

THE VOICE

MARCH 2024 •
THE SEASONS OF
LENT & EASTER



Musings from Pastor Dan

IN THIS ISSUE:

MUSINGS FROM PASTOR DAN	1-2
OUR SHARED LIFE	3
FAITH FORMATION	4
EASTER SERVICE TIMES	5
GMC INFO	6-7
PRAYER CONCERNS	8
CALENDAR	9
CHURCH COUNCIL	10-11
CAMP PECOMETH	12-13
EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM	14
EASTER EGG- MAKING INFO	15

THE RESURRECTION (a.k.a. Easter)

Easter, or as I prefer to call it, Resurrection Sunday, really needs no description in one sense — It is the holiday (holiday literally means holy day) that celebrates and commemorates the central event of the Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Resurrection Sunday is the oldest Christian holiday and the most important day of the church year. All the Christian movable feasts and the entire liturgical year of worship are arranged around this day. It is the centerpiece of the Christian faith, according to the Apostle Paul, who says that if Jesus Christ has not been resurrected then the Christian faith is worthless and futile. Without Jesus' resur-



rection, there is no Christianity.

Yet the name, Easter, has caused a disconnect with the past. The name does not have any Christian or Jewish meaning. It is a term whose derivation comes from the word *Eastre*, a Teutonic goddess of springtime and fertility. Exactly when the term Easter was popularized seems

difficult to ascertain, but it is certainly not the original term. "Pasch" (or Pascha as the early church referred to the day) was the original name used to describe the day and season. This Greek word derives from the Hebrew term for Passover. This provides the connection between the Exodus and the Resurrection affirming the continuity between Judaism and Christianity.

The first Christians were Jews. It was inevitable that they would see a natural albeit symbolic connection between the two events:

- The symbolic continuity between the slaughtered lamb of the Passover Seder and the crucified lamb of God.
- As Moses led the Israelites from bondage to Pharaoh, so Jesus provides the way out of bondage to sin and death.
- The crucifixion of Jesus took place during the Passover season.
- Until the rise of anti-Semitism, Christianity saw itself as the natural development and culmination of Judaism.

These among other reasons affirm that we are a continuation of and share in the Jewish faith and history. Christianity is not a drastic displacement of Judaism. While it seems highly unlikely that the name Easter will be replaced by Pasch, or even Resurrection Sunday, we should nonetheless have some background and understanding of our history and what we share of the Hebraic faith. Christianity is not a separate, distinct period of time apart from Israel in the Old Testament; it is a continuation of the covenants God made with Israel.

Though the Bible does not require the church to celebrate Resurrection Sunday, the reasons we do are well known. Evidence of this celebration dates to 200 A.D., though scholars believe these celebrations were well established by 100 A.D. Certainly the early church would have marked and celebrated the greatest event in human history.

Last year, I reintroduced the Paschal candle to the chancel area. Recall that Passover is celebrated in commemoration of the Exodus from Egypt. During Passover, an unblemished lamb was slaughtered, per God's instructions, and blood was smeared on the lintel and doorposts so the angel of death would pass over the Jewish homes. John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the Lamb of God. The Apostle Paul reflected upon this same symbolism: "*For Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.*" (1 Cor. 5:7b)

The Apostle Peter referred to Jesus as a "lamb without blemish or defect" referring directly to the first Passover. The prophetic significance of Jesus' death was recorded by the Apostle John when he wrote, "*Not one of his bones will be broken,*" referring to the O.T. requirement in Exodus 12:46: "*It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones.*" The angels of the Lord worshipped Jesus saying: "*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain...*"



The connection between the Passover and Jesus as the Paschal Lamb is substantive.

The Paschal Candle has become symbolic of Christ's appearances following his resurrection. It is lit during the Easter season until the day of Pentecost and then only during the Sacrament of Baptism, and funeral services. The Paschal candle, like the altar, draws the worshipper into reflecting upon all that God has accomplished on our behalf and is fully inclusive of his work in both Testaments.

