ST.LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH

THE VOICE

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2026 •
THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST
& BEGINNING OF ADVENT

Musings from Pastor Dan

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In the Apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy, he wrote:

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you have learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be equipped for every good work."

These verses (3:14-17) highlight both the purpose and the substance of God's Word. But what if we don't like what the Bible says? What if its words or ideas make us feel uncomfortable? For some, they think they can simply change, discount, or disregard those things that make them feel uncomfortable. This, of course, is a slippery slope leading people away from God.

Nonetheless, history is rife with people who make every effort to make the Bible say something other than what it does. This is a contemporary problem too.

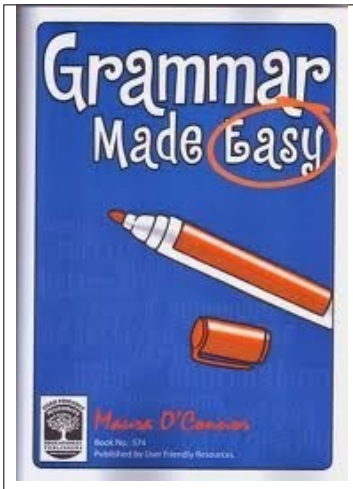
Using the English language, the following illustrates what happens to Christianity when we attempt to make it say what we want it to say.

A group of linguists who call themselves, "The Committee for Easy English" has announced a plan that would simplify the English language so students will not have such a difficult task as learning the current rules of English.

To make the plan easier to implement, the committee recommended a five-year plan to phase in the changes.

In the first year, "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Sertainly, sivil servants will resieve this news with joy.

Also, the hard "c" will be replased with "k". Not only will this klear up konfusion, but keyboards kan have one fewer letter.



There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year when the troublesome “ph” will be replaced by “f”. This will make words like “fotograf” twenty persent shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expected to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible.

We will enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horible mes of silent “e”s in the languag is disgrasful, and they would go.

By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing “th” by “z” and “w” with “v”.

During ze fifz year, ze unesesary “o” kan be dropd from vords containing “ou”, and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

After ze fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru.

The net result of these changes is not an easier English—it is not English at all. It is something else, but it isn’t English.

The same thing happens when we make the Bible say what we want it to say. The net result is something, but it is not Christian.

Pastor Dan

St. Luke’s Methodist Church

A Global Methodist Church

Tuesday, November 10th, at 6pm

CHARGE CONFERENCE

This annual meeting approves Church Council and committee members, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, and approves the pastor’s salary. Our Presiding Elder, Pastor Karen Handy, will preside at this meeting.

Our Shared Life as the Body of Christ

New Member & Anniversary Sunday!

October 25th

Whole Church Worship at 10am

New Member Reception with Lite Fare at 11am

Online Member DIRECTORY

Thank you for joining!!

SAVE THE DATE

Dec 5th —Breakfast with Santa & The Children's Christmas Shoppe

Dec 13th —Sunday School Christmas Program
(10am service in the Sanctuary)

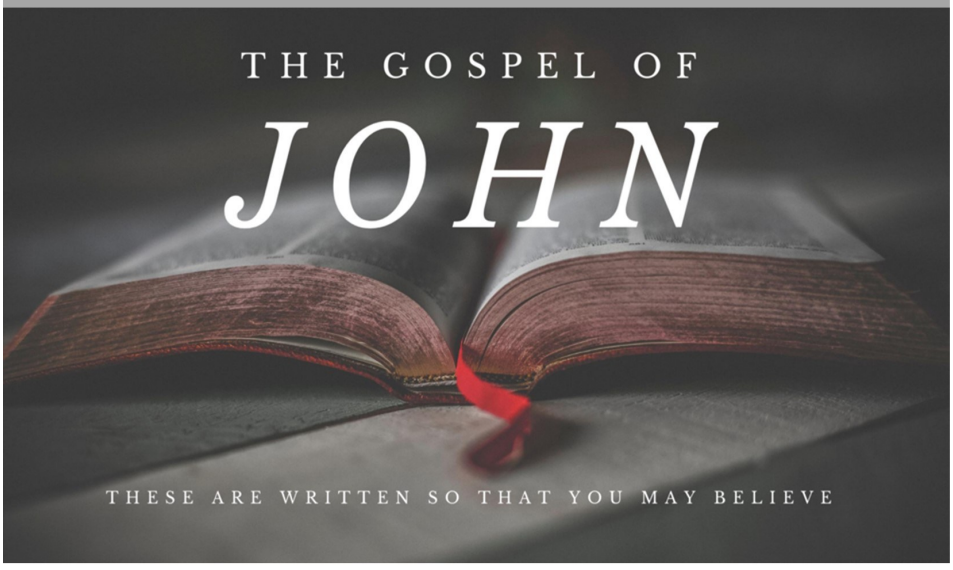
Dec 24th—Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 7pm & 9pm

