

How Much Is The Price of Admission

Romans 8: 32: “He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

Have you noticed these days the cost of a movie? Seventeen dollars a ticket! And just imagine if you are the parent of one of those young people who is so crazy about a movie that they want to see it two, three or even four times in a row! You might as well be making an investment in their college education.

Lots of occasions in our culture are “pay as you go . . .” You show up and pay for the privilege of entering into a meal out, a movie, a game of laser tag or a concert. The price of admission is what you pay at the door. This concept is easy to understand and we tend to function off of this assumption of how things work in our busy society.

But, the church is not like the world. I was at the Conference Office this past week and bumped into the former treasurer. With the nearing of a historic snowstorm, he said to me, “Missing a Sunday isn’t helpful for the church budget, is it, Lisa? Especially when people sometimes think of their offering as the price of admission.” And by this he meant, if our giving corresponds to our attendance, then it is a testimony to our own consistency or inconsistency in terms of worship.

But if what we give to God is an offering to the One who creates and saves us, then our giving is to be a declaration not of our own consistency or inconsistency, but to the reliability and constancy of God. Let us try to imitate God, in upholding those in need and giving thanks for the help God has given to us each day of our lives, by faithfully offering to Him, a portion of our blessings.

If we are to do that, then we move from a sporadic pattern of giving when we are here, to giving to God's Glory whether or not we are in attendance each Sunday, whether or not we are on vacation, whether or not we experience a historic snowstorm. Such giving as this tries to imitate not just the consistency, but, too, the constancy of God.

And here is where the theological lesson of this unexpected analogy becomes clear. What is the greatest place or event or benefit into which you and I will ever seek admission? It's not Buckingham Palace or the White House or the speech of the finest leader living. No, it is admission into the Kingdom which is eternal, into the fellowship of saints that is unending, and the heaven which Christ gives to us.

And it is ours, we know, not because it is free, but because Christ has paid the cost of our admission. He's gotten us a ticket. He's saved us a place. All this is something we could never gain with all the riches we ever might have. It is too costly, and the cost has been paid by Christ, who died on the Cross though he knew no sin, that we who sin might know Glory.

If we understand this, then, our giving is more than a donation we make toward a church budget on the Sunday we attend. It is not admission at all. It is a way of adoring and thanking the Christ who has admitted us into life everlasting. Might what our Lord has done, profoundly affect not just what we give, but the way we give it—and not just gifts we offer in hand, but, too, those from our hearts.

As the New Year begins, and as Lent nears, might we be constant in offering ourselves to God, as God is constant in offering us eternity.

Lenten Blessings,
Pastor Lisa

A Note of Thanksgiving

One cannot but help declare how well God provides for St. Luke's, and how much God has us in his care. When we found ourselves in need of a Director of Music, God provided Dixie Bowman, one of our own members, to play for the early service, and Ms. Laurel Jones as an interim director to play and direct for the 11 o'clock service.

St. Luke's is now blessed by God to have found Mr. Robert "Bob" Ford, an accomplished and professional Director of Music who has served the churches of the Richmond area for decades. In addition, Bob arrived at St. Luke's knowing quite a few of us who have ties to one of his former churches, Welborne UMC.

For Pastor Lisa and the others who all have some roots there, this means we have welcomed an old and dear friend. For the rest of us, it means we are overjoyed to receive a new friend! At a reception on the 17th, the congregation was amazed by his playing during the worship services, and greeted Bob afterward, to discover how very friendly, cordial and light-hearted he is. So, we say to Bob, "What a friend we have in Jesus!" and you are he! Welcome to the St. Luke's family, Bob!!

Lenten Book Club

This Flowing Toward Me: A Story of God Arriving in Strangers

We Live in a Time of Refugees. That's all we hear on the news. Their plight conflicts with our fears oftentimes. But it is a good Lenten discipline to consider the struggle of the refugee, for God's people have known what it is to be without home and homeland.

Our Lenten Book is not the usual Bible Study, but a short novella, about Sister Mary Lacey. In 1979, she responded to a random bulletin board posting, and this would ultimately change her life and the lives of countless refugees. Come learn a story of transformation, Christian hospitality, and shared hope.

This Lenten Book Club will meet at Karen's Diner, 3511 Courthouse Road Richmond, VA 23236 on Tuesday's at noon. Come to have fellowship and study, along with food, or just coffee. See you there!

