

Sharing

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Silver Spring, Maryland



Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
God's work. Our hands.

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Anniversary Offering 2026: Jamaica Recipient Named

What an incredible tradition. Many years ago, Saint Luke decided to receive an Anniversary Offering each year. The congregation's anniversary is January 14 and each year the Council recommends a recipient. During the designated year we receive gifts toward the offering and then send to the recipient.

We have helped congregations get started (as we were helped back in 1939 and 1940), brought renewal to those destroyed by storms, given to Shepherds Table, to Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, and so many other places. What a joy!

Imagine though, Hurricane Melissa ripping through Jamaica and damaging more than 100 church buildings in the Western part of the Anglican Diocese. In addition to this, picture 18 church buildings destroyed.

The Saint Luke Council voted that our 2026 Anniversary Offering help a congregation in Jamaica damaged by the storm, and now we have a specific congregation - the bishop there has recommended

St. John's Church, Black River, in St. Elizabeth. Their building was destroyed leaving only the bell tower. In the next newsletter we will receive word from the priest and hopefully this fall welcome him as a guest preacher.



This historic Anglican church was originally built in 1700 and rebuilt in 1837, and yes, in the fall of 2025 experienced significant destruction due to the hurricane. How wonderful an opportunity for Saint Luke to be able to reach out ecumenically and create this caring partnership.

See photos below of this historic church before the hurricane, and right after the hurricane. To give to this year's Anniversary Offering simply go to www.saintlukegive.us and click *Anniversary Offering*.

Thank you for your amazing care and gifts over the years, reaching out in love and grace.

+Pastor Miller



Why All Those Colors?

We now enter into the **Green Season** and will see green paraments up in the chancel area and green stoles on the pastors and deacon. Why green and what do all these colors mean?

We all learn in different ways with each of our senses, and seeing colors and symbols is one way to share the mood of the season. What, however, does it all mean?

The church year basically reflects the life of Jesus Christ with five major festivals: Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. All else serves as a preparation for these times. The only Sunday devoted to a doctrine is Trinity Sunday.

So, what might the colors mean?

Blue: For Advent, the season of hope and preparation, for the birthday of Jesus as well as the time the Messiah will return. The royal blue of hope, as in preparing for a king, is seen all around.

White: Used for Christmas, Epiphany, much of the Easter Season, Trinity Sunday and Christ the King, the final Sunday of the church year. White symbolizes light, joy, purity.

Gold: Used for Easter Sunday, the pinnacle of the year celebrating the resurrection.

Purple: Used for Lent guiding us to repentance and reflection.

Black: Used on Good Friday, symbolizing the reality of death but at the same time we can glimpse the empty tomb.

Scarlet: Scarlet, representing blood, or purple, are used Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week, the road of Jesus' suffering.

Red: We see this color on Pentecost, Reformation Sunday, and days when we commemorate and give thanks for the saints and martyrs. Red is used for the Holy Spirit and the fire of the spirit in us.

Green: This is the great green growing season, most of the summer, known as the time after Pentecost or Ordinary Time. Scripture focuses on the parables of



Anniversary Offering 2025

The Anniversary Offering for 2025 was designated to assist a congregation in the North Carolina Synod that had experienced damage from the terrible flooding from hurricane Helene. After consultation with the directors of Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas, they suggested that Saint Luke's gift could help even more if directed there to Lutheran Disaster Response. What a great opportunity to help many in this

synod where the tragic flooding happened.

We have been able to send a check for \$4595 to Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas, the amount of Saint Luke's 2025 Anniversary Offering. In the months to come we will welcome as a guest preacher the director of this outreach for the North Carolina Synod.

Thank you to all who contributed to this fund.

CARE OF CREATION

Saint Luke Receives Award For Outstanding Efforts in Recycling

Saint Luke received an award for “exemplary efforts to develop, expand, and enhance waste reduction, reuse and recycling programs, striving to reduce waste, reuse and recycle more while aiming for Zero Waste.”

