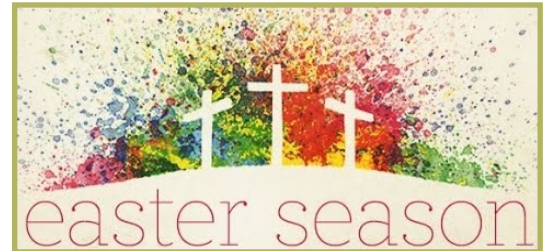




ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

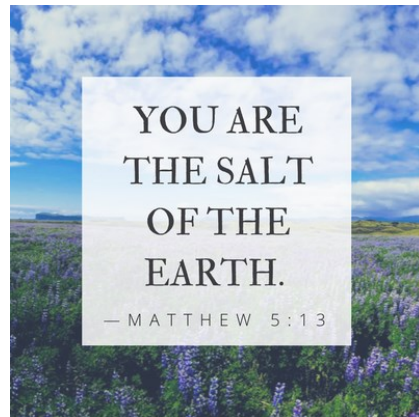
MAY 2022 THE SEASON OF EASTER



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Musings from Pastor Dan



Matthew 5:13 recounts Jesus' words, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under peoples' feet."

In the ancient world, salt had many functions. Of course, we know salt was widely used as a food preservative. It did not simply sit on the table waiting to cheer up a dull meal. It was also used as a "rub" of sorts for newborns (check out Ezekiel 16:4)

Strictly speaking, salt cannot lose its

saltiness because it (sodium chloride) is a stable compound. So, what was Jesus suggesting with this illustration? A couple of things come to mind.

One possibility is that the Lord is referring to the aforementioned preservative function of salt. Christians are to live and act in the world to prevent its moral degeneration. But there is more than the negative function of stopping the world's deterioration. By speaking and living the Gospel, believers will improve the societies in which they live. That is, we are to sprinkle the salt of the gospel onto the world.

It is profound that Jesus told the disciples (see verse 1) that they are the salt of the earth. Their actions will have significant and powerful consequences. Yet there is a warning attached; they must remain salty. Once salt has lost its saltiness, it is worthless, and so it is for the disciples. As they live under the Word of Christ in righteousness and obedience, they show their saltiness. The sting in this verse is the uselessness of salt that is no longer salty. It is, "no longer good for anything" (v. 13). Restoration was impossible. It must be cast aside.



Christians will turn the world upside down when they submit to Christ. They should have no small ambitions; the whole earth will change through their salty influence. A high calling has a high responsibility. When Christians lose the attributes that makes them distinctively Christian, they become worthless. Nations with many professing Christians, yet showing much decay, must wonder if there is something wrong with the salt.

Yet there is a problem. Jesus surely knew that salt is a stable compound. Thus, another possibility is that Jesus may have used this expression to describe the equally impossible characteristic that true disciples cannot lose what makes them disciples because they have become changed persons, made new by the life of the kingdom of heaven. A truly changed person, salted by Christ's salvific work, is as stable as anything in the universe.

However, in keeping with the text, imposter disciples have only an external flavoring. They cannot be made salty again because they never truly had the preserving affect of God's salt. Like Judas Iscariot, they were never part of the kingdom in the first place!

What is true for the disciples is also true for us. We can serve Christ by applying the salt of anointed witness and service to the rot in our own locales. However, if that rot is well advanced despite the presence of many churches, the search should turn inward. For when the churches are scarcely salty, that is, flavoring only, decay expands by default.

Pray that we continue to salt Denton with the salt of Christ's shed blood, that others may experience the true depth of God's life preserving regenerative power and not just the flavor of salt.

Peace.

