ST.LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

THE VOICE

JUNE & JULY 2026 •
THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

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 worship 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?

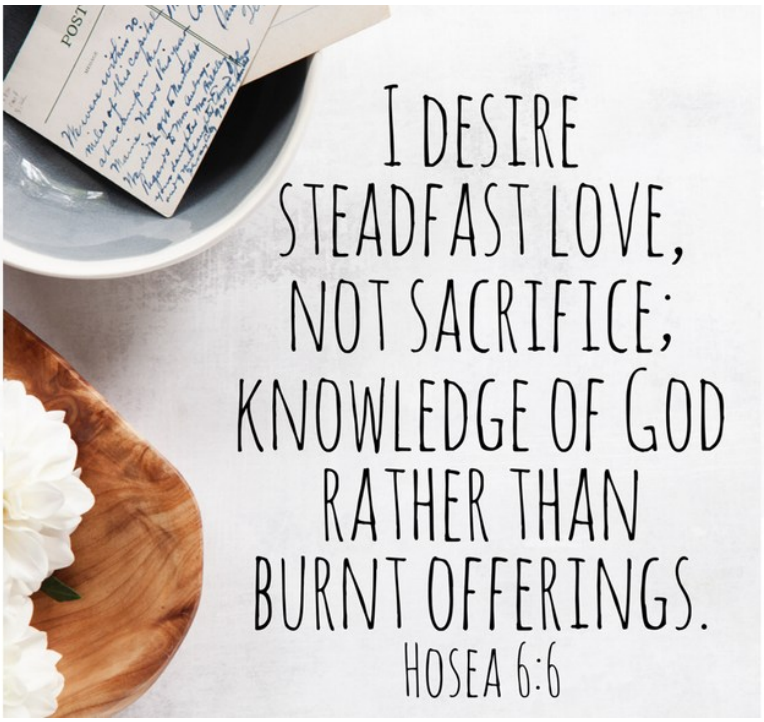
Far too many faithful Christians have been given the wrong impression that God always has "big and wonderful plans" for them. Such plans however are often measured on human standards rather than God's standards. Zechariah 4:10 warns us to not despise the day of small things. In our seemingly endless 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.

Peace.