Super Bowl Sunday

For February 7th, Super Bowl Sunday, please bring a can of soup to church! Let us turn Super Bowl Sunday into a Super-bowl Sunday in Mission for the Belmont Food Pantry! This effort, led by our youth, is for the whole church family to share in! Just imagine if everyone brings in 1 or 2 or 3 cans of soup this Sunday!

Easter Egg Hunt

The Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 20th, at 4 p.m., at Rockwood Park this year. We would like to invite the whole church family to come and bring a finger food or a plate of cookies to share. This is an opportunity to meet new friends who just happen to be there and to invite our own friends and neighbors! Join in this church event out in the community! This is how we reach new people!

Chefs Needed

Volunteer Chefs Needed! Would you like to donate a crock-pot of soup for our Youth Soup-er Luncheon on March 6th? Just volunteer to the church office, and we will let the youth know you are helping out! Chili, chicken, or beef stew, are among just a few of the possibilities!

Thanks To:

Donna Miller for arranging the reception for Bob Ford on January 17th, and thanks to all who prepared food!

Wilmer Downs and Clinton Gary, who realized we need to cover old openings left when the basement furnace was replaced by a new heat pump.

Everyone who participated in the Christmas Youth Talent Show, and especially to Nancy Taylor, its emcee.

Thanks to the Bells, the Chancel Choir, the Children's Choir, and Steve and Andi Taylor for wonderful music for our celebration of Christ's birth.

Thanks to Becky, that decorative elf, who makes all of our fellowship meals and receptions so inviting with her tinsel and finery!

To David and Laurie Hay for renewed acolyte training accomplished in December!

Thanks to everyone who attended District Training: Jane Barto, Bobbie Sturm, Andrew Russell, Chris Halloran, Scottie Kyle, Woody Smart, Marcia Grubbs, David Hay, Laura Hay, Ruth Wickstrom, Rachel Kaeser, Carolyn Beeckler, Tom Proffitt, Chris deKrafft, Rebecca Morris, Ray Kyle, Rhea Strum, Bill Brown.

Sign-Up

Sign-Up Sheets on Bulletin Board going into the Sanctuary for Chaliceers, Lay Readers and Sound Technicians. Please review and sign up.

Greetings

Greetings and salutations from your newly appointed director of music/organist, Bob Ford. Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never bro't to mind? It might be a little late for "Auld Lang Syne" but returning to Chesterfield county brings back many wonderful memories while serving your sister church on Providence road for eleven years. It's great returning to this side of the river where staff, choirs and congregation welcome you so warmly. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Ringers, singers, office staff and pre-school teachers have rolled out the red carpet and the "Walk" seems to be an endless one.

I am inviting members of St. Luke's to "Walk" up to me and permit me to enlist you as a "get to know Bob" participant in our nine-week pre-Easter handbell or chancel choir ministry. This will involve four Thursday evening rehearsals in February and three in March. Eighth and ninth weeks are the culminating Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services of triumph and resurrection. You all are scheduled-tight people who are unable to make a long-term commitment to weekly choir rehearsals and Sunday morning choir participation. Please prayerfully consider our Easter choir participation for nine weeks. We will not pressure you for a longer commitment. Let's all "Walk" with God in this Lenten journey with a triumphant conclusion. — Bob Ford



Welcome Bob Ford, St. Luke's new and wonderful Director of Music! A Goochland native, Bob has been a resident of Richmond and Henrico for several decades. He became a resident of the greater metropolitan area upon completion of military duty as an Army Bandsman. Prior to this he completed undergraduate college training in piano, organ and sacred music. His hands-on experience includes music retailing associate, word processing, pipe organ technician and vocal coach/teacher. He currently maintains an active traveling keyboard studio. Having served United Methodist and Baptist churches for several decades; he is at home directing choirs from the keyboard and assisting in the leadership of the weekly worship experience. SOLI DEO GLORIA!

A Time to be Neighborly

During Lent this year, St. Luke's and the Lutheran Church of our Savior are seeking to be neighborly. Our first sharing of worship space when LCOS had its sanctuary painted was such a positive experience.

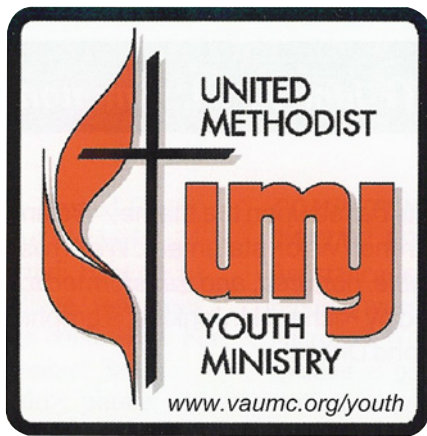
Now, we would like to gather not only in the same space but for the same worship, to share together as the Body of Christ across denominational lines. This Lent, we look forward to shared times of worship and witness during Holy Week.

