



Pastor's Musings

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A friend once asked, "Why is it that when you have lost your keys, you always find

them in the last place you look?"

Though the question was amusing, I really did not desire a philosophical conversation, so I looked at him with a disinterested expression. Noting this friend wasn't going to go away until I responded, I finally said, "I don't know." He said, "Because when you find your keys you stop looking."

On another occasion, this same friend came into my office ecstatic about his newfound understanding of electricity. He said, "Electricity is smoke." I said, "Excuse me?" not quite believing what I just heard, but indeed I heard correctly, electricity is smoke. He explained, "Have you ever noticed that when the smoke gets out of an electrical appliance, it stops working?" This stroke of analytical brilliance was truly funny, and yet, to someone who knows nothing about electricity, this explanation would make perfect sense. Of course, my friend was joking; however, we can learn something from these examples of debatable profundity.

The "lost keys" illustration concludes with a true statement. We stop looking as soon as we find what we're looking for, so it makes sense that what we are looking for will always be found at the last place we look. Innocuous as it may seem, applying the same logic to seeking answers in the Bible may produce wrong answers that may also have serious consequences. For example, a seeker may ask, "How can I be saved?" The seeker begins searching the Bible and the first applicable verse found is James 3:24, "So you see, a man is saved by what he does, as well as what he believes." (LB) Without studying the entire counsel of God, that seeker might never discover that salvation is by faith alone – he will always believe what he thinks he has discovered, that works righteousness is the way to gain entrance in to the kingdom of God. Remember what the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church at Rome, "But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the law and the prophets testify. This righteousness from God, comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." (Romans 3:21-22 NIV) Only by studying the entire Bible, can we begin truly to understand what God is telling us.



ble will correctly understand the meaning of a particular text. Using the above example, we must gently teach the seeker who now believes in works righteousness (that electricity is smoke) that salvation comes through faith and our works are a means of completing that faith, that righteous action is evidence of genuine faith. Our task is always to show mercy

The “electricity is smoke” example can teach us to be careful about how we act and react to another person’s understanding of God’s Word. We must never take for granted that a person reading the Bi-

and grace while tenderly teaching those who are struggling for understanding, or have misunderstood what was written.

After all, we were all beginners at one point in time, and even to this day, we often struggle with the meaning of certain passages. We should never allow ourselves to become a detriment to others seeking understanding. Rather, “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification” (Rom. 14:19 NIV), and “encourage one another and build each other up”(1 Thes. 5:11 NIV).

Peace,

Pastor Dan



David Cherry

Director of Traditional Music

We would like to extend the warmest welcome to David Cherry, who has joined the St. Luke’s Staff as the Director of Traditional Music. David teaches in Queen Anne’s County, and he and his wife, Karla, have a farm in Trappe, MD, as well as a deep love for all God’s creatures great and small. David is the former Director of Music of the contemporary service at St. Mark’s Methodist Church in Easton.

Their daughter Katelynn is a graduate of Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University and currently finishing a Masters in Vocal Performance in Opera at Manhattan School of Music. Their son Joshua is a professional Firefighter and EMT with Prince George’s County Fire Department. David’s in-laws, Chivy and Sandy Wieland, have been attending St. Luke’s as well. Welcome to the whole family!

A message from David

Hello St. Luke’s Family,

I am so excited to serve as the new music leader for the 8:30 service. Music has been a lifelong passion of mine, and I feel blessed to share that gift with our congregation. One project I’m especially looking forward to is working with the children’s choir, with plans for special performances this November and December. I can’t wait to see how God will use music to bring joy and connection to our worship together!



Our Shared Life as the Body of Christ

ALL-CHURCH
**CLEAN UP
DAY**

Saturday, Oct 11th, starting at 8am

- cleaning windows • kitchen deep cleaning •
- minor painting • major dusting •
- organizing storage closets • power washing

New Member & Anniversary Sunday!