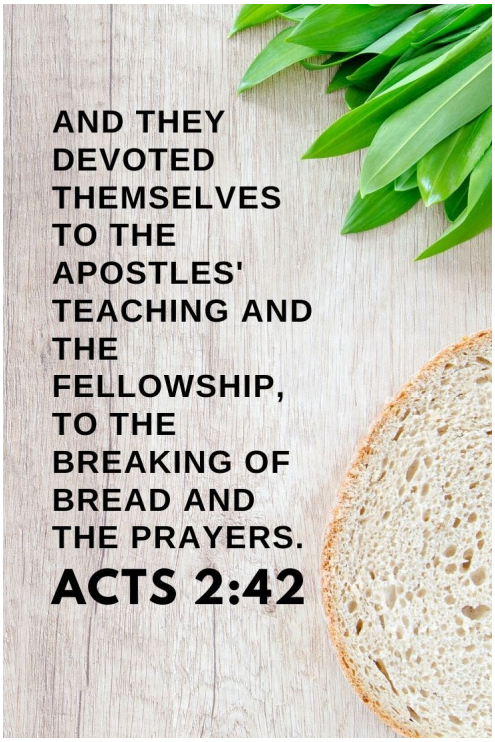
Discipleship and Christian Education

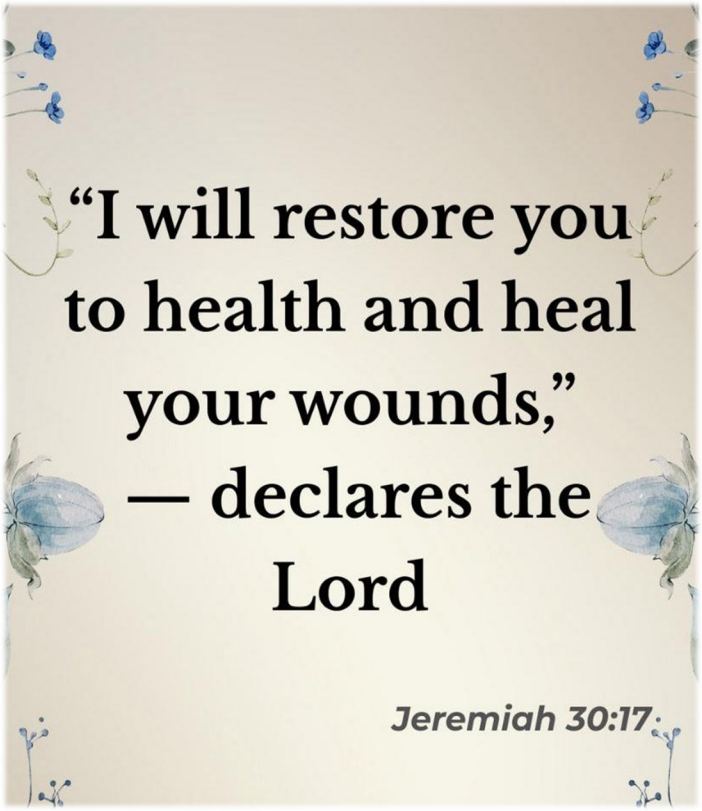
Sunday Programs

Nursery (infant & toddler)	Available during services
Children's Chapel & Choir Preschool through 5th Grade	9:45 am
Sunday School Preschool through 5th Grade	(After Chapel)
MS & HS Youth Class (Feb. & March Confirmation Class)	9:45 am
Adult Sunday Class "Abiding in the Living Presence of God"	9:30 am