On Maundy Thursday, March 24th, in the evening, we will gather at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior (LCOS), 9601 Hull Street Rd, Richmond, VA 23236 for 7 o'clock evening worship. Pastor Lisa will preach and Pastor Katie Pocalyko will preside.

On Good Friday, March 25th, we will welcome those from the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, to worship here, at 7 pm, as we mark the sacrifice of Christ for us upon the Cross. Pastor Katie will preach here and Pastor Lisa will lead the liturgy.

Be sure to be a part of this ecumenical and worshipful gathering, as we assemble. Let us enjoy the welcome of our nearest Christian congregation and extend them our welcome as well, as we thank God for the gift of His Son!





Upcoming Youth Events and Activities

- Feb. 7: Valentine's Art/ Soup can collection for Belmont Food Pantry
- Feb. 14: Valentine Delivery to those who are homebound
- Feb. 19-21: Richmond District Youth Retreat
- Feb. 28: BINGO Planning, Laser Quest
- March 6: Soup Luncheon and BINGO Fundraiser, right after the 11 o'clock church service

Golden Wedding Anniversaries

We need to know ASAP, are any of you having a Golden Wedding Anniversary this year? If so, we want to make plans to recognize you on Valentine's Day, February 14th, at the 11 o'clock worship service! Please call the church office right away!

"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

Our Sympathy is expressed to Winnie Brown and family. Winnie's husband, Morris, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Monday, January 4, 2016.

Our Sympathy is expressed to Jim Hardin and family. Marilyn claimed the promise of the resurrection on Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

Our sympathy is extended to Thelma Edwards and family. Bobby Edwards claimed the promise of the resurrection on January 23, 2016.

Our sympathy is extended to Ronnie Jones and family on the death of his grandmother, Thelma Jones.

Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Daniel & Sarah Salisbury	The Kyle Family	Stephen Burnett
Karen & Reg Whitton	Bobby Armstrong	Cheryl Nester
Marynell Kloss	Rachel Lewis	Eden Kloss
Opal Holshouser	Ron Halloran	Barbara Stone
Clayton Litten	Marie Goodwyn	Muffin Morris
Laura Patterson	Carlton Hudson	Dick Lacy
Trey & John	Joan Bowker	Phyllis Downs
Doris Jenkins	Judy Franklin	Tom Brown
George Burne	Betty Ward	
Kim D'Esposito Lachelier		

Our Military

Robbie Bowen

Aaron Frankey

Cody Russell

MOPS

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) has started our second semester at St.

Luke's, and we are looking forward to great speakers and conversation in the coming months. We are currently at 11 registered members, with additional moms visiting, and would love to welcome more to our group!

MOPS is open to expectant mothers through mothers of kindergartners, and you do not have to be a member of St. Luke's to join us. We're also looking for Mentor Moms (moms of older children up through grandmothers) who are strong in their faith to join our group and provide guidance, advice and hope! We meet in the Social Hall from

9:45-11:45 a.m. on the second and fourth Mondays. Childcare and breakfast provided. Contact us at mopsofstlukes@gmail.com or Christina at 804-350-8239 for more information.

MOPS of St. Luke's presents a fundraising event of...

Dinner & Intimate Conversations

Carmen Sullo, personal coach for families and relationships, will be leading us on a journey of authentic conversations for couples that generate trust and intimacy.

**Friday, February 12
6:30-8:30pm**

\$25/ticket

**Perfect date night for couples.
Singles are welcome.**

*Dinner Menu
Baked Chicken
Pesto Tortellini Pasta
Caesar Salad
Dessert*

**Tickets available through MOPS of St Luke's members.
Have questions? Contact us at mopsofstlukes@gmail.com
or Christina Hylton (804) 350-8239**

Space is limited!

Preschool News

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year will begin February 2nd! Tell your friends and neighbors about our wonderful preschool! More info can be found at www.stlukespreschoolva.com

As for now, we are staying warm and cozy indoors as we await the snowstorm! We had PJ and Movie day...popcorn and all!



