



ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

SEPTEMBER 2020

MUSINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

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If I were to mention the name Thomas Bilney, one would likely say, "Thomas who?" Please allow me to introduce you to Mr. Bilney.



Thomas was born circa. 1495 in England and died on August 19, 1531 in Lollards Pit, Norwich, England. He was a shy student with a serious disposition who worked desperately to discover the truth and peace in

God. Through his desperation, he listened and adhered to every prescription given him by priests. He believed that priests were the physicians of his soul. However, he slowly realized that he would never find the peace he so desperately sought through works.

Turning to a copy of the Bible translated by Erasmus in 1516, Bilney began studying. One day, during his study of Paul's epistles, he experienced a remarkable and inexplicable conversion. What astounded him, like Martin Luther, was the revelation that justification (salvation) was possible by faith alone. This epiphany caused him to write that he "felt a marvelous comfort and quietness, insomuch that my bruised bones [wounded with guilt of my sins] leaped for joy." Bilney realized that God's gift of salvation was there simply to be accepted, not achieved.

Bilney became a fierce opponent of the prevailing doctrine that one had to work their way unto salvation. While he continued to adhere to many Roman doctrines, his denouncement of saint wor-

ship put him on a collision course with the institutional church. In 1527, he was convicted of heresy and imprisoned for one year. He formally recanted his own teachings despite the fact that some of his beliefs were similar to that of Luther whom he described as a "vile heretic." In some ways, Bilney was a theological mess.

Upon release from prison, Bilney spent the next two years devastated by his recantation and imprisonment. He struggled with his conscience until he could bear it no more. He began once again preaching of justification by faith alone. He was again arrested, convicted of heresy, and burned at the stake on August 19, 1531 at the age of 36.

Despite the many difficulties Bilney faced, he was able to lead future important Christian leaders to Christ and exerted tremendous influence with his friends, one of whom, Matthew Parker, would become Archbishop of Canterbury. Bilney's strength was in personal evangelism grounded in justification by faith alone, that doctrine he had once renounced, he again declared to be the truth.

By virtually any standard, Bilney was not a consistent Protestant or Catholic. No one considered him a great theologian. His name is generally unknown, especially when compared to the likes of Luther, Calvin, or Wesley.

So, why bring him up?

Far too many faithful Christians have been given the wrong impression that God always has "big and wonderful plans" for them. Such plans however are often measured on human standards rather than God's standards. Zechariah 4:10 warns us

to not despise the day of small things. In our seemingly endless search for greatness and wonderment, it is easy to forget that what God values most is simple faithfulness. As flames were consuming Thomas Bilney, he could not have imagined the impact he had that led to the Reformation. He was the first martyred



in England on behalf of reformation beliefs. Yet he was not known as a model hero. His theology was inconsistent. By human standards, he was not a great man. He did not fill stadiums, hold a high office, or write any books. Nevertheless,

he did love the Lord Jesus Christ; he did teach the Bible as best he could to those around him, and he was willing to die rather than to deny what he knew to be true.

God works passionately in the day-to-day routines of life. We do not have to have perfect theology. We likely will never know how the seeds we have planted along our path of life will grow. We will likely never know the impact we have had on others as we faithfully live out our days. We have no way of knowing how our faithfulness will affect the future. None of us knows precisely how God will use us to fulfill his purpose—the true “big and wonderful plan.” Just as Ruth could not have known she would be in the line of Christ, Thomas Bilney could not have known that God would use him to fan the flames of the Reformation. Please know this as a certainty: God will accomplish his will through us who live out our faith day by day in the normalcy of everyday life. To God be the glory!! Pray, think about it.

Pastor Dan



Beginning the first week of September, I will be writing a weekly article that will be sent to you via email. If you are not on our email list, please contact the church office to be added. If you do not have an email account, not to worry, we will mail it to you upon request.

The purposes of the updates are to help us continue to be mindful of the importance of practicing the presence of God. I may provide further information about the previous sermon and/or about the upcoming sermon. I will also provide updates pertaining to the U.M.C., our Conference, and District as may be needed. In addition, I will include updates about our church as well.