Pastor Dan

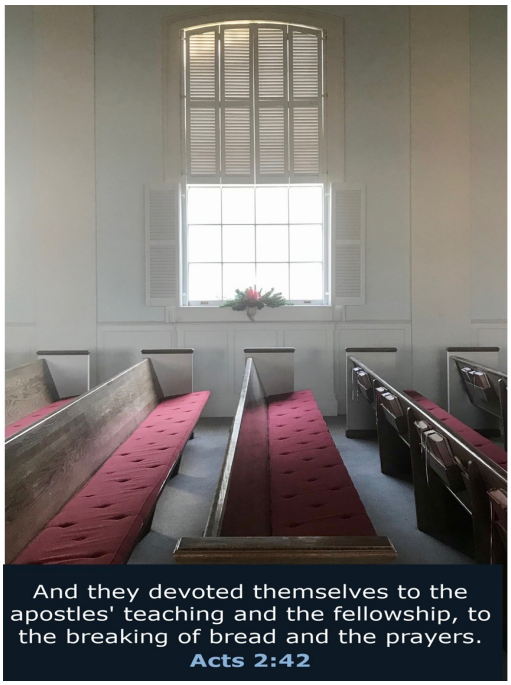


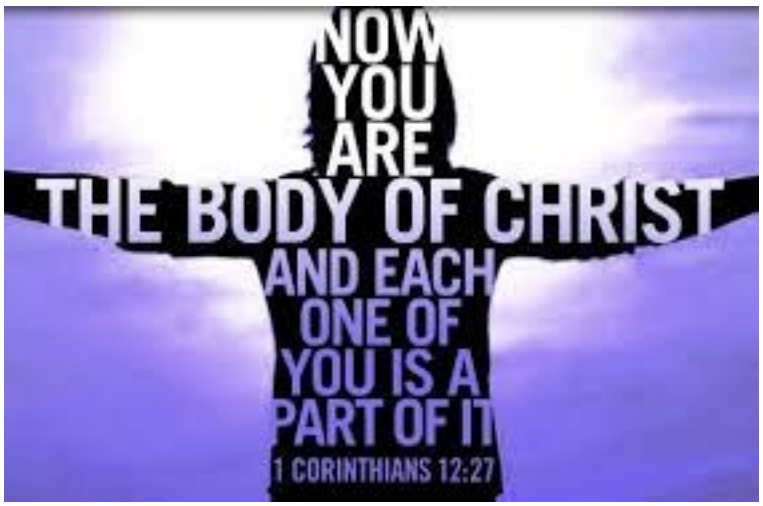
Our Shared Life as the Body of Christ

Father's Day Honor Roll

For a donation of $5.00 or more, you can help people through the St. Luke's **REACH Fund** **in honor or memory of your father or another loved one,** and on Father's Day, we will publish the Honor Roll of Fathers.

Please make checks payable to **St. Luke's Methodist Church** and note REACH on the memo line; you can drop off your form & donations to the office or put them in the offering plate. Forms/ donations **due by June 9th.**





