

ST. LUKE'S NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020



"This very day in David's town your Savior was born - Christ the Lord."

**Matthew
2: 1-2**

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Pastor's Note

Dear Friends,

This will be the fifth year in a row that St. Luke's has held a Rummage Sale on the first Friday and Saturday of March. Amazingly, this Sale will not only bring in significant money for our general operating budget, but it is most importantly an opportunity to meet and pray over so many of our neighbors! We always offer a table of free Bibles and devotional books for people to take, I have the opportunity to pray over more people than I can count over the course of the two days, shoppers are offered one of our church newsletters so they can learn about our ministries and an invitation for them to come be a part of the life giving things God is doing in our midst, and they have an opportunity to explore our church buildings and grounds.

I invite you to donate some of your clean, gently used items to the sale: clothes, household items, tools, gardening equipment, collectibles, instruments, holiday decorations, books, jewelry, bedding and towels, etc. are all welcome and needed for the Sale. All donations may be brought to Room 1 on Sunday mornings before/after worship or on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

We also need helpers to assist with set up the week before the Sale, work the Sale (either or both days), make baked good for the Youth Group Bake Sale (all proceeds support the Mission Trip), work with Mike in the kitchen feeding hungry shoppers, and more. And, most of all, we need your prayers that God will bless our Sale, that we will demonstrate his love for his people, and that he will be glorified in all that we do through and in this Sale!

In God's Love, Pastor Jody

RUMMAGE SALE

WE NEED YOUR HELP
Friday, March 6th 8a - 3p
Saturday, March 7th 8a-2p
Workers for the sale needed!

We also need help setting up and pricing items the whole week leading up to the Sale.
See Susan Crum or Layne Hamilton



Hello and Goodbye to Our Elders

On Sunday, January 19th, we were blessed to ordain Jeff Lake as an Elder and to install Jeff, Gail McMahon and Jose' Amador to the office of Elder for our congregation.

We also say "THANK YOU" to our Elders who have left active service on the Session as Elders ... Loretta Mudrak and Marsha Van Vuren. Loretta served for two years as an Elder to complete the three year term begun by Roanna Wilson but left vacant when she and her family returned to Little Rock after helping her parents complete their earthly races with family care. Loretta stepped into the call to serve with joy and we were so blessed to have her Co-Chair the Worship Committee these past two years. She has now put her name forward as a Deacon to continue serving as the leader of the Prayer Partner ministry.

Marsha Van Vuren said for years that she did not feel she could say yes to serving as an Elder because she did not know enough about the Bible. We finally convinced her that God would equip her with everything she would need to serve and Marsha stepped into her work as an Elder with a joyful heart. Marsha served for three years as an Elder chairing the Evangelism & Outreach Committee, and now is taking some time off to have much needed surgery on her heart and be with her son Warren when he gets married on March 14th.

Thank you ALL for your willingness to say "Yes, Lord!" to his call to serve as leaders in our congregation!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Mark your calendars now! We are going to begin our Season of Lent doing exactly what Jesus calls us to do ... being a faith community that serves others.

****You're Invited****

Tuesday, February 26th 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Our Youth Group and Scout Troop 488 will host this evening of homemade pancakes, scrambles eggs, and sausage patties. Dinner is by donation and all proceeds will be split evenly between the Troop's camping fund and our 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip to Savannah, GA.

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**



February Worship Plans

We will kick off the month of February with **Souper Bowl Sunday on Sunday, February 2nd.** Congregants are encouraged to bring canned food items or a cash contribution to benefit the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, which feeds our hungry neighbors two meals every day. Worship will be at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, the OT reading is Micah 6:1-8, NT reading is Matthew 5:1-12, and the sermon title is "Blessed."

On **Sunday, February 9th,** we will worship at 10:00 a.m. and then have a Special Congregational Meeting called by the Session for the purpose of voting to return to a bicameral leadership model (Elders and Deacons) and approve the establishment of seven positions on the inaugural Deacon Board. The OT reading is Isaiah 58:1-14, the NT reading is Matthew 5:13-20, and the sermon title is "Salt and Light."

