

ST. LUKE'S
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

NOVEMBER 2022 THE SEASON OF PENTECOST AND ADVENT



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Musings from Pastor Dan

(The following is an excerpt from a weekly letter I wrote Oct. 26th that included some very important information about disaffiliation.)

On Tuesday, October 18, The Peninsula-Delaware Conference Board of Trustees sent a letter regarding disaffiliation. Recall that St. Luke's, along with roughly one hundred other churches in our conference, sent a letter to the District Superintendent indicating the potential for St. Luke's to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. The letter was sent after the Conference Board of Trustees decided to add an additional charge of 50% of the church's property value for any church that decided to disaffiliate. We subsequently joined a law-suit to have the fee removed. The letter from the Conference Board states thus in part:

"We regret that we did not give more notice of the updated policy prior to its implementation on July 1, 2022. In order to alleviate any further harm to churches that were unprepared for the increased fiscal responsibility, the board will relax

its grandfathering requirements and make the following compromise:

"Any church who sent notice to its Superintendent prior to July 1, 2022, will be allowed to follow the 2020 requirements as well as participate in the activity-based discernment. They will not be assessed a value of their real property."

Now that the property value cost has been removed, our Church Council needs to determine if St. Luke's is going to move ahead with disaffiliation or not. To that end, the Church Council wants to hold special informational meetings upon this topic. Two dates have been set, one daytime, and one evening meeting, so that we can provided a good time for as many church members to come and participate.

Our daytime meeting will be Tuesday, November 8 @10:00.

Our evening meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10 @ 7:00.

Both meetings will be held in Fellowship Hall. I pray you will be able to make one of these meetings.

Peace! *Pastor Dan*

To: Sunday School Parents
Re: The LIVING CRECHE Program
From: Becky Zinser, Director of Music

Students have begun learning songs for the Living Creche program which will be held **Sunday, Dec. 18th at 10AM** in the sanctuary. Our Dress Rehearsal is planned for **Saturday, Dec. 17th from 10AM to Noon.** **Please put these dates on your calendars!**

Costumes will be given to the students during Sunday School time on the last Sunday in November, the 27th. Be sure to learn what part your child will be playing...an angel, a shepherd, a stable animal, a king, etc.. The costumes will be kept in their Sunday School rooms with a note on the hanger designating whose costume it is. We will need your help dressing the kids the morning of the Dress Rehearsal and possibly the morning of the program. **Please plan to stay for the entire two hours of rehearsal.**

I will be working with the kids and their teachers in the Sanctuary on the first two Sundays of December (4th & 11th) during Sunday School time. Hopefully this will be enough preparation for them to have a better idea of what this pageant is all about, what part they play, and how the program should flow from start to finish. Then, we should be ready for the Dress Rehearsal the Saturday before the actual Sunday service. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 410-200-8929 or 410-479-2054.

This should be fun and beautiful at the same time. What a wonderful way to share the Christmas story with friends and family, but, most of all, the children.

Thanks so much!
 Becky Zinser



"For unto us a child is born..."



The gifts of the Spirit are given to God's People for the building up of the church and for the care and concern of the people in our families and communities. God gives some people the gifts of empathy and compassion, people whose hearts are concerned with those in need.

Please consider joining the Pastoral Care Team if you feel God calling you to show compassion and care to those in our St. Luke's family who may no longer be able to come to church. We do this through routine phone calls, home visits, and providing transportation to church some Sundays (although not everyone on the team does all of those things!) Please contact Sherry Baker or the office for more information. d_sbaker2@verizon.net or 410-924-3000



Our Shared Life As the Body of Christ

**Mens
BREAKFAST**
* * MORE BACON * *

Sat, Nov. 5th @ 8am

St. Luke's Methodist Church ✝

Share Shop

*Free clothing and household items
for those in need*

Shop and stay for "Breaking Bread" @ 11am-

Saturday, Nov. 19th, 9am-12pm
Donations of gently used items in usable
condition accepted Nov. 14th—17th

100 S. Fifth Ave.
Denton, MD 21629
For more information call 410-479-2171

**Opportunities
for Service and Fellowship**

Exercise Class Mon & Wed @ 5pm

Cards of Comfort 1st Wed @ 1pm

Prayer Fellowship Wed @10am

Become a Youth Group Assistant!

