
March 26	Deanie Reynolds Cody Russell Ken Knust
March 30	Debbie Smart
March 31	Bobbie Strum

Anniversaries

March 25	Bobbie & Rhea Strum
March 26	Patrick & Carolyn Beeckler
March 29	Andrew & Sevda Russell



Mark Your Calendar – Evening Bible School will be on Thursday, March 26, 2016, 5:30-7:30 pm. If you wish to participate, contact the church office.



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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