St. Luke's Methodist Church VBS 2026

July 20-23

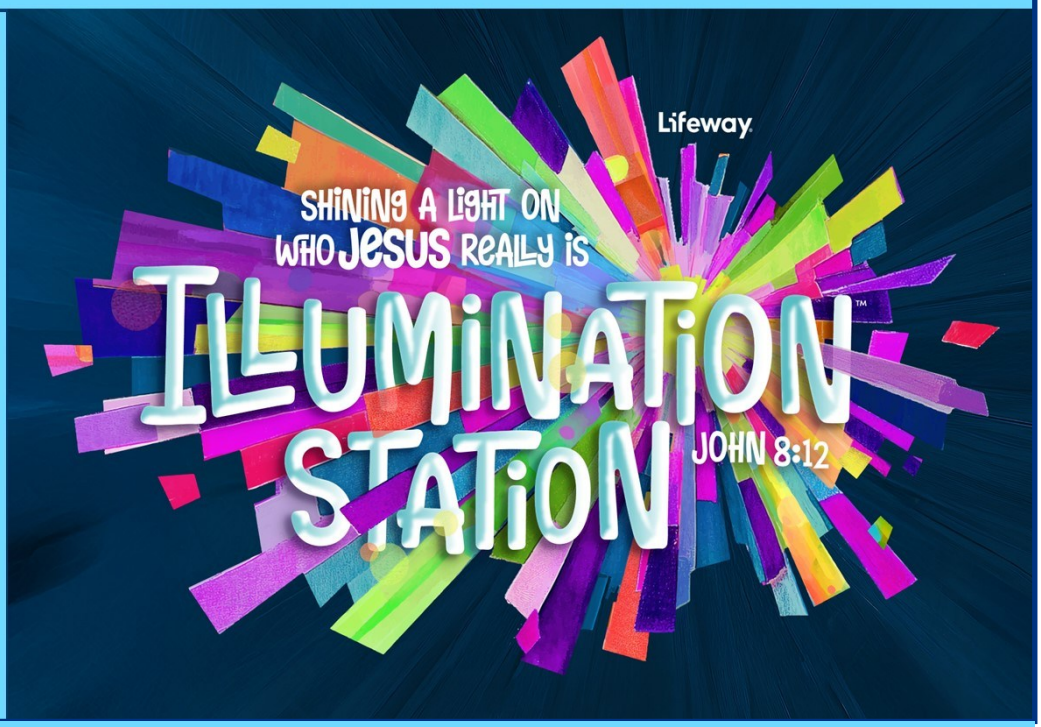
Family Dinner at 5pm

VBS 6-8pm

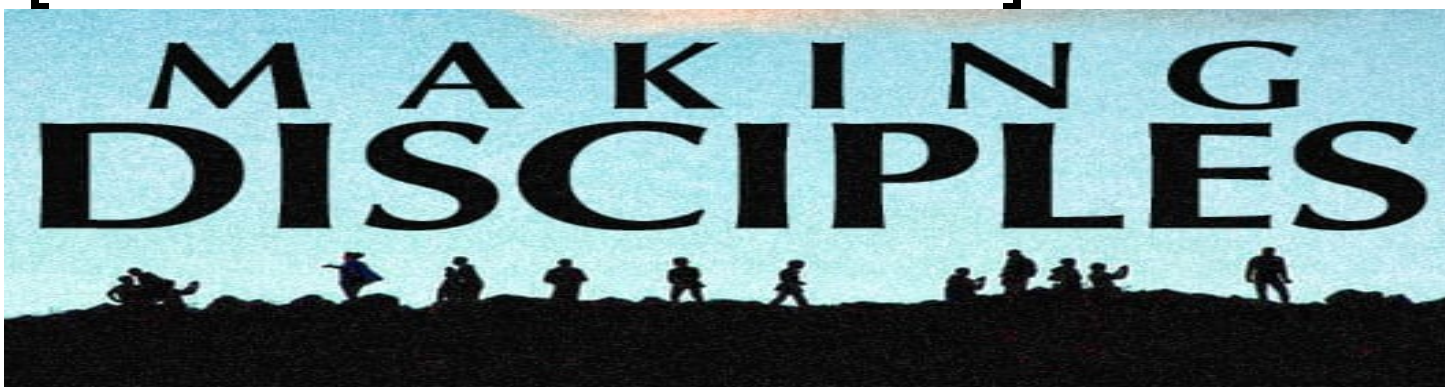
for

Grades K-5

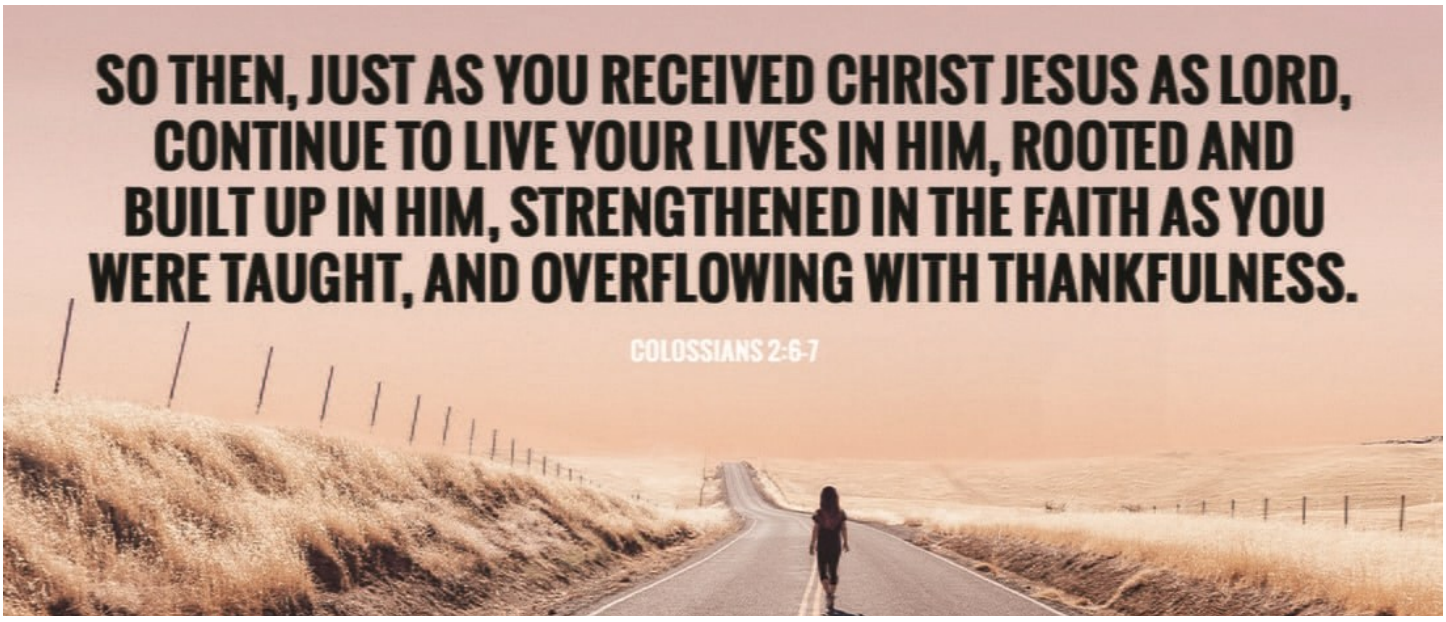
Registration forms available in Sunday School and the office

