ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

# THE VOICE

OCTOBER 2022 THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

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## Musings from Pastor Dan

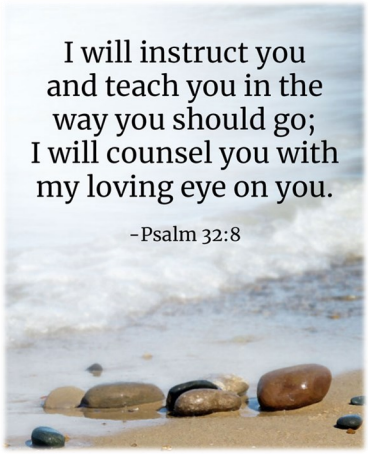
The book of Psalms is an extraordinary series of blessings given by God that exhibits a remarkable timelessness spanning millenniums. Its constituent prayers and songs have provided inspiration, peace, tranquility, and wonder for as long as they have existed.

They are, in essence, prayers that God has given us to return to Him both as a part of our daily prayer and when our own thoughts and words fail us. The Psalms can and should be considered as another form of God-given grace.

In the times in which we find ourselves overwhelmed by life's experiences and the constant drum beat of bad news, where do you turn? It seems that we often neglect our most blessed resources even though most Christians would likely say that we turn to the Word of God in times of distress. Sometimes, however, we are not sure where in the Bible to turn.

Throughout the history of God's people, it has been the Psalms that have been the best resource for those experiencing hopelessness, discouragement, and distress.

Athanasius (d. 373) wrote of the Psalms: "from the Psalms those who want to do so can learn the emotions and dispositions of the soul, finding in them also the therapy and correction suited for each emotion. If the point needs to be made more forcefully, let us say that the entire Holy Scripture is a teacher of virtues and the truths of faith, while the Book of Psalms possesses somehow the perfect image for the soul's course of life."



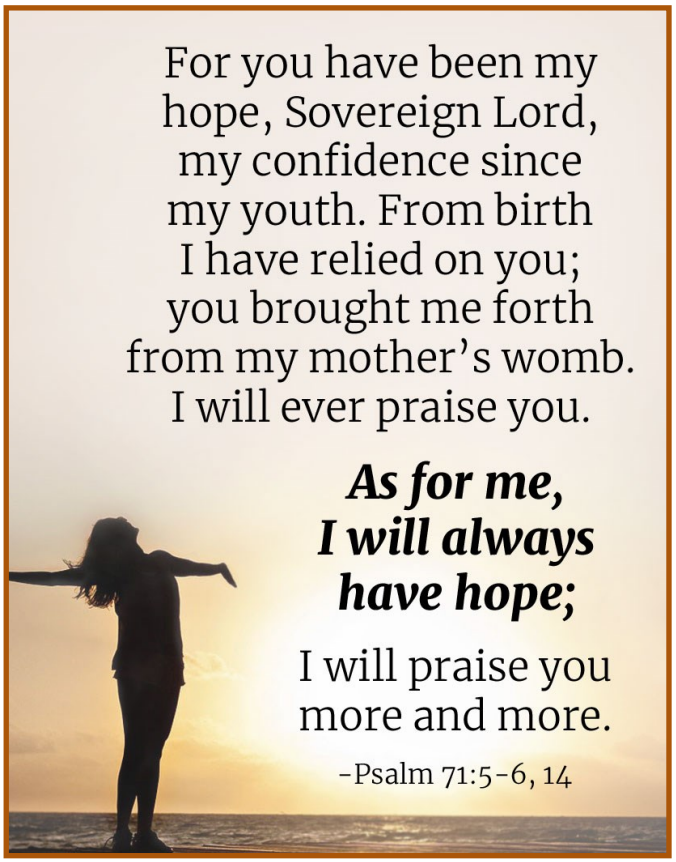
The Psalms open our minds, hearts and mouths with just words we need to find relief. As the psalmists were inspired by God, they were expressing their deepest feelings. Those same feelings are the ones we feel as well. God knew it and so caused these words of prayer to be written. They present a full anatomy of the state of the soul, even the darker side that is so often illuminated by the travails of life.