Offering Ashes Beyond Our Doors

Our Ash Wednesday observation will be different this year. Focused on evangelism and offering the gift of Grace in Jesus Christ to others, Pastor Lisa will offer to mark anyone who wishes, be they a church member or a passer-by, with ashes. She will share the lines of liturgy for the imposition of the ashes with each person who comes, and offer a flyer about the meaning of the ashes and its declaration of our sin and God's Grace in Christ. Daytime hours are from 12:30 to 1:30 Ash Wednesday at **Rockwood Park**.

This is how we reach new people!

ASH WEDNESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER!

**FEBRUARY 10, 2016
6:00 TO 7:00 P.M.**

sponsored by St. Luke's United Methodist Men

Followed by worship service at 7:30

Why Do You say?

Why do you say,

“Well just shut my mouth, push me over with a feather, and fly me to the moon kinda-wonderful????”

Here's why!

Because our St. Luke's Youth and their friends, with the coaching of Chris deKrafft and Steve and Nancy Taylor, WON the 2nd Annual Richmond District Dodgeball Tournament, hands down and undefeated! We may be small but we are mighty! GREAT teamwork and, more importantly, GREAT sportsmanship was shown by the whole St. Luke's team. If you remember, last year, we came in second, so we ROCK at DODGE!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Joshua Sykes who made the Central Regional Orchestra for the second year in a row!

Thanks!!!

Clinton Gary would like to thank everyone for all the cards, food and telephone phone calls he received during his recent surgery. What a great church family!!

Thank You!

My family and I want to thank everyone in my church family for all the love, support, visits, food, phone calls and all the many cards during Morris's illness and his death. Thanks to Pastor Lisa for all her caring and support and to Shirley for sending him a bulletin every week. Thanks to all the ladies and gentlemen who prepared a wonderful reception after the funeral. All the love and support is helping us get thru this difficult time. Our Love, Winnie Brown & Family



YOUNG AT HEART

February, 10, at 10:00 am. Devotion and business meeting followed by Bingo and then lunch will be baked potato bar and side dishes. Sign-up sheet is in hallway outside the fellowship room.

March, 9, at 9:30 am (note time change), we will have a cover dish brunch, followed by musical entertainment by John and Frankie Finney, recording artist, who will be sharing their faith through music. At this special event we will be inviting the pre-school students' grandparents to be a part of our fellowship. There is no charge to attend, we only ask that each person bring a small brunch dish to share with others. Details: 804-639-7084.

Finance Committee Spotlighted this Month

Make every attempt possible to attend meetings regularly. Vote on pertinent items throughout the year with various Budget items. Help with Budget development for the coming year. Help with stewardship campaign. (Putting stewardship packets together for distribution.) Possibly attending district conference for finance training in January

Endowment Committee

The function of the Endowment Committee is to direct the investment of the endowment funds and to oversee the use of the endowment funds by St. Luke's United Methodist Church. For calendar year 2016, the committee is as follows:

Bobbie Strum- Chairman
Woody Smart- Finance Committee Chairman
Scottie Kyle - Treasurer
Bill Brown - At Large
Dan Salisbury- At Large
Bob Hall - At Large
Rick Beeckler - At Large

Mission Committee

The Mission committee of St Luke's UMC supports the mission efforts of the United Methodist Church around the world through the sharing of our monetary resources to fund missions, missionaries and ministry around the world. In addition, we are busy locally, reaching our community in love and witness in a variety of ways (Preschool, MOPS, Safe Haven, Jacobs Road Elementary and so many more!).

Save the date- St. Luke's will be hosting the children and parents of the Family Focus Program of CARITAS Aug 13-20, 2016! We can use help from everyone – from providing supplies, donating time and efforts for meal preparation, and spending time with these people in need of our compassion and support.

VOLUTEERS NEEDED

If you would be interested in maintaining the church sign in front of the church, please notify the church office. If a couple of people would share this, it would be great. The office would furnish you with information to be posted on the sign.

Reaching New People

A small group from St Luke's attended a recent district training on reaching new people and helping grow our church. This team of enthusiastic congregation members (aka The A-Team) have been working hard to identify ways for St Luke's to connect with our local community to help increase the visibility of our church, as well as identify activities where our church members can share in common interests with those who might eventually welcome an introduction to St Luke's UMC. The goal is to build new and lasting relationships between the members of St Luke's and those in our local community to help share the word of the Lord with all around us.

2016: St. Luke's is Resolved

At the beginning of this new year when we all make resolutions, let's resolve to help keep the church as clean and orderly as possible. We will accomplish this if, when we get things out of storage, see to it they are put back so items don't stay out in the open too long. Also, if everyone puts items away, we all will know where to find them the next time we need them.