Here are words from the County as Saint Luke was recognized: In the past few years, Saint Luke adopted meaningful changes to reduce waste. In 2024 they switched from disposable service-ware to reusable ceramic cups and dishes. They have also started providing tablets for parishioners, significantly reducing the number of printed bulletins. From 2023 to 2024, the church’s recycling rate went from 27% to nearly 35%, while the total amount of waste and recycling (excluding yard trim) declined by nearly 25% (31,930 lbs., down to 24,133 lbs.). Their membership is also engaged in and supportive of waste reduction. One of the church members provides landscaping services for the grounds and brings the yard trim home to

compost. The church accepts donated fabrics of all shapes and sizes, which their quilting group turns into quilts that are then donated worldwide to places in need through Lutheran World Relief. They also host two annual service events related to waste reduction, including one with A Wider Circle, an organization that diverts used furniture and building materials from disposal, and their “Sweep the Creek” event, which engages children and young adults to remove trash from sections of Sligo Creek.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/departments-environmental-protection/trash-recycling-yard-trim/montgomery-county-recycling-achievement-recognition>

The award was presented to Saint Luke by Eileen Kao – Chief, Waste Reduction and Recycling Section, Montgomery County, and Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive. Those receiving the award for Saint Luke were Pastor Miller, Deacon Warfield, Sulayma Alfaro, Arturo Villarroel, and Matt Grussing, representing Saint Luke Council and Property Committee.



History Made in Kenya

A recent highlight in our global communion of churches, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), was the historic consecration of Bishop Catherine Ngina Musau as the first woman bishop in the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church. Thousands attended the festivities in Nairobi as Bishop was installed as the first woman to lead the Church.



Addressing the people following her installation Bishop Musau declared her commitment to serve the

church with humility and strengthen leadership that upholds integrity, inclusiveness and accountability. “The office of bishop is not merely an honorable title, but a sacred trust and covenant calling to serve God and people,” she said.



CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Honoring the Dedicated Teachers of Saint Luke Christian Day School

We proudly celebrate the heart and soul of our school, our amazing teachers who pour so much love, dedication, and care into every child, every single day.

Top Row:

Mrs. McNeill, Mrs. Segura, Ms. Barnes, and Ms. Wu. Thank you for your leadership, your passion, and the positive energy you bring into our classrooms. You set the tone for excellence and kindness.

Bottom Row:

Mrs. Seifert, Mrs. Pannebaker, Mrs. Banerjee, Mr. Graham, and Mrs. O'Connor, your patience, creativity, and commitment make a lasting difference in the lives of our children and families.

Each of you is truly special. You go above and beyond, not just teaching, but nurturing, guiding, and inspiring. Saint Luke Christian Day School is stronger because of you, and we are so grateful for the unique gifts you each bring to our community.

Congratulations and thank you for being such an extraordinary team. You are appreciated more than words can express! ❤️ ✨



MAY EVENTS



Sunday, May 10, we welcomed our ELCA Former Presiding bishop, The Rev. Dr. Mark Hanson. He served as guest preacher and then later shared a special presentation: *Our Call in These Challenging Times*. Dr. Wee also presented information about the Declaration, *Democracy at Risk: A Response of the Faith Community*, and we had a visit from Constitutional Scholar and Representative Jamie Raskin.

(Left to Right: Pastor Dean, Dr. Wee, Pastor Miller, Bishop Hanson, Deacon Warfield, Pastor Zawistoski)



Approximately 30 participants gathered May 11-13 at Hallwood for **The Folly of the Cross Retreat, *Just Where is God?*** Participants represented Saint Luke, Reformation Lutheran, Capitol Hill, and Hope Lutheran in College Park. Bishop Graham served as the event chaplain, Dr. Wee the Story Teller, and Pastor Miller, moderator. Thanks to Chef Howard Harris and Suleyma Alfaro for the delicious food as well!

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Explore the Butterflies Class

The Butterflies Class has been busy learning, laughing, and exploring through hands-on activities! Our children enjoyed painting, building, outdoor discovery, sensory play, and group learning experiences that helped spark curiosity and creativity.

From using their imaginations with art and blocks to exploring nature and working together with classmates, each activity gave our students a chance to

grow, share, and learn in a fun way. These sweet moments showed how learning happens best when children are free to explore, ask questions, create, and enjoy the world around them.

We are so proud of our Butterfly friends and all the wonderful learning taking place each day at Saint Luke Christian Day School!