My O.T. professor, Dr. David Dorsey, noted: "The emotions expressed in the Psalms…run the full gamut from ecstatic joy and contentment to anger, loneliness, fear, and despair. The psalms reflect a God who hears the prayers of individuals in whatever circumstances they find themselves…He is a person's greatest source of hope and joy."

And so, whether it is a part of your daily prayer or when you are in a dry time and don't know what to pray or you are distressed by life's circumstances, turn to God's prayers that he gave to us to pray to Him, the Psalms. You will find an amazing and joyful restoration of peace that only God himself can provide.

Peace.

Pastor Dan



# Our Shared Life As the Body of Christ

**October 30th**
**10am Service**
Followed by a coffee social

## St. Luke's Methodist Church Share Shop

*Free clothing and household items for those in need*

*Shop and stay for "Breaking Bread" @ 11am-*
*A simple meal and time of fellowship*

**Saturday, October 15th, 9am-12pm**

**Donations of gently used items in usable condition accepted Oct. 10th—14th**

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

## Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Men's Breakfast Nov 5th @ 8am

Exercise Class Mon & Wed @ 5pm

Cards of Comfort 1st Wed @ 1pm

Prayer Fellowship Wed @10am

**Nov. 19th - Share Shop & Breaking Bread**
**Nov. 19th—Operation Christmas Child Packing Party**
**Nov. 19th—UMW Bruch @ Laura Patrick's**
**Dec 2nd—Breakfast with Santa**
**Sun., Dec 18th— Living Creche Program @ 10am Service**

# Faith Formation

## COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

# JOIN US! AS WE STUDY GOD'S WORD

**Meets:** On Thursdays from 9:30-11:30

**Starting:** October 27, 2022 to study James and then Revelation

**Location:** St. Mark's United Methodist Church
100 Peachblossom Road
Easton, MD 21601

**For more information:**

Go to https://dover.cbsclass.org to register for the Easton Remote Core for both men and women

Please reach out to Sharon Ekedahl with any questions:
1-202-491-9393 or smekedahl@gmail.com

## 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

## Youth Group—*A Place to Belong*

Growing as God's Children

Formed in Faith

Adult Sunday School

## The Daniel Dilemma

How to
Stand Firm & Love Well
in a Culture
of Compromise

# Fall Family Festival

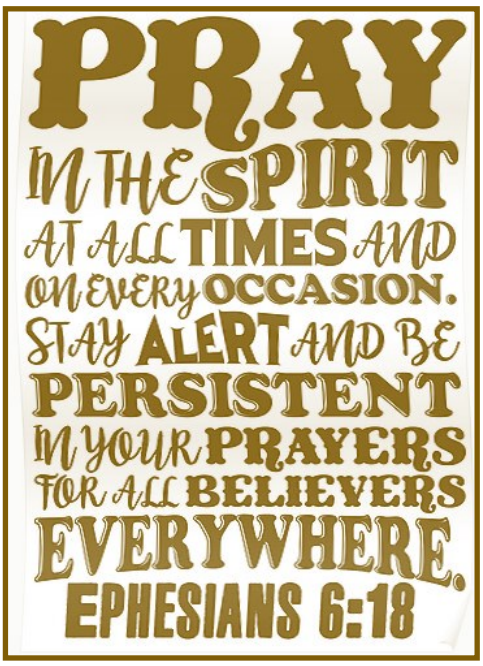
#sofun

#soblessed

## "Be Shepherds of God's Flock..."

For years, we have kept track of our parishioners who are no longer able to physically come to church but still need the *vital connection with* and *care from* their family at church - We want them to know they are not alone. One way we do this is through our Prayer Team and Chain, and another is through the "Cards of Comfort" ministry, which meets once a month to send cards of encouragement.

