



# Sharing Our Faith

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

3080 Okatie Highway, between the back gates of Sun City on Hwy 170

**"Praising and Serving God Thru the Ages"**

Volume 11, Issue 12

DECEMBER 2018



As we enter the season of Advent and draw near to the glorious day of Christmas, we enter the season of giving. This is the time of year when hearts are turned to helping and giving to their fellow man. We, as the people of God can see the rich history of giving following the very example set by God.

God initiated giving through the giving of unconditional love, the giving of grace, the giving of mercy and the giving of the very Son of God to die so we may live; revealing the amount of love God gives to us. During this season of Advent, may we all share in the giving of the most valuable things giving to others love as shared by God. May we all freely give more grace and mercy to each other sharing in the forgiveness and the life received from the giving of the Son. Through this giving may we all be blessed with the truest meaning of the Advent season, being filled in our hearts, minds and souls with the true peace and joy of the Christmas Season.

Merry Christmas to all and in the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us all, everyone!"

Grace and Peace,  
Brian



We have a lot going on around us these past few weeks and months. It becomes important for all of us to keep a clear head about us and also to remember the reasons we come to church. We should come to church to worship our Lord and to be thankful for all He has given us. As was mentioned in a recent sermon – "We should thank the Lord every day, not just on Thanksgiving". Praising God with all our heart, mind, and soul should be at the forefront of our purpose. When we stray from that purpose, our brains get cloudy with unwanted garbage...

Ships don't sink because  
of the water around them;  
ships sink because of the  
water that gets in them.  
Don't let what's happening  
around you get inside you  
and weigh you down.

It's almost Christmas and a brand new "New Year" right behind it. Let's all examine our conscience and stay on the right path in the coming year.

Praise the Lord!

Merry Christmas to all,  
Ron Pozsonyi, Lay Leader



**St. Luke's UMC Worship Committee is happy to share news of our Chrismon Project!**

This year we have been busy on a special project and happy to report all is completed.

- All Chrismons have been cataloged and placed in acid free papers for protection and set in new containers. This preserves our precious Chrismons for generations.
- We were in the process of choosing patterns to make a few new Chrismons when a blessing came upon us. St. Luke's UMC received a donation of Chrismons. These were cleaned and refreshed. Look for the cross-stitched ornaments on the Chrismon Tree this Advent Season.
- Our Committee wanted to make a history book of St. Luke's Chrismon Tree and Symbols. We are pleased to share this book with you beginning the First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018. You will be able to read St. Luke's Chrismon history, the history of the Chrismons, and read what each Chrismon design we place on our tree symbolizes.

The Worship Committee thanks those who shared their knowledge of our history and worked on this project. We at St. Luke's UMC could not continue to share the Chrismon story, the stories of our Holy Bible, without your service, time and love.

*~Jane Disney, Worship Committee Chair~*



**YEAR END TAX BREAK**

If you need to take a RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your traditional IRA before year end, you can make a gift to St. Luke's with no taxes on that money. Just have your IRA custodian make the "Qualified Charitable Distribution" directly to the Church. Talk to your tax adviser and consider the joy that giving to Saint Luke's can bring. You may designate your gift to general operations, the Endowment Fund, PPI, or other designated funds.



—Rob Clark, Finance Chair

**THANKS RETURNED**



St. Luke's and our community of Christians have touched many lives over the years. Recently one of our friends has again expressed his love for this church. Many of us remember **Leonard Bell** who departed our world to his heavenly place in May of 2017. Recently we were informed that Leonard remembered St. Luke's in his will. The payment from his estate will help continue our outreach to the community and his generosity reminds us that it is never too late to return some of our bounty from God to serve His Church.

Thank you, Leonard.

—Rob Clark, Finance



**The St Luke's Missions Committee** sent a donation to **The Children's Relief Fund** for the month of November. This Fund, founded in 1991, is a group of volunteers who raise money to help fund therapy, equipment, summer programs and other activities for disabled children in the Hilton Head and Bluffton areas. For **December** the committee will send a donation to the **Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton**. This facility on H.E. McCracken Circle provides after school activities for elementary and middle school children. The programs include learning & technology centers, gymnasium, cultural arts room and art room. There is a teen center and canteen which provides a hot meal.



## THE SUNSHINE LADIES

Thank you to the Sunshine Ladies for honoring and donating to St. Luke's the beautiful flower vase in memory of my mother, Emily Simmons. She will always be remembered as one of the "original" Sunshine Ladies because of this wonderful gift!



In appreciation, Pat



Our 25 shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse were dropped off and have started their long journey. There are 100 countries where children, many who do not know Christ, will be invited to follow Him. For many this is their first gift ever, and they hold in their hands a tangible expression of God's love.



Our "adopted" seniors will certainly know they are loved, and not forgotten this Christmas through your generosity!



Our November birthday cake hit the mark in not only flavor, but was so fitting for Thanksgiving! Thank you again this month to Hardeeville's Walmart Baker, Marcia. If you get to the bakery, stop by and say "Hi" to her. Marcia is so talented, and takes great pride in her labors of love.