On **Sunday, January 16th** we will worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The OT reading is Deuteronomy 30:11-20, the NT reading is Matthew 5:21-37, and the sermon title is "Hardened Hearts."

Transfiguration/Scout Sunday is on Sunday, February 23rd, and young men from our Scout Troop 488 will lead worship with Pastor Jody. As part of the service, we will present the Religious Knot Award to several of our Scouts and the Celtic Cross Award to three of the exceptional Troop leaders. The OT reading is Exodus 24:12-18, the NT reading is Matthew 17:1-13, and the sermon title is "Listen to Him!" Communion will be served.

We will take Communion to Royal Oaks Assisted Living on Sunday, January 5th at 1:45 p.m. and have a worship service with Communion at Crescent Wood Assisted Living at 2:30 p.m. You are always invited to share in both of these opportunities to journey and worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are assisted living residents ... they would love to see you!



Congregational Meeting: Vote

The Session has called for a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 9th for the purpose of voting on two recommendations:

1. To move to a bicameral leadership system (Elders and Deacons), and
2. To approve the creation of a Deacon Board with seven members.

The meeting will begin immediately following the conclusion of the 10 a.m. worship service. All members are encouraged to be present for this congregational vote.



Serving Our Neighbors

In January, our church was on the move as we served our neighbors and community in many ways! We packed 700+ weekend bags at The Children's Hunger Project for children who need help to have enough food, cut hundreds of strips of plastic grocery bags that will be crocheted into 6'x4' sleeping mats to protect our homeless neighbors from cold and wet conditions, gleaned honeybell oranges and tangerines for congregants and neighbors who will benefit from having fresh citrus as part of their next few days' meals/snacks, and journeyed with our brothers and sisters in Christ at First Presbyterian Church as they did the holy work of closing their church. Thank you, God, for the blessing of glorifying you as we love our neighbors!



FEBRUARY AND MARCH LINE UP

The next two months offer many wonderful opportunities for you to participate in worship, fellowship and mission activities at St. Luke's:

February 2nd	Souper Bowl Sunday (bring a canned food item)
February 8th	10 a.m. BINGO #3 Brunch and BINGO!
February 9th	"God Loves You" Valentine's Treat Time after worship and the Special Congregational Meeting/vote
February 23rd	Scout Sunday, Troop 488 helps lead worship
February 25th	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in FHall 5-6:30 p.m.
February 26th	Ash Wednesday worship service w/ Communion at 6:30 p.m.
March 4th	Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study in FHall 5:30-7:00 p.m. *This is an every Wednesday night Bible Study through Lent.
March 6th&7th	The 5th Annual Church Rummage Sale (8a-3p Fri./8a-2p Sat.)
March 14th	Special Youth Group Activity with Roanna, Anna and Zeb Wilson
March 15th	Blanket Sunday (\$10/blanket) for Church World Services
March 28th	SpaceCoast City Fest in Viera All day, concerts, activities

DID YOU KNOW?

It takes about \$350 per person to send youth and adults on our Summer Youth Mission Trip. The bulk of the money goes for transportation costs (vans, full insurance, gas) and food for the team. Thank you to everyone who is supporting our fundraising efforts for this summer's mission trip!

HELP WANTED

- We are collecting plastic grocery/store bags that we will be cutting into strips and crocheting into 4'x6' sleeping mats to protect our homeless neighbors from the worst of the cold and wet ground. Please bring bags to the church office.
- We need people to make food for the Brunch before BINGO on Feb. 9th. If you are able to contribute a dish, please let Pastor Jody know what you will bring. All items need to be on the table by 8:45 a.m. on Feb. 9th in Fellowship Hall.



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Thanks to David Lundahl (See Mark 10:21) 09-15-2006
YOU SAID TAKE UP LACROSSE AND FOLLOW YOU
... NOW WHAT?