October 26th

Whole Church Worship at 10am

Lite Fare Reception at 11am

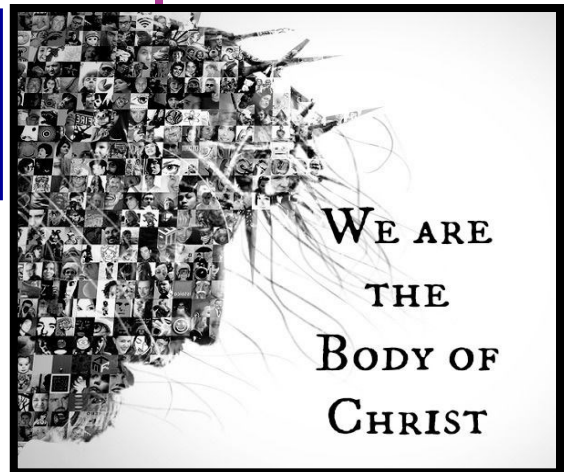
St. Luke's Church
100 S. Fifth Ave, Denton

**TRUNK OR
TREAT!**

Oct. 31st @ 6pm

Bring the kids for safe fun and candy!
Bring a trunk with candy to share!

All are welcome!



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, Oct. 4th, & Nov.
1st at 8:30am**



Nov. 9th

VETERANS SUNDAY



at both services

**(Please provide
a service photo!)**

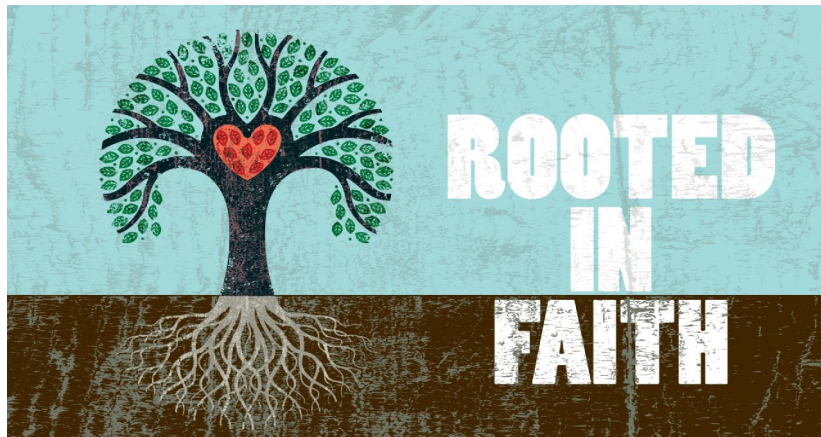
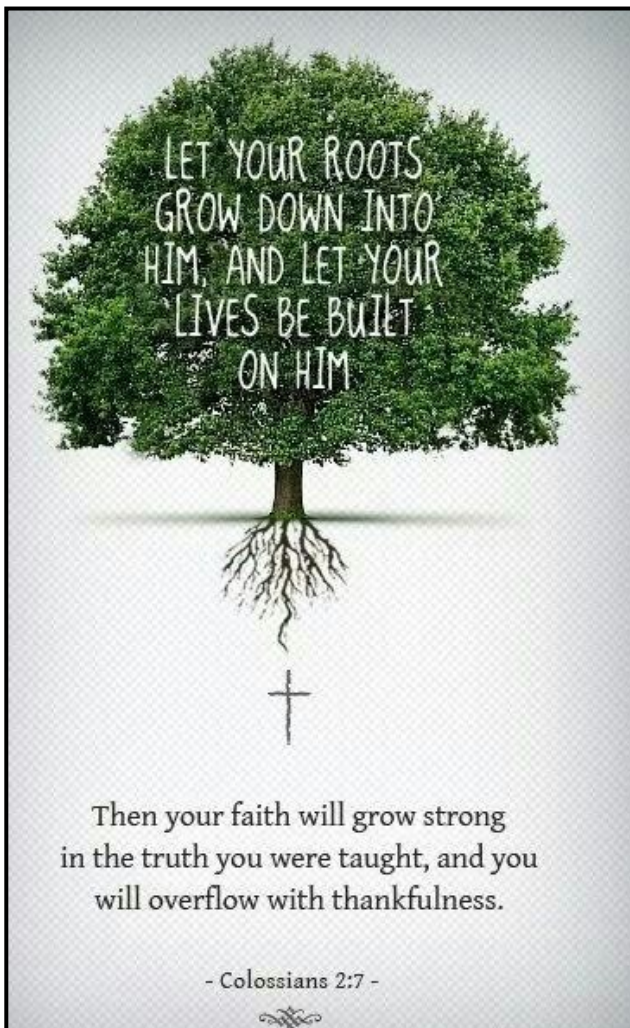
Dec 4th - St. Luke's Charge Conference