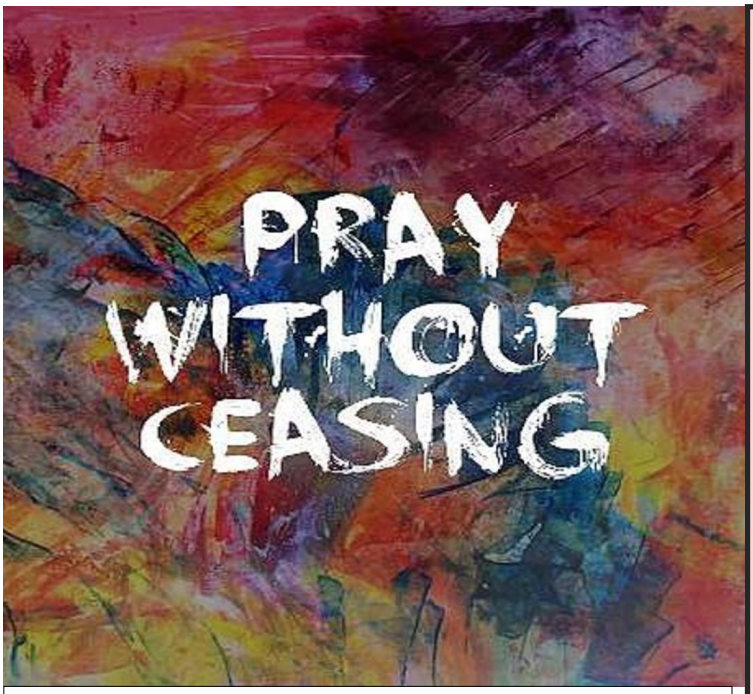


Link to Registration Form



Presentation of Personalized Engraved Bibles to Third Grade Students April 12th





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.

Prayer Concerns for June & July

Glenn & Elaine Orme, Mary Plumley, Kenzie MacLean, Jessica Eaton, Tim Lee, Shannon Hannawald, Kenny Wood, Don Smith, Chris Wright, Jimmy Tolson, Phyllis Frase, Christina Thomas, Francis Blazejak, Randy Bowen, Wendy Bradley, Bill Hughes, Cori Bennington, Randall Butler, Mary Hawkins, Rosemary Ayers, Kurt Plinke, Mariah Farmer-Grace, Mitchell Griffith, John and Danielle Stewart, Robin, Dave & Jan Almquist, Carol & Lester, Courtney Harrison, Kitty Patrick, Craig Little, Baby Charlie, Suzanne Drury, Shawn Parks, and Evelyn.

To add names to any of our lists, we ask that you call (410-479-2171), e-mail the church, 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 often call for updates. Also, **except for phone calls, please give information in writing, as there are too many changes to remember.**

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

St. Luke's Methodist Church

Faith Based Camp Scholarship Program

St. Luke's Methodist Church has scholarships available for 50% of the cost of faith based summer camps (*max. $500.00 per child*) for children or grandchildren who are participating in St. Luke's Church programs.

Please register your child(ren) for camp, provide documentation of your registration, include a copy of your receipt of deposit made for camp, and attach to this completed scholarship application. Return all documents to St. Luke's, 100 South Fifth Avenue, Denton, MD 21629 or deliver in person.

Parent/Grandparents Name: _____

Telephone: _____ (Cell/Home)

Email: _____

Name of Camp: _____

Child(ren) Registered for Camp:	**Session Date:**	**Cost:**

St. Luke's Sunday School Teacher Signature: _____

Sunday School Superintendent Signature: _____

(For Office Use)