2020 Youth Mission Trip

Plans are coming together for the 2020 Youth Mission Trip to Savannah, GA from Saturday, June 13th - Friday, June 19th. We will be staying at White Bluff Presbyterian Church and partnering with them to help non-profit agencies and some of the widows in their congregation with much needed repairs following two years of strong weather in their region.

Youth who have will be part of this summer's Mission Trip include:

Kassie Mudrak (12th)	Sarah Williams (12th)*	Trinity Dontell (11th)
Serenity Dontell (9th)	Anna Wilson (8th)	Aubrey Schultz (8th)
Michael Dontell (7th)	Zeb Wilson (7th)	Morgan Wilson (7th)
Taylor Wilson (7th)	Brandy-lynn Jones (7th)	Aby Gibson (7th)
Hailey Rice (7th)	Erica Dontell (6th)	Haley Mann (6th)

* Deciding based on health and summer work schedule.

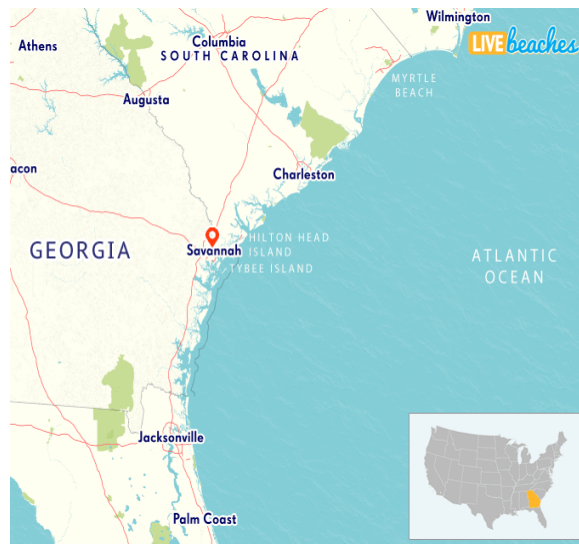
We are very grateful to have the following adults, who have agreed to give up a week of their paid vacation from their jobs and family time in order to come worship, pray, work, play, sleep on cots/air mattresses, and sweat all week with our youth:

Jose' Amador	Rebecca Gunness**	Brandilyn Hoftyzer	Luis Huapaya
M.E. Kelly	Jeff Moody	Mike Noble	Pastor Jody
Ann Reitz	Roanna Wilson	Silas Wilson**	Steve Wilson

** Deciding based on summer work schedule.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Music Magic Show on January 16th. Your generosity allowed us to make \$1,428 for our Summer Youth Mission Trip!

Our next fundraising event for the trip will be Brunch & BINGO! on Saturday, February 8th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. We hope you will join us for this wonderful morning of food and fun to help us afford to go on the Mission Trip.



Youth Group Plans

Youth Group is about growing deeper in our faith, participating in mission projects, making friends, and having fun. Here's our line up of Youth Group activities coming soon:

- **Sunday, February 2nd** Youth Group from 12-1:15 p.m. and then Church On The Road from 1:15-3:30 p.m. at Royal Oaks and Crescent Wood Assisted Living. Youth help lead worship and visit with residents at both assisted living homes.
- **Saturday, February 8th** 9:00 -11 :00 a.m. Brunch and BINGO to benefit our 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip. Youth need to be in Fellowship Hall by 8:30 a.m. to help with set up.
- **Sunday, February 9th** Youth Group from 12-2 p.m. It's a "Laid Back" gathering with no plan, we will just go where the Spirit takes us for conversation time, games, and hanging out.
- **Sunday, February 16th** Children & Youth Protection Policy Training from 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Youth are welcome to stay after the meeting for conversation and hanging out time until 2 p.m.
- **Sunday, February 23rd** Youth Group from 12-2 p.m. Plans TBD
- **Tuesday, February 25th** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5-6:30 p.m. hosted by our Youth Group and Scout Troop 488. Proceeds from the dinner will be split between the 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip and the Scout Troop's Camping Fund.