Pastor Dan



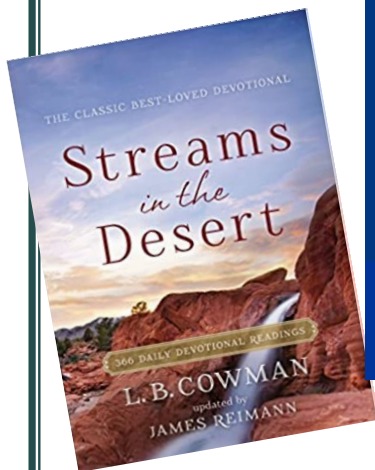


Faith Formation

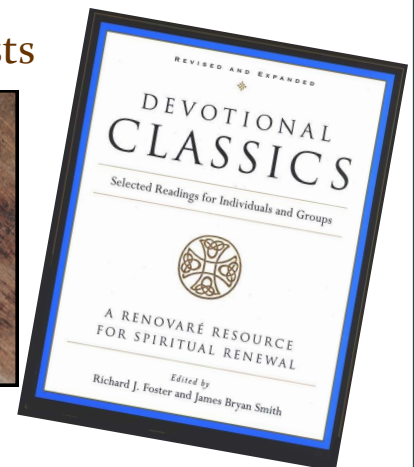
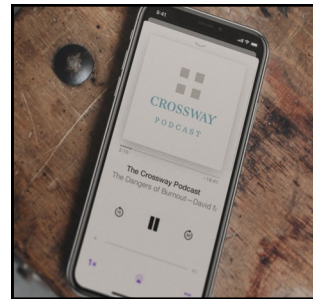
Growing in Faith from Birth through Adulthood

Popular Devotionals

Using a daily devotional is a great way to stay in God's Word and establish a habit of reading and contemplating what God reveals to us in His Word. Here are two books and two podcasts you might find helpful.



Crossway Podcasts



(Click on objects to link to information page)

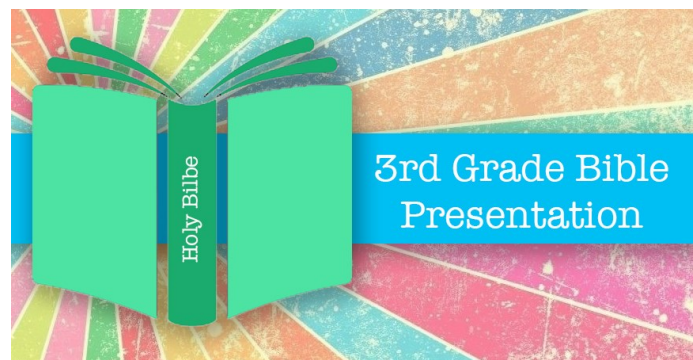


On June 5th, we will recognize St. Luke's students who have graduated from high school or college (at all services.)

Look for Graduate forms to come out in May (we publish a booklet with each graduate's name, picture, and highlights of achievements.)

Sunday, June 12th

Pastor Dan will present each 3rd grade student with a personally engraved Bible. Please contact the office if your child is in 3rd grade! 410-479-2171



Our Shared Life As the Body of Christ

*I urge you to live a life worthy
of the calling you have received.
Be completely humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing with one another in love.
Make every effort to keep
the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace.
(Ephesians 4:11-13)*

Saturday, May 7th at 8am



**We will have information
available in May how to
sign-up for to an hour or
two at the St. Luke's
Summerfest Table!**



**New St Luke's
Directory
Coming in
June 2022**

**DON'T
GIVE
THE ENEMY
A SEAT
AT YOUR
TABLE**

IT'S TIME TO WIN THE BATTLE OF YOUR MIND...

**LOUIE
GIGLIO**

**Six Week Bible Study
Sundays @ 9:30am
Starting May 1st**

In *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table*, bestselling author and pastor Louie Giglio shares practical ways to overcome the Enemy's lies and instead find peace and security in any challenging circumstance or situation. By drawing from Psalm 23 as a framework, he offers biblical insight.