As we prepare to celebrate Resurrection Sunday, we pray that our risen Lord and Savior will continue to bless His church.

Peace.

Pastor Dan



SERVICE TIME CHANGE

At the February Church Council meeting, Pastor Dan and the Council Chair Jody Herb opened a conversation about ***whether we should combine the two traditional worship services into one, and if so, how we could schedule the remaining two services (one contemporary and one traditional).*** It was decided to ask the congregation to participate in this ongoing conversation before the council makes a decision.

Everyone at St. Luke's can and should participate in this conversation, and there are several ways to do this. You can schedule to meet privately with Pastor Dan or someone on the Church Council, or you can catch one of them after Sunday services; you can engage in conversation with others at the Lenten Soup Suppers; and everyone is welcome to join in discussions at monthly church council meetings (the next two are March 21st and April 18th).



Our Shared Life As the Body of Christ

Practicing the Presence of God in Community

2024 Lenten Soup Suppers

Fridays @ 6:30 pm
Soup Supper

Followed by
Lenten Devotions

*"For where two or three
are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*



MEN'S

Breakfast

Sat., April 6th @ 8am

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY
THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

MONDAYS AT 10 am and 7 pm

See our YouTube Channel for
Videos of weekly classes!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGrQ5QHraky3SnEIDD8zY9A>

CrossWalk 2024

March 29th

**Good
FRIDAY**

Starts at 12pm • St. Luke's Methodist Church •

100 S. Fifth Ave

Sponsored by the Caroline County Christian Clergy Association



April 9

Quarterly Meeting Women of Faith (6:30pm)

April 11-13

Northeast Provisional Annual Conference (GMC)

April 15-19

Share Shop Donations accepted (Share Shop is April 20th)

April 21

Bibles Presented to Third Grade Students



Faith Formation

Sunday Programs

Nursery (infant & toddler)	Available during all services
Children's Chapel & Choir Preschool through 5th Grade	9:30 am
Sunday School Preschool through 5th Grade	(After Chapel)
MS & HS Youth Class (Feb. & March Confirmation Class)	9:30 am
Adult Sunday Class	9:30 am





Practicing the Presence of God in Worship

John 3:23-24, Psalm 100:2

Palm Sunday Worship

March 24th @ 8:30am, 9:40am, 11am

Maundy Thursday Worship

March 28th @ 7pm

Good Friday Cross Walk

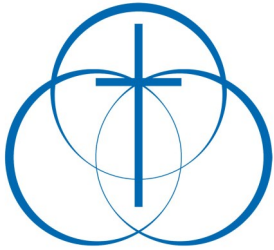
March 29th @ 12pm

Good Friday Worship

March 29th @ 7pm

Easter Sunday Worship

March 31st @ 8:30am, 9:40am, 11am



Bishop Mark Webb is our bishop in the Global Methodist Church (over the newly forming Mideast Conference, of which we are a part). His writings are published regularly at the conference and GMC websites, and his Ash Wednesday reflection is well worth reading during Lent.

An Ash Wednesday Invitation: Examining Our Desire Toward God

By Bishop Mark J. Webb



Sometimes we get so busy living, that we forget the purpose for our lives. Then there are moments in life when we realize our current state, and we begin to search for something more with a strong desire for change.

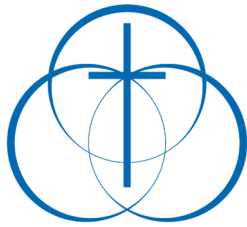
In Matthew 19 we read of the encounter between Jesus and a wealthy young man. The young man approached Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may obtain eternal life?” That young man had a desire to be in a relationship with his God and to know fully the promises offered by Him. This desire led him on a search. A search he thought was about what he had to do. The Lord would quickly reveal the search was about something more.

Jesus responded with a question that literally shook the foundation of that young man’s search. “Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good – if you wish to enter into eternal life, keep the commandments.”