Pastor Dan

REMINDERS:

- **St. Luke's needs your financial support as much as ever. A self-addressed envelope has been enclosed in this edition of the *Voice* for your use. You can also schedule a recurring payment from your bank or through the church's website at www.stlukesdenton.org/donate.**
- **Next Leadership Meeting—Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.**
- **October *Voice* articles, updates, and pictures due Wednesday, September 23, 2020**

Altar Flowers

We have a few open dates on the flower chart: Aug 30th, Sept 20th, 27th, Oct 11th, Oct. 25th, Nov. 15th, and Dec 20th.

Contributing altar flowers is a wonderful way to honor a loved one's memory, a birthday, or anniversary. Since we are not printing bulletins, Pastor Dan will announce the altar flower's dedication in the beginning of the service during announcements.

Call Carol Rouse to chose a date for your dedication at 410-479-0233.



News from the United Methodist Women Submitted by Elaine Orme

It is time for the Holiday Nut Sale. Our nut sale is the only fundraiser this year since we were not able to sell the Easter Eggs. Let's make this a success so we can continue our outreach and missions!

The only change in price is the black walnuts, as they are \$.50 more. Also, we added a new one. Heart Healthy Nut mix with cashews and almonds, sweet dried cranberries, golden raisins, pepitas and sunflower seeds for good measure.

The orders are due October 6, 2020. Good luck and thanks for your continued effort in this fund raiser that



PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ORDER: _____

~ One Form for TOTAL Order ~

2020 U.M.W. ANNUAL HOLIDAY NUT SALE



The United Methodist Women of St. Luke's are now accepting orders for holiday nuts. Payment MUST accompany your order. Please complete this order form and make your check payable to: **U.M.W. of St. Luke's** and mail it to the church office at 100 S. Fifth Ave., Denton, MD 21629. You may also order through any U.M.W. member. The deadline for ordering is **Tuesday, October 6, 20**. The nuts will be available for pick-up before Thanksgiving. You will be advised as soon as they arrive. Thank you for your support of this important U.M.W. fund raising project.

YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

Selection (1 pound-size bags unless otherwise noted)	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
60000 Pecan Halves	\$12.50		
60010 Medium Broken Pecans	\$12.00		
60015 English Walnuts	\$13.00		
60020 Black Walnuts	\$13.50		
60025 Mixed Nuts	\$12.00		
60030 Giant Whole Cashews	\$12.00		
60045 Colossal Natural Pistachios	\$12.50		
60080 Heart Healthy Nut mix NEW	\$13.50		
60095 Harvest Medley Mix (pecans, pistachios, cashews, dried cherries & cranberries)	\$13.00		
62023 Mixed Chocolate Cranberries (milk, white & dark)	\$11.00		
62027 Dark Chocolate Cranberries	\$11.00		
62019 Dark Chocolate Almonds	\$12.50		
62038 Praline Pecans	\$13.00		
GRAND TOTAL			

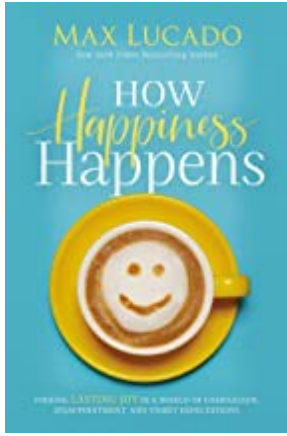
Cash Total: _____ **Check Total:** _____

Adult Sunday School Welcome Back

September 13

9:40 AM

Rooms 1 and 3



These are tough times. Amid global isolation, economic downturn, and social unrest, could you use a dose of happy right about now?

Join us for a six week series by Max Lucado. We will have DVD sessions followed by group discussions.

We will require the Covid 19 safe practices of face coverings and social distancing.

Any questions contact Louise Webb
louisewebb44@gmail.com

From our Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Tracy Harding

Our first youth group is Friday, August 28th 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the church. Invite your friends! We will be getting reacquainted and talking about what the youth would like to see and do this year. I want to hear from you. We will have pre-packaged ice cream and play some games. Look forward to seeing everyone on the 28th.

Sunday school supplies are ready but unfortunately we have not received the ok to resume Sunday School. It is our plan to resume Zoom Sunday School this Fall. I will be in touch with the start date.

New Young Women's Ministry!

As young women navigating marriage, motherhood, work, family, friends, social media, and our Faith, we need relationships with one another more than ever.

God made us for community, and when women support other women, we are all better for it.

If you have been searching for friendship, laughter, support, encouragement, and spiritual growth, please join me for a Planning Party to be a vital part of organizing this new ministry. Meet at my home in Denton on Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM for a backyard brunch (to comply with COVID social distancing guidelines). We will share ideas for what we want in a women's ministry and have a little fun too!

