



THE VOICE

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026 •
THE SEASON AFTER
PENTECOST



Musings from Pastor Dan

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One of things that was so wonderful about Mary, the mother of Jesus, was that her faithfulness was not just a mechanical compliance with God's Laws. Recall that the Bible told us that God was "with" Mary. This tells us there was a relationship between God and Mary, a relationship that we as Christians must continue to develop.

"Lord, we want to know you more," may be, or at least should be, a part of our continual prayer. But we have to ask ourselves what that actually means. If we are saying that we are striving to know God better through our study of God's Word, reading theological books and commentaries, and listening to countless sermons, I would say great, but that is not all that is needed. These methods can indeed enlighten the mind, but the more profound aspects of being in a relationship with God, that is, the deeper mysteries of God, will still remain unknown. Our personal study will teach us *about God*, but our ability to reason can never truly help us to *know God*.

Paul reminds us that we cannot understand the things that come from God because they are spiritually discerned (See 1 Cor. 2:14). The sad truth is that in our time of rationalism, a belief or theory that the human mind is fully capable of judging truth and is therefore the supreme authority has not only led to a great number of heresies, but has also secured a superficial faith that at times is founded more upon fleshly emotions and synthetic feeling than the deep and profound wonders of God.

The fact of the matter is that *we need God to know God*. That is, we cannot be in a relationship with God unless He accomplishes it. Happily for us, the Holy Spirit has come to fulfill that relationship.



A. W. Tozer noted that, "When the Spirit illuminates the heart, then a part of the man sees [that] which he never saw before; a part of him knows which he never knew before

and that with which the most acute thinker cannot imitate. He knows now in a deep and authoritative way, and what he knows needs no reasoned proof. His experience of knowing is above reason, immediate, perfectly convincing and inwardly satisfying."

This sounds great, and it is. But be prepared. Do not think that such an indwelling of the Holy Spirit will simply yield great gifts. The desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit must be all-consuming. It is the turning over of every aspect of our life to God. Any notion of self-desires must dissipate and be replaced with God's desires for us. God will not be satisfied with a part of us part of the time, as we may permit. It is an all or nothing proposition. But even that requires practice for the depth of the Adamic garbage and filth that reeks within our hearts and minds prevents us from a simple yielding of all things to God. Practicing His presence is not as easy as it sounds. Brother Lawrence (1614-1691) suggests these maxims:

1) The most holy and necessary practice in our spiritual life is the presence of God. That means finding constant pleasure in His divine company, speaking humbly and lovingly with Him in all seasons, at every moment, without limiting the conversation in every way. This is especially important in times of temptation, sorrow, separation from God, and even in times of unfaithfulness and sin.

2) We must try to converse with God in little ways while we do our work; not in memorized prayer, not trying to recite previously formed thoughts. Rather we should purely and simply reveal our hearts as the words come to us.

3) We must do everything with great care, avoiding impetuous actions, which are evidence of a disordered spirit. God wishes us to work gently, calmly, and lovingly with Him, asking Him to accept our work. By this continual attention to God, we will “resist the devil and cause him to flee” (James 4:7).

4) We must carefully examine ourselves to see which virtues we are in most need of, and which we find the hardest to acquire. We should also take note of the sins that we most frequently fall into and what occasions often contribute to that fall. It is in our times of struggle with these areas that we can go before God with entire confidence and remain firm in the presence of His divine majesty. In humble adoration, we must confess to him our sins and weaknesses, lovingly asking for the help of His grace in our time of need. In this way we will find that we can partake of all virtues

found in him, even though we do not possess one of our own.

Accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior was just the beginning of the relationship. We must spend the rest of our lives building our relationship with Him. God is ever ready and willing; it is we who stumble and fall. Mary had a wonderful relationship with God in this world; so much so that God found favor with her. Let us be certain that God will find favor with us. There is nothing more important to accomplish in this life than that.



Peace be with you until next time!