The search was still on, but now with a new direction. The young man knew the commandments. He was willing to keep them if that was what it took to have his desire for God fulfilled. “Which Ones?” he replied. Tell me what I must do. Tell me what commandments I must keep and perform. I’ll do it! We know the response of Jesus. “You shall not commit murder, or adultery, you shall not steal or bear false witness. You shall honor your father and mother and love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man had kept all that Jesus had spoken about. He was a good person with high morals. But could that be it? Could his search for eternal life and right relationship with God be met simply through doing the right things and obeying the law?

It is interesting that after Jesus talks about the commandments and after the young man acknowledges keeping them, he still has a question: “What am I still lacking?” In Matthew’s record of this conversation, Jesus did not say he was lacking anything. The young man in his search somehow knew there was something else. He desired a change. He was searching for a change. But when the opportunity for change came, he was not ready or prepared for its reality. We are told that after Jesus told him what he yet needed, the young man went away with a heavy heart. He was unable to continue his search for a deeper relationship with God and the assurance of God’s promises. What did Jesus say to that young man?

[Continue Reading](#)



**Would you like to learn more about
The Global Methodist Church?**

GMC Website

Transitional Book of Discipline

Website Northeast Provisional Annual Conference

Karen Handy/Presiding Elder NE Provisional Conference

handy.karen@gmail.com



pray.

...pews and a prayer bench are open
24/7 for anyone seeking a quiet place
to spend time with God.

Come at any time!

(Call 443-837-5578 after office hours
for access to the Church)

Practicing the Presence of God in Prayer

Jeremiah 29:13

James 4:8



O God, the strength of the weak
and the comfort of sufferers:
Mercifully accept our prayers,
and grant the help of your power
to those who need it,
that sickness may be turned
into health,
and sorrow into joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

St. Luke's Prayer Concerns for March

Wayne Fretterd, Sr., Amelia Cauffman, Ruth Moore, 4-year-old Sam, Ed Smith, John Quillen, Renee Barringer, Doug Riddleberger, Bruce Hastings, Patsy Biggers, Joyce Bell, John Resdin, Lauren Gedman, Michael Mumford, Elaine Orme, Craig Harris-Little, Cameron White, Freddie Adams, Jr., Patty Downes, Sylvia Holland, Patsy and Kelly Kemp, Jason Lee, Mary Lynn Meloni, Glenn Owen, Kathy Todd, Kim Todd (not local), Glenn and Cricket Williams, Owen Wise; for our country, the homeless, Peace in Israel, the Global Methodist Church leadership and the formation of faithful Annual and General Conferences, and those who are being persecuted and dying around the world, including from natural disasters.

In Sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away since the February issue of the Voice, including Jean Larrimore, Theda Henry, Mona Daugherty, and Kenneth Winters.

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

To add names to any of our lists, we ask that you either call (410-479-2171), e-mail, (stlukesdenton@gmail.com), 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 couple of months.

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. If someone has been in a stable situation in a nursing home or is homebound, please contact us if that changes. Also, **except for phone calls, please give information in writing, as there are too many changes to remember otherwise.**

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



Sun

Mon

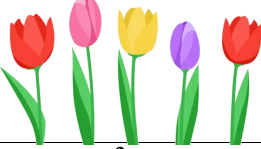
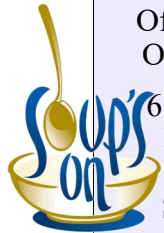
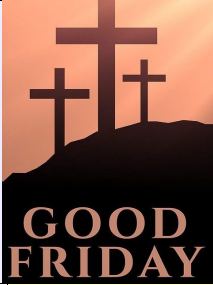

