

### CONDOLENCES

St. Luke disciples offer our sympathy and prayers to the Family of **CO Myers (Anne)**, who died on Monday, May 5, 2025, in hospice at Prisma Health, Richland in Columbia, SC.

The Disciples of St. Luke offer our sympathy and prayers to the family of **Judson Shaw** on the death of his mother, Marie Shaw, who passed away unexpectedly on April 23, 2025. Thank you for surrounding them with love and support during this time.

The Disciples of St. Luke offer our sympathy and prayers to the family of **Walter Brown** on the death of his sister, Anne Brown Dawkins, who passed away on Sunday, April 20, 2025. Thank you for remembering this family during this difficult time.

### PRAYER CONCERNS

Huggins Austin and Nora Austin (grandchildren of **Mark and Lisa Bedenbaugh**, were born prematurely and are currently at MUSC Hospital), Ralph Fanning (father of **Bonnie Gardner**, home with hospice care), **Becky O'Neal**



God calls us to serve in love. Use our new church website [www.stlukehartsville.com](http://www.stlukehartsville.com) or click on: [Home - St. Luke](#) to fill out our **Time & Talents Form** (under the **Serve** tab) to let us know how you would be interested in serving – or suggest an opportunity. If you are unsure of where you would like to serve, complete the [Spiritual Gifts Inventory](#) to help gain insight on where you would be passionate about serving in the life of the church.



**St. Luke Has A New Website!** Over the past year we have been working to give the St. Luke church website a whole new look – Check it out!! ([www.stlukehartsville.com](http://www.stlukehartsville.com) or click this link: [Home - St. Luke](#) ) We plan to use the new website as the primary source for information about activities in the church — there are links to GMC content, calendar of events, sign-up opportunities, information about the church staff, our small groups/classes and work in the community. We are proud of our new website and especially thank Reagan Taylor and Tracee Auman for their help over the past year making our new website a reality.

### Pastoral Visitation

Pastor Todd enjoys visiting St. Luke homebound/other disciples. If you would like him to schedule a visit with you, please call the church office at 843-383-5169, or email Pastor Todd at: [pastor@stlukehartsville.com](mailto:pastor@stlukehartsville.com)

**He is glad to visit anyone at anytime!**

### Worship Team News



Many thanks to St. Luke's Worship Team for ensuring that our Homebound and Online disciples will have Holy Communion elements available to them so they can celebrate Holy Communion on the First Sunday each month with the rest of our church family.

You can pick up Holy Communion Packets in the church office. If you need them delivered to your home, please let the church office know (843-383-5169).



**St Luke**

**Methodist Church**

**May 8, 2025**

302 Dunlap Dr.  
Hartsville, SC 29550

[office@stlukehartsville.com](mailto:office@stlukehartsville.com)

843-383-5169  
843-383-0916 (Fax)

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday  
8:30 AM—4:00 PM

***The deadline for submitting information for the St. Luke Newsletter is the 1st and 3rd Monday's at Noon***

**If you have a Pastoral Care emergency outside of regular church office hours, please email Pastor Todd at: [pastor@stlukehartsville.com](mailto:pastor@stlukehartsville.com)**

# GOOD NEWS

### Finding Hope In Difficult Times - Even in the Darkest Moments

Hope means, "to desire something with confident expectation of its fulfillment." The state of Hopelessness has been aptly described as a type of "Hell on Earth," filled with endless despondency and despair. Today, more and more people are finding themselves alone and depressed, and few of us have not at one time, or another felt the sting of despondency and despair.

But Good news! Help is available, not the kind the world has, wherein it wishes for the best. It is one thing to wish, and quite another to have hope based on the promises of God.

### God is Our Source

Paul wrote that when you place your trust in God, He will fill you with peace, joy, and assurance, (Rom 15:13). Throughout the Bible, God proves His faithfulness to His people by leading them safely through or delivering them from all their predicaments and troubles. He will never leave or forsake His people; His plans are to prosper, not to harm them (Jer 29:11).

People and things will always let us down. In Psa 33:17, the horse, often used as a symbol of power, is declared a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength, it cannot save. In Jer 17:5 God sternly warns against placing our dependency on man and calls it a curse. God wants us to trust in Him. Psa 147:11 tells us that He is delighted when we put our trust in Him, and in Heb 10:23 we are told to rely on Him for He who promised it is faithful.

### Finding Help

To reap the benefits of the Christian life and to have protection, guidance, freedom from depression, and advice from the Holy Spirit one must first be born again and become a Child of God. The born again Child of God has the unique privilege of talking to and hearing from God, but this, the greatest resource available, is often neglected.