This month we will expand into a **Pastoral Care Ministry,** a team of people headed up by Sherry Baker who will make phone calls and visit those who are homebound or in senior living communities. We are seeking volunteers to join this important work of compassion and connection. (Pastoral Care training will be provided) Please contact either Pastor Dan or the office to volunteer,




O Savior, Sanctifier, and Healer,
we intercede for
our sisters and brothers.
In this season of suffering, we pray that
recovery will come speedily.
May this be a time
when their faith is strengthened,
their endurance and the fruit of the Spirit
grow abundantly,
and where their outlook becomes
a confident and cheerful
expectation of Your healing.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## Prayer Concerns for October 2022

Sylvia Hollland, Brenda Rhodes, Archie Carroll, Brenda Wooden, Cali Anderson, Amy Lee, Nicole Riddleburger's father, Kara Saathoff, Theda Henry, Donna Peltzer, Monsie, Tiffany Caton & family, Ziggy Zurek-Wellen, Emmary Sweeney, Lynn Gulrich, Marty Harris, Owen Wevodau, Pastor Larry and Brenda Pritchett, Kay Koenig, Kimberly Wooters, Jason Lee, Grace Clopper, Wanda Ewing, Chelsea Abrams, Joe Thomas, Lisa Barge, Sandy Stubbs, Janet Bassford, Glenn and Cricket Williams, Freddie Adams, Jr, Jimmy and Diane Johnson, Tina Kennedy, Grea Curtis, Alan Flynn, Pastor Greg Barrier, Potsy and Kelly Kemp, our country, and the people of Ukraine.

**Sympathy to the family and friends of** those who have passed away since the September issue of the Voice including Kenneth Johnson, Ariel Robbins, Rhett Tull, Linda Mann, and those who are being persecuted and killed around the world.

**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!*

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| **Regular Office Hours Mon.—Thurs. 9am—4pm (Closed 12-1 Lunch)** | | | | | | 1 |
| 2<br>Communion<br>8:30 Trad'l Worship<br>9:30 Adult SS Class<br>9:30 Children's Chapel & Cherub Choir<br>9:40 Ignite Worship<br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Trad'l Worship<br>5:00 Youth Group | 3<br>12pm AA<br>5:30 pm Exercise<br>7:30pm NA | 4<br>7pm AA<br>7pm Praise Band Practice | 5<br>10am Prayer Team<br>1pm Cards of Care<br>5:30pm Exercise<br>6pm Bells Practice<br>7:30pm Choir Practice | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9<br>8:30 Trad'l Worship<br>9:30 Adult SS Class<br>9:30 Children's Chapel & Cherub Choir<br>9:40 Ignite Worship<br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Trad'l Worship<br>5:00 Youth Group | 10<br>12pm AA<br>5:30pm Exercise<br>7:30pm NA | 11<br>DEADLINE CHARGE CONF REPORTS<br>7pm AA<br>7pm Praise Band Practice | 12<br>10am Prayer Team<br>5:30pm Exercise<br>6pm Bells Practice<br>7:30pm Choir Practice | 13 | 14 | 15<br>9am-12pm<br>**Share Shop & Breaking Bread** |
| 16<br>8:30 Trad'l Worship<br>9:30 Adult SS Class<br>9:30 Children's Chapel & Cherub Choir<br>9:40 Ignite Worship<br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Trad'l Worship<br>5:00 Youth Group | 17<br>12pm AA<br>5:30 Exercise<br>7:30pm NA | 18<br>7pm AA<br>7pm Praise Band Practice | 19<br>10am Prayer Team<br>5:30pm Exercise<br>6pm Bells Practice<br>7:30pm Choir Practice | 20<br>7:30pm Leadership Meeting | 21<br>Voice Deadline | 22 |
| 23<br>8:30 Trad'l Worship<br>9:30 Adult SS Class<br>9:30 Children's Chapel & Cherub Choir<br>9:40 Ignite Worship<br>9:45 Sunday School<br>11:00 Trad'l Worship<br>5:00 Youth Group | 24<br>12pm AA<br>5:30pExercise<br>7:30pm NA | 25<br>7pm AA<br>7pm Praise Band Practice | 26<br>10am Prayer Team<br>5:30pm Exercise<br>6pm Bells Practice<br>7:30pm Choir Practice | 27<br>**6pm CHARGE CONFERENCE** | 28 | 29 |
| 30<br>**Anniversary Sunday 10am Service Communion** | Anniversary Sunday Worship is in the FH | | | | | 5<br>**8am Men's Breakfast** |