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 6:30 pm Lenten Soup	2
3 COMMUNION 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Sunday School 9:30 MS/HS Class 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship	4 10am & 7pm Revelation Bible Study 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise Class	5 7pm AA 7pm Praise Band Practice	6 10am Prayer Team 1pm Cards of Comfort 5:30pm Exercise	7 OFFICE CLOSED Blood Bank 12-6pm	8 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper	9 9am Emmaus Group Reunion
10 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Sunday School 9:30 MS/HS Class 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship	11 OFFICE CLOSED 10am & 7pm Revelation Bible Study 12pm AA 4:15pm Worship	12 7pm AA 7pm Praise Band Practice	13 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise	14 	15 Office Open 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper	16
17 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Sunday School 9:30 MS/HS Class 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship	18 Easter Egg-Making (See Schedule of Times)	19 7pm AA 7pm Praise Band Practice	20 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise	21	22 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper Flashlight Egg Hunt	23
24 Palm Sunday 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Sunday School 9:30 MS/HS Class 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship	25 10am & 7pm Revelation Bible Study 12pm AA 5:30pm Exercise Class	26 7pm AA 7pm Praise Band Practice	27 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise	28 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	29 12pm Crosswalk 7pm Good Friday Service	 GOOD FRIDAY
31 Easter Sunday 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult SS Class 9:30 Children's Chapel & Sunday School 9:30 MS/HS Class 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Traditional Worship	 April 1 Easter Monday/ Office Closed	2 7pm AA 7pm Praise Band Practice	3 10am Prayer Team 5:30pm Exercise	4  HAPPY EASTER	April 6 8am Men's Breakfast	



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Team Reports:

Board of Trustees—Property and Investment Management (Barbara Little, Chair)

- The current priority is fixing the water retention problem on the 5th Ave side of the building.
- Trustees will look into how to repair the exterior doors that are not closing properly and will install a new mini split HVAC unit in the 2nd floor classroom now that it is being used for Sunday School.
- Trustees plan to hire a contractor to power wash the exterior of the church this spring and the fire alarm will be tested in the next month.
- Electrical issues are being repaired - One circuit keeps tripping (too many things on it).
- Trustees will get quotes for new HVAC in the lobby and first floor hallway (since the lobby units are failing or not working at all and there is currently no hallway heat/AC).
- According to the resolution passed at the church conference last month, \$28K will be moved from the Parsonage fund to the regular checking/general fund to reimburse disaffiliation costs.

Mission and Ministry Team

- Amanda Dean for Christian Education Updates:
 - Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt March 22nd 6:30pm. Will do a number of groups by age. WOF will provide refreshments. Will get parishioners help to fill eggs prior to the hunt. Garrett will work with youth in preparing and running games for the younger kids.
 - Laura Patrick commended Amanda Dean for all the wonderful things happening in Sunday School. And Amanda in turn commended Laura Patrick, whose class has fifteen students at times.
 - Elementary class is sending cards to our military people & people on the prayer list. Laura shared the beautiful exchange between her class and Ethan Lister (kids sent pictures of their cards by text and Ethan responded). Ethan is on a ship in Europe, really appreciated the cards, and plans to send the kids pictures of the ship.
- Garrett and Laura: VBS materials have been ordered. VBS dates are July 22nd-26th from 6pm-8pm with dinner at 5:30pm. VBS is for children K-5th grade. (Youth will help)
- Barbara Manley gave an update from the last Women of Faith meeting. WOF would love more volunteers to head up leadership for one of the months of the year. (Leaders oversee activities and meetings for one month, but are not necessarily the “woman-power” doing those activities).
- Jody Herb shared about the joy of seeing cards from St. Luke’s going to her patients in senior centers (her joy and theirs!) and the council discussed how amazing it is that 200+ cards go out each month from this ministry. The Cards of Comfort team also plans to send all the children in Sunday School a card on their birthday this year.

Fund Management Team (Treasurer is an open position)

- PD went over financial reports for the regular operating account, Special Accounts, and Memorials. (No Treasurer’s Report until we have a treasurer.) We are working to simplify bookkeeping systems and reports to the Council and to make the Treasurer position more manageable. Our accountant is continuing to do a monthly reconciliation of the operating account while we seek a new treasurer.
- New Bylaws will be sent out to the Church Council this month to be reviewed and then approved at next month’s meeting. The Bylaws were generated as part of the legal process of disaffiliation and from changing our church name and IRS identification. These bylaws are needed to complete the process of requesting a new Tax Exempt number from the State of MD under our new legal identity & affiliation.
- Glenn Orme asked about Camp Pecometh funds and whether we plan to open those scholarships to people outside church. It was decided to wait and see if we get more scholarship requests since we have so many more Sunday school students this year.
- Glenn Orme brought up that the Trustees and volunteers are having to handle many of the minor things that a Sexton used to do. Council decided to explore the idea of hiring someone to be a part-time Sexton. SPR and Trustees will work together to propose what this position could look like as a reduced version of what we had previously, based on what is “leftover” after having a cleaning service and volunteers manage much of the work the sexton used to do.

