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St. Luke's United Methodist Church Newsletter May 2026

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."

(Psalm 30:5)

"I was young and now I'm old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.."

(Psalm 37:25)

"Hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now."

(Joshua 23:8)



Remembering a Friend

The month of May arrives with a full calendar and full hearts. It is a season marked by both celebration and reflection—by moments that make us smile and moments that call us to remember. From Cinco de Mayo to Mother's Day to Memorial Day, this month carries a mixture of joy and sorrow.

For me, May is especially tender. I lost my father this week, and he was my dear friend, the Reverend Robert L. Bullock, Jr. In this season, I find myself leaning on the strength he shared with me—his words of encouragement and his unwavering determination in the face of life's challenges. He would often say, "When you are in a difficult situation, hold on to something familiar until things get better."

For us, that "familiar" was always the Word of God. I can still hear him reminding me: *"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5).* And *"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.."* (Psalm 37:25). These words assure us that God is faithful—He sees us, He knows us, and He will always provide for His people.

As May unfolds, many will celebrate Cinco de Mayo, honoring the richness and resilience of Mexican culture. Others will gather on Mother's Day, filling churches and homes with love and gratitude for the women who have nurtured and shaped our lives. We are reminded even in Scripture how Jesus, in His final moments on the cross, paused to ensure His mother would be cared for—entrusting her to the beloved disciple, John.

Then comes Memorial Day—a sacred time when we honor those who gave their lives in military service. It is more than a holiday; it is a moment of remembrance, gratitude, and prayer for the families who carry the weight of loss. In a world still touched by conflict, we are called to lift up those who grieve and to stand in compassion with them.

Yes, May is a month where happiness and sorrow walk hand in hand. but through it all, we are reminded to hold on—"hold on to something familiar until things get better."

As Joshua 23:8 encourages us, "Hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now."

Rev. Tracey B. Lyons

In Loving Memory of a Faithful Servant



The Reverend Mr. Robert Lee Bullock, Jr., affectionately known as "Bobby," was born on November 10, 1943, in Petersburg, Virginia. He was the son of the late Marion Hicks Macklin and Robert Lee Bullock, Sr. He loved the Lord with all of his heart and taught his children to love God also by sharing his many stories of God's love in his life. His love for God and preaching created four powerful preaching children. He began his ministry as a Deacon in the Congregational Church of God. He received his license in Ministry from Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Petersburg, where he worked in the SAM ministry, a substance abuse ministry. Helping to support many as they recovered from alcohol and drug use. He later returned to Friendship Congregational Church of God, where he became an Elder. In his retirement, he joined Third Baptist Church and worked as an Associate Minister. His ministry was in his neighborhood, feeding the hungry, providing transportation to those who needed it, and a kind word of humor to uplift the spirits of those around him.

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace in Iran, Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine
Prayers for our Military and for those listed below.

Scottie & Ray Kyle
John & Joan Crawford
Doris Jenkins
Wilmer & Phyllis Downs
Shirley Weade
Diana Lee
Chris Bowen
Zeb & Hazel Saunders
Chadd Ray Kyle
Deannie Reynolds
Bobbie Strum
Pat & Ken Knust

Our Military
Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey

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

Young at Heart Bonnie Urbanski spoke at our April meeting about the ETERNAL REEF she and her family participated in for the interment of David Urbanski's ashes. We plan to met with Women of Faith to assemble Health Kits on 5/13/26. Please pardon my lateness.

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 .

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".

UMCOR Hygiene Kits: It's time to replenish UMCOR Hygiene Kits! This year our goal is 24 kits. United Women in Faith have been collecting items needed for the kits. Young at Heart will help us assemble them at their May 13th meeting. We are asking for donations to help cover the $2.00 needed for each kit - $1.00 for toothaste and $1.00 for shipping. Donations will be accepted until May 30th. You are most welcome to make your own kit. If you need a list of items to put in kit, contact the church office.

Reminder: Kelly Rice is collecting plastic bags for Addison's school until December!!

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

Easter Flowers Placed in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday

Flowers Were Placed By:

Clinton & Shirley Gary in memory of our parents

Ray & Richard Jenkins in memory of The Reverend Ray and Arlene Jenkins and in memory of Preston and Lucile Dodson

Suzanne Jones in memory of my Mom, Jan Hall

Ray, Scottie, Sara, Patrick & Luke in honor of Ronnie & Shirley Weade

Pastor Tracey Lyons and Brother Joseph Lyons in memory of Teresa Jackson

Pastor Tracey Lyons and Brother Joseph Lyons in memory of Darren Lyons

Barbara P Nunnally in memory of Ronnie Nunnally

Ibbie Smith and family in memory of Dean Smith

Bobbie and Rhea Strum in memory of our parents

Ruth Wickstrom in memory of Roger Wickstrom

4th Annual Yard Sale
Luthern Church of Our Saviour

if anyone is looking to declutter, we are accepting donations on the following dates:

- **Sunday, May 24 | 11:00-noon**
- **Tuesday, May 26 | 9:00-1:00**
- **Thursday, May 28 | 9:00-1:00**
- **Sunday, May 31 | 11:00-noon**
- **Monday, June 1 | 9:00-1:00**
- **Tuesday, June 2 | 9:00-1:00**
- **Thursday, June 4 | 9:00-1:00**
- **Friday, June 5 | 2:00-6:00**



Note: We cannot accept old electronics (computers, TV's, DVD's, VCR's, etc.), car seats, treadmills.