Bible Study with Pastor Dan Gedman
Mondays at 10am and 7pm







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 October & November

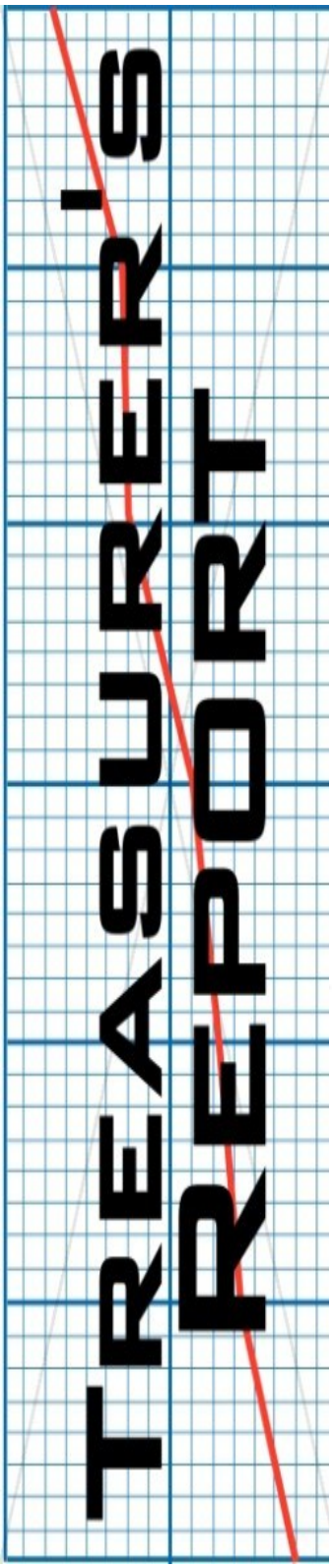
Bronson Farmer-Garce, Cathy Koenik, John R, Bill Neal, Randy Dudurick, Kati Sandlin, Shawn Parks, Doreen Schuman, Don Smith, Mark Soldano, George Lacy, Robin Rankin, Tom & Betty Barwick, Mike Penn, Dr. Ed and Susan Coulston, Terry Benson, Anne Jones, Glenn & Elaine Orme, Laurie & Donnie Swann, Gary Wise, Kenzie MacLean, Chris Wright, Jimmy Tolson, Mariah Farmer-Grace, John and Danielle Stewart, Dave & Jan Almquist, Carol & Lester, Courtney Harrison, and Craig Little.

To add names to prayer concerns, you can use the new prayer email above, call the office (410-479-2171), 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 appreciate any updates.

Please give prayer requests in writing (especially if a request on Sunday should go to the prayer team).

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



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

	Annual Budget	Actual Income & Expenses	Variance	S/B 67%	
Income					
Offerings	200,000	146,248	53,752	73.12%	
Building Use & Cleaning	4,600	1,910	2,690	41.52%	
Interest Income	200	228	(28)	114.00%	
Total Income	**204,800**	**148,386**	**56,414**	**72.45%**	A
Expenses					
Pastor Expenses					
Salary	65,700	42,659	23,041	64.93%	
Benefits	36,625	21,292	15,333	58.14%	
	102,325	**63,951**	**38,374**	**62.50%**	B
Staff Expenses					
Salaries	57,600	37,771	19,829	65.57%	
Benefits	5,000	3,408	1,592	68.16%	
	62,600	**41,179**	**21,421**	**65.78%**	
Building & Grounds					
Janitorial Supplies	700	970	(270)	138.57%	
Building Cleaning Service	2,300	2,567	(267)	111.61%	
Electric	27,500	16,774	10,726	61.00%	
Water and Sewer	1,200	882	318	73.50%	
Kitchen Propane	900	724	176	80.44%	
Grass and Shrubbery Maint	3,400	3,251	149	95.62%	
Insurance	9,500	4,831	4,669	50.85%	
Maintenance and Repairs	2,900	1,605	1,295	55.34%	
	48,400	**31,604**	**16,796**	**65.30%**	C
Christian Education/Sunday School					
Sunday School / VBS	1,500	2,109	(609)	140.60%	
MYF Program	-	-	-	-	
Worship Mat'ls & Supplies	2,500	1,158	1,342	46.32%	
Spiritual Life	2,000	757	1,243	37.85%	
Pastor/Organist, Substitute	-	-	-	0.00%	
Stewardship	800	902	(102)	112.75%	
	6,800	**4,926**	**1,874**	**72.44%**	D
Other Operational Expenses					
Accounting & Legal	2,200	467	1,733	21.23%	
GMC Connectional Funding	8,920	4,590	4,330	51.46%	
Equipment Rental & Maint	4,300	2,378	1,922	55.30%	
Office Supplies	1,400	903	497	64.50%	
Postage	200	161	39	80.50%	
Telephone & Internet	2,700	1,790	910	66.30%	
Miscellaneous	700	1,122	(422)	160.29%	
Security System	350		350	0.00%	
	20,770	**11,411**	**9,359**	**54.94%**	E
Total Expenses	**240,895**	**153,071**	**87,824**	**63.54%**	
Excess Income (Expenses)	**(36,095)**	**(4,685)**	**(31,410)**		

