

THE VOICE

ST. LUKE'S
METHODIST CHURCH
A GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024 •
THE SEASON AFTER
PENTECOST



Pastor's Musings



The Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church began on September 20 and will end on the 26th. Some of you may be checking in on the conference on-line and while

some others may be receiving updates, I wanted to make sure that as many of our church as possible know what's happening in Costa Rica. Below are some of the highlights of each day. I will continue to provide further information about the results and decisions of the conference in coming weeks.

Day 1:

The first day of the historic convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church in San Jose, Costa Rica, marked a pivotal moment as the denomination began the process of making permanent what has been provisional during a season of transition.

With great hope for a shared future, over 300 delegates, plus hundreds of other volunteers and observers from around the world, gathered to establish foundational structures and adopt key documents that will shape the GM Church's future...

Delegates also adopted the "Plan of Organization and Covenant for Our Life Together," setting forth the conference's operational guidelines, including the adoption of a limited agenda for the denomination's first Conference. Petitions outside the 2024 gathering will be addressed when the General Conference reconvenes in 2026, ensuring a continued opportunity for important matters to be considered in the years ahead. It is widely believed that after the 2026 gathering, General Conferences will then be held every six years.

The delegates also approved the *Global Methodist Church's Book of Doctrines and Discipline*, but as Lambrecht stressed, "Today's adoption of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* is

not an end, but just the beginning." In the coming days, the delegates will amend the Church's governing document, and of course, future General Conferences will refine it as deemed necessary.

As the first day drew to a close, delegates departed with a renewed sense of purpose and hope. The actions taken—rooted in prayer, thoughtful deliberation, and shared vision—signified more than just procedural accomplishments; they represented a collective commitment to Jesus Christ and the Church. This convening General Conference will undoubtedly be remembered as a defining moment in the life of the GM Church, setting the stage for continued growth, mission, and faithfulness.

Day 2:

Day two of the Global Methodist Church's convening General Conference was marked by a blend of legislative work, mission work, and evangelism as delegates, guests, and observers continued in the joy and unity of the gathering.

The day opened with legislative committees convening to discuss, pray over, and refine their respective petitions. Subcommittees worked meticulously, examining proposed changes in detail before forwarding them to the full committee. Petitions gaining enough support from the committee will move forward to the plenary session in the coming days, where all delegates will deliberate and make final decisions on their adoption.

In addition to legislative activities, some attendees participated in mission and evangelism opportunities that took them beyond the conference walls and into the heart of the local community. One of the day's highlights was a mission team at Alajuelita Methodist Church, where fifteen Global Methodists worked alongside Pastor Denis Agüero and four Costa Ricans on essential repairs.

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Day 3:

As the third day of the Global Methodist Church's Convening General Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, unfolded, the Holy Spirit continued to move powerfully among delegates, guests, and observers.

With hearts full, the conference transitioned into the day's plenary session. A key highlight was a report from the Rev. Beth Ann Cook, chair of the Transitional Commission on the Convening General Conference (TCCGC)... She announced a forthcoming motion to hold the 2026 General Conference in central Africa, with plans for significant legislative work to be done virtually and in advance. This approach would streamline the conference to a maximum of five days, making the process more efficient and reducing costs. This proposal will be acted upon later in the conference.

Rev. Jordan McFall presented to the plenary on his committee's deliberations regarding the role and selection of bishops within the GM Church. After much prayer and thoughtful discussion, the committee reached a majority decision to forward a refined version of the general superintendency plan for plenary consideration. This plan, derived from a proposal of the GM Church's Transitional Leadership Council (TLC), envisions bishops providing visionary servant leadership and oversight across multiple annual conferences rather than being assigned to a single conference residentially. The proposal will undergo further

refinement before being brought to the full gathering for deliberation. Throughout the day, other legislative committees continued their diligent work, seeking to faithfully discern God's will.

As day three came to a close, the majority of legislative committees successfully completed their work, paving the way for crucial plenary sessions to take center stage in the coming days.

Day 4:

The fourth day of the Global Methodist Church's convening General Conference saw the assembly fully immersed in plenary sessions, with the exception of one legislative committee that wrapped up its work later in the day...