**Dec 6th—Breakfast with Santa & Children's
Christmas Shoppe**

**Dec. 14th—Sunday School Christmas Program
(One Service at 10am)**

**Dec 24th—Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services at
7pm and 9pm**





Sunday Programs

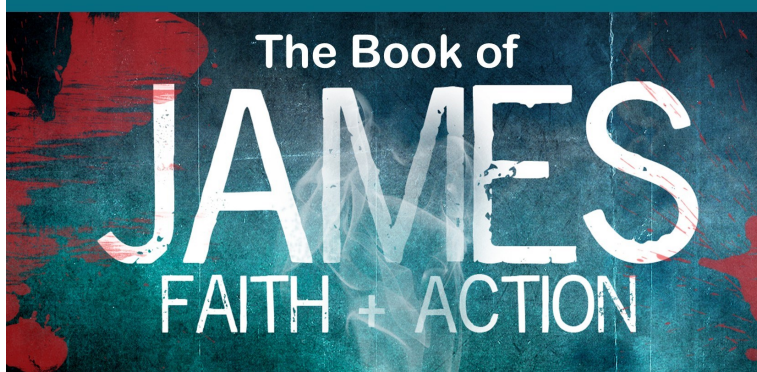
Nursery (infant & toddler)
Available during both services

Sunday School
Preschool through 5th Grade 9:45 am

MS & HS Youth Class 9:45 am
(Feb. & March Confirmation Class)

Adult Sunday Class 9:30 am

Monday Bible Study with Pastor Dan
at 10:00am and 7:00pm



**TAKE MY YOKE UPON
YOU AND LEARN
FROM ME, FOR I AM
GENTLE AND HUMBLE
IN HEART, AND YOU
WILL FIND REST FOR
YOUR SOULS.**

MATTHEW 11:29



SAINT LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH

Old Men's Group

Who: Old men who are getting older, younger men who are getting older too, friends are welcome.

What (the objective): Provide a vehicle through which men can meet on a weekly basis for the purpose of studying Scripture, experiencing spiritual growth, forming enduring friendships, supporting church needs, and providing help to members of the church and the community.

When: Weekly on Thursday, 10:00 – 11:30 am, beginning **2 October 2025**

Where: St. Luke's Room #1

How: Form the initial group through church announcements and personal invitations

Why: Currently there is no vehicle within the church through which men can meet on a regular weekly basis to worship and fellowship.

Concept: Any male member of the church or community, old or young, is welcome. Study Scripture and Christian doctrine with a view toward spiritual growth. Learn to strengthen our relationship with God through prayer. Serve the Saint Luke's community by offering to mentor younger men and boys in spiritual growth, parenting, financial management, marital health, and occupational interests.

Contact John Taylor for questions or comments
(703 966-1699 or john.taylor0129@gmail.com)





Lord we pray for those who are suffering, that one day soon, they would declare that you have brought them to a place of abundance.

Lord we pray for those who are suffering, that one day soon, they would shout for joy to God and praise your glorious name.

Lord we pray for those who are suffering, that they would know that you rule forever by your mighty power.

Lord we pray for those who are suffering, that they would know that your eyes watch over them, and their nation.

Lord we pray for those who are suffering, that one day soon, they would tell stories of what you have done for them. Open their eyes today to see you, and to hear your voice.

Lord we pray for those who are suffering, that you would forgive any sins they may be cherishing in their heart, so that you will hear their prayers.