TREASURER'S REPORT
as of August 31, 2026
Notes

General Checking account bank balance 8-31-26 $ 108,815

Comments:

As we move through summer and into fall, the picture of how we will finish the year (fiscally) becomes clearer each month.

The conversion to the new online version of Quickbooks and the switch in our banking relationship are both ongoing.

My supplementary notes:

Income:

A We continue to run ahead of budget in our weekly offerings. This time last year, I was warning that we were significantly behind budget. I have not been tracking the offering this year as closely as last year – I will take a closer look and report back to you next month.

Expenses:

Overall – total actual operating expenses are basically within the budget .

B Pastor Expenses – Appears low because the usual monthly benefit payments had not been made by 8-31. But remember these are the premiums for September.

C Building & Grounds – As a whole, this group of expenses are right on target. But most of the individual line items are very "fluid" and do not accumulate 1/12th each month. Some are seasonal (grass cutting). Others are incurred sporadically throughout the year (water & sewer, propane).

D Christian Education – Right on budget. I changed the title of the first line item to more accurately the expenses that are grouped there. It is over budget - but some of those expenses were funded out of "Special Accts" (not regular giving) and have not worked their way through the system yet.

E Other Operational – A little under budget. Accounting and legal is under due to some confusion on charges and credits on the QuickBooks conversion. GMC Connectional Funding is paid quarterly with the next payment in September.

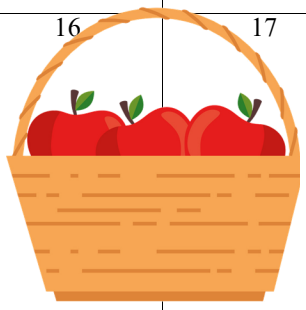
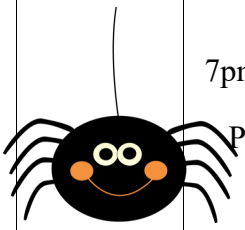
Respectfully submitted,

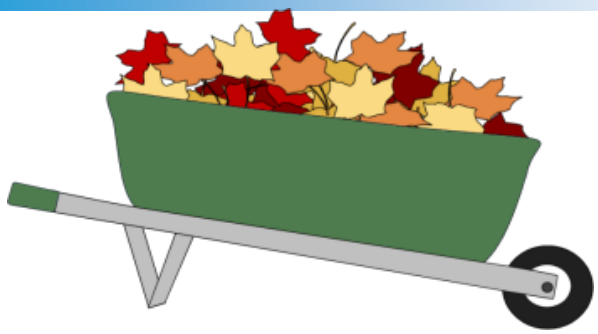
R L Willey

Robert L Willey
Treasurer

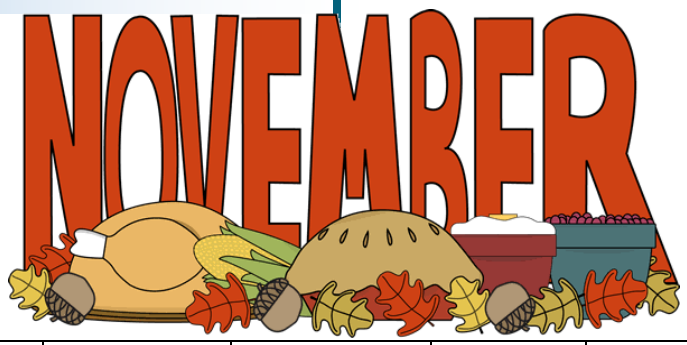
Learn about our GMC denomination and Northeast regional conference!