Throughout the morning, the body heard reports and voted on consent agendas and petitions from several legislative committees, including Connectional Organization, Episcopacy and Superintendency, Financial Administration, and Ministry and the Local Church. Elections of these commissions and councils were completed successfully that included both clergy and laity.

More to come.

Peace.

Pastor Dan



**Thursday,
November 7th
at 6pm**

Please mark your calendars for our annual congregational meeting!

From ¶ 339 of the Transitional Book of Discipline for the GMC:

The primary responsibilities of the charge conference in the annual meeting shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, elect leaders, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of the Global Methodist Church.



From



PROTECT OUR KIDS

Vote **AGAINST** amending the Maryland Constitution this Fall:
Question 1

- Protect children from harmful gender transitions
- Preserve parental rights and custody
- Prevent taxpayer funding for transition of children

The Reproductive Freedom Amendment goes far beyond abortion rights and threatens parental rights.



Get the Facts.

HEALTHNOTHARMMD.ORG

By authority of Health Not Harm MD, Anne Fox, Treasurer

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Question 1 – Constitutional Amendment (Ch. 245 of the 2023 Legislative Session) Declaration of Rights – Right to Reproductive Freedom

The proposed amendment confirms an individual's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue, or end the individual's pregnancy, and provides the State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden, or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

Words Matter

- No minimum age, male or female
- No definition of "reproductive freedom"
- Not limited to abortion
- No parental consent requirements
- Maryland taxpayers will bear the financial "burden" of these new rights

Important Note: A "No" vote maintains Maryland's current abortion-through-birth and trans healthcare rights for adults. A "Yes" vote creates these rights for children without parental consent.

Our Shared Life as the Body of Christ

All Saints Sunday
October 27th at 10:00 am
Fellowship reception with lite fare following the service

*Remembering our loved ones
 who have gone on before us.*

The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
 none of those who take refuge in him will be
 condemned. (Psalm 36:22)

St. Luke's Church
 100 S. Fifth Ave, Denton

TRUNK OR TREAT!
Oct. 31st @ 6pm

Bring the kids for safe fun and candy!
 Bring a trunk with candy to share!
 All are welcome!

Nov. 17th
at both services

NEW MEMBER
SUNDAY

Receptions following each service

Sunday, Nov. 11th
@ 8:30am and 11am

VETERANS DAY
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Please let the office know if you are a Veteran—
 We do not want to miss anyone!

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

Dec. 7th—Breakfast with Santa
 Dec. 15th—Sunday School Christmas Program @ 10am Service
 Dec. 24th—Christmas Eve Services @ 7pm and 11pm

SPRC Update (Staff Parish Relations Committee) By Laura Patrick SPRC Chair

Hello Congregation of St. Luke's Methodist Church. I wanted to let you all know of positions open at St. Luke's. I addressed the 8:30 and Contemporary Services this past Sunday and wanted to update anyone who was unable to make those services, so everyone is included.

We have two positions open at St. Luke's:

1. Treasurer-This is a volunteer position. Knowing quick books or having some work in finance is helpful. However, if you are someone who is good with spreadsheets and a fast learner, we would love to talk with you.
2. Organist/Pianist- We are looking for a part-time organist or pianist to practice and then play at our 8:30 service. You can play just the organ or just the piano or both.

Please Note: We do have someone interested in directing a Choir and Handbell Choir but she does not play the piano or organ. She did say, "You do not need to know how to sing or play a handbell, she can teach you!". If you are interested in being in either Choir please let me know.