Contact Stacey Reid at 412-427-6730 or slm6887@gmail.com if you have any questions or to let me know whether you plan on coming. No formal RSVP needed, but if you know for sure you will be joining me, I'd love to know ahead of time so I can account for food and beverages.



Prayer Concerns.....

You will notice that there are many names that have been removed from our prayer lists. We do not know how to contact those people who have been on our congregational concerns list or our military prayer list for many months/years and whose names we have removed. If there are any names you would like to have returned to either list, please let us know, and we will be happy to list them again.

To add names to the these lists, we ask that you either call (410-479-2171), e-mail (stlukes@goeaston.com), or drop-off/mail to 100 South 5th Avenue, Denton. If you wish to have that name continue on the list for an extended period, 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.

Thank you to all who remember those named on our prayer lists. Only God knows how many are blessed because you care enough to pray.

Prayers for: Ruth and Bob Breeding, Gary Simpson, Dana Shaffer, Dwight Kimble, Hollis Cartwell, Elaine Nichols, Sylvia Holland, Sheila Orr, Ann Willey, Elaine Orme, Dorothy Cox family, Anne Jusell, Alan and Gloria Vandam, Robbie Lister, Pat Browne, Jim Johnson, Phyllis Harrison, Laura Love, Carol Stockley, Kathy Bridwell, Conner Beish, Dale Nygren, Hayden Seamen, Don Holmesley, Jake Holmes, Ruth Dore, John Balderson, Hugh Butler, Dylan Gunther, Whittley, Mary, and Aaron Gamble, Su Jussell-Lappin, Julia George, Harry Muir, Conrad Rosemere, Susan Bunker, Tommy Thomason, Rob Cohee, Elaine Friel, Sarah, Abby, and Roger Price.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Margaret Ann Torbert, Bonnie Thayer, Pastor George, and Lisa (a 9-year old killed in an automobile accident this past week).

Prayers for those serving in the U.S. Military: John Biddle, Jake Brown, Chelsea Bunker, Sean George, Seth Gill, Brockman Harris, Justin Moore, Andrew Robbins, Dale Tuel, and James Wright.

***From Our Music Ministry Director:
Becky Zinser***

During this time of social distancing and COVID rules, St. Luke's has been blessed with volunteers who have offered their musical talents in worship. For this we are so very thankful. Soloists (both vocal and instrumental) and small ensembles have graced our sanctuary. And the Praise Band continues to lead worship at the Ignite Service in Fellowship Hall.

Until Maryland advances to the next COVID stage, this is the music mode in which we will continue. As always, anyone who would like to offer special music in worship should give me a call:

Becky Zinser
H-410-479-2054
C-410-200-8929

ps. Did you know God rejoices over you with singing? ...

The Lord your God is with you,
he is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you,
he will quiet you with His love,
he will rejoice over you with singing.
Zephaniah 3:17



United Methodist Men Update

From George Lacy

The United Methodist Men usually hold a breakfast the 1st Saturday of the month September through May at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings, we are canceling the September breakfast. The decision as to whether we will hold the October breakfast will be determined at a later date.

Official Approved Notice from Bankruptcy Court



Sexual Abuse Claims in Boy Scouts Bankruptcy

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim by 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) on November 16, 2020.

The Boy Scouts of America ("BSA") has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Sexual Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack and provides information about the case, *In re Boy Scouts of America and Delaware BSA, LLC*, No. 20-116343 (Bankr. D. Del.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, visit: www.OfficialBSAclaims.com or call 1-866-907-2721.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused during their time in Scouting, on or before February 18, 2020, must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, or any entity or activity associated with Scouting. Sexual Abuse Claims include, but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, exploitation, or touching, sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, even if the behavior was not sexual or against the law, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not. These acts could be between a (1) child and an adult or (2) child and another child.

When and How Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

You should file a claim using the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim by **November 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**. **If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils or organizations that sponsored your troop or pack, including any right to compensation.** Only BSA is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against the BSA Local Councils or other organizations, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

Your information will be kept private. You can download and file a claim at www.OfficialBSAclaims.com or call 1-866-907-2721 for help on how to file a claim by mail. Scouting participants who were at least 18 years of age at the time the sexual abuse began may also have claims related to sexual abuse and should consult the appropriate claim form at www.OfficialBSAclaims.com.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:



File a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim.