Date Request Received:	**Pastor's Authorization:**	**Scholarship Awarded:**

7/2026

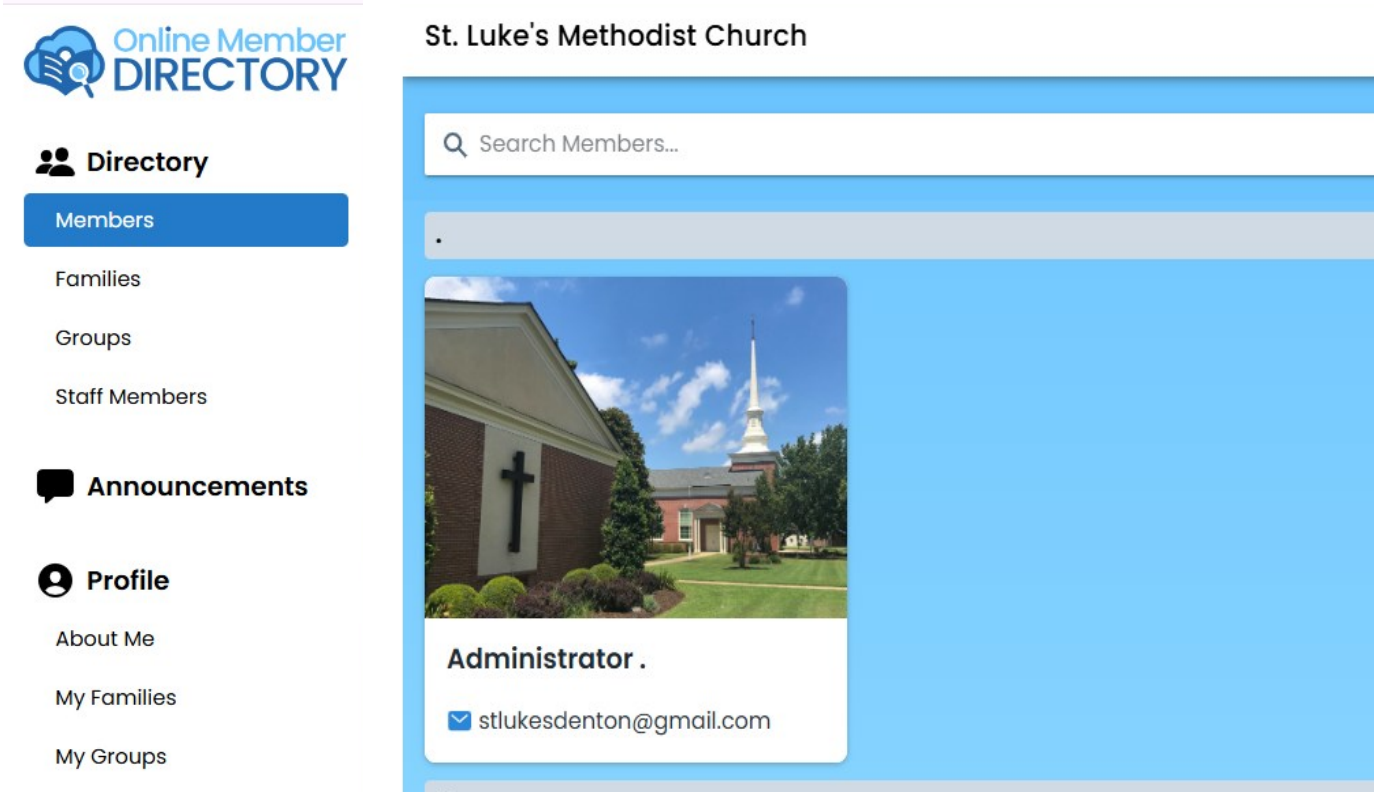
Online Member DIRECTORY

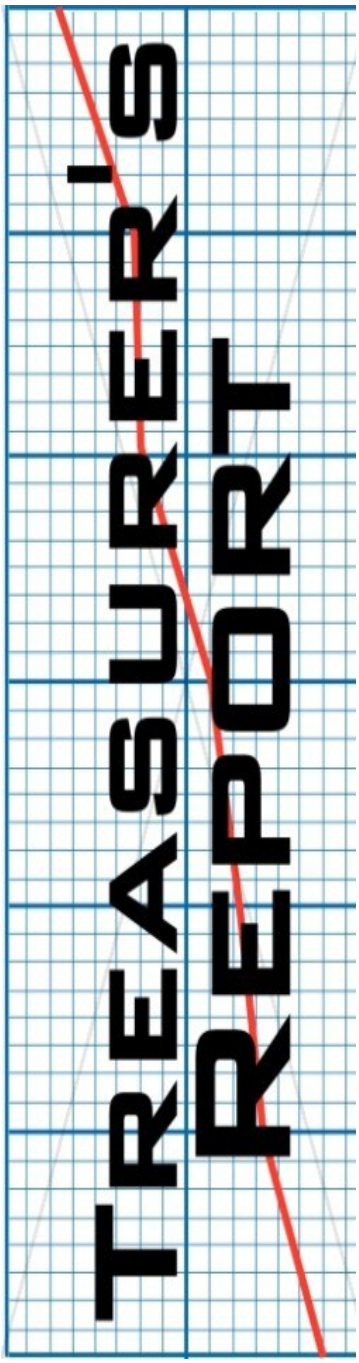
You can join the St. Luke's Online Directory starting June 9th!

On June 9th, members and those in our email database (which includes new attendees and friends of the church) will receive directions to register for the St. Luke's Directory.

For those who do not use email or feel comfortable creating their own profile, a team of volunteers will be ready to assist you with registration. Volunteers will be available between the services on June 14th, 21st, and 28th, to help with registration and to take pictures if you would like one for the directory. You can also stop in the office during office hours.

Once everyone is registered, we will create a printed version of the directory.





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

	Annual Budget	Actual Income & Expenses	Variance	S/B 33.33%	See Notes
Income					
Offerings	200,000	69,693	130,307	34.85%	
Building Use & Cleaning	4,600	840	3,760	18.26%	
Interest Income	200	123	77	61.50%	
Total Income	**204,800**	**70,656**	**134,144**	**34.50%**	A
Expenses					
Pastor Expenses					
Salary	65,700	26,662	39,038	40.58%	B
Benefits	36,625	12,167	24,458	33.22%	
	102,325	**38,829**	**63,496**	**37.95%**	
Staff Expenses					
Salaries	49,600	18,032	31,568	36.35%	*
Benefits	4,300	1,897	2,403	44.12%	*
	53,900	**19,929**	**33,971**	**36.97%**	C
Building & Grounds					
Janitorial Supplies	700	230	470	32.86%	
Building Cleaning Service	11,800	3,017	8,783	25.57%	*