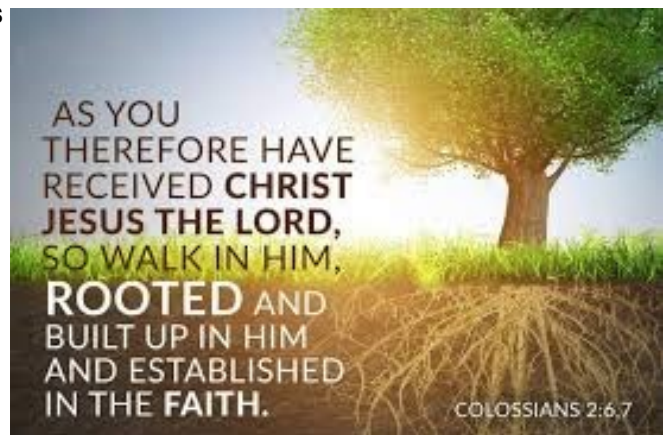
Some of our members have asked about a part-time custodian position. Pastor Dan and I discussed this. At this time, we feel that with weekly offerings down, we should not hire anyone at this time. The Church has an outside company who comes in and cleans the bathrooms once a week and mops the hallways and vacuums the Sanctuary along with other jobs as requested. Volunteers have been taking out the trash and doing other cleaning tasks. If you find that anything is not being cleaned, please contact me at 302-242-1644 and I will do my best to correct the problem.

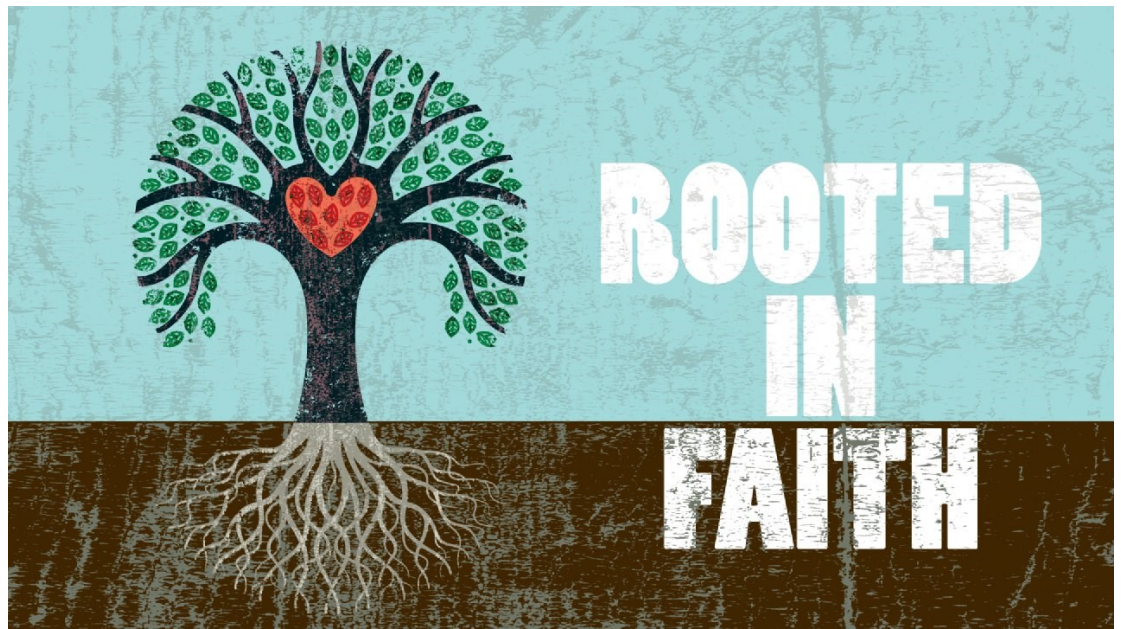
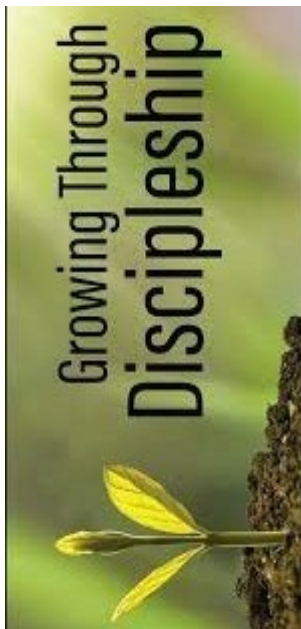
I also wanted to let the Congregation know that three of your Sunday School teachers are CPR and Stop the Bleed certified. Remaining teachers and Church staff will be CPR certified soon as Laura schedules another class with Caroline EMS staff. Background checks will be done within the month.

