

# SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Fish Fry

## A Letter from the Pastor

There is a lot happening in December at St. Luke's. Invite a friend and a family member to one or more of the following.

December 3 begins the celebration of Advent. We'll also celebrate Holy Communion.

On December 10, Mrs. Gillen and I will host a St. Luke's Parsonage Christmas Open House, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Stop by for a cookie and a look around the place.

On December 17, we'll have a Christmas Concert during 10:00 am worship. I'm excited about the music ministry leading us to celebrate Christmas.

On December 24, our Christmas Eve worship services will be at 10:00 am and an 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

I'm looking forward to see you and the guests you'll invite.

Blessings,

Mike Gillen

## **United Methodist Church Workshop**

The pastor is developing a workshop that describes what is happening in The United Methodist Church, especially around issues related to human sexuality. To make this a relevant event, the pastor is asking St. Luke's folks to submit questions regarding the current denominational circumstances. What would you like to ask your pastor about The United Methodist Church? Please submit your questions in person at the church office or email at office@stlukesumcmo.org.

-



hristmas

CONCER



## **2023 CHARGE CONFERENCE**

St. Luke's will be attending the 2023 virtual charge conference. On January 6, 2023, at 2:00-3:00 pm. Pam Jones and Dr. Mike Gillen will be the representatives for the meeting.

## **INVITABLE EVENTS**

## Weekly

- SUNDAY WORSHIP at 10AM
- **SEW N'SEWS**: Mondays, 9AM
- PIECEMAKERS QUILTING
  Wednesdays, Dec 6th &
  Dec 13th at 9 AM
- **RE-SELL-IT SHOPPE**Thursdays, 9:30 3:30 PM
  Saturdays, 10 AM 2 PM
- PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY
   Thursdays, 9-11 AM,
   Fellowship Hall

## **Monthly**

 GRIEF SUPPORT LUNCHEON

Dec 4th—12 Noon at Syberg's

## December

- CHRISTMAS CONCERT

  Dec 17th—10 AM
- CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
  Dec 24th—10 AM
- CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
  Dec 24th—11 PM

## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS Sunday, Dec 17th

Please contact the church office at 314-892-5595 ahead of time if you want to dedicate a poinsettia in memory or honor of a friend or loved one.

They will be \$15 each and will be available for pick up Dec 24 and 31st.

## **UMM Spotlight** by John Newman

## **HOSPITABLE HEARTS**

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me." – Revelations 3:20

"A Christian has a union with Jesus Christ more intimate than the members of a human body have with their head." –St. John Eudes (At His Feet Devotional)

Self-improvement for the men of St. Luke's UMC starts with joining the UMM; to bring your thoughts, concerns, suggestions, and your abilities to help grow and improve the men at St. Luke's.

The December meal will be Pork Chops with sliced Red Potatoes, Salad, Crescent Rolls, and Desserts

Our December meeting will have several things to accomplish. First we need to vote on our officers for the 2024 year, then we need to finalize our calendar for 2024, and then discuss the SLU Basketball game on February 16, 2024. We also need to discuss plans for the April 6 Trivia Night. We will end the meeting with a Christmas gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift (no Tags) and we will pick numbers out of a hat to select a gift. Gifts are totally up to your liking but should be appropriate for those in attendance.

### **CALENDAR**

December 4<sup>th</sup> – UMM/UWF dinner and Meetings (UMM Meal)

January 8<sup>th</sup> – UMM/UWF Dinner and Meetings (UWF Meal)

February 5<sup>th</sup> – UMM/UWF dinner and Meetings (UMM Meal)

February 16<sup>th</sup> - UMM night at SLU Billikens Basketball Game

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Trivia Night

April 27th Family Fishing Fair at Suson Park

Please mark your calendars.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



9 AM & 11:30 AM Every Sunday

Join us before and after the church service for Sunday School!

We have five classes to offer:

**Children ages 5 thru 11** meet in room 220 on the second floor of the Parkhurst building at 9 AM.

Youth ages 12 thru 18 meet in the Youth Room also on the second floor of the Parkhurst building at 9 AM.

Three adult classes -

**The Seekers** meet in room 215/217 at 9 AM.

**The Open Door Class** meets in the Parlor (room 211) at 9 AM.

**Stirring The Pot** meets downstairs in the Gospel Café at 11:30 AM.

If you don't see a class that looks right for you, contact Shari Scott so we can find something that will meet your needs!