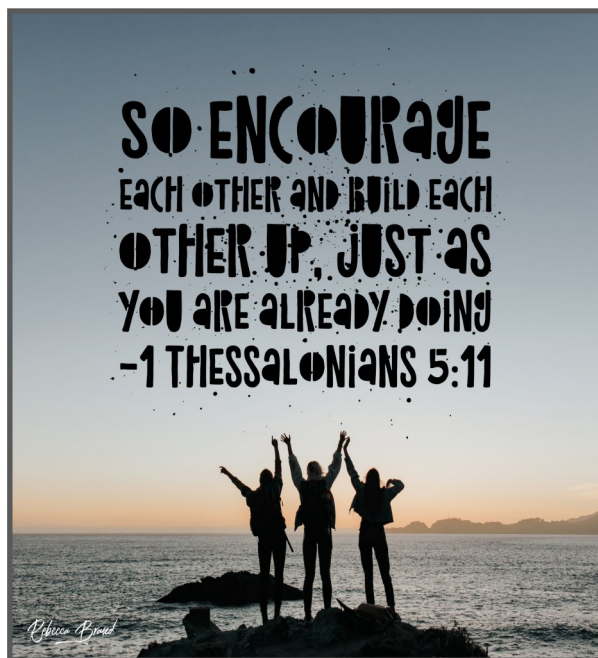
Pastor Dan



Online Member DIRECTORY

Thank you for joining!!

Our Shared Life as the Body of Christ



**Wednesday, August 19th
at 6:00 PM**

MARCH FOR JESUS

HE SAVES ALL LIVES

County-wide Community Prayer March for Peace and Summerfest

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. (Col 3:15)

6:00 pm
Line-up at St. Luke's Church parking lot

6:00-6:20 pm
March to Courthouse Green on Market St.

6:20-7:00 pm
Prayer, Praise, Fellowship

Sponsored by Caroline County Clergy and Laity

You are invited to the

**St. Luke's Methodist Church
MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**at 8am the First
Saturday of the Month**

Starting September 5th

Food, Faith, Friendship

St. Luke's Methodist

Women of Faith

Quarterly Meeting

**Tuesday,
Sept. 1st
at 6:30 pm**

**all church
PICNIC**

Sunday, Sept 13th

**10 am Worship Service
followed by Food & Fellowship**

Bring Friends and Neighbors!

- Ignite Praise Band
- Bounce House
- Activities for Kids & Youth

**Fried Chicken
Hot Dogs
Baked Beans
Mac-n-Cheese
& Drinks
Provided**

Please Bring:
Last Name A-M
Covered Dish
Last Name N-Z
Dessert

**October 3rd—Men's
Breakfast**

**October 25th—New
Member & Anniversary
Sunday**

October 31st—Trunk or Treat



Discipleship and Christian Education



Sunday Programs

Nursery (infant & toddler)

Available during services

Children's Chapel & Choir
Preschool through 5th Grade

9:45 am

Sunday School
Preschool through 5th Grade

(After Chapel)

MS & HS Youth Class
(Feb. & March Confirmation Class)

9:45 am

Adult Sunday Class
"Abiding in the Living Presence of God"