Please, if you get a chance, visit our 2nd floor classrooms. As teachers we are very proud of the work we have done to make the classrooms neat but also areas where children can learn about God and Jesus in a fun environment. Currently we are still working on updating the middle school room for our older youth. Some broken items have been taken to salvage or to the dump. The local boy scouts will be using two of our unused classrooms upstairs. Many times, they are working on projects that need drying or places to put items while they are still working on them.

If you are interested in any of our open positions, or have a problem or concern, please call me at 302-242-1644. We want to address any issues and correct them.

Laura





Sunday Programs
for
Lifelong
Faith Formation
Starting Sept. 8th

Children's Chapel & Choir 9:45am

Sunday School
Pre-K through 5th 10:00am

Youth Group & Sunday School 6th—12th 10:00am
(monthly events TBA)

Adult Sunday School 9:30am

TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND HUMBLE IN HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

MATTHEW 11:29

Adult Sunday School

@ 9:30 am in Room #1

“Abiding in the Living Presence of God”

Bring your enthusiasm and a Bible! We will be using the Bible and excerpts from the writings of several authors to better understand Jesus' saving fullness for us, to know Jesus better, to explore God's protection for believers, and to learn how to be in closer communion with God.

Class is taught by Rev. Joan Wolff
(Cindy Nicklin and Mary Turkington will also continue to teach classes thought the year)





Almighty God, you are the only source of health and healing. In you, there is calm and the only true peace in the universe. Grant to each one of us your children an awareness of your presence, and give us perfect confidence in you.

In all pain, weariness, and anxiety, teach us to yield ourselves to your never-failing care, knowing that your love and power surround us, trusting in your wisdom and providence to give us health, strength, and peace when your time is best, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: The Nazarene, Vols. 7-9, 1922

Prayer Concerns for October & November

Pray for those needing healing and comfort:

Christy Russell, Cindy Nicklin, Bette Shull, Abby, Jennie Reinhardt, Eddie Anderson, Craig Little, Kolby Downes, Sylvia Holland, Keilani Maloney, Carol Foster, Renee Barringer, Samantha McCall, Ruth Moore, Bruce Hastings, Patsy Biggers, Michael Mumford, Patty Downes, Jason Lee, and Mary Lynn Meloni.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring peace and unity in our church and in churches across the world; for the lost to be found and for our hearts to see the lost; and for our leaders in the GMC and at St. Luke's to lead us to "worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly."

Pray in sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away since our last newsletter:

Glen Owen, Tina Kennedy, Susan Arner, Pat Browne, Kevin Kerr, Steve Garner, Jimmy Johnson, Owen Wise, Bill Dammeyer.

Pray for those serving in the U.S. Military:

Chelsea Bunker, Seth Gill, Gabe Griffith, Ethan Lister, Teagan Lister, Matthew Parker, and Jake Schroeder.

To add names to any of our lists, we ask that you either 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 otherwise.**

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

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is.

God was gracious enough to answer, and the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.

Over time we've arbitrarily added an "a" and an "e" in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we have a preference for vowels.

But scholars and rabbi's have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.

YH (inhale): WH (exhale).

So a baby's first cry, his first breath, speaks and praises the name of God.

A deep sigh calls His name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words.

Even an atheist would speak His name, unaware that their very breath is giving constant acknowledgment to God.

Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God's name is no longer filling their lungs.

So when I can't utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name?

Being alive means I speak His name constantly.

So, is it heard the loudest when I'm the quietest?

In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs.

In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst.

In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down.

When we're about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.

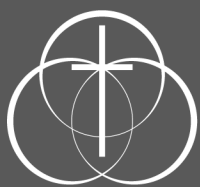
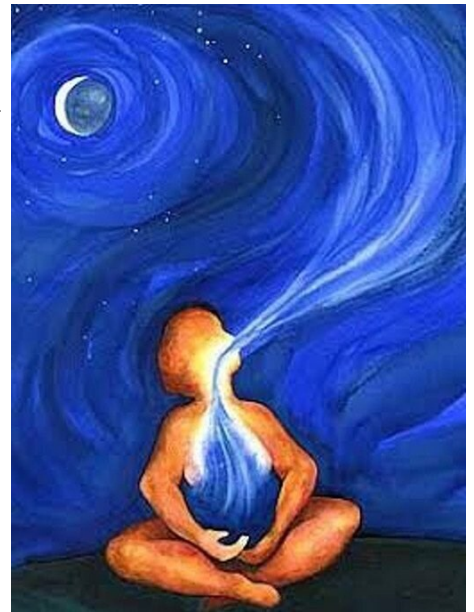
When I think about it, breathing is giving him praise. Even in the hardest moments!