Lord we pray for those who are suffering, that they would know the length, and breadth, and height and depth of your love in the middle of their suffering. Amen

Prayer Concerns for October & November

Pray for those in our parish & community needing healing and comfort:

Maddie Gedman, Shaun & Atrea Burke, Britney Collison, Emily, Roni Muir, Craig Little, Barbara Lawrence, Dottie Branson, Baby Charlie, Mariah Farmer-Grace, Glenn Orme, John Webster, Emily Parry, Suzanne Drury, Meredith Connor, John and Danielle Stewart, Lisa Loring, Mary Grace Cheezum, Shawn Parks, Ray & Mary Claytor, Ryan Alexander, Ellen Parker, Bill Medford, Evelyn, Mitchell Griffith, Brenda Hayman, Justin Gray, Kevin Douglas-Little, Kenny Colley, James Miller, Fred Burton, George Lacy, Virginia Liddell, Patsy Biggers, Betty Barwick, Michael Mumford, Jason Lee, and Mary Lynn Meloni.

For those serving in the U.S. Military: Chelsea Bunker, Seth Gill, Gabe Griffith, Ethan Lister, Teagan Lister, Andrew Robbins, Jack Schroeder, and Bryan Hatch.

Pray for the leadership at St. Luke's Methodist Church and the Global Methodist Church, that our leaders will be guided by the Holy Spirit to proclaim and follow Christ boldly in word and deed.

To add names to any of our lists, we ask that you either call (410-479-2171), [e-mail the church](#), or put a prayer card in the collection plate. Please be sure to include your name and telephone number so that we can contact you regarding the status of the person needing prayer; otherwise, the name will be removed after a few weeks.

The prayer team is continuing to remember many on our list who ask for prayer, but do not wish to be on the public list. Please know that we try to honor all requests and often call for updates. Also, **except for phone calls, please give information in writing, as there are too many changes to remember.**

MEAL TRAIN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

St. Luke's will prepare and deliver a meal to the residents of
His Hope Haven
on Nov 15th and Feb 16th.

Please join us in the church kitchen for cooking and fellowship!
Sign up [here](#).

You can also sign up on the Meal Train at the link below.
(individually, as a family, or as a group)

His Hope Haven Meal Train

**WATCH
LIVE** 
LIVE STREAMING VIDEO

[Click here](#) for 8:30am Traditional worship on YouTube
[Click here](#) for 10am Contemporary worship on Facebook

CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETINGProperty and Investment Management/Trustees (Barbara Little, Chair)

- At the August 10th meeting after 8:30 service, the consensus was to go forward with a new projection system in the sanctuary while retaining the sanctity of the sanctuary.
- Trustees are getting quotes on installing two ceiling fans in the fellowship hall.
- There is a plan to work on the musty smell in the choir room now that the HVAC unit has been repaired and is working correctly to manage humidity/moisture.
- A Fall Clean Up Day has been scheduled on October 11th (8am)
- The Merrill Lynch rep for the Trustee funds wants to change the investment plan for the Parsonage Fund to be a bit more aggressive (we made this type of change for the other Trustee funds and have made a good return).
- All HVAC units have been serviced this summer.
- We are getting an estimate to trim back the magnolia trees in the front courtyard (tops and sides).

Mission and Ministry Team (No Chair/No Meeting)

- Garrett Shull reported on VBS
 - We had 40 students registered
 - The students were mostly from our Sunday School, but some were from other churches, neighbors, or grandchildren too.
 - Garrett has debriefed with volunteers as to what we will change for next year
 - The kids had a great deal of fun! (As did the adults!)
 - 25-30 volunteers run this ministry and it's a wonderful church activity
- Garrett is putting together a fall Youth event for the congregation
- Per Amanda Dean
 - the Blessing of the Backpacks is Sept 7th (first day of SS)
 - Sunday School Classes will be a good size again this year and we will have classes for pre-school through high school ages.
 - We are staffed for teachers (although we could use substitutes)
 - We have 17-20 students in MS/HS class

Fund Management Team (Bob Wiley, Treasurer)

- Bob is revising the format of the monthly report by categorizing expenses into like categories so that the council can get a more accurate picture of what gets spent overall on facility, staffing, evangelism/education, and operational expenses.
- He is concerned with offerings to date, which are behind the expected weekly amount.
- We will make adjustments as needed in the 2026 budget (based on any changes in offerings and expenses in 2025)
- We should look at reducing electric costs with the 10% reduction offer from solar company. Carrie will call for more information and will forward it to PD and Bob.