To learn more and apply on-line, visit www.saintlukekids.org. Call to schedule a tour today, 301-588-3866.



CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

Pastor Chapel and Deacon Chapel, Inspiring Young Hearts

Our chapel time is a meaningful and joyful experience for our children, thanks to the dedication of our Chapel leader, Mrs. Pannebaker, as well as Pastor Miller, Deacon Warfield who get to be guest leaders now and then. Through their guidance, our students

are introduced to God's word in ways that are engaging, age-appropriate, and filled with love. Creating a welcoming environment, children feel comfortable participating, asking questions, and expressing their thoughts about God's teachings.

Chapel leaders strengthen our students' spiritual foundation while reinforcing values like kindness, respect, patience, and love. Children eagerly look forward to chapel, growing in their faith.



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM MINISTRIES Confirmation Sunday

Four eighth graders affirmed their baptisms during worship, Trinity Sunday, May 31. At a spring retreat, they chose scripture that was meaningful to them in relation to their faith. At the May 31 worship service, they shared what scripture they picked and a faith statement they wrote about why chose the scripture. Congratulations Jacob, Venith, Eli, and Ronan!!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be happening soon. If you can help provide additional needed supplies by giving a monetary donation and/or by bringing donations to Saint Luke, it will be greatly appreciated. If you will be giving monetarily, go to www.saintlukegive.us and click *Vacation Bible School Service Projects* or scan the QR code. Needed items include dish soap (18-20 oz.), all-purpose cleaner (approximate 35-35 oz. bottles), boxed cake mix, and frosting. Donations can be placed in the blue bin in the Fireside Room.



QR Code for Donating
VBS Service Project Supplies

SERVICE PROJECT

Working Side-By-Side

A group from Saint Luke worked side-by-side at [A Wider Circle](#) putting their faith into action. A Wider Circle provides household goods such as dishes, pans, linens, beds, and light along with professional

clothing for the adults, and toys for the children in our community who are in need. The volunteers stocked the showroom for clients to pick items to furnish their homes, and sorted donations to ensure items were in good condition.

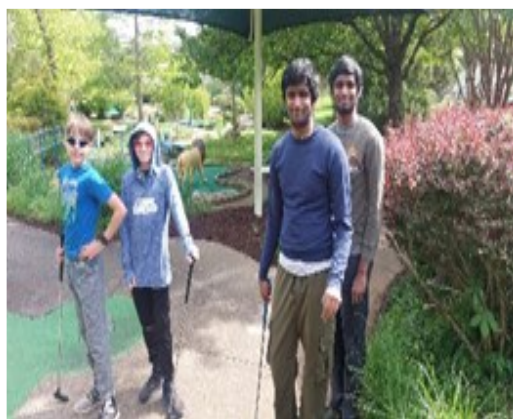


STRENGTHENING CHILDREN'S FAITH

Faith Formation Classes Ending

The Sunday School and Affirmation classes ended on May 17. Thank you to all those who taught the PreK-5th graders and/or 6th-8th graders. The teachers

this year were Siah Annand, Jacky Martin, Melissa Groen, Annika Dodrill, Pastor Zawistoski, Liz Garifo, Willard Unkenholz, and Brooke Linsenbardt. The Sunday School class ended the year studying about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit. Some of the youth from the Affirmation of Baptism class went mini golfing in Gaithersburg earlier in May.



The ELW – Many Resources

When sitting in church, perhaps before the service, take out the Evangelical Worship Book (red book) and page through it. It is not just a hymnal but a book of many worship resources.

Did you know it contains Martin Luther's Small Catechism? Start on page 1160 toward the back and see the basic parts of the faith in this catechism: The Ten Commandments, The Apostles Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Confession and Forgiveness, The Sacrament of Holy Communion, even Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers and

Table Blessings.

Also toward the front of the book, pages 72-87, notice all the beautiful and meaningful prayer resources for so many times and occasions: for the poor, the human family, the adoption of a child, families, those who live alone, etc. Yes, this book is a hymnal and so much more.