(Church council report continued)

Staff Parish Relations Team (Laura Patrick)

- CPR training in April for Staff and SS Teachers and Background checks ongoing for teachers and adults involved in children's ministries.
- Staff evaluations are complete and will now be done every 6 months. These evaluations are a collaborative approach between the employee and the SPR and have been very fruitful.
- The Nursery continues to be deep cleaned once a month and all toys are sanitized weekly.

New Business:

Sunday Services

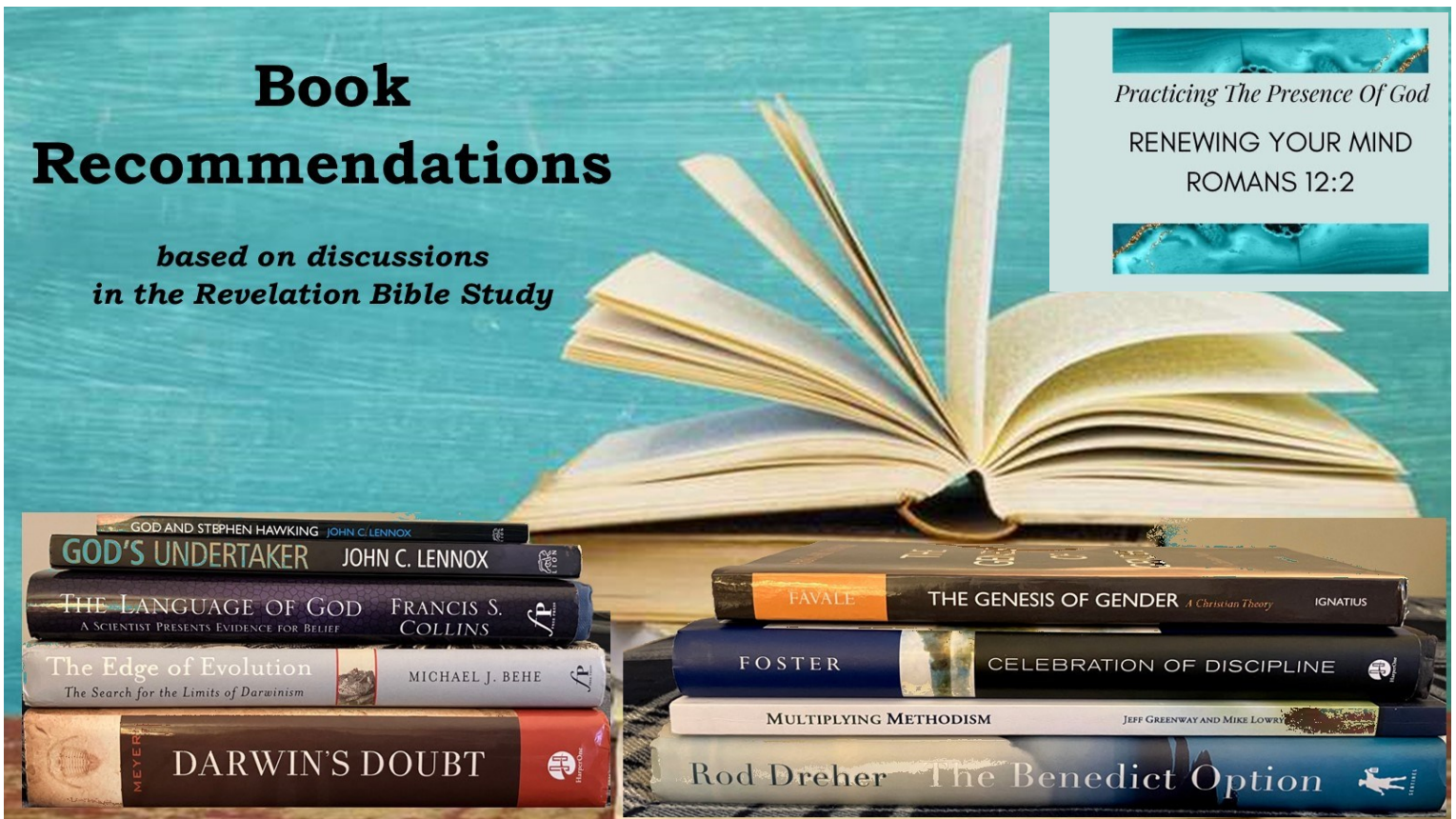
- Jody and Pastor Dan opened a discussion on the possibility of combining services, proposing that we have one traditional and one contemporary service. Jody and Pastor Dan have spoken with a number of people in the 11am service who said they would be open to a time change.
- The council had lots of great discussion on this topic! (We ran over our "soft deadline" for meetings by 25 minutes!) **It was decided that council leadership will discuss this with many others in the congregation and continue discussions at council meetings over the next few months in order to develop options for what this new two-service format might look like. (People should be reminded that they can come to church council meetings to express their ideas directly and engage in discussions.)**
- PD will make Sunday service announcements and put out information in all church communications that the council will at some point be making this decision about our services and needs lots of input from people in the congregation.