Most of you were able to figure out that our Thanksgiving favors were actually turkeys!!! The "Five Kernels" and "Trinity" poems were quite meaningful as we gave thanks for all of our blessings this Thanksgiving. Appreciate Lois Willig's creative attempts.



The Angel Tree is always a highlight of our Holiday outreach. Please bring your wrapped gifts and dinners to the Fellowship Hall by Wednesday morning, December 19th (9:30 AM). You sign the tag anyway you feel comfortable in signing. Please see Lois Willig to make other arrangements. The Sunshine Ladies will be filling in any areas where the children's needs haven't been met. Thank you for your donations to allow us to do so. Drivers and those able to lift and carry packages are needed for the delivery to Pritchardville Elementary on Wed. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. It usually takes about an hour. 9:45 - 10:45 AM. That sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Boxes for the dinners are available in the Fellowship Hall.



**Help out the Elves at Bluffton Self Help!** Every Christmas BSH opens up an elves' workshop full of items appropriate for the children to select for their parents. The helpers assist in selection and wrapping so the children have gifts for their parents come Christmas. Please check your drawers and shelves, or if you find inexpensive items that would make nice gifts, just place them in the bag in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring these items by Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.





**THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED**

11/14/18

Dear Friends,

You are so good to your neighbors! Thank you for taking the time to donate to the missions of Bluffton Self Help and our food distribution program. Please know that every item donated will directly impact a person or family in need.

On behalf of our clients, volunteers, staff and board of directors, we would like to thank you for your very generous donation of canned goods and non-perishable food items! Thank you for providing these families with precious nutritional items. Your contribution helps us achieve the mission of feeding the hungry residents in our community.

**With an average of 2,500 non-perishable items being distributed every week – a donation like yours is a blessing to receive!** Thank you for your kindness and generosity, and thank you for being a part of the bigger picture! Thank you for your continued support!!

Thank you!  
  
 Julie Jones  
 Assistant Executive Director  
 (843) 757-8088



Our December "Fifth Sunday PotLuck" Dinner will **NOW** be a **"Welcome in the New Year"** PotLuck on **Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM**. So hope when you get to your 2019 calendars, this date will be open! The sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall, and if you need a ride due to not driving in the dark, please see Lois Willig!



*If you care to donate a poinsettia* in memory or honor of loved ones this Christmas, please fill out the donation sheets available in the back of the sanctuary, and in the Fellowship Hall. The names of your loved ones for your memorial or to be honored will be included in a section of our Christmas card insert each Sunday during Advent and Christmas Eve. Please select if you will be taking your poinsettia(s) home or donating them to our homebound. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10. Checks should be made out to "St. Luke's Sunshine Ladies."

Place completed orders in the offering plate, box in the Fellowship Hall or to Lois Willig, 843.304.1086. **Last day to place orders is Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**PASTOR'S HOLY LAND TRIP**

In August our Bishop, Jonathan Holston, announced that he would lead newly ordained ministers, like our Brian, on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March.

What an opportunity, a journey of faith in the land of faith, valuable for every Christian but particularly beneficial to those like Brian who devote their lives to ministry.



We have an opportunity to assist in the cost of this trip, making an investment that will enrich Brian's ministry and bless St. Luke's as a church Family. Your donations will be used to offset the cost of the trip.

Please prayerfully consider giving a special offering for this opportunity. Make your contributions through either the offering plate or the box on the table by the church entrance.

Brochures detailing this trip are available in fellowship hall.

**A COUPLE OF ITEMS THAT WOULD BE GREAT TO GIVE AS CHRISTMAS GIFTS!!**

In the Fellowship Hall you'll find St. Luke's **Cookbooks** available to purchase at only \$8. They include 200 delicious recipes from friends and members of our congregation. They are also full of St. Luke's history and helpful household tips. To go along with a cookbook, we have **aprons** with an image of the church on the front which are also a mere \$8.

While you are in the Fellowship Hall dropping off any items being collected or for "Coffee", please notice this container for any loose change you might care to deposit. The Sunshine Ladies work off of your generous donations. Thank You!



—Jim Seymore, Trustee Chair



**MUSIC**

Again, we are blessed to have these talented individuals in our congregation.

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, our Chancel Singers sang “Unsung Hero” in honor of Veterans Day.



Then on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, Judi Landin, blessed the congregation with “Bless This House”!



Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, Pat Schwartz Ross and Joann Sandruck, did a beautiful duet of “The Prayer”



***It's not too late to have your name included in our St. Luke's Christmas card...***

Starting the first Sunday in Advent (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>), our St. Luke's Christmas card will be an insert in the bulletin. This family card is a wonderful way to send greetings to your church family, help save trees and stamps, all for a small donation. There's an envelope and sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. It's \$5 a couple (\$2.50 a single name). Please PRINT your name exactly as you would like to have it appear in the card, and place your donation in the envelope. Different versions of our card will be in the bulletins through Christmas Eve.



**THE ST. LUKE'S MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP WILL MEET AT THE OKATIE CREEK CLUBHOUSE Friday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at**

**8:00 AM.** Favorite college or professional football attire with emblems and colors are always welcomed, lots of fun, good conversation, fellowship, and food! Contact Dave Disney, [disneydw1@gmail.com](mailto:disneydw1@gmail.com) for more information.