Electric	18,500	13,226	5,274	71.49%	*
Water and Sewer	1,200	660	540	55.00%	
Kitchen Propane	900	396	504	44.00%	
Grass and Shrubbery Maint	3,400	1,125	2,275	33.09%	
Insurance	9,500	4,831	4,669	50.85%	
Maintenance and Repairs	2,900	462	2,438	15.93%	
	48,900	**23,947**	**24,953**	**48.97%**	D
Christian Education/Sunday School					
Christian Education/Sunday	1,500	1,291	209	86.07%	
MYF Program	-	-	-	-	
Worship Mat'ls & Supplies	2,500	892	1,608	35.68%	
Spiritual Life	2,000	667	1,333	33.35%	
Pastor/Organist, Substitute	-	-	-	0.00%	
Stewardship	800	582	218	72.75%	
	6,800	**3,432**	**3,368**	**50.47%**	
Other Operational Expenses					
Accounting & Legal	2,200	-	2,200	0.00%	
Connectional Funding GMC	8,920	2,295	6,625	25.73%	
Equipment Rental & Mainte	4,300	1,317	2,983	30.63%	
Office Supplies	1,400	662	738	47.29%	
Postage	200	78	122	39.00%	
Telephone & Internet	2,700	994	1,706	36.81%	
Miscellaneous	700	170	530	24.29%	
Security System	350	-	350	0.00%	
	20,770	**5,516**	**15,254**	**26.56%**	
Total Expenses	**232,695**	**91,653**	**141,042**	**39.39%**	
Excess Income (Expenses)	**(27,895)**	**(20,997)**	**(6,898)**		

Mission

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.

Opportunities to be Engaged in Mission & Ministries

The work of the Church, and of each individual Christian, is the work of *reconciling the world to God through Jesus Christ*. That "work" (or mission) involves many, many different roles, and we want to encourage and assist each disciple at St. Luke's to find the right fit for using their gifts and talents, so that we, as the church, "worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly."