Christians should always pray! Even in the darkest moments when you don't feel His presence and think you will never smile again, pray anyway because He is there. He is listening and is an "ever-present help in time of trouble," (Psa 46:1). "He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us," (2 Cor 1:10).

When we place our faith in God and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we then trust Him to take us to Heaven. If we can trust Him with our eternity, surely we can trust Him for our earthly/daily cares. Jesus said that as God clothes the grass of the field, so will He clothe us even more. He tells us not to worry about what we shall eat or drink or how we will be clothed.

The "heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of all these things," (Matt 6:30-32). "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him," (1 Cor 2:9).

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**May**

- 2 Yvonne Hatfield
- 3 Marsha Bryant
- 4 Elizabeth Gainey  
Fran Weaver
- 5 Ashley Camak  
Lily Kate Hagwood
- 6 Pat Smith
- 7 Bennett Black
- 8 Pat Mitchell  
Willie Bizzell  
Fran Able
- 9 Reagan Taylor
- 11 Lee Moyd
- 13 Stella Beasley
- 14 Jenny Griggs
- 16 Paige Storm
- 17 Luke Mathis
- 18 Joseph Snipes
- 19 Patsy Russell
- 22 Vicki Dorn  
Brianna Russell
- 23 Chelsea Groves  
Kate Braddock
- 23 Bob Abbott  
Craig Gainey
- 25 Johnny Sturdivant  
Hudson Chapman
- 26 Jonathon Saleeby
- 27 Michael Woods Camak  
Cassie Ringer
- 28 Leigh Ann Bizzell  
Teresa Johnson  
Skylar Russell
- 29 Matthew Galloway  
McKenzie Bizzell
- 30 Hank Nicholson  
Rett Lopiccolo
- 31 Thomas King  
Laurie McBride



**May**

- 7 Michael & Anna Siegfried  
Wayne & Mary Jeffords
- 9 Jay & Anne Marie Lopiccolo
- 29 Mark & Lisa Bedenbaugh
- 30 Jeff & Bebe Chapman

**CALENDAR**

**Thursday, May 8**

6:00 PM Ladies Salad Supper

**Sunday, May 11—Mother's Day**

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Worship Service &  
Children's Church  
Kindergarten Graduation

5:30 PM Youth Ministry

**Monday, May 12**

12:00 PM Dannie Newsome Circle

5:30 PM SPRC Meeting

**Wednesday, May 14**

2:00 PM Ladies Game Day

5:30 PM Youth Ministry

6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 15**

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

11:00 AM—2:00 PM Boy Scouts Chicken Bog

6:00 PM Bible Study with Ben Babb

**Saturday, May 17**

11:00 AM Graduation Practice

**Sunday, May 18—Graduation Sunday**

8:00 AM Methodist Men's Breakfast

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Worship Service, Graduation, &  
Children's Church

11:15 AM Graduation Reception for all  
St. Luke Members

5:30 PM Youth Ministry

**Wednesday, May 21**

2:00 PM Ladies Game Day

6:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

6:00 PM Youth Ministry

**Thursday, May 22**

6:00 PM Bible Study with Ben Babb

**CHURCH TEAMS**

**Greeter for May:**

Judy Blakeslee

**Counting Committee:**

May 11: Ed Groves, Bill Query

May 18: Gabe Brown, Bill Query

**May Ushers:**

Scott Jackson (Captain), Herb Nicholson, Ken Evans, Allen Rudick

**Bereavement Meal Committee # 10**

Debbie Dawkins (Chair), Kristen Nicholson, Jane Cheshire, Elizabeth Gainey, Leah Babb, Feeka Ewing, Reagan Taylor, Karen Jeffords, Sara Buckles

**FINANCIALS & ATTENDANCE**

**Weekly Contributions:**

April 27: \$4,429.00

May 4: \$12,488.00

**Weekly Worship Attendance (online):**

April 27: 154 (373)

May 4: 176 (383)

**Boy Scouts Chicken Bog**

The Boys Scouts are holding a Chicken bog on Thursday, May 15th from 11am—2:00 pm. The cost is \$10 per plate. Please stop by the Fellowship Hall to support them!

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**Hope in Difficult Times**

Even if you reach what you consider to be your lowest point, God's Word says He will never leave or forsake you, (Matt 28:20). He will give you peace and comfort even in the worst of circumstances, then lead you through, over or around the muck and mire of your situation, and again set your feet on solid ground.