Staff Parish Relations Team (Laura Patrick, Chair)

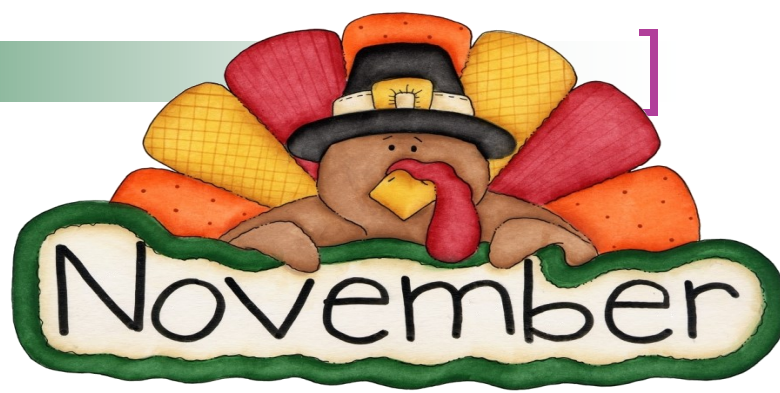
- We have hired David Cherry as a pianist/music director for the 8:30am service! Hooray! He starts in September. He can work with a choir eventually if there is interest.
- We will review the SafeMinistry children's policies from GMC and make sure we are implementing those ASAP.

New Business

- From Pastor Dan:
 - The 2025 Charge Conference is December 4th at 6pm. PD will send out information out this week that leadership needs to complete
 - NE Conf is seeking a Prayer Point Person from each church to work with the district. Will put the job description out in the midweek letter.



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 10am Cards of Comfort 7pm Praise	2 10am OMG Group	3	4 8:30am Men's Breakfast
	5 Communion Sunday 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	6 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	7	8 7pm Praise Band Practice	9 10am OMG Group	10 9am-10am Emmaus Fellowship 8am-12pm Fall Clean-up Day
12 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	13 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	14 6:30pm School Exploratory Committee	15 7pm Praise Band Practice	16 10am OMG Group 6:30pm Leadership Committees 7:30pm Church Council		18
19 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	20 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	21	22 7pm Praise Band Practice	23 10am OMG Group 		24
25 	26 New Member & Anniversary Sunday 10:00 Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00 Lite Fare Reception (Fellowship Hall)	27 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	28	29 7pm Praise Band Practice	30 10am OMG Group 	31 Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)
						Nov. 1 8:30am Men's Breakfast



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30am Men's Breakfast
	2 All Saints Sunday & Communion 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	3 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team		4 10am Cards of Comfort 7pm Praise Band Practice	5 10am OMG Group	6 9am Emmaus Fellowship
7 Veteran's Sunday 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	8 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	9 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	10 7pm Praise Band Practice	11 10am OMG Group	12 10am OMG Group 6:30pm Leadership Committees 7:30pm Church Council	13
14 Christ the King Sunday 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	15 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	16 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	17 7pm Praise Band Practice 10am Cards of Comfort	18 	19 10am OMG Group 6pm Charge Conference	20 Breakfast with Santa & Children's Christmas Shope
21 First Sunday in Advent & REACH 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	22 Dec. 1 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	23 10am & 7pm James Bible Study 11am Prayer Team	24 10am Cards of Comfort	25 10am OMG Group	26 10am OMG Group	27 Breakfast with Santa & Children's Christmas Shope

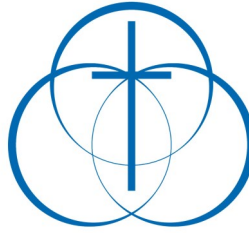
St. Luke's Methodist Church
Budget Statement
For Period January thru August, 2025