9:30 am

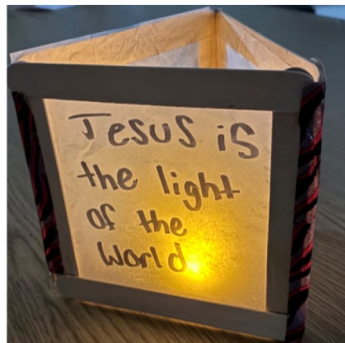
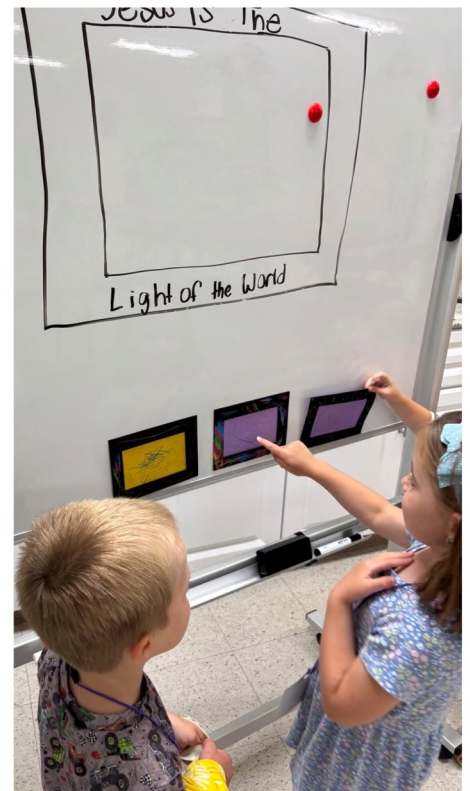
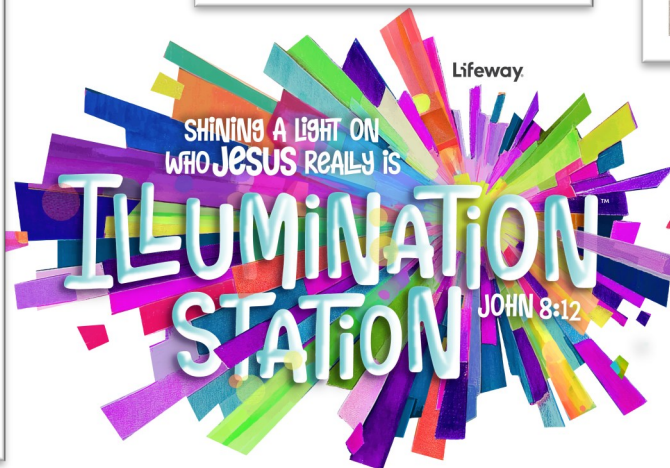
Bible Study with Pastor Dan Gedman
Mondays at 10am and 7pm

THE GOSPEL OF
JOHN

Starting September 14th

THESE ARE WRITTEN SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE



"But I will
restore
 you to health
 and heal your
 wounds,
 declares the
 LORD"
 Jeremiah 30:17

Lord,

You walked on the earth,
 understood the broken world,
 and yet also rose from death
 into resurrected life.

We pray for those on our concerns list,
 that they would be held at this time
 in your loving arms.

Bless the work of all who care for them
 and bring the power of your
 resurrection life through that care.

Come, fill our loved ones from top to toe
 with your restorative Spirit.

May your resurrection life bring healing
 and wellness into their being.

May your grace carry them through this
 hard time into a new season
 filled with hope and joy.

Jesus, it is in Your name we pray. Amen.

NEED
prayer?

Email the Prayer Team!
stlukesprayer1@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns for August & September

Fordie Brown, George Lacy, Robin Rankin, Tom Barwick, Cathy Brice, Mike Penn, Dr. Ed and Susan Coulston, Terry Benson, Marie Stewart, Anne Jones, Glenn & Elaine Orme, Sally & John Taylor, Laurie Swann, Gary Wise, Kenzie MacLean, Don Smith, Chris Wright, Jimmy Tolson & Terry Benson, Phyllis Frase, Francis Blazejak, Randy Bowen, Bill Hughes, Rosemary Ayers, Kurt Plinke, Mariah Farmer-Grace, Mitchell Griffith, John and Danielle Stewart, Robin, Dave & Jan Almquist, Carol & Lester, Courtney Harrison, Craig Little, Baby Charlie, Suzanne Drury, and Shawn Parks.

To add names to prayer concerns, you can use the new prayer email above, call the office (410-479-2171), 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 appreciate any updates.

Please give prayer requests in writing (especially if a request on Sunday should go to the prayer team).