Where do you belong?

Sunday Worship Support: Liturgists, Ushers, Greeters, Lock-up

Adult Choir (8:30 service)

Ignite projection, sound management

Children's and Youth Programs:

Sunday School (teachers, aides)

VBS (in July)

Youth Group (hosting, helping)

Bible Studies on Sundays & Mondays

Women of Faith & Church Social Events

Men's Breakfast (help make and eat breakfast monthly)

Cards of Comfort (1st Wed. each month send cards to seniors)

Pastoral Care Team (Delivering Care Baskets, Staying Connected with those at home))

Emmaus Pilgrimage or Reunion Group

Blessing Box (stocking it, donating items)

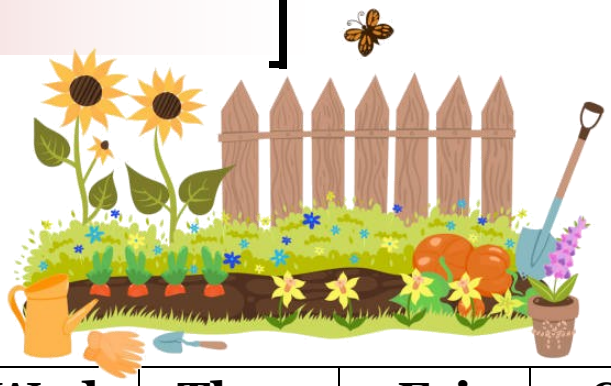
REACH Fund Offerings the last Sunday of the Month (supports six local non-profits)

Prayer Ministry (Mondays 11am)

Trustee Volunteer Team (help with small building repairs and projects)

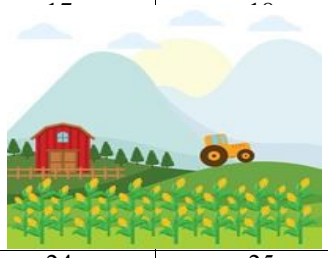
Monthly Church Council Meetings

Finance Team (quarterly overview of church finances)

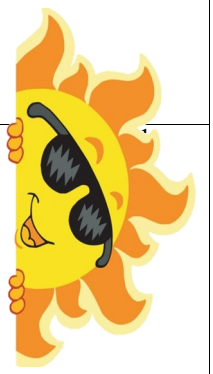


Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2 **6:30 pm Women of Faith Quarterly Meeting**	3 **10am Cards of Comfort** 7pm Praise Band Practice	4 10am OMLG Group	5	6
7 **Graduate Sunday & Communion** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	8	9	10 7pm Praise Band Practice	11 10am OMLG Group	12	13 **9am Emmaus Prayer and Fellowship**
14 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	15	16	17 7pm Praise Band Practice	18 10am OMG Group **7:30pm Church Council**	19 	20
21 **Father's Day Honor Roll** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	22	23	24 7pm Praise Band Practice	25	26	27
28 **REACH Sunday** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	29	30	Jul 1 7pm Praise Band Practice	2	3	4

JULY

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 10am Cards of Comfort 7pm Praise Band Practice	2 10 am OMLG Group	3	
5 **Communion** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	6	7	8 7pm Praise Band Practice	9 10 am OMLG Group	10	11 **9 am Emmaus Fellowship**
12 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	13	14	15 7pm Praise Band Practice	16 10am OMLG Group		
19 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	20	21	22 7pm Praise Band Practice	23 10am OMLG Group	24	25
26 **REACH Sunday** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 10:00 Ignite Worship	27	28	29 7pm Praise Band Practice	30 10am OMLG Group	31	

VBS MONDAY-THURSDAY 5PM-8M



TEAM REPORTS

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Property and Investment Management (No Report)

- Trustees will be meeting on 5/27 and will have a report at the next council meeting.