## Summary of Leadership Meeting 9/16/2022

**Team Reports:**

*Property and Investment Management Team*

- All tile will be stripped and waxed this fall.
- In the spring, the Fellowship Hall floor is scheduled to be replaced.
- We received a contract on the sale of the Parsonage and are in the ratification process (Likely to be ratified and settled by the end of the year.)

*Mission and Ministry Team*

- Becky Zinser is organizing the Christmas Program "Living Creche" for Dec 18th. We will have one worship service at 10am, which will involve lots and lots of children & adults.
- OCC has $2000 in its funds and is set up for a packing party in November; Youth Group will help out with packing
- Sherry Baker is joining the Ministry team as the lead for a new Pastoral Care Ministry which will oversee the Shepherd's List and organize volunteers for pastoral phone calls and visits to those in our parish family who can no longer come to church.
- New Ideas for events from Paula Penn (who will organize them): Trunk or Treat Oct 31st; Hospice Christmas Tree event.
- Youth Group Update from Garrett Shull
    - Kick off on Sunday (Fall Family Festival). Garrett went over what the event will look like
    - Oct 2nd starts weekly youth group meetings (still need a few women to help out)
    - Some upcoming events: Bonfire in Oct, movie night in Nov.
    - Will connect with FCA in schools and other church youth groups to widen the relationships between St. Luke's youth and others they know at school
    - *Will the Youth Group be attending the Rally?* Yes, but not the OC UMC Conference (which was cancelled for 2023). He will research other options for a youth retreat/ conference/rally.

*Fund Management Team*

- Looked at and discussed combining funds that are the same in both Special and Memorial accounts (MYF, Camp Pecometh, Sunday School, Nursery)
- Discussed MYF funds (some of which was originally given for youth mission trips, some of which is undesignated) and using those funds for restarting of the youth group this year. (No Youth Group = No Mission Trips)
- A motion was made by Linda Turner to combine like accounts into Special Accounts and to use MYF monies for the youth group as needed this year; Jim Orr seconded and the motion passed.

*Staff Parish Relations Team* (no report)

**New Business:**

- Charge Conference is Oct 27th at 6pm. Reports are due to the office by Oct 11th.
- Congregation Meetings dates will be published in the Oct. Voice and all church communications. The purpose of meetings is to allow people to ask questions about current tensions in the UMC and to get information.
- The Anniversary Sunday service will be held in Fellowship Hall at 10am on Oct 30th.
- Simple Blast shut down August 1st and is no longer available to make pre-recorded calls. Carrie recommended waiting for the online directory up and running since that has a feature to allow text and phone notifications. If someone wants to research other options and volunteer to input data (200+ names & telephone numbers), that would be greatly appreciated.
- Will publish 2022 and 2023 "Fifth Sunday" Combined Service Dates in the Voice, on the website, and in all church communications.