	Annual Budget	Actual Income & Expenses	Variance	S/B 67%	See Notes
<u>Income</u>					
Offerings	220,000	129,076	90,924	58.67%	
Building Use & Cleaning	3,000	3,635	(635)	121.17%	
Interest Income	0	130	(130)	--	
<u>Total Income</u>	223,000	132,841	90,159	59.57%	A
<u>Expenses</u>					
Pastor Expenses					
Salary	63,513	42,659	20,854	67.17%	
Benefits	35,128	25,736	9,392	73.26%	
	98,641	68,395	30,246	69.34%	
Staff Expenses					
Salaries	54,527	25,019	29,508	45.88%	
Benefits	4,500	2,378	2,122	52.84%	
	59,027	27,397	31,630	46.41%	B
Building & Grounds					
Janitorial Supplies	700	498	202	71.14%	
Weekly Cleaning Service	11,000	8,727	2,273	79.34%	
Electric	17,500	14,393	3,107	82.25%	C
Water and Sewer	1,200	804	396	67.00%	
Propane	1,200	426	774	35.50%	
Grass and Shrubbery Maint	3,400	2,325	1,075	68.38%	
Insurance	8,500	9,015	(515)	106.06%	
Maintenance and Repairs	2,000	2,348	(348)	117.40%	
	45,500	38,536	6,964	84.69%	
Christian Education/Sunday School					
Christian Education/Sunday	1,500	96	1,404	6.40%	
MYF Program	0	69	(69)	--	
Worship Materials & Suppli	700	1,989	(1,289)	284.14%	
Spiritual Life	1,500	1,218	282	81.20%	
Pastor/Organist, Substitute	0	-	0	0.00%	
Stewardship	1,200	456	744	38.00%	
	4,900	3,828	1,072	78.12%	
Other Operational Expenses					
Accounting & Legal	1,200	2,132	(932)	177.67%	
Connectional Funding GMC	8,875	6,657	2,218	75.01%	
Equipment Rental & Mainte	4,000	2,860	1,140	71.50%	
Office Supplies	1,300	1,110	190	85.38%	
Postage	350	178	172	50.86%	
Telephone & Internet	2,400	1,950	450	81.25%	
Miscellaneous	0	566	(566)	--	
	18,125	15,453	2,672	85.26%	
<u>Total Expenses</u>	226,193	153,609	72,584	67.91%	
Excess Income (Expenses)	(3,193)	(20,768)	17,575		

St. Luke's Methodist Church

A Global Methodist Church

100 S. 5th Avenue
Denton, Maryland 21629



Office Phone: 410-479-2171

Email: stlukesdenton@gmail.com

To:

THE VOICE

**St. Luke's Methodist Church
October & November 2025**

St. Luke's Staff

Rev. Daniel Gedman– Pastor

Director Traditional Music: David Cherry

Director of Ignite Praise Band: Alicia Weippert

Administrative Assistant: Carrie Soldano

Director of Youth Ministries: Garrett Shull

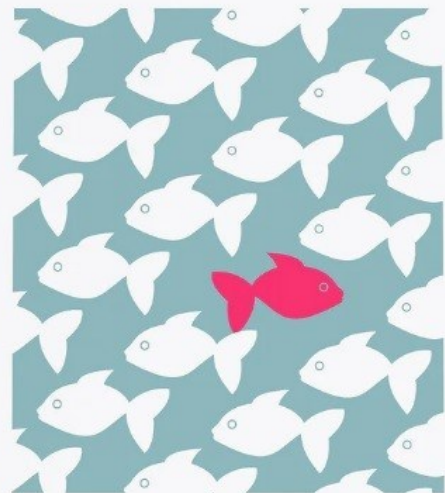
Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Visit St. Luke's Online at www.stlukesdenton.org

**or visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/
Stlukesmethodist/](https://www.facebook.com/Stlukesmethodist/)**

**YouTube Channel [www.youtube.com/channel/
UCGrO5QHraky3SnEIDD8zY9A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGrO5QHraky3SnEIDD8zY9A)**

Jesus Is Lord!



**Do not conform to the
pattern of this world**

Romans 12:2a