Join the Pastoral Care Team
(visits and phone calls to those at home)

Seeking Greeters for all Services

Help with setup of Altar Paraments

ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH

**BREAKFAST
with SANTA**

**Saturday, Dec. 3rd
9am-12pm**

Visit the *Children's Shoppe*
Open 9am-12pm
Children can shop for gifts for their
parents, siblings, & grandparents
Wrapping included!

*Save
the date!*

Nov. 3rd—Charge Conference @ 6:30pm

Nov. 19th—Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

Nov. 19th—UMW Ladies' Holiday Brunch

Sat., Dec. 17th 10am-12pm—Living Creche Dress Rehearsal

Sun., Dec. 18th— Living Creche Program @ 10am Service

Faith Formation



Sunday Programs

Children's Chapel & Cherub Choir	9:30am
Sunday School (PreK-12th Grades)	9:45am
Adult Sunday School & Bible Study	9:30am
Weekly Youth Fellowship	5:00pm



The Children's Choir will be singing on November 20th at the Ignite service (when we dedicate Operation Christmas Child boxes!)

New Bible Study Series Starts on Sunday, Nov. 6th

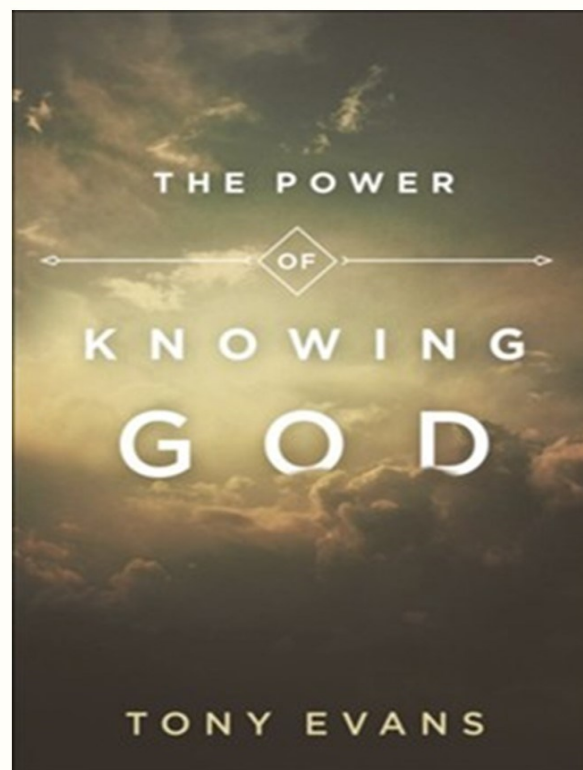
You go to church, read Scripture, and attend Bible study, so you're well-versed in God's ways. But do you actually *know* him?