**Sunday School Classes end May 22nd
Adult Bible Study classes end June 8th**

St. Luke's United Methodist Church Summary of Leadership Meeting April 21, 2022



Team Reports

Property and Investment Management

- A security system has been approved by Leadership and the Board of Trustees and will be installed soon (cameras inside & outside the church, an access system at the door.)
- The sale of the parsonage is in the process of being approved by the Conference and will proceed ASAP once that approval received.
- Once the parsonage is sold, some funds will need to be put into beautifying and landscaping the church.
- The Church's steeple needs repairs (from wind damage) and calls are being made to get contractors for that work.
- Estimates for a new floor in Fellowship Hall are being sought. The floor needs to hold up under heavy traffic. The floor has aged and now needs replaced or recovered.
- Merrill Lynch manages our investments. In May the representative from Merrill Lynch will be available to discuss the investments.

Mission and Ministry Team

- M & M did not meet. We will meet after the April 24th Leadership meeting.

Fund Management Team

- Financial Reports were distributed for review. People have continued to be generous in their giving.
- After a review of paid positions within the church, it was discovered there was a slight calculation mistake which has been corrected.
- Currently, there is \$112,000 in the bank.

Memorial Funds

- Money has been combined to one fund for music (to use toward maintenance of bells.)
- The bathroom project is now done.
- Special Account: Money donated to the Ukraine relief effort will be sent in May.

SPRT

- Did not meet
- Louise Webb indicated that she would be resigning her position on the Leadership Team. Louise will be moving to Kentucky and therefore will no longer be able to carry out her duties

Pastoral Updates:

Pastor reported on the UM denominational split issues, which he wrote about recently in the weekly letter. He said that there is a possibility of churches who disaffiliate having to pay 50% of their property value of the church. Per Pastor, our focus is to preach the Word and be a church until whatever happens, happens.



Register Your Children for Summer Camps at Camp Pecometh! There are scholarships available through St. Luke for 50% of the cost. Register online at <https://www.pecometh.org/christian-summer-camp-program-descriptions> and then submit a Scholarship Request form to Pastor Dan or the office.

**Congratulations to
Evelyn Grace Gunter
and her parents
Lauren and Jordan!**

Baptized April 24th, 2022

*By one Spirit are we all
baptized into one body.*

1 Corinthians 12:13



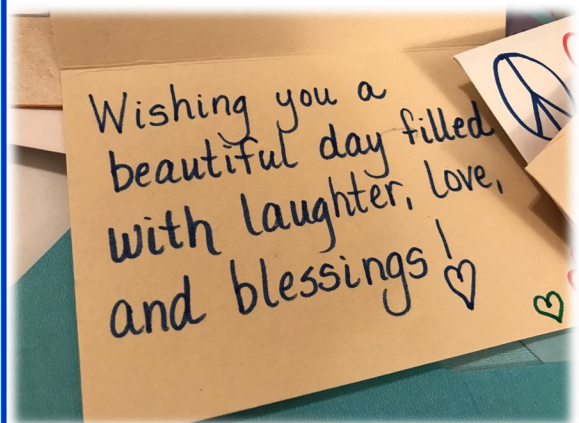
"Cookies and Cards"

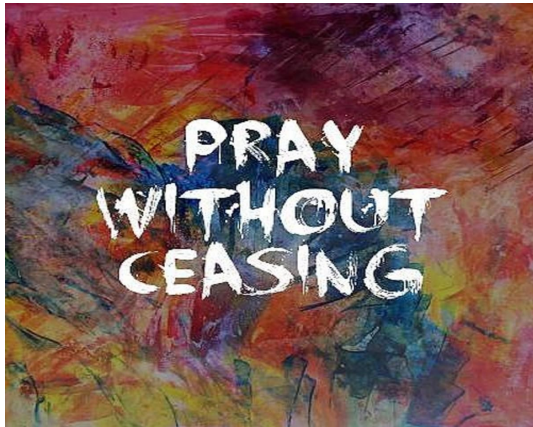
This ministry meets the first Wednesday of the month (1pm) to write encouraging notecards to residents of local senior centers and to our members who are unable to come to church on Sundays.