Thank you for your care, concern, and prayer for our church family and beyond!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Trustees (Barbara Little, Chair)

- Update on the Fire Alarm System - We will have an architect complete drawings for the building to create a historical rendering that satisfies fire regulations so that the school can get approved by the Fire Marshall for the State Dept. of Education to register the school. Then we can move forward with the project to upgrade the fire alarm system.
- The same architect, Barton Ross, is continuing to revise his initial drawings of sanctuary renovations (using church feedback) for what it could look like to update the audio/visual system (adding an LED screen).
- Trustees ordered four large fans for the Fellowship Hall (and most of the \$6500 cost will be covered by a Memorial fund) and those will be installed in the ceiling this month.
- The trustees are reviewing the church's property insurance and getting an insurance appraisal to determine how much insurance we need to cover replacement cost (we have two quotes that are very different for replacement cost).
- Jason Lindorm ordered two new doors for the parsonage side of the fellowship hall (cost of \$2200) and he will install the doors.

Treasurer's Report (submitted by Bob Willey, Treasurer)

- Pastor Dan went over the Treasurer's report and noted that the income is where we expect it to be according to our budget. Expenses are also tracking as expected because we amended the budget for increases we know about.
- For the first time in three years, the Camp Scholarship fund is just about depleted (was \$6k three years ago). We will do fundraising over the course of the next year to build this fund back up because the scholarships have been such a blessing for our young people.
- Carrie made a motion to allocate memorial funds that have not been used in two or more years to cover costs up to \$1000 for sanctuary floral (8-10 permanent sets for door wreaths and windows). The motion was seconded by Jody Herb and passed by a voice vote. Laura Patrick will make and store the sets.

Staff Parish Relations (Report submitted by Laura Patrick, Chair, read to council)

- Our maintenance manager Bruce Golt was able to lock up after an event last month and is willing to clean after rental events when he is available (gets paid directly from the party renting the facility).
- Fire Extinguisher inspection and Pest Control spraying were both scheduled this month and Laura will continue to get bids for the trustees to evaluate for 2027. (We did not have time to get bids before the annual scheduling of those services)
- The storage room downstairs has been cleaned out and Laura will label shelving areas for those who use this closet. Many thanks to Barbara Little, Bob Willey, and Linda Parsons for their help removing and disposing of old paint, old records, and misc. items in the closet!

Conference Summary (Pastor Dan and Becky Manship)

- Becky wrote a wonderful summary of the conference which will be available at the church and shared by email/mail with the entire congregation.
- The theme this year was called "Passing It On" based on Psalm 78 and all the worship and speakers followed this theme beautifully.
- The plenary or business meeting was called "The Work of the Church" and Becky's report gives all the highlights
- One of Becky's main take aways is the GMC approach to youth discipleship - Rather than teaching "at them" (giving them information) the leadership advised to have an approach of getting information out of the youth, see "where they are" and what they think in order to apply Biblical principles to their lives.

From Pastor Dan

- The intention to be fiscally responsible is really evident in the GMC. The conference had income over its budget and sent those funds back to districts to support future ordinands/clergy.
- The whole flow of the conference was worshipful and Pastor Dan expressed gratitude for the leadership at the GMC in being so faithful to scripture and Methodism.

TREASURER'S REPORT

as of June 30, 2026

Notes

General Checking account bank balance @ 6-30-26

\$ 95,461

Comments:

We are now in the middle of our summer and the mid-point of our budget year. From here on, the picture of how we will finish the year will become clearer each month.

The conversion to the new online version of Quickbooks and the switch in our banking relationship are both ongoing.

My supplementary notes:

Income:

A We are actually running ahead of budget in our weekly offerings. This time last year, I was warning that we were significantly behind budget. BUT, it is a mixed message; we cut our projected offerings by \$20,000 from 2025's budget. Conversely, there were only three services in January (weather) resulting in less opportunity for giving. I have not been tracking the offering this year as closely as last year – I will take a closer look and report back to you next month.