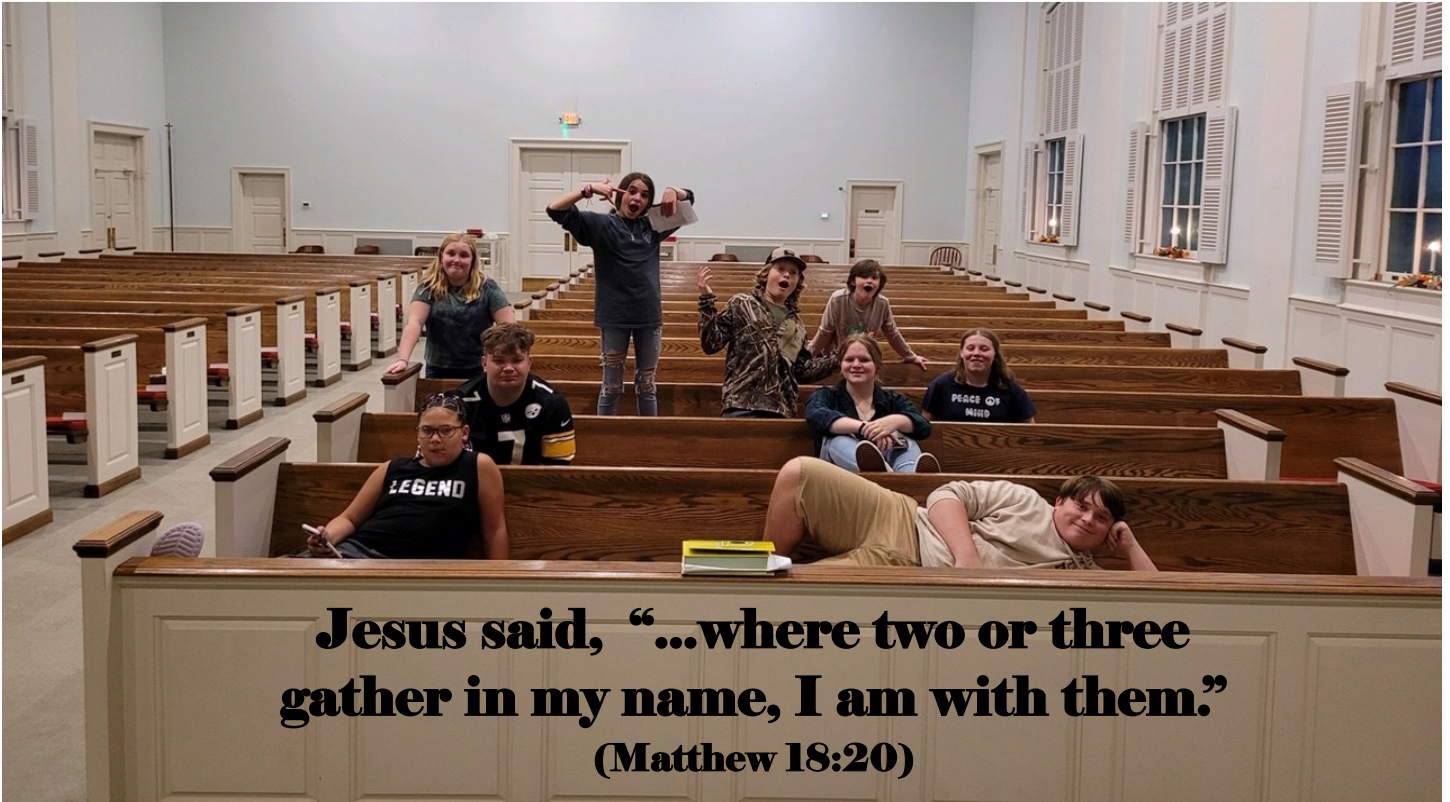
Dr. Tony Evans believes seeking to know God is life's greatest purpose. In this practical, six-session DVD series *The Power of Knowing God*, he shares strategies and skills for how you can live victoriously as a child of God.

Sessions include:

1. Do You Know Him?
2. A Path to Intimacy
3. Know that Unknowable
4. Hope for the Here and Now
5. The Benefits of Abiding
6. Empowering for a Purpose

**Join us for some or all of the lessons!
Sundays @ 9:30am**





Upcoming Youth Group Events

- **Weekly Youth Group Sunday @ 5pm**
- **Nov. 6th- Bonfire @ the Biddle's**
- **December—Movie Night (date TBA)**

PRAY
IN THE SPIRIT
AT ALL TIMES AND
ON EVERY OCCASION.
STAY ALERT AND BE
PERSISTENT
IN YOUR PRAYERS
FOR ALL BELIEVERS
EVERYWHERE.
EPHESIANS 6:18

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured or disabled,

that they may be made whole.

Grant to all who are lonely, anxious or depressed a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world.

With you, Lord, is the well of life

Hear us, Lord of life: Heal us, and make us whole. Amen.

Prayer Concerns for November 2022

Marvin Taylor, Elaine Orme, Noel Dean, Gerry Penn, Sylvia Holland, Brenda Rhodes, Archie Carroll, Brenda Wooden, Amy Lee, Nicole Riddleburger's father, Kara Saathoff, Donna Peltzer, Tiffany Caton & family, Ziggy Zurek-Wellen, Emmary Sweeney, Lynn Gulrich, Marty Harris, Pastor Larry and Brenda Pritchett, Kimberly Wooters, Jason Lee, Grace Clopper, Amy Clopper, Wanda Ewing, Chelsea Abrams, Lisa Barge, Sandy Stubbs, Janet Bassford, Glenn and Cricket Williams, Freddie Adams, Jr, Jimmy and Diane Johnson, Tina Kennedy, Grea Curtis, Alan Flynn, Patsy and Kelly Kemp, our country, and those who are being persecuted and killed around the world.

Sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away since the October issue of the Voice including Charles Shelton, Pastor Greg Barrier, Edward Bailey, and Kay Koenig.

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

To add names to our prayer lists, we ask that you either call (410-479-2171), e-mail (stlukesdenton@gmail.com), or drop-off/mail to 100 South 5th Avenue, Denton. 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 couple of months.

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

November



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
Regular Office Hours Mon.—Thurs. 9am—4pm (Closed 12-1 Lunch)		 ALL SAINTS DAY	10am Prayer Team 1pm Cards of Care 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells Practice 6pm Youth Mtg 7:30pm Choir	CHARGE CONFERENCE 6:30PM		Men's Breakfast 8am Pastoral Care Team 10am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Choir & Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship 5:00 Youth Group— Bonfire at the Biddles	12pm AA 5:30 pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	ELECTION DAY 10AM Congregation Meeting 7pm AA 7pm Praise Band	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells Practice 7:30pm Choir	7PM Congregation Meeting	 Veterans Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
VETERANS' SUNDAY 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Choir & Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship 5:00 Youth Group	12pm AA 4:15pm Worship Team 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA 7pm Praise Band Practice	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells Practice 7:30pm Choir	7:30pm Leadership Meeting	 7:30pm Leadership Meeting	9am-12pm Share Shop UMW Brunch 10am-12pm OCC Packing 12-4pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
OCC BOX DEDICATION 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Choir & Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship 5:00 Youth Group	12pm AA 5:30 Exercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA 7pm Praise Band Practice	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells Practice 7:30pm Choir	OFFICE CLOSED for THANKSGIVING	 HAPPY THANKSGIVING	
27	28	29	30	Dec. 1st	Poinsettia Orders Due by 11/25	
FIRST SUN ADVENT 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Choir & Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship 5:00 Youth Group	12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise 7:30pm NA	7pm AA 7pm Praise Band Practice	10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise 6pm Bells Practice 7:30pm Choir Practice	12pm—4pm Delmarva Blood Bank	 BREAKFAST with SANTA Dec. 3rd @ 9am	

Summary of Leadership Meeting October 20, 2022



Property and Investment Management

- Our investment agent at Merrill Lynch recommends keeping all investments the same at this time. We have made \$21K in income so far in 2022.
- ML recommended investing the proceeds from sale of parsonage into a 12-month FDIC insured CD at 4% (which could yield \$14K income in a year and be used toward the Pastor's Housing allowance.)
- Parsonage will settle Nov 21.
- Repairs to one of the Sanctuary HVAC units is being worked out .
- The FH floor and the sanctuary carpet have both been professionally cleaned. All tile floors to be stripped and waxed soon.

Mission and Ministry Team

- UMW Christmas brunch Nov 19th 10-12 at Laura Patrick's.
- Dec 18th is a 10am service (Living Creche program).
- Sherry Baker, team leader for the new Pastoral Care Team, reported that the ministry will start with a volunteer fellowship & training brunch Nov 5th.
- Trunk or Treat Oct 31st need volunteers (to bring candy in trunks.)
- Hospice Festival of Trees theme = coming home red & white (Dec 3rd and 4th).

Youth Group Update

- Three YG meetings so far with 7-9 youth attending regularly.
- Teen Bibles have been given out.
- Next event Nov 6th Bonfire at the Biddle's.
- Movie night fundraiser right before or after Christmas.
- Will be helping with OCC packing party on Nov 19th.

Finance Team (Report from Tracy Berrigan)

- 2023 Budget: Apportionment numbers not in the budget yet. 3.2% increase overall to budget from 2022.
- 2022 finances in very good shape - Mostly under budget for expenditures and at expected levels for income.

Staff Parish Relations Team (did not meet/no report)

New Business

Charge Conference

- Date changed to Nov. 3rd at 6:30pm (by District Superintendent.)

Congregation Meetings to be scheduled in November to Discuss UMW Issues & Updates

- Per Pastor Dan, the requirements for disaffiliation need to be considered now that the Conference Trustees have removed the requirement of giving them 50% of the cost of property value to disaffiliate. These requirements are laborious and we need to understand them as we discern whether or not to disaffiliate.
- We may need a committee to move the congregation through an informed discernment process in deciding about disaffiliation IF the church makes this decision to consider disaffiliation from the UMW.
- In this context, the Congregational Meetings are an opportunity to give members needed information, allow them to ask questions, and to take a straw vote to see if members are interested in entering into the discernment process.
- We will schedule two meetings in November and then have the Church Council decide whether to enter the discernment process.
- Need to make sure people understand that in order to vote on the question about disaffiliation, they need to be members of the church; we will put out info in all communications so that people know this and understand the variety of pathways to membership and find out who is interested in becoming a member.