Looking Ahead

- *All youth going on the Summer Youth Mission Trip need to plan to help at the Rummage Sale on Saturday, March 7th from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.* Families of youth going on the trip are encouraged to contribute items for the Bake Sale (all proceeds benefit the Mission Trip) and Rummage Sale.
- **Saturday, March 14th** Roanna, Anna and Zeb Wilson will be with us for a visit and we're going to spend the day together doing something really fun. Stay tuned for details!



Sleeping Mat Ministry



Need: Sandy Vidal-Diaz is heading up a ministry to make 6'x4' sleeping mats for our neighbors who are homeless. **She needs your plastic grocery/shopping bags to make the mats.** The bags are cut into strips, tied together, and then crocheted to make a light mat that protects our homeless neighbors from the wet and cold ground. The mats are durable and can be rinsed off easily.

If you would like to learn how to make the mats, please talk to Pastor Jody or Sandy and they will teach you how to cut the strips and/or make the mats.



Communion, one of our two Sacraments, is offered at St. Luke's the first Sunday of each month and at other special times throughout the year. On the first Sunday of every month, the Sacrament is also taken to congregants and friends at Royal Oaks and Crescent Wood Nursing and Rehab Centers. This does omit some of St. Luke's members who are "primarily" house bound. If you have this challenge in your life and/or know a house bound member who would like Communion brought to them at their home, please contact the Worship Committee or the Church Office.

NOTE: The Communion sacrament will now be offered with the option of bread or a wafer for your preference to take as it is passed.

The Worship Committee

Protecting Our Youth: Policy

The Elders of our church have been working very hard to ensure that we are offering our children and youth an environment that is safe as they grow in their faith, learn to love themselves as precious children of God, and have the opportunity to love and serve their neighbors.

All adult volunteers with our Christian Education and Youth Ministry programming are required to complete a background check every year if they are serving in ministries that involve sleeping and every three years if they are working with youth in non-sleeping ministries.

As well, we complete a driving record check for all adults who transport our children and youth. All adults transporting youth must be at least 22 years old (exception: young adults ages 20 and 21 may transport 1 or 2 youth home from youth ministry activities with the written permission of their parent/guardian).

The second step we have taken to ensure that our children and youth are safe as they participate in our programming is to approve a new Child and Youth Protection Policy.

Pastor Jody will be holding a training for our Child and Youth Protection Policy on Sunday, February 16th at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. All of our youth, their parents/guardians, and congregants are invited to attend.

Adult chaperones are required to attend either the training or to schedule an individual appointment with Pastor Jody to complete the training if they are unable to attend on February 16th.

At the training on February 16th, we will review the policy together, answer any questions, and ensure that we are all of one accord as we journey together in our Christian Education and Youth Group ministries.

Thank you all for allowing us the opportunity to journey with our children and youth to help them grow and become mature in their faith, have a deep love for themselves and others, and to use their gifts and talents to serve our neighbors!



**YOUTH PROTECTION
TRAINING**

Presbyterian Women in 2020



Our first breakfast to celebrate the New Year was a week later than normal, but it didn't stop our table at breakfast from getting longer and longer each month. This past month we have NINETEEN at breakfast.

A week later we had our first meeting and opened it with a prayer and reading "Our Purpose". Dorothy Peters announced our yearly pledge was sent to the Central Florida Presbytery. In February we will have a one time offering to send to Thornwell. Also in February, we will be preparing envelopes for the March Congregational Blanket Sunday offering. Our meeting ended with a closing prayer by Pastor Jody.

After the meeting our Bible study was led by Reba Powers. The lesson was about caring and honoring those who bring us life. We remember all the nurturers around us for passing on their gifts so they can multiply throughout our congregation and beyond.