Expenses:

Overall – total actual operating expenses are basically within the budget .

B Pastor Expenses – There are seven pays in this line item due to an early loading of Dan's salary in April. This will be corrected in July. After the correction we will be right on budget = 50%

C Building & Grounds – This group of expenses (our largest) are very "fluid" and do not accumulate 1/12th each month. Some are seasonal (grass cutting). Others are incurred sporadically throughout the year (water & sewer, propane). Electric is still running over budget – even after the budget revision.

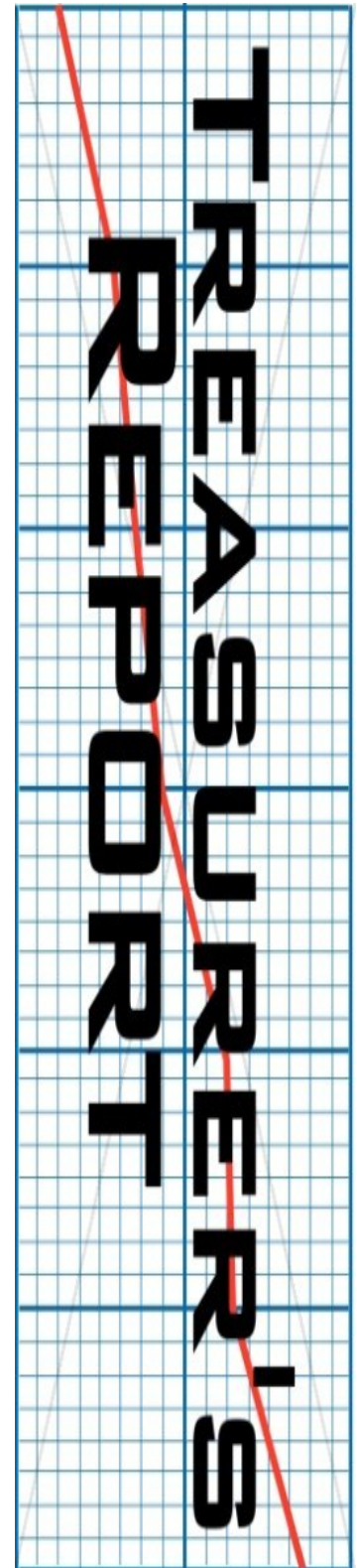
The other categories of expenses (**Christian Education and Other Operational**) are both over budget – on a percentage basis. BUT the actual numbers are minor parts of our overall costs and are not concerning.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert L Willey
Treasurer

St. Luke's Methodist Church
Budget Statement
For the Year thru June 2026

	Annual Budget	Actual Income & Expenses	Variance	S/B 50%
<u>Income</u>				
Offerings	200,000	112,170	87,830	56.09%
Building Use & Cleaning	4,600	700	3,900	15.22%
Interest Income	200	179	21	89.50%
Total Income	204,800	113,049	91,751	55.20%
<u>Expenses</u>				
Pastor Expenses				
Salary	65,700	37,327	28,373	56.81%
Benefits	36,625	18,250	18,375	49.83%
	102,325	55,577	46,748	54.31%
Staff Expenses				
Salaries	57,600	28,266	29,334	49.07%
Benefits	5,000	2,682	2,318	53.64%
	62,600	30,948	31,652	49.44%
Building & Grounds				
Janitorial Supplies	700	987	(287)	141.00%
Building Cleaning Service	2,300	2,567	(267)	111.61%
Electric	27,500	15,633	11,867	56.85%
Water and Sewer	1,200	660	540	55.00%
Kitchen Propane	900	724	176	80.44%
Grass and Shrubbery Maint	3,400	1,921	1,479	56.50%
Insurance	9,500	4,831	4,669	50.85%
Maintenance and Repairs	2,900	616	2,284	21.24%
	48,400	27,939	20,461	57.73%
Christian Education/Sunday School				
Christian Education/Sunday	1,500	1,267	233	84.47%
MYF Program	-	-	-	-
Worship Mat'ls & Supplies	2,500	1,158	1,342	46.32%
Spiritual Life	2,000	697	1,303	34.85%
Pastor/Organist, Substitute	-	-	-	0.00%
Stewardship	800	543	257	67.88%
	6,800	3,665	3,135	53.90%
Other Operational Expenses				
Accounting & Legal	2,200	219	1,981	9.95%
Connectional Funding GMC	8,920	4,590	4,330	51.46%
Equipment Rental & Maint	4,300	3,768	532	87.63%
Office Supplies	1,400	740	660	52.86%
Postage	200	78	122	39.00%
Telephone & Internet	2,700	1,591	1,109	58.93%
Miscellaneous	700	524	176	74.86%
Security System	350	-	350	0.00%
	20,770	11,510	9,260	55.42%
Total Expenses	240,895	129,639	111,256	53.82%
Excess Income (Expenses)	(36,095)	(16,590)	(19,505)	