St. Luke's Calendar Important Dates — May 2026

May 1 – 10:00-2:00pm – Home Schooling

May 3 – 9:30am – Sunday School
10:30 am. – Worship Service

May 4 – 10:00-10:15 – Preschool Chapel

May 5 – 10:00-10:15 – Preschool Chapel

May 6 – 10:30 am. No Women in Faith
(will meet with Young at Heart on May 13)
7:15 pm. Choir Practice

May 7 – 10:00-2:00 pm – Home Schooling

May 10 (Mother's Day)_ 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service

May 12 – Finance Committee Meeting – 7 pm
by Zoom

May 13 – 10:30 am. – Young at Heart & Women
in Faith —7:15 – Choir Practice

May 15 – set up for May Tea

May 16 – May Tea – 2:00-4:00 pm

May 17 – 9:30 am. – Sunday School
10:30 am. – Worship Service

May 19 – Administrative Council Meeting –
7 pm by Zoom

May 22 – 10:00-12:00 – Quilting Group
10:00-2:00pm – Home Schooling

May 24 – 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service

May 25 – NO U.M.Men- Memorial Day

Mother's Day

May 10, 2026

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 person making this dedication: _____

Name/names of woman/women to be listed: _____

_____

Please check one:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____



Deadline May 3, 2026

($10.00 per name)

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

Shirley Gary - Office Manager
stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org



Our Easter Sunrise Service



Sustaining Our Home and Mission at St. Luke's

Dear Fellow Members of St. Luke's,

I am writing to you today not just as the Chair of your Finance Committee, but as a fellow member who deeply loves this congregation and the work we do together.

We have recently walked through a season of significant—and necessary—investment in our physical home. As many of you know, we were recently required to replace the church roof ($40,000) and a major HVAC unit ($16,000). While these are "bricks and mortar" expenses, they are what allow us to gather in safety and comfort to worship and serve our community.

The State of Our Funds

We are blessed to have an endowment fund that was established by the generations before us for exactly these kinds of emergencies. Because of that foresight, we were able to cover these costs in full. However, doing so utilized nearly 50% of our endowment balance.

While the endowment protected us today, it has been significantly depleted. Furthermore, our weekly collections are currently falling just short of covering our regular operating expenses—the essential funds that pay our dedicated staff and keep the lights and heat on week-to-week.

A Call to Stewardship

To ensure that St. Luke's remains a vibrant, functioning congregation for years to come, we need to shore up our foundations—both literally and financially.

We are at a crossroads where we must look toward replenishing our reserves and ensuring our daily mission is fully funded.

I am asking each of you to join me in searching your hearts and your pocketbooks. Whether it is a one-time gift to help replenish the endowment or a prayerful increase in your weekly offering, every bit of support ensures that St. Luke's can continue to be a sanctuary for one another and a beacon of service to our community.

We are stewards of a beautiful legacy here. Thank you for your continued faithfulness, your generosity, and your commitment to our shared home.

With gratitude,
Bill Brown, Finance Committee Chair, St. Luke's Church

"With Our Deepest Sympathy"

Our sympathy is extended to our dear Pastor Tracey and her family. Her father,

The Reverend Mr. Robert Lee Bullock, Jr.

claimed.the promise of the resurrection on Sunday, April 19, 2026

We pray for Comfort and Peace for Pastor Tracey and her family.



May Birthdays

May 1	Robert Barto
May 2	Keith Callis
May 4	Jason Hart
	Sam Kaeser
	Wendy Patterson
May 5	Daniel Boykin
May 8	Judy Parrish
May 9	Kelly Rice
May 10	Aaron Frankey
May 11	Connor Gary
May 15	Brian Wertz
May 20	Avery Gary
	Joyce Johnson
May 24	Mark Jones
May 25	Thomas Jones
Mat 26	David Higgins
May 27	Clinton Gary
	Audrey Gary
May 28	Polly McElfish
May 30	Andrew McGowan
May 31	Dixie Bowman
	Krystle Werblow

Anniversaries

May 1	Daniel & Sabrina Boykin
May 26	Eric & MaryJo Jones

ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

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

Pastor
The Rev. Tracey Lyons
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Shirley Gary
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stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org

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Michele Hart
Preschool Director
director@stlukespreschoolva.com

Ray Jenkins
Superintendent of Sunday Schools