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 02 Dave Disney
- 02 Terri Reutter
- 05 Eddie Goldfinch
- 07 John Suberati
- 08 Emma Cooler
- 08 Gene Dolan
- 08 Judi Landin
- 08 Carolyn Ransier
- 09 Carl Rogers
- 10 Bill Metcalf
- 11 Skip Blymiller
- 18 Jane Slayton
- 18 C.J. Strife
- 24 Jean Corkern
- 25 Jennifer Bernhard
- 27 Carolyn Montgomery
- 29 Sarah Smith



**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 09 Janet & Dave Jacoby
- 18 Fran & Gene Dolan
- 26 Bob & Sherry Lee
- 26 Jerry & Jane Wick



**Let us remember with visits, cards, and prayers...**

- Nancy Adkins**, 49 Heron's Bill Drive, Bluffton 29909.
- Doris Boskey**, Sonata Viera, Rm; 208 - 3325 Breslay Dr, Melbourne FL 32940
- Doug & Jean Corkern**, PO Box 3230, Bluffton 29910
- Elnora Ekholm**, 173 May River Rd., Bluffton 29910
- Marcia & Ron Garner**, Ron is at Veteran's Victory House, 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro SC 29488
- Carolyn Ransier**, 3035 Okatie Hwy, Apt. 2104, Okatie, SC 29909
- Jane Slayton**, 47 Fenwick Drive, Bluffton 29909
- Jane Wick**, 3 Devant Court, Bluffton 29909
- Shirley Wissman**, Bloom at Belfair, 60 Oak Forest Rd, Apt 129, Bluffton, SC 29910



## BOSTON BUTT

### JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

Order your Boston Butts now or at least by December 16<sup>th</sup>!! Hardeeville's Masonic Lodge has whole or chipped Boston Butts (\$35.00) each to be delivered on Sat. Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. See John Hubbard or Lois Willig for an order. If paying by check, please make it payable to "Hardeeville Masonic Lodge" with Boston Butt on the memo line. Proceeds go to local charities.

Acolytes are now included in our worship service. In many Christian denominations, an **acolyte** is anyone who performs ceremonial duties such as lighting altar candles. If you would like to be an acolyte, contact Jane Disney, 843.707.1764 or email: jabdisney@gmail.com



### IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST.



**LUKE'S** There are "Invitation to Membership" forms in holders on the back of the last pews. Fill it out and place it in the offering plate. If you're a member of another church, we will write for a transfer of membership. You will be contacted to schedule a date for joining.

### Greeters, Readers, Acolytes & Communion Servers

There are various opportunities to greet and/or be a gospel reader or acolyte, and participate in serving communion at our services. Please see the sign-up sheet on the back board, or contact Angie Harting, 843.705.0917. Acolytes contact Jane Disney, 843.707.1764.



### Visit Our Website!!

<http://stlukesumc-okatie.org/>

Listen to sermons...

Read newsletters & bulletins.

You can view past bulletins and newsletters and even hear recordings of the sermon that you may have missed. All the information is there to share with your friends and neighbors that may be looking for a church home. With your mobile phone or tablet, you never need to be far from your home church. Stay connected with the church that means so much to us all. See you on the web. <http://stlukesumc-okatie.org>

### Interesting Facts About Christmas

1. The **image of Santa Claus flying his sleigh** began in 1819 and was created by Washington Irving, the same author who dreamt up the Headless Horseman.
2. The Montgomery Ward department store created Rudolph the **Reindeer** as a marketing gimmick to **encourage children** to buy their Christmas coloring books.
3. The original Rudolph **did not have a red nose**. In that day and age, red noses were seen as an indicator of chronic alcoholism and Montgomery Ward didn't want him to look like a drunkard. To complete the original picture, he was almost named Reginald or Rollo.
4. Bicycle, the U.S. playing card company, manufactured cards to give all the POWs in Germany during World War II as Christmas presents. These **cards, when soaked in water, revealed an escape route for POWs**. The Nazis never knew.
5. The **Christmas wreath** was originally hung as a symbol of Jesus. The holly represents his crown of thorns and the red berries the blood he shed.
6. The **three traditional colors of most Christmas decorations** are red, green and gold. Red symbolizes the blood of Christ, green symbolized life and rebirth, and gold represents light, royalty and wealth.
7. **Tinsel** was invented in 1610 in Germany and was once made of real silver.
8. If you gave all the gifts listed in the Twelve Days of Christmas, it would equal **364 gifts**.
9. "White Christmas", Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", "Winter Wonderland", "The Christmas Song" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" plus the melody for "O Holy Night" were **all written or co-written by Jews**.
10. In the world, there are **two islands that are named 'Christmas'** – one is in the Pacific Ocean and the other in the Indian Ocean.
11. **The Statue of Liberty** was gifted to the US by the French on Christmas day in 1886. It weighs 225 tons and thus you could consider it as **the biggest Christmas gift in the world**.
12. The largest **floating Christmas tree in the world**— 278 feet tall — is in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