Book Recommendations

*based on discussions
in the Revelation Bible Study*

Practicing The Presence Of God

RENEWING YOUR MIND
ROMANS 12:2





Camp Pecometh Scholarship Application 2024

Parents' Name(s) _____

Telephone _____ (cell/home)

Email _____

Child(ren) registered for Camp	Session/Date Registered	Cost
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

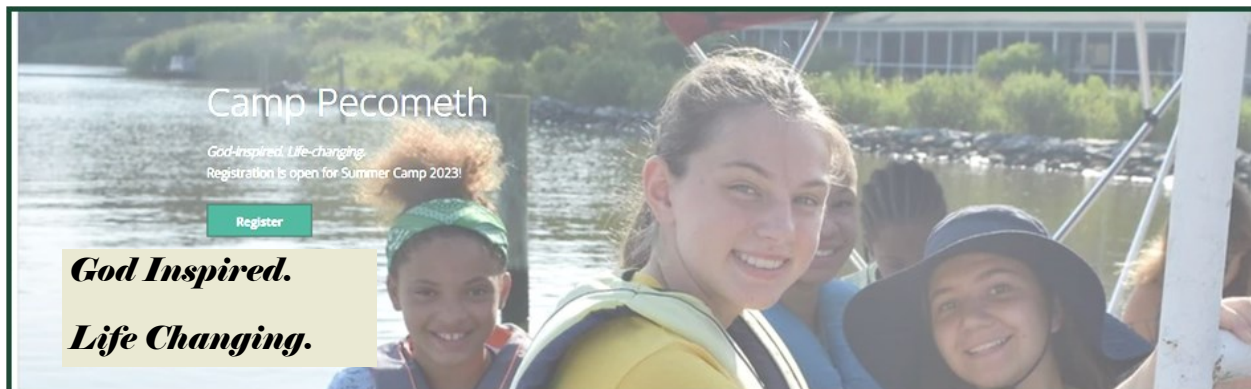
Please pay the deposit due and attach or include a copy of the receipt with your application.

(For Office Use)

Date Request Received _____

Scholarship Awarded \$ _____

Pecometh



Looking for an **unplugged environment** where your camper will **build their faith, character and independence**?

Allow them to experience genuine, inclusive community at Camp Pecometh's Christian summer camps. Living the mission of God-inspired, life-changing experiences, campers make memories for a lifetime and come back year after year. From day camps to half and full weeks of overnight camps for Kindergarten through 11th grade, there's a program for all interests.