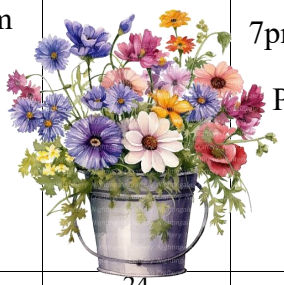
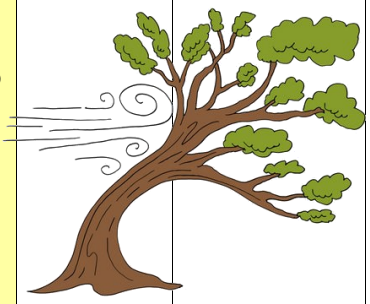
October

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 **8am Men's Breakfast**
4 **Communion** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	5 10am & 7pm Bible Study	6	7 7pm Praise Band Practice	8	9	10 **9am Emmaus Prayer and Fellowship**
11 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	12 10am & 7pm Bible Study	13	14 7pm Praise Band Practice	15 **7:30 pm Church Council**	16 	17
18 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	19 10am & 7pm Bible Study	20	21 7pm Praise Band Practice	22 	23	24
25 **Anniversary & New Member Sunday** 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Worship (Sanctuary) 11:00 Lite Fare Reception (Fellowship Hall)	26 10am & 7pm Bible Study	27 	28 7pm Praise Band Practice	29 	30	31 **8:00am Men's Breakfast** **5pm Trunk or Treat**



NOVEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 **Communion** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	2 10am & 7pm Bible Study	3	4 7pm Praise Band Practice	5 10am OMLG Group	6	7 **8:00am Men's Breakfast**
8 **Veteran's Sunday** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	9 10am & 7pm Bible Study	10 **6pm Annual Church Conference**	11 7pm Praise Band Practice	12 10am OMLG Group	13	14 **9am Emmaus Fellowship**
15 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	16 10am & 7pm Bible Study	17 	18 7pm Praise Band Practice	19 10am OMLG Group **7:30pm Church Council**	20 	21
22 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	23 10am & 7pm Bible Study 	24	25 7pm Praise Band Practice	26 	27	28
29 **First Sunday in Advent & REACH Sunday** 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	30 10am & 7pm Bible Study	Dec 1	2 7pm Praise Band Practice	3 10am OMLG Group	4	5 **9am Breakfast with Santa & Children's Christmas Shoppe**

2026 ANNUAL HOLIDAY NUT SALE

NAME: _____ **PHONE #:**_____

(phone # is required for notification when order is ready for pick up)

Person picking up (only if different than person placing order):_____

The St. Luke's Women of Faith are now accepting orders for holiday nuts.

PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE ONLY FILLING PRE-ORDERS THIS YEAR (and may not have nuts to sell after orders are filled)

Payment MUST accompany your order. Please complete this order form and make your check payable to: **St. Luke's Women of Faith** and submit to the church office. (Mail to 100 S. Fifth Ave., Denton, MD 21629.) The deadline for ordering is **Monday, October 12, 2026.** The nuts will be available for pick-up before Thanksgiving and you will be notified as soon as they arrive.

Selection (all 1 pound bags)	Price Each	Quantity	Total Cost
Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves	$12.00		
Fancy Large Pecan Pieces	$11.00		
English Walnut Halves	$10.00		
Roasted & Salted Mixed Nuts	$13.00		
Roasted & Salted Cashews	$11.00		
Roasted & Salted in Shell Pistachios	$13.00		
Honey Roasted Peanuts	$10.00		
Praline Pecans	$13.00		
Buttered Cinnamon Pecan Halves	$13.00		
Hunter's Trail Mix	$10.00		
Dark Chocolate Almonds	$13.00		
Milk Chocolate Almonds	$13.00		
Milk Chocolate Cranberries	$13.00		
Dark Chocolate Sea Salt Caramel Balls	$13.00		
GRAND TOTAL		#	$

* Please choose selections carefully as all sales are final

Check amount $ _____

Cash amount $_____

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
October & November 2026

Jesus Is Lord!

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 Website

or visit us on our Facebook Page
or YouTube Channel