New Member & Anniversary Sunday!

October 25th •

Whole Church Worship at 10am •

New Member Reception •
with Lite Fare at 11am

If you are new to
St. Luke's Methodist Church,
we are so glad you are worshipping
with us on Sundays!

In October, our newest members
will be "officially" received
into the St. Luke's Family,
and then we will celebrate the
goodness of our Spiritual Family
afterwards at a luncheon.

Please speak with Pastor Dan or
contact the office if you would like to
become a member.



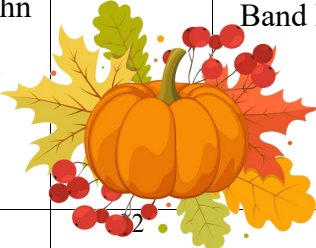
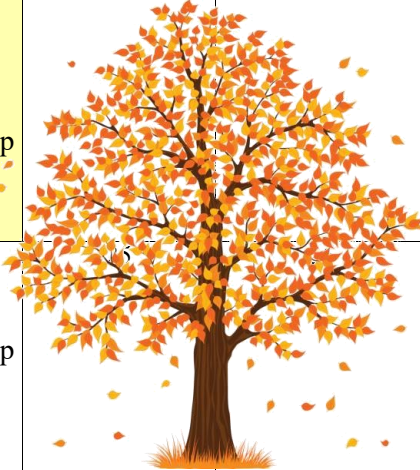
And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said,
"Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will
of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