We are in need of cards!

You can drop off donations to the office

Thank you!





Almighty God, we pray that [Names] may be comforted in their suffering and made whole.

When they are afraid,
give them courage;
when they feel weak,
grant them your strength;
when they are afflicted,
afford them patience;
when they are lost, offer them hope;
when they are alone,
move us to their side;

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

(The United Methodist Book of Worship #621)

Prayer Concerns for May 2022

A. J. Mason, Sylvia Holland, Bruce Hastings, Meghan Larson, Theda Henry, Freddie Adams Jr., Regina Dongell, Wanda Vincent, Patty Thomason, Jimmy and Diane Johnson, Tina Kenney, Anne Shuler, Renee Barringer, Tony Keating, Tom Applegarth, Taylor Moody, Jim Kline, Glenn and Cricket Williams, Sandy Stubbs, Sharon Eaton, Grea Curtis, Martin Retzolk, Alan Flynn, Beth Homesley, Pastor Greg Barrier, Annistan Roten, Patsy Kemp, Helen Vogt, Hollis Cantwell, Hayden Semans, Elaine Friel, our country, and the people of Ukraine.

Sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away since the April issue of the Voice: Ronnie Davis, and Marcia Milligan.

Prayers for those serving in the U.S. Military: John Biddle, Chelsea Bunker, Seth Gill, Ethan Lister, Matthew Parker, and Andrew Robbins.

You may notice that quite a few names have been removed from our prayer list, even some in nursing homes. The prayer team is continuing to remember them in prayer; however, if they are stable and in a long-term care situation, we have removed them from the public list as the list is very long. That is true of home bound patients as well. We have many also on our list who ask for prayer, but do not wish to be on the public list. Please know that we honor all requests and often call for updates.

Thanks for your care, concerns, and prayers for our church family members and beyond!

**Sun****Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship NEW BIBLE STUDY STARTS @ 9:30am	12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA	10am Prayer Team 1pm Cookies Cards 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir			8am Men's Breakfast
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
MOTHER'S DAY 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	6:30pm Boy Scouts		Caroline County Community Resource Fair 10am—4pm Denton Town Battle of the Foodies 11am
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship	12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	6:30 UMW Meeting 7pm AA	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Leadership		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:40 Ignite Worship 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Trad'l Worship LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS	12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir	11am Delmarva Blood Bank 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:30 Church Council	Voice Deadline	
29	30	31				
10am Worship Service Teacher Recognition Sunday	Office Closed (Memorial Day)					