Camp Pecometh is a Christian Summer Camp program that has run continuously since 1946, serving campers in Maryland, Delaware and beyond for 75 years! Located on the Chester River just north of Centreville, Maryland, Camp Pecometh offers nearly twenty different overnight camps and day camps to fit your camper's age, ability and interests.

Pecometh's mission is to *provide a sanctuary* for Christian hospitality and programming that *promotes God-inspired, life-changing experiences* through camp and retreat ministries. This mission inspires everything they do. **More information about Pecometh Summer Camps and registration can be found on their website** <https://www.pecometh.org>.

PECOMETH'S VISION

Pecometh's Vision is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world
through Christ-centered peace and play in our unique Eastern Shore setting.

Pecometh's Foundational Core Values

- Christ Centered
- Mission Minded
- Competent / Accountable
- Filled with Grace and Humility
- Full of Integrity



St. Luke's Women of Faith group is taking orders for **Easter Flowers** to beautify the sanctuary for **Easter Sunday, March 31st**, and you can order lilies or tulips this year.

The cost for each plant (3-4 bloom/bulbs) is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to: *St. Luke's Women of Faith* and include it with your order.

You may place your order in the offering plate or bring/mail it to: ***St. Luke's Church, 100 S. 5th Ave., Denton, MD 21629.*** **Orders must be submitted by Wednesday, March 17th.** You may take your plant home following 11:00am worship on Easter Sunday. (Please let us know if you will NOT be picking up your plants – We will donate them)

of Lilies _____ # of Tulips _____

How many plants _____ x \$10.00 Total Cost _____

Your Name _____

Phone number _____

Given in memory of _____

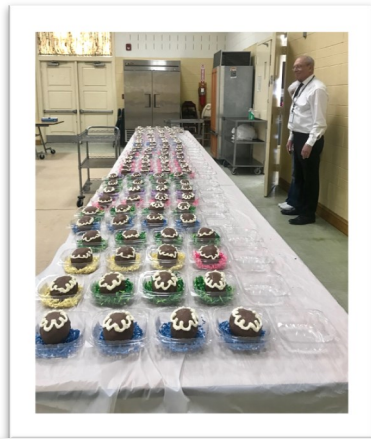
Given by _____

Given in honor of _____

Given by _____

(If you have any questions, please call Becky Manship at 410-310-4065)

Easter Egg Making



Easter egg making week is fast approaching! Our goal is to once again sell 1,000 eggs or more for 2024! Even if you have not placed your order yet, we will have plenty of extra eggs made to sell past the February deadline. Please see or call Laura Patrick with your order as soon as possible.

The Easter egg sale fundraiser is the largest revenue making project for the St. Luke's Women of Faith. We greatly appreciate those who have bought our delicious eggs! Please do not hesitate to call or text Laura if you want eggs to purchase or to volunteer to help make the eggs March 18th to March 20th. Below is the schedule for volunteers. The eggs will be ready for pick-up in Fellowship Hall March 21st from 10 am to 5:30 pm. Laura's cell is 302-242-1644.

Dates/Times for Volunteering for Easter Egg Making Week

Monday March 18th (Mixing and Shaping)

9:30 AM to 1:30 PM Pizza and Drinks provided for Lunch

Tuesday March 19th (Dipping of Eggs)

2 PM to 7 PM

Wednesday March 20th (Decorating, Boxing and Packaging)

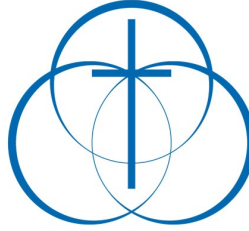
3 PM to 7 PM

Please Note: Before coming to Volunteer please call or txt Laura Patrick to make sure each day that work is not done early.

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 MARCH 2024

St. Luke's Staff

Rev. Daniel Gedman– Pastor

Director of Youth Ministries: Garrett Shull

Director of Music: Darlene Holliday

Director of Ignite Praise Band: Alicia Weippert

Administrative Assistant: Carrie Soldano

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/