If your claim is approved, you may receive compensation from the bankruptcy.



Have questions? Call or visit the website for more information.

If a plan to reorganize BSA is approved, it could release claims you hold against certain third parties, including against BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack. Please visit the website to learn more.

Other Support

BSA will fund in-person counseling for current or former Scouts or their family. To request in-person counseling, please call 1-866-907-2721, or email restructuring@scouting.org.

Your information will be kept private.

www.OfficialBSAclaims.com 1-866-907-2721

St. Luke's United Methodist Church Treasurer's Report

For Period January through December 2020 as of July 31, 2020

Description	Annual Budget 2020	Actual Income or Expense To Date	Variance	% Budg Used
<u>Income</u>				
Offerings	250,612.00	125,301.45	125,310.55	50.00%
Offerings - Sunday School	100.00	60.00	40.00	60.00%
Interest Income	25.00	25.74	(0.74)	102.96%
Building Use	8,000.00	3,355.00	4,645.00	41.94%
Administrative Building Use	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<u>Total Income</u>	258,737.00	128,742.19	129,994.81	49.76%
<u>Expenses</u>				
Pastor Expenses				
Salary	47,722.00	28,694.37	19,027.63	60.13%
Travel Reimbursement	2,400.00	562.03	1,837.97	23.42%
Cable TV at parsonage	1,600.00	731.69	868.31	45.73%
Hospitalization/Dental	18,180.00	6,060.00	12,120.00	33.33%
Bishop's Retreat	550.00	0.00	550.00	0.00%
Continuing Education	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Pension Plan	9,783.00	4,122.04	5,660.96	42.13%
Pastor Expenses - other		0.00	0.00	
Total Pastor Expenses	81,235.00	40,170.13	41,064.87	49.45%
Staff Expenses				
Staff Salaries	73,580.00	42,420.85	31,159.15	57.65%
Wage and Tax Expenses	7,358.00	4,967.43	2,390.57	67.51%
Worker's Compensation	1,092.00	904.00	188.00	82.78%
Expenses - other		0.00	0.00	
Total Staff Expenses	82,030.00	48,292.28	33,510.54	58.87%
Other Operational Expenses				
Accounting & Legal	200.00	149.11		
Annual Conference expense	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%
Christian Education/Sunday School	2,500.00	480.31	2,019.69	19.21%
Conference Apportionments	23,586.00	11,793.00	11,793.00	50.00%
Easton District Office	1,415.00	1,415.00	0.00	100.00%
Janitorial Supplies	1,000.00	197.70	802.30	19.77%
Electricity/Oil	18,000.00	7,729.79	10,270.21	42.94%
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	5,871.00	3,096.25	2,774.75	52.74%
Fuel (parsonage)	6,500.00	2,311.40	4,188.60	35.56%
Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance	3,000.00	1,010.00	1,990.00	33.67%
Insurance	10,300.00	8,572.00	1,728.00	83.22%
Maintenance and Repairs	6,800.00	2,918.54	3,881.46	42.92%
Miscellaneous	100.00	745.60	(645.60)	745.60%
Music Committee	1,200.00	925.00	275.00	77.08%
MYF Program	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	2,250.00	1,711.71	538.29	76.08%
Postage	1,500.00	800.00	700.00	53.33%
Pastor/Organist, Substitutes	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00%
Pastor's Moving Exp Escrow Acct	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Stewardship	1,500.00	733.22	766.78	48.88%
Telephone	1,500.00	1,137.32	362.68	75.82%
Water and Sewer	1,750.00	1,163.32	586.68	66.48%
Evangelism	2,500.00	770.05	1,729.95	30.80%
Worship Materials	1,200.00	437.77	762.23	36.48%
Total Operational Expenses	95,472.00	48,097.09	47,324.02	50.38%
<u>Total Expenses</u>	258,737.00	136,559.50	88,388.89	52.78%
Net Income over Expenses	0.00	(7,817.31)	41,605.92	

The Voice

of St. Luke's

September 2020

St. Luke's UMC Staff:

Rev. Dan T. Gedman- Minister

Administrative Assistant: Ann Willey

Director of Music: Rebecca Zinser

Christian Education and Youth Ministry

Director: Tracy Harding

Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Sexton: Dennis R. Weaver, Sr.

Voice Editor: Stacey Reid

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Return Service Requested

To:

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