Mission and Ministry Team (Open Chair, No Report)

Fund Management Team (Bob Willey, Treasurer)

- Went over the monthly report.
- Bob proposed several amendments to the budget passed at Charge Conference in November
    - Added to staff salaries and wage costs to cover Maintenance Manager position (hired in March)
    - Decreased the budget for cleaning services (since the Maintenance Manager is doing the cleaning).
    - Electric cost is much more than expected and using the average monthly cost over the past 12 months, Bob projected an increase to the original budget by $9K.
- Jody Herb made a motion to accept the amended budget, which was seconded by Jason Lindorm and passed voice vote
- Bob reported on his inspection of the financial records in Room 6 (He had been asked to look at them at the last council meeting): There are:
    - 10 boxes of prior year summary sheets (from weekly counting of offerings)
    - 5 boxes of prior year payable records
    - 2 Trustee boxes.
- Bob recommended that the older records be purged (but not trustee records) and he will figure out how to do that. He also is recommends having a policy of record retention and will bring a draft to the next meeting.
- We converted to the online version of Quickbooks and the conversion went smoothly.
- IRS problems are being straightened out (from payroll taxes and issues when we got a new EIN number after disaffiliation).
- Bob is recommending we switch from Burke and Herbert (he has been unable to get online access). After a discussion about the pros and cons of moving banks, Jody Herb made a motion to move the General Fund, Special, Memorial, and Discretionary accounts to PNC, which was seconded by Mark Beaven and passed by a voice vote.

Staff Parish Relations Team (Laura Patrick, Chair)

- Room 6 - Barbara Little and Laura Patrick will move out dried up/old paint to open space in the room. Laura is looking for input from everyone who stores things in there so that it can be reorganized. The goal is to have a shelf/space for everything that needs to be stored.
- CPR is still being scheduled (having a difficult time getting a date that works for everyone!)
- Bruce Golt will schedule pest control quarterly and fire extinguisher inspection annually after getting bids from local companies.

New Business:

- A question came up about 5th Sundays if they are still alternating between fellowship hall and sanctuary. Pastor Dan said 5th Sundays will alternate when it works (there are times it needs to be in the sanctuary because something else is in the hall, like the Church Picnic).
- Pastor Dan hopes to have an update at the next council meeting about efforts to open a school.
- Carrie reported that an Online Directory will launch in June. Council and leadership members gave feedback on the registration directions and process in April, and the directions have been revised to be more clear (copy shared with council). The council viewed what the directory looks like online and went over the timeline for having it complete.

St. Luke's Methodist Church
A Global Methodist Church

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To:

THE VOICE

St. Luke's Methodist Church
June & July 2026

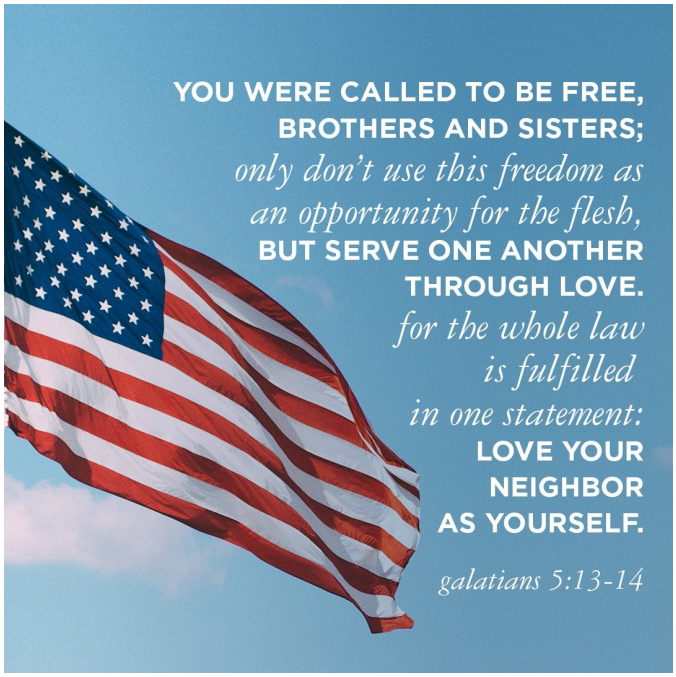
St. Luke's Staff

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 Online at www.stlukesdenton.org

or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/Stlukesmethodist/

YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/channel/UCGrQ5QHraky3SnEIDD8zY9A

Jesus Is Lord!