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St. Luke's United Methodist Church Newsletter September 2026



Look Up and See God's Glory in the Stars and the Moon

This summer, did you take time to sit outside and look up at the sky? The sky is filled with so much beauty and wonder. My grandson, King, had me outside watching the sky, the stars, and the moon. Together, we picked out the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper, and we found the North Star. It was fascinating because I had forgotten just how amazing it can be to gaze at the night sky.

During the month, we watched the moon change from a half-moon to a quarter-moon. At one point, it even looked like a smiling face when we tilted our heads to the side! This summer, we were also treated to the beauty of the Strawberry Moon.

When I think about the vastness of the universe, I am reminded that God is far more powerful than we can ever imagine. God created the heavens and the earth, the stars and the moon. Each one was carefully and wonderfully made. Yet the same God who placed every star in the sky also created you and me. God knows me by name, and God knows you by name, too. Scripture tells us that God took Abram outside and said:
"Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."
—Genesis 15:5

When God took Abram outside to look at the sky, God compared his descendants to the stars. What a beautiful reminder that we are precious in God's sight. We are wonderfully made and deeply loved. When we look at the stars and the moon—and then consider how carefully God created us—we can only declare that we serve a great and powerful God.
"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."
—Psalm 19:1

As we grow older, we sometimes forget to stop and look at the stars and the moon. But a little child will remind us—if we take the time to listen and follow.

Now the season is changing. We are leaving behind the warmth of summer and welcoming autumn, a season of gathering and harvest. As we enter this new season, may we slow down, look up, and give thanks for the beauty of God's creation.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Tracey B. Lyons

Worship

What are paraments and why are they different colors? Paraments are altar, pulpit and lectern cloths representing seasons in the church. The word paraments comes from the Latin paramentum meaning adornment. The green paraments you see now symbolize growth , life, and renewal in the Christian faith. Purple is used during Lent and Advent. Red represents Pentecost. White is used for Christmas, Easter, Communion, and other special Holy Days like Transfiguration Sunday. White is also used for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. If you would like to be part of the Worship committee and help "adorn" the church each month, please contact the church office.

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
Deannie Reynolds
Bobbie Strum
Chris Bowen
Zeb & Hazel Saunders
Bonnie Urbansky
Shirley and Ronnie Weade
Chad Ray Kyle
Thelma Edwards

Our Military
Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey

(See our weekly Tuesday email for a complete listing of all prayer request

"With Our Deepest Sympathy"

Our sympathy is extended to:

Wilmer Downs & family. His brother, Dean, claimed the promise of the resurrection on July 15, 2026.

Woody Smart & family. His sister, Debra Smart, claimed the promise of the resurrection on July 19, 2026.

Andrew Russell & family. His father, Robert Palmer, claimed the promise of the resurrection on August 5, 2026.

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/

Virtual Bible Study Book Club September 9, 2026 7: p.m. on ZOOM

Here is the link for those who want to register online.

https://forms.gle/1WJG5kWkgH49ffbG7

United Women in Faith will meet Sept. 2,2026 at 10:30a.m. VIP Business concerning our future
Visitors are always welcome
Have you heard UWF is seeking new leadership. Please if you have a heart for women's ministry consider this opportunity.

Young At Heart- had a fun indoor picnic and games on August 12. For September we are planning an uplifting mail item for seniors and shut-ins - that will be on September 9th. See you in the funny papers

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 corner of check "Altar Flowers".

CELEBRATING
250 YEARS OF
the Freedom to Worship as We Choose

BE INFORMED

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

http://www.vaumc.org

September Birthdays

September 4	Adam Bowman
September 6	Shirley Weade
September 7	Mary Wise
September 8	Jared Calfee
September 9	Brady Hart
September 12	Troy Gary
September 13	Linda Engel
September 14	Reg Whitton
September 15	Sydney Kaeser
September 16	James Papczynski
September 20	Dianne Johnson
	Douglas Lucas
September 21	Amanda Dance
September 24	Todd Gary
September 26	Jesse Bowman
	Suzanne Jones
September 29	Heather Burnett Latham
	Tad McGonigle

Anniversaries

September 2	Chris & Kathy Bowen
September 5	Steve & Terri Edwards
September 13	John & Joan Crawford
September 19	Chris & Haley deKrafft
September 26	Clinton & Shirley Gary
September 29	Pete & Mary Meador

New Telephone System

We have a new telephone system for the church. We would like to thank everbody who helped in getting the system operational especially Todd Gary who shared his technical knowledge!



St. Luke's Calendar
Important Dates — September 2026

September 1 – Preschool Teachers return

September 2 – On Boarding with the Dist. Supt.

September 2 – 10:30 – Women in Faith
7:00 pm Back to School Night
7:15 pm – Choir Practice

September 3 – 9:00-12:00 Noon – Preschool Open House

September 6 – 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service

September 7 – Labor Day – Church Office Closed

September 8 - 9:30-12:30 pm– First Day of Preschool
7:00 pm – Finance Committee Meeting by Zoom

September 9 – 10:00 am – Young at Heart
7:15 pm – Choir Practice
7:00 pm = Bible Study Club by Zoom

September 13 – 9:30am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service

September 15 - 7:00 pm. – Adm. Council Meeting by Zoom

Sept.14 & Sept. 15 – Preschool Chapel 10:00-10:15 am

September 16 – 10:30-12:00 Non – Coloring with the Spirit
7:15 pm – Choir Practice
7:00 pm – Bible Study Club by Zoom

September 20 – 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service

September 23 – 7:00 pm – Bible Study Club by Zoom

September 25 – 10:00-12:00 Noon – Quilting

September 27 – 9:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service – Preschool Sunday

September 28- 6:30 pm – United Methodist Men's Meeting

Sept. 28 & Sept. 29 –10:00-10:15 am Preschool Chapel

September 30 – 5:30-7:30 pm – Vac. Bible School
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.Senior Game Day, snacks will be furnished

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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