Our God is the God of new beginnings, with Him, nothing is impossible. Whether you are very young or considered to be very old, trust in Him because with Him it is always just the beginning. You may even find yourself in such a situation through divorce, death of a spouse, loss of health, finances, or whatever, that may force you to begin all over again, but is that so bad? Trusting God in difficult times forces us to seek His guidance, and to trust in Him.

Trusting God through these uncharted waters takes faith and courage, but is worth every effort. The path of His choosing is the only one that leads to true happiness. Isn't this a wonderful promise "...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint," (Is 40:31).

**Even in the Worst of Situations**

A shining example of living with hope is Victor Frankel, a former prisoner in a Nazi prison camp. "As a long-time prisoner in bestial concentration camps he [Viktor Frankel] found himself stripped to naked existence. His father, mother, brother, and his wife died in camps or were sent to gas ovens, so that, excepting for his sister, his entire family perished in these camps.

How could he - every possession lost, every value destroyed, suffering from hunger, cold and brutality, hourly expecting extermination - how could he find life worth preserving?" In one of his darkest moments while digging in a cold icy trench, he writes:

"In a last violent protest against the hopelessness of imminent death, I sensed my spirit piercing through the enveloping gloom. I felt it transcend that hopeless, meaningless world, and from somewhere I heard a victorious 'Yes' in answer to my question of the existence of an ultimate purpose.

At that moment a light was lit in a distant farmhouse, which stood on the horizon as if painted there, in the midst of the miserable grey of a dawning morning in Bavaria. 'Et lux in tenebris lucent'--and the light shineth in the darkness."

**Jesus is Our Solid Rock**

Christians can find peace during times of crises and trials that often drive others to drink, or suicide. This is the blessed comfort of the Holy Spirit, who indwells every born again Believer. Through Him, even in the midst of terrible devastating and humiliating experiences, Christians can have the peace, joy, and hope that passe all understanding, (Phil 4:7).

May God bless you all! **Pastor Todd**



The Tyree Family



Children's Department  
Families of the  
Month



The Murdock Family

Congratulations St. Luke Kindergarten Graduates!



Henry Evans



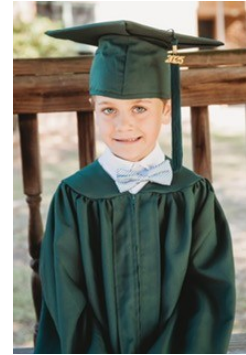
Judson Shaw II



Marlee Shaw



Davis Skipper



Watson Tingen



Polly McIntyre

St. Luke Methodist  
Vacation Bible School

SCAN ME

**Dates: June 2nd-5th**  
9AM-12PM  
3K-6TH GRADE  
Register your child by scanning the QR code

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR VACATION  
BIBLE SCHOOL!**  
PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE OR CALL  
**JESSICA**

SCAN ME

**JUNE 2nd-5th**



The St. Luke Hospitality Team would like to thank **Amy Brown** for her gracious donation of beautiful royal blue aprons with the GMC symbol and St. Luke Church embroidered on them. We will be a welcoming light for all as we wear these aprons proudly!



### Graduation Sunday

Join us on Sunday, May 18th as we honor our graduates during the worship service.

Immediately following the service, we will continue the celebration with a churchwide reception in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we recognize and congratulate our graduates on their accomplishments. Everyone is invited!

### Salkehatchie Summer Service

St. Luke Methodist Church is excited to announce that we will be taking a team to the Salkehatchie Summer Service camp in Moncks Corner, SC, from **July 5th through July 12th, 2025**. This mission opportunity brings volunteers together to serve communities in need by repairing homes, building relationships and growing in faith.

#### Who Can Participate?

- You must be **14 years or older** on or before July 5th, 2025.
- Anyone **18 or older** as of July 5, 2025, must complete a **background check** in compliance with our **Ministry Safe Policy**.

#### Cost & Scholarships

The cost to participate is **\$250**. Scholarships may be available for those in need of financial assistance.

#### How to Register

Registration is **open now**. [www.salkehatchie.org](http://www.salkehatchie.org). If you are interested in making a difference through faith and service, sign up today! For more details, contact Elizabeth Gainey at 843-858-4644 or Lara Mathis at 843-858-1418.

### Hartsville Food Bank

For the month of May we will be collecting:

**LAUNDRY PODS**



### Bible Study With Ben Babb

**St. Luke Disciple, Ben Babb, is holding a Bible Study on Thursdays at 6:00 PM in the small conference room.**

**The study is on the Book of Revelation. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!**