Opal on her 91st Birthday!

February, 2016 CALENDAR

Monday, Feb 1

4:45 pm Safe Haven
7:00 pm Boy & Cub Scouts
7:15 pm Worship
Committee

Wednesday, Feb.3

10:00 am
Susannah Wesley Circle

Thursday, Feb. 4

6:30 pm Girl Scouts ,
Basement
6:30-7:30 pm
Adult Handbell Practice
7:00 pm NAMI
7:30 -9:00 pm
Chancel Choir Practice

Friday, Feb. 5

9:00-12:00 Noon
Quilting Group
6:00-9:00 pm,
Pinewood Derby
Practice
Fellowship Hall

Saturday, Feb. 6

Pinewood Derby
8:00-12:00 Noon,
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Feb. 7

9:30 am "The Hill"
9:40 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
12:00 Noon Trustees
Committee Meeting
4:00-5:30 pm
Youth

Monday, Feb. 8

9:45 am MOPS
7:00 pm Boy & Cub Scouts

Wednesday, Feb. 10

(Ash Wednesday)
10:00 am
Young at Heart
7:00-8:00 pm
Cub Scouts-Basement
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Pancake Supper/Imposition
of the Ashes

Thursday, Feb. 11

12:00 Noon Reaching New
Prople Conf. Call, Pastor Lisa
6:30-7:30 pm Adult Handbell
Practice
6:30-7:30 pm Girls Scouts,
Basement
7:00 pm NAMI
7:30-9:00 pm
Chancel Choir Practice

Friday Feb. 12

9:00-12:00 Noon
Quilting Group
4:00-9:00 pm
MOPS Dinner,
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Feb. 14

9:30 am "The Hill"
9:40 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
12:00 Noon Finance Com-
mittee Meeting
4:00-5:30 pm
Youth

Monday, Feb. 15

4:45 pm
Safe Haven
7:00 pm
Boy & Cub Scouts

Tuesday, Feb. 16

6:12:30 pm
Lenten Bible Book Club -
Karen's Diner

Thursday, Feb. 18

6:30-7:30 pm
Adult Handbell Practice
7:00 pm NAMI
7:30-9:00 pm Chancel
Choir Practice

Friday, Feb. 19

9:00-12:00 Noon
Quilting Group

Saturday, Feb. 20

9:30-12:30
Girl Scouts,
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Feb. 21

(Boy Scout Sunday)
9:30 am "The Hill"
9:40 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
12:00 Noon Staff Parish
Committee Meeting
4:00-5:30 pm You

Monday, Feb. 22

9:45 am MOPS
6:30 pm U.M. Men
7:00 pm Boy &
Cub Scouts

Tuesday, Feb. 23

12:30 pm
Lenten Bible Book
Club, Karen's Diner

Thursday, Feb.25

Lisa at CDLLT Mtg.
-United Methodist
Bldg.
6:30-7:30 pm
Adult Handbell Prac-
tice
6:30-7:30 Girl Scouts,
Basement
7:00 pm NAMI
7:30 pm Chancel
Choir

Sunday, Feb. 28

9:30 am "The Hill"
9:40 am Sunday
School
11:00 am Worship
12:00 Noon Adminis-
trative Council
4:00-5:30 pm
Youth Save the date!

DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 10—UMM Pancake
Supper 5:30 - 7: p.m.**

**March 24 — Maundy
Thursday Service,
Lutheran Church of
Our Savior**

**March 25 — Good Friday
Service, St. Luke's United
Methodist Church**

Birthdays

February 1	Becky Jenkins Jason Williams	February 17	Robert Hall Rebecca Heath
February 2	Randi Hayes Allen Sanker	February 18	Matt Pritchard Tee Leigh
February 5	Kevin Russell Stephanie Burnett	February 19	Andrea Brown Betty Hubble
February 6	Donna Allen Ashley Driskill Nikki Driskill	February 20	Justin Burnett Kara Seamster Wesley Pritchard
February 8	Sean Wythe	February 22	Scottie Kyle
February 10	Katie Haley Katherine Stefi Harris	February 24	Mary Nell Kloss
February 12	Carolyn Beeckler	February 25	Thelma Edwards Rachel Jenkins Bruce Anderson Stewart Ball



**Pastor
The Rev. Lisa Sykes**
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Shirley Gary
Church Secretary
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Bob Ford
Minister of Music

Ray Jenkins
Superintendent of
Sunday Schools

Margaret Anderson
Financial Secretary

Michele Hart
Preschool Director
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