**Monthly Financial Report**

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

## For Period January through December 2022 as of August 31, 2022

| Description | Annual Budget 2022 | Actual Income or Expense To Date | Variance | S/B 66% | Budget through August 2022 | Actual Income or Expense To Date | Variance | S/B 100% |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income** | | | | | | | | |
| Offerings | 251,813.00 | 161,436.50 | 90,376.50 | 64.11% | 167,875.33 | 161,436.50 | 6,438.83 | 96.16% |
| Offerings - Sunday School | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00% | 66.67 | 0.00 | 66.67 | 0.00% |
| Interest Income | 30.00 | 25.76 | 4.24 | 85.87% | 20.00 | 25.76 | (5.76) | 128.80% |
| Building Use | 4,000.00 | 3,825.00 | 175.00 | 95.63% | 2,666.67 | 3,825.00 | (1,158.33) | 143.44% |
| **Total Income** | **255,943.00** | **165,287.26** | **90,655.74** | **64.58%** | **149,300.08** | **165,287.26** | **5,341.41** | **110.71%** |
| **Expenses** | | | | | | | | |
| **Pastor Expenses** | | | | | | | | |
| Salary | 59,740.00 | 39,826.64 | 19,913.36 | 66.67% | 39,826.67 | 39,826.64 | 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 | 14,128.00 | 4,748.00 | 74.85% | 12,584.00 | 14,128.00 | (1,544.00) | 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 | 6,531.60 | 3,221.40 | 66.97% | 6,502.00 | 6,531.60 | (29.60) | 100.46% |
| Pastor Expenses - other | | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| **Total Pastor Expenses** | **88,369.00** | **60,486.24** | **27,882.76** | **68.45%** | **58,912.67** | **60,486.24** | **(1,573.57)** | **102.67%** |
| **Staff Expenses** | | | | | | | | |
| Staff Salaries | 77,254.00 | 39,852.16 | 37,401.84 | 51.59% | 51,502.67 | 39,852.16 | 11,650.51 | 77.38% |
| Wage and Tax Expenses | 7,725.00 | 3,814.52 | 3,910.48 | 49.38% | 5,150.00 | 3,814.52 | 1,335.48 | 74.07% |
| Worker's Compensation | 1,000.00 | 1,037.00 | (37.00) | 103.70% | 666.67 | 1,037.00 | (370.33) | 155.55% |
| Expenses - other | | | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| **Total Staff Expenses** | **85,979.00** | **44,703.68** | **41,275.32** | **51.99%** | **57,319.33** | **44,703.68** | **12,615.65** | **77.99%** |
| **Other Operational Expenses** | | | | | | | | |
| Accounting & Legal | 800.00 | 1,148.11 | (348.11) | 143.51% | 533.33 | 1,148.11 | (614.78) | |
| Annual Conference expense | 500.00 | 150.00 | 350.00 | 30.00% | 333.33 | 150.00 | 183.33 | 45.00% |
| Christian Education/Sunday School | 1,200.00 | 188.23 | 1,011.77 | 15.69% | 800.00 | 188.23 | 611.77 | 23.53% |
| Conference Apportionments | 22,868.00 | 12,777.00 | 10,091.00 | 55.87% | 15,245.33 | 12,777.00 | 2,468.33 | 83.81% |
| Easton District Office | 1,372.00 | 1,343.00 | 29.00 | 97.89% | 914.67 | 1,343.00 | (428.33) | 146.83% |
| Janitorial Supplies | 800.00 | 609.89 | 190.11 | 76.24% | 533.33 | 609.89 | (76.56) | 114.35% |
| Electricity/Oil | 15,700.00 | 9,318.65 | 6,381.35 | 59.35% | 10,466.67 | 9,318.65 | 1,148.02 | 89.03% |
| Equipment Rental & Maintenance | 4,400.00 | 2,271.36 | 2,128.64 | 51.62% | 2,933.33 | 2,271.36 | 661.97 | 77.43% |
| Kitchen/ParsonageFuel | 2,200.00 | 1,938.44 | 261.56 | 88.11% | 1,466.67 | 1,938.44 | (471.77) | 132.17% |
| Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance | 3,500.00 | 3,100.00 | 400.00 | 88.57% | 2,333.33 | 3,100.00 | (766.67) | 132.86% |
| Insurance | 10,000.00 | 8,984.00 | 1,016.00 | 89.84% | 6,666.67 | 8,984.00 | (2,317.33) | 134.76% |
| Maintenance and Repairs | 5,200.00 | 1,639.65 | 3,560.35 | 31.53% | 3,466.67 | 1,639.65 | 1,827.02 | 47.30% |
| Miscellaneous | 700.00 | 0.00 | 700.00 | 0.00% | 466.67 | 0.00 | 466.67 | 0.00% |
| Music Committee | 800.00 | 417.98 | 382.02 | 52.25% | 533.33 | 417.98 | 115.35 | 78.37% |
| MYF Program | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 0.00% | 133.33 | 0.00 | 133.33 | 0.00% |
| Office Supplies | 1,500.00 | 504.48 | 995.52 | 33.63% | 1,000.00 | 504.48 | 495.52 | 50.45% |
| Postage | 1,300.00 | 356.87 | 943.13 | 27.45% | 866.67 | 356.87 | 509.80 | 41.18% |
| Pastor/Organist, Substitutes | | | 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% |
| Stewardship | 1,300.00 | 1,276.34 | 23.66 | 98.18% | 866.67 | 1,276.34 | (409.67) | 147.27% |
| Telephone & Internet | 2,700.00 | 2,058.59 | 641.41 | 76.24% | 1,800.00 | 2,058.59 | (258.59) | 114.37% |
| Water and Sewer | 1,755.00 | 531.20 | 1,223.80 | 30.27% | 1,170.00 | 531.20 | 638.80 | 45.40% |
| Spiritual Life | 1,800.00 | 1,615.40 | 184.60 | 89.74% | 1,200.00 | 1,615.40 | (415.40) | 134.62% |
| Worship Materials | 1,000.00 | 49.90 | 950.10 | 4.99% | 666.67 | 49.90 | 616.77 | 7.49% |
| **Total Operational Expenses** | **81,595.00** | **50,279.09** | **31,315.91** | **61.62%** | **54,396.67** | **50,279.09** | **4,117.58** | **92.43%** |
| **Total Expenses** | **255,943.00** | **155,469.01** | **100,473.99** | **60.74%** | **170,628.67** | **155,469.01** | **15,159.66** | **91.12%** |
| **Net Income over Expenses** | **0.00** | **9,818.25** | **(9,818.25)** | | **(21,328.58)** | **9,818.25** | **(9,818.25)** | |