FOOD MINISTRY

Saint Luke Food Ministry Receives Grants from the ELCA and Metro DC Synod

This spring, Saint Luke's food ministry was blessed with grants totaling \$1500. Saint Luke's contribution to the Metro Synod came back to us in more ways than one! The grant was much-needed as, during February, March, and April we fed 1308 people, representing 351 families.



The grants made it possible to purchase more fresh food items for our clients. Faithful volunteers continued to shelve, pack and distribute food on the third Fridays of the month. Pictured are Rob Ahlberg and Sarah Province about to unload your donations from the grocery cart. Marcia Laundy and Kathy Bergeron bag veggies so the clients can make their choices.

Consider volunteering to help in the pantry. Please contact Ruth Manchester at rmanchester@saintluke.us. And don't forget to bring food items for the grocery cart. Thank you



Celebrating 55 Years
Nancy and Mike Gurganus
June 1

Celebrating 50 Years
Carol Jacobson and Ed Fenstermacher
June 19

Celebrating 45 Years
Annika and Harry O'Hara
June 14

Received into Membership

Jacob Bolleddu
Venith Bolleddu
Ronan Shugert
Eli Handwerker
Kenneth Divins
Joan Nagiel
Scott Nagiel
Christina Breuer
Edward Perry

CARING MINISTRY

Saint Luke's Quilt and Needle Ministries

Lutheran World Relief's Quilt Ministry has expanded its reach, continuing an 80-year legacy of providing warmth and dignity to vulnerable populations worldwide and now also extending that care to disaster-affected communities within the United States.

The Lutheran World Relief (LWR) quilt ministry operates through the devoted volunteer efforts of tens of thousands of individuals across the U.S. who cut, sew, and tie these handmade creations. These mission quilts serve critical, life-saving purposes such as helping prevent childhood stunting in cold climates and providing comfort during natural disasters and emergencies.

At Saint Luke, we have actively supported quilt ministry for 28 years and made over 2000 quilts during this time. LWR's Quilt Ministry at Saint Luke began as an activity at a retreat at Hallwood, where Pastor Miller shared her experiences seeing children and adults in other countries wrapped in God's love and warmth through mission quilts. This retreat led to the formation of Saint Luke's Quilt Ministry and over the years, expanded to include other needle ministries for making prayer shawls and baby blankets distributed through Global Health Ministries.

All ages are welcome to participate in quilt and needle ministries at Saint Luke. If one can tie a shoelace, one can tie a quilt. We also take donations of cotton fabric, cotton or cotton/polyester blend top sheets, and sewing notions. We also collect soft, acrylic yarn for making baby blankets and baby hats. Donations of supplies can be left at Ruth Manchester's office door in the Fireside Room.

Quilt and needle ministries meet at Saint Luke monthly in the Luther Room, and we also have people sewing, knitting, and crocheting at home. Please contact Karla Walker (karlawalker@yahoo.com) or Ruth Manchester (rmanchester@saintluke.us) for more information on participating

Summer Schedule for Quilt Ministry

Saturday, June 6, 9:30 -12:30, Luther Room

Saturday, July 18 and Aug. 15, 9:30-12:30, Luther Room.

Resources for learning more about LWR's Quilt Ministry:

<https://lwr.org/downloads/quilt-kit-ministry-guide-2026-27>

3 minute video about Quilt Ministry at Saint Luke:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a712bVJFoO4>

Tying quilts, May 2026

Penelope Sinclair, Carol Bennett, Ellen Miller, and Margaret Neily



Piecing tops for quilts, May 2026

Karla Walker



Sharing

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
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The Word

Sunday June 7

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 5:15—6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sunday June 14

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

Sunday June 21

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Sunday June 28

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday July 5

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday July 12

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday July 19

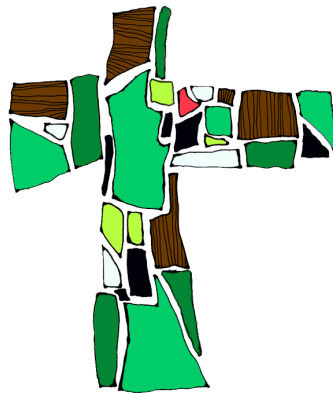
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday July 26

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-22, 44-52



**Proclaim the
Good News**