Montreat Collegiate Retreat

Brandilyn Hoftyzer and Rebecca Gunness were blessed with a scholarship from our Central Florida Presbytery to attend the Collegiate Retreat from January 2nd - 6th at Montreat Camp and Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. Rebecca saw snow for the first time, she and Brandilyn made lots of new friends, and they had the opportunity to worship and participate in break out session with other college students from around the country.

Thank you, Central Florida Presbytery, for this wonderful experience and scholarships for Brandilyn and Rebecca!





“For where your
treasure is, there
your heart will al-
so be.”

Matthew 6:21



Year To Date Financial Information

Financial Report as of December 31st

2019 Operating Income Year to Date	\$ 132,805.07
2019 Operating Expenses Year to Date	\$ 133,960.98
Year to Date	\$ (1,155.91)

Thank you to everyone who supported our church through
your gifts of time, talent and treasure in 2019!

Ushers/Communion Servers/Attendance

Sunday, Feb. 2nd

Ushers: Nancy Bradley,
June Duff, Barbara Sarro,
and Colette Sigle

Sunday, Feb. 9th

Ushers: Nancy Bradley,
Gail McMahon, and
Bruce & Reba Powers

Sunday, Feb. 16th

Ushers: Crystal Hedden,
Teresa Hedden, and
David & Angela Chan

Sunday, Feb. 23rd

Ushers: June Duff,
Tessie Stanga,
Loretta Mudrak, and
Kassie Mudrak

Communion Servers

Susan Beverly,
Nancy Bradley,
Glen Hedden,
Dorothy Peters,
Ann Reitz

Worship Attendance

January 5th: 97
Royal Oaks: 21
Crescent Wood: 15
January 12th: 123
January 19th: 75
January 26th: 90



Special Occasions



Anniversaries

Clark & Beth Coldiron	2/8
Bruce & Reba Powers	2/14
Warren & Beth LeValley	2/15

Birthdays

Jene Mowery	2/9
Frances Wold	2/9
Lucas Guarrine	2/10
Clark Coldiron	2/11
Bea Hulse	2/12
Betty Shelton	2/13

Birthdays (continued)

Brandilyn Hoftyzer	2/15
Rebecca Gunness	2/17
Beth LeValley	2/17
Les McMahon	2/21
Barbara Benzinger	2/27

*We thank God for blessing each
of our friends with the gift of time
and pray that their next year will
be amazing!*

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2 p.m. Move of piano from FPC to our FHall
2 Communion/ Souper Bowl 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 a.m. Treat Time in FHall 1:45 p.m. Communion at Royal Oaks 2:30 p.m. Communion at Crescent Wood	3	4 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den 488, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	5 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study at Cracker Barrel 9:00 a.m. PW Breakfast @ IHOP 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners, Rm. 3 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 7	6 1:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study in Rm. 3 5:30-7:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 488 in Room 8	7 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	8
9 Cong. Meeting 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Congregational Meeting 11:15 am Treat Time in Fellowship Hall 11:45 a.m. Worship Committee Meeting	10 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Committee Meeting	11 9:30 a.m. PW Meeting/ Christmas Lunch 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den 488, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	12 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners, Rm. 3 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 7	13 1:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study in Rm. 3 TOPS set up for White Elephant Event in FHall 5:30-7:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 488 in Room 8	14 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	15 Deadline for March newsletter articles
16 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Treat Time in Fellowship Hall 11:45 a.m. Child and Youth Protection Policy Training	17	18 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den 488, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	19 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners, Rm. 3 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 7	20 1:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study in Rm. 3 5:30-7:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 488 in Room 8	21 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	22
23 Communion/ Transfiguration/ Scout Sunday 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Treats in Fellowship Hall 12-2:30 pm Youth Group in Room 8	24	25 5:00-6:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in FHall 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den 488 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	26 7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners, Rm. 3 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 7	27 1:00 p.m. Women’s Bible Study in Rm. 3 5:30-7:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 488 in Room 8 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting in Rm. 3	28	29 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 485 in Room 6