Financial Update

For Period January through December 2022 as of March 31, 2022

Description	Annual Budget 2022	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 25%	Budget through March 2022	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 25%
<u>Income</u>								
Offerings	251,813.00	57,790.34	194,022.66	22.95%	62,953.25	57,790.34	5,162.91	91.80%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%	25.00	0.00	25.00	0.00%
Interest Income	30.00	9.83	20.17	32.77%	7.50	9.83	(2.33)	131.07%
Building Use	4,000.00	1,790.00	2,210.00	44.75%	1,000.00	1,790.00	(790.00)	179.00%
Total Income	255,943.00	59,590.17	196,352.83	23.28%	63,985.75	59,590.17	4,395.58	93.13%
<u>Expenses</u>								
Pastor Expenses								
Salary	59,740.00	14,499.99	45,240.01	24.27%	14,935.00	14,499.99	435.01	97.09%
Travel Reimbursement		0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Cable TV at parsonage		0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Hospitalization/Dental	18,876.00	5,298.00	13,578.00	28.07%	4,719.00	5,298.00	(579.00)	112.27%
Bishop's Retreat		0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Continuing Education		0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pension Plan	9,753.00	2,449.35	7,303.65	25.11%	2,438.25	2,449.35	(11.10)	100.46%
Pastor Expenses - other		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Pastor Expenses	88,369.00	22,247.34	66,121.66	25.18%	22,092.25	22,247.34	(155.09)	100.70%
Staff Expenses								
Staff Salaries	77,254.00	14,507.94	62,746.06	18.78%	19,313.50	14,507.94	4,805.56	75.12%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,725.00	1,110.31	6,614.69	14.37%	1,931.25	1,110.31	820.94	57.49%
Worker's Compensation	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00%
Expenses - other			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Staff Expenses	85,979.00	15,618.25	70,360.75	18.17%	21,494.75	15,618.25	5,876.50	132.61%
Other Operational Expenses								
Accounting & Legal	800.00	92.03	707.97	11.50%	200.00	92.03	107.97	
Annual Conference expense	500.00		500.00	0.00%	125.00	0.00	125.00	0.00%
Christian Education/Sunday School	1,200.00	9.98	1,190.02	0.83%	300.00	9.98	290.02	3.33%
Conference Apportionments	22,868.00	7,060.00	15,808.00	30.87%	5,717.00	7,060.00	(1,343.00)	123.49%
Easton District Office	1,372.00	1,343.00	29.00	97.89%	343.00	1,343.00	(1,000.00)	391.55%
Janitorial Supplies	800.00	322.94	477.06	40.37%	200.00	322.94	(122.94)	161.47%
Electricity/Oil	15,700.00	4,572.29	11,127.71	29.12%	3,925.00	4,572.29	(647.29)	116.49%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	4,400.00	656.01	3,743.99	14.91%	1,100.00	656.01	443.99	59.64%
Kitchen/ParsonageFuel	2,200.00	738.75	1,461.25	33.58%	550.00	738.75	(188.75)	134.32%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	3,500.00	535.00	2,965.00	15.29%	875.00	535.00	340.00	61.14%
Insurance	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00%	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00%
Maintenance and Repairs	5,200.00	0.00	5,200.00	0.00%	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00	0.00%
Miscellaneous	700.00	0.00	700.00	0.00%	175.00	0.00	175.00	0.00%
Music Committee	800.00		800.00	0.00%	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%
MYF Program	200.00		200.00	0.00%	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	1,500.00	163.53	1,336.47	10.90%	375.00	163.53	211.47	43.61%
Postage	1,300.00	(36.67)	1,336.67	-2.82%	325.00	(36.67)	361.67	-11.28%
Pastor/Organist, Substitutes			0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Pastor's Moving Exp Escrow Acct			0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Stewardship	1,300.00	402.15	897.85	30.93%	325.00	402.15	(77.15)	123.74%
Telephone & Internet	2,700.00	928.76	1,771.24	34.40%	675.00	928.76	(253.76)	137.59%
Water and Sewer	1,755.00		1,755.00	0.00%	438.75	0.00	438.75	0.00%
Spiritual Life	1,800.00	(115.97)	1,915.97	-6.44%	450.00	(115.97)	565.97	-25.77%
Worship Materials	1,000.00		1,000.00	0.00%	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00%
Total Operational Expenses	81,595.00	16,671.80	64,923.20	20.43%	20,398.75	16,671.80	3,726.95	81.73%
Total Expenses	255,943.00	54,537.39	201,405.61	21.31%	63,985.75	54,537.39	9,448.36	85.23%
Net Income over Expenses	0.00	5,052.78	(5,052.78)		0.00	5,052.78	(5,052.78)	

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
100 South Fifth Avenue
Denton, Maryland 21629

410-479-2171
Email: stlukesdenton@gmail.com

Return Service Requested

To:

The Voice **of St. Luke's UMC** **May 2022**

St. Luke's UMC Staff

Rev. Dan T. Gedman— Pastor

Administrative Assistant: Carrie Soldano

Director of Music: Becky Zinser

Director of Ignite Band: Alicia Weippert

Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Sexton: Denny Weaver

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www.stlukesdenton.org
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