## ST. LUKE'S FIRST SQUARE DANCE SHINDIG



Saturday, February 2nd, 2024 from 7-10 PM in the St. Luke's Parkhurst Gym

Grab your pardner and join us for a fun night! \$15 a ticket (see Betty Fasoldt or Suzie Wilhelms)

Y'all will have a barrel of fun!

## VITAL STATISTICS St. Luke's 2023:

**Average Worship Attendance** 

76 On Campus39 Online Engagements

## **STEWARDSHIP GOALS:**

2023 Apportionment Goals for Missions

Goal= \$46,386 Paid YTD= \$28,000

## 2023 Breakthrough Building Fund

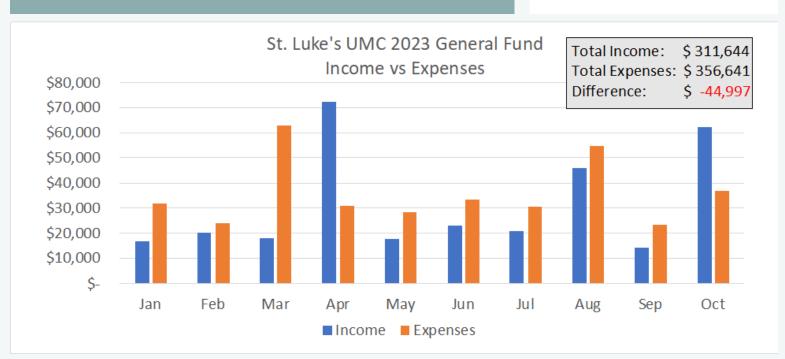
Goal= \$458,136

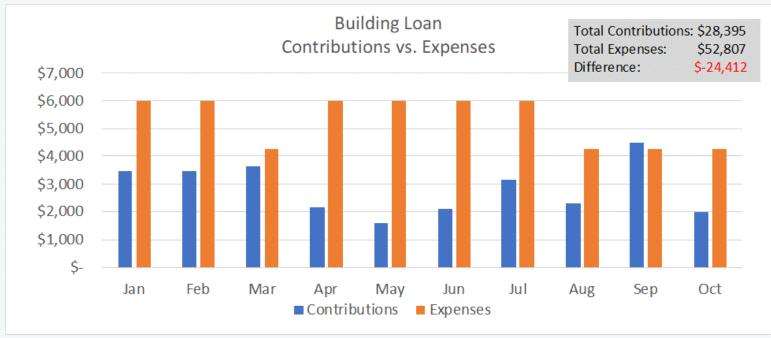
Loan Balance Paid YTD= \$26,874 Principle

Paid YTD= \$21,672 Interest

## Ink Cartridges

Have an old ink cartridge you need to dispose of? St. Luke's recycles them! Bring your used ink cartridges up to St. Luke's and leave them in the collection room. We will gather them and then ship them off. All proceeds help the missions of the church!





## Wants, needs, and the path to contentment by Pamela Jones

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **–1 Timothy 6:6-9** 

I am fascinated by how my children view wants and needs. Every time I take my children shopping to the grocery store, Target, Sam's Club, or the hardware store, I am bombarded with the questions "Can I have that toy?" "or "Can I get a treat?" (I am always surprised by what they think they need from the hardware store!) I spend my shopping trips saying no and despite our frequent conversations about needs and wants, my kids often end up sulking about the perceived injustice of leaving a store without the desired item. I am sure every person who has taken a child shopping has experienced the same thing.

Children and youth are forgiven for confusing *wants* and *needs*, because they are still learning their meaning. However, many people reach adulthood without understanding needs and wants. The distinction is especially hard to learn in our consumer culture, where every advertisement tells us that true happiness is forever *just one more* purchase away. When we believe this lie, we suffer lives of insatiable desire, ever grasping for the *newer*, the *better*, the *larger*, the *more*.

Mature faith and biblical stewardship challenge us to distinguish our *wants* from our *needs*, so that we may find contentment with "enough" — decent housing, healthy food, clean clothing, and reliable transportation. No longer slaves to a desire for more, we are free to enjoy the