### *5th Sunday Dates*

Oct. 30th (Anniversary Sun)
Dec 18th (Living Creche Program)
Dec 25th - 11am Christmas
Jan 29th
April 30th
July 30th
Oct 29th (Anniversary Sun)
Dec 31st - 11am Service

In each month that has five Sundays, we designate the ***fifth Sunday*** as a time for the whole St. Luke's Family to worship together. We do this for two important reasons:

- To reconnect with our brothers and sisters who may worship at other services and have the chance to meet newcomers (and prevent our church from becoming three separate families!)
- And to provide a bit of relief to Pastor Dan, who preaches three times on those other four Sundays.

*"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42)*

This is our annual parish meeting to hear reports from leadership teams and vote on the 2023 budget and new leadership positions.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my pajama drive for His Hope Haven. Over 60 pairs of pajamas were donated to the Shelter, most of which came from St. Luke's!

Joanna Schoonover

## UMW News

The UMW is selling nuts, to be delivered before Thanksgiving. Please see the order form in the weekly news or pick up a form at church. Orders and payment are due by October 11.

The Cards of Care group meets the first Wednesday of each month to write greeting cards. The group is in need of Thanksgiving cards to send to residents of the Denton nursing homes. If you are able to donate any Thanksgiving cards, or cards to send to our veterans for Veterans' Day, please drop them off at the church office or to Mrs. Bette Shull. (No other cards are needed at this time). Thank you ! And if you would like to help write cards, drop-ins are wel-

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will soon be ready to take home, fill, and return for dedication on Sunday, Nov. 20th.

Volunteers are needed for St. Luke's fourth *Operation Christmas Child Pizza & Shoebox Packing Party* to be held on **Saturday, November 19th, from 12pm until 4pm.** (This year we will work in Rooms 1&3.)

**Online shoppers**, be on the lookout for an **Amazon wish list** for St. Luke's Shoebox Packing Party via St. Luke's FaceBook page and the weekly news email.

Please help St. Luke's send Love in a shoebox!

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 October 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