Mathew 12:49-50

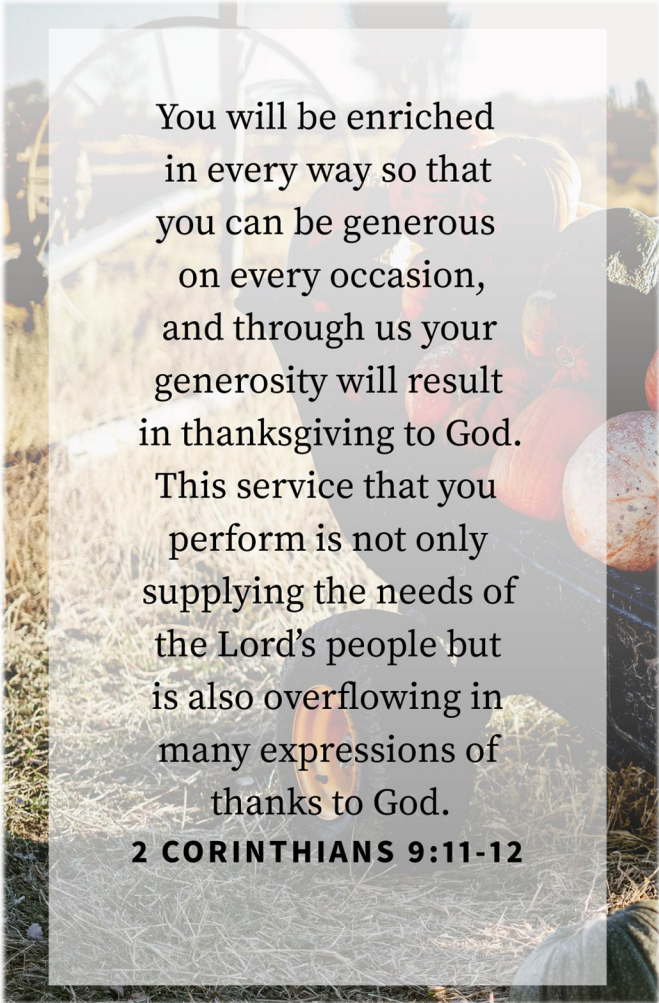


Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
2 Communion 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	3	4	5 10am Cards of Comfort 7pm Praise Band Practice	6	7 SUMMER VIBES	8
9 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship		11	12 7pm Praise Band Practice	13	14	15 9am Emmaus Prayer and Fellowship
16 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	17	18	19 MARCH FOR JESUS 7pm Praise Band Practice	20	21	22
23 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	24	25 BACK TO SCHOOL 	26 7pm Praise Band Practice	27	28	29
30 REACH Sunday 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship		Sept. 1 6:30pm WOF Meeting	2 10am Cards of Comfort 7pm Praise Band Practice	3	4	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast



	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 pm WOF	2 10am Cards of Comfort 7pm Praise Band Practice	3 10am OMLG Group	4	5 8:00am Men's Breakfast
6 Communion 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship 			9 7pm Praise Band Practice	10 10am OMLG Group	11	12 9am Emmaus Fellowship
 Church Picnic & Sunday School Starts 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00 Church Picnic	14 10am & 7pm Bible Study Gospel of John 11am Prayer Team	15 	16 7pm Praise Band Practice	17 7:30pm Church Council 10am OMLG Group	18 	19
20 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship 	21 10am & 7pm Bible Study Gospel of John 11am Prayer Team	22	23 7pm Praise Band Practice	24 10am OMLG Group	25	
27 REACH Sunday 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	28 10am & 7pm Bible Study Gospel of John 11am Prayer Team	29	30 7pm Praise Band Practice	Oct. 1 10am OMLG Group	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast

Giving Tithes & Offerings



You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:11-12

We believe that giving is an expression of our love and worship of God. As such, we take great care in the use of those gifts. We value the faithful giving of all those who come to St. Luke's as it helps us to continue our God-given mission to share the love of God in our community and beyond. Thank you for giving and may God receive the glory!

There are several ways to give your regular offerings to the mission and ministry of St. Luke's Church. You may:

- Use the offering envelopes available in pews and on the hall table outside the fellowship hall (or get a box of weekly envelopes for the year from the office).
- Use the [Church website's Giving page](#) to set up regular weekly or monthly offerings.
- Set up an automatic monthly payment from your bank to the church.

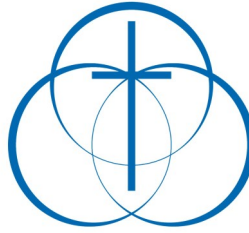
The regular weekly offerings go toward our operating budget (staffing, worship, discipleship, evangelism, building & grounds). **You may also give to the following funds as well:**

- *Pastor's Discretionary Fund*—Funds that are available immediately to respond to assistance requests from people in need.
- *REACH*—Special offering taken at the end of most months to support six local organizations that minister to the needy. (But you can contribute at any time.)
- *Special Accounts* for Christian Education, the Bereavement Ministry, Emmaus Pilgrimages, Neighbors United to Serve (Thanksgiving meals), and VBS. Please note on check or envelope which fund you are supporting.

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
August & September 2026

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

Maintenance Manager: Bruce Golt

Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Visit [St Luke's Website](#)

**or visit us on our [Facebook Page](#)
or [YouTube Channel](#)**

Jesus Is Lord!