Caroline Cares Car Show Proposal

- Discussed the proposal from Caroline Cares to have a fundraising car show event (for His Hope Ministry) in the Parking Lot in May and decided to put it on agenda next month after doing more research.

**Monthly
Financial
Report**

For Period January through December 2022 as of September 30, 2022

Description	Annual Budget 2022	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 75%	Budget through September 2022	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	S/B 100%
Income								
Offerings	251,813.00	179,459.17	72,353.83	71.27%	188,859.75	179,459.17	9,400.58	95.02%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00%	75.00	0.00	75.00	0.00%
Interest Income	30.00	25.76	4.24	85.87%	22.50	25.76	(3.26)	114.49%
Building Use	4,000.00	4,090.00	(90.00)	102.25%	3,000.00	4,090.00	(1,090.00)	136.33%
Total Income	255,943.00	183,574.93	72,368.07	71.72%	191,957.25	183,574.93	8,382.32	95.63%
Expenses								
Pastor Expenses								
Salary	59,740.00	44,804.97	14,935.03	75.00%	44,805.00	44,804.97	0.03	100.00%
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	15,894.00	2,982.00	84.20%	14,157.00	15,894.00	(1,737.00)	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	7,348.05	2,404.95	75.34%	7,314.75	7,348.05	(33.30)	100.46%
Pastor Expenses - other		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
					0.00			
Total Pastor Expenses	88,369.00	68,047.02	20,321.98	77.00%	66,276.75	68,047.02	(1,770.27)	102.67%
Staff Expenses								
Staff Salaries	77,254.00	46,293.58	30,960.42	59.92%	57,940.50	46,293.58	11,646.92	79.90%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,725.00	4,307.28	3,417.72	55.76%	5,793.75	4,307.28	1,486.47	74.34%
Worker's Compensation	1,000.00	1,037.00	(37.00)	103.70%	750.00	1,037.00	(287.00)	138.27%
Expenses - other		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Staff Expenses	85,979.00	51,637.86	34,341.14	60.06%	64,484.25	51,637.86	12,846.39	80.08%
Other Operational Expenses								
Accounting & Legal	800.00	1,148.11	(348.11)	143.51%	600.00	1,148.11	(548.11)	
Annual Conference expense	500.00	150.00	350.00	30.00%	375.00	150.00	225.00	40.00%
Christian Education/Sunday School	1,200.00	188.23	1,011.77	15.69%	900.00	188.23	711.77	20.91%
Conference Apportionments	22,868.00	12,777.00	10,091.00	55.87%	17,151.00	12,777.00	4,374.00	74.50%
Easton District Office	1,372.00	1,343.00	29.00	97.89%	1,029.00	1,343.00	(314.00)	130.52%
Janitorial Supplies	800.00	609.89	190.11	76.24%	600.00	609.89	(9.89)	101.65%
Electricity/Oil	15,700.00	11,614.74	4,085.26	73.98%	11,775.00	11,614.74	160.26	98.64%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	4,400.00	2,589.15	1,810.85	58.84%	3,300.00	2,589.15	710.85	78.46%
Kitchen/ParsonageFuel	2,200.00	719.10	1,480.90	32.69%	1,650.00	719.10	930.90	43.58%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	3,500.00	3,790.00	(290.00)	108.29%	2,625.00	3,790.00	(1,165.00)	144.38%
Insurance	10,000.00	8,984.00	1,016.00	89.84%	7,500.00	8,984.00	(1,484.00)	119.79%
Maintenance and Repairs	5,200.00	1,735.86	3,464.14	33.38%	3,900.00	1,735.86	2,164.14	44.51%
Miscellaneous	700.00	700.00	0.00	100.00%	525.00	700.00	(175.00)	133.33%
Music Committee	800.00	654.92	145.08	81.87%	600.00	654.92	(54.92)	109.15%
MYF Program	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00%	150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	1,500.00	673.44	826.56	44.90%	1,125.00	673.44	451.56	59.86%
Postage	1,300.00	356.87	943.13	27.45%	975.00	356.87	618.13	36.60%
Pastor/Organist, Substitutes		0.00	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	0.00%
Stewardship	1,300.00	1,341.09	(41.09)	103.16%	975.00	1,341.09	(366.09)	137.55%
Telephone & Internet	2,700.00	2,508.15	191.85	92.89%	2,025.00	2,508.15	(483.15)	123.86%
Water and Sewer	1,755.00	531.20	1,223.80	30.27%	1,316.25	531.20	785.05	40.36%
Spiritual Life	1,800.00	2,138.39	(338.39)	118.80%	1,350.00	2,138.39	(788.39)	158.40%
Worship Materials	1,000.00	49.90	950.10	4.99%	750.00	49.90	700.10	6.65%
Total Operational Expenses	81,595.00	54,603.04	26,991.96	66.92%	61,196.25	54,603.04	6,593.21	89.23%
Total Expenses	255,943.00	174,287.92	81,655.08	68.10%	191,957.25	174,287.92	17,669.33	90.80%
Net Income over Expenses	0.00	9,287.01	(9,287.01)		0.00	9,287.01	(9,287.01)	