This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought. God chose to give himself a name that we can't help but speak every moment we're alive. Hallelujah!

All of us, always, everywhere.

Waking, sleeping, breathing and praising, with the name of God on our lips. Amen

From the [Friends of the Global Methodist Church Facebook Page](#)

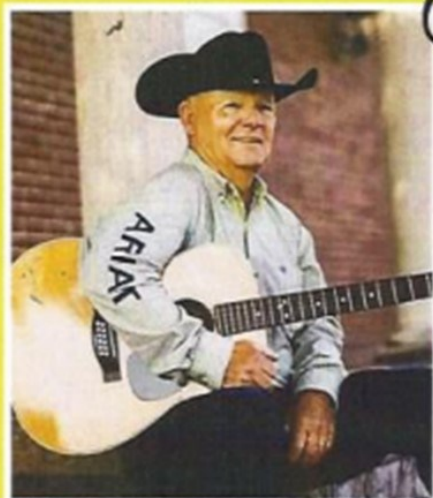


GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
Northeast

For More Information about the Northeast
Conference of the GMC...

OLD FASHIONED TENT REVIVAL

by the Mill



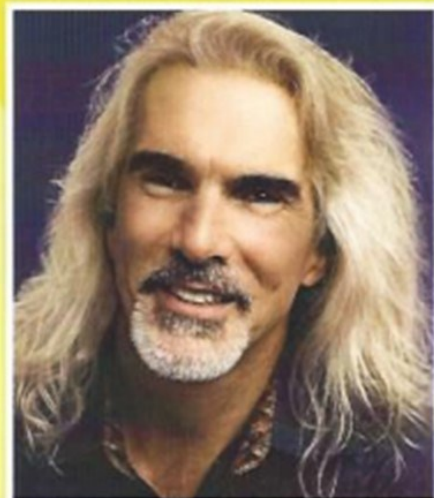
WED., OCT. 2

LAWRENCE TYLER
Tilghman Island, MD



THURS., OCT. 3

LYNDA RANDLE
Member of
Gaither Gospel Family



FRI., OCT. 4

GUY PENROD
Former Lead Vocalist with
Gaither Vocal Band



WED. EVENING
MESSAGE BY
DR. CHRISTIAN JENSEN
Local Community Leader



THURS. EVENING
MESSAGE BY
REV. ELMER DAVIS
District Superintendent UMC



6-8PM EACH EVENING
Towers Family Museum
26299 Sennett Rd., Denton, MD

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR

FREE ADMISSION

FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE EACH NIGHT

Sponsored by Ames UMC & Harmony UMC | John R. Allen, Pastor

For More information contact btowers62@gmail.com or 410-479-0914

OCTOBER

Sun

Mon

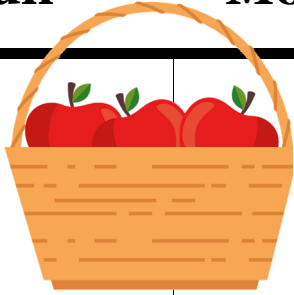
Tues

Wed

Thur

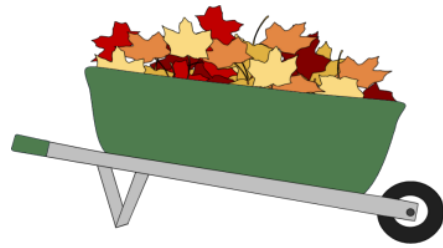
Fri

Sat



		1	2	3	4	5
		10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice	1pm Cards of Comfort 5:30pm Exercise	Old Fashioned Tent Revival 6-8pm		
6 Communion 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	7 10am Daniel Bible Study 5:30pm Exercise Class 7pm Daniel Bible Study	8 10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice	9 5:30pm Exercise	10 	11	12 9am Emmaus Group Reunion
13 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	14 10am Daniel Bible Study 5:30pm Exercise Class 7pm Daniel Bible Study	15 10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice	16 5:30pm Exercise	17 6:30pm Leadership Meetings 7:30pm Church Council	18	19
20 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship	21 10am Daniel Bible Study 5:30pm Exercise Class 7pm Daniel Bible Study	22 10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice	23 5:30pm Exercise			
27 All Saints and REACH Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Sanctuary 11:00 Reception in FH	28 10am Daniel Bible Study 5:30pm Exercise Class 7pm Daniel Bible Study	29 10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice	30 5:30pm Exercise	31 6pm Trunk-or-Treat		

November



Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thurs

Fri

Sat

						<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship</p> <p>Daylight Savings Ends</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am Daniel Bible Study 5:30pm Exercise Class 7pm Daniel Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1pm Cards of Comfort 5:30pm Exercise</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 PM CHARGE CONFERENCE</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am Emmaus Group Reunion</p>	
<p>10</p> <p>Veterans' Sunday</p> <p>8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am Daniel Bible Study 5:30pm Exercise Class 7pm Daniel Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30pm Exercise</p>	<p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p>			