Beautify the St. Luke's sanctuary this Christmas by ordering poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones.

We are offering **Red Poinsettia** plants for **\$14.00 each**. Please fill out your dedications below and return this form to the church office on or before **Friday, Nov 25th, 2022**.

Please make checks payable to **U.M.W. of St. Luke's**. You can bring or mail your order to St. Luke's (100 S. 5th Ave., Denton, MD 21629.)

Name _____ Phone _____

IN HONOR OF (if living) _____

Given by _____

IN MEMORY OF (if deceased) _____

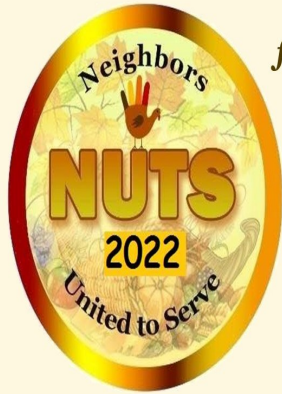
Given by _____

Total number of plants _____ Check # _____ Total \$ Amount _____



Thanksgiving Meals 2022

*“Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”
(Hebrews 13:16)*



Please consider donating toward this long standing ministry that serves hundreds of meals each year to those in need!

Send donations to: *PO Box 422, Denton, MD 21629*
(Please make checks out to NUTS and put “Meals” on memo line)



Attention all Women of St. Luke's!

You are invited to the **UMW Christmas Brunch on Sat., November 19th, from 10 am to 12pm** at the Fretterd Farm. The address is 27417 Shore Highway, Federalsburg MD.

Please RSVP to Laura Patrick at 302-242-1644.

We will be having a breakfast potluck and look forward to reconnecting with one another before the Holiday rush! There will be prizes and raffles, but the best part is having two hours to fellowship together. *#youbelong*



*Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them,
or the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14)*

- Take some boxes home (Follow the instructions inside the box for ideas and answers to questions.)
- Start praying for the children receiving your boxes!
- Shop for items; you may also include handmade items.
- Continue to pray as you pack your boxes and make everything fit.
- Write a note to the child, including a photo and your shipping & handling donation.
- Bring your filled boxes to be blessed on Sunday, November 20th, at the 9:40 service.
- As you feel led, you may lay hands on boxes during the dedication.

Pizza & Shoebox Packing Party Nov. 19th, 12 noon - 4 pm
(Setup of GO Boxes Friday, Nov. 18th, 10am-4pm)

Come when you can, leave when you must.

You may also consider funding our packing party if you aren't available to take home boxes or volunteer to pack boxes!
Donations can be made out to St. Luke's Church with “OCC” on the memo line.

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

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

Return Service Requested

To:

The Voice

of St. Luke's Methodist Church November 2022

St. Luke's Staff

Rev. Dan T. Gedman– Pastor

Director of Youth: Garrett Shull
Administrative Assistant: Carrie Soldano
Director of Music: Becky Zinser
Director of Ignite Band: Alicia Weippert
Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn
Sexton: Denny Weaver

Visit St. Luke's Online at
www.stlukesdenton.org
or visit us on Facebook



CrossCards