<p>17</p> <p>New Member Profession of Faith and Reception</p> <p>8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am Daniel Bible Study 5:30pm Exercise Class 7pm Daniel Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:30pm Exercise</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm Leadership Committees 7:30pm Church Council</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	
<p>24</p> <p>REACH Sunday</p> <p>8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Adult Sunday Class 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Ignite Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am Daniel Bible Study 5:30pm Exercise Class 7pm Daniel Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10am Prayer Team 7pm Praise Band Practice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30pm Exercise</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Office closed for Thanksgiving</p>	<p>29</p> <p>30</p>		



Church Council Meeting Minutes Sept. 19, 2024

Team Reports

Property and Investment Management (Barbara Little, Chair)

- The Trustees are still working on getting quotes and selecting a contractor to design and install a water retention system on the 5th Ave side of the building.
- Trustees did not meet over the summer (but continued to be busy fixing things around the building and taking care of building issues.)

Mission and Ministry Team – No Report

Fund Management Team (Pastor Dan gave a report since there is no Treasurer)

- Financial reports were approved by a voice vote.

Staff Parish Relations Team (Laura Patrick, Chair)

- We do not plan to hire a PT Sexton at this time; the current trajectory of income from offerings will not sustain adding this position to the budget in 2025. (However, SPR will revisit the possibility again in 2025.)
- We have a weekly cleaning service for floors and bathrooms and volunteers continue to take care of weekly trash, setting up for events, keeping classrooms clean and tidy, and other misc. jobs around the building.
- We are seeking a Treasurer to oversee the financial health of the church and Laura will make announcements in church with information about what this volunteer would do.
- We have an open position for a PT Organist/Pianist/Choir Director for the 8:30 service and will put an advertisement in the Star Democrat as well as put it in church communications in case someone in the congregation knows someone who might be interested.
- CPR training has been completed for most Sunday School teachers (and will be setting up another class so all are trained) and background checks of all teachers continues.
- Much work has been done to clean up the 2nd floor classrooms; go up and take a look when you get the chance.

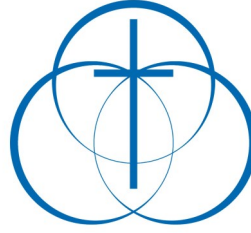
New Business:

Our 2024 Charge Conference has been scheduled for Nov. 7th at 4:30pm.

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, 2024

St. Luke's Staff

Rev. Daniel Gedman– Pastor

Director of Youth Ministries: Garrett Shull

Director of Ignite Praise Band: Alicia Weippert

Administrative Assistant: Carrie Soldano

Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Visit St. Luke's Online at www.stlukesdenton.org

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Stlukesmethodist/](https://www.facebook.com/Stlukesmethodist/)**

**YouTube Channel [www.youtube.com/channel/
UCGrQ5OHraky3SnEIDD8zY9A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGrQ5OHraky3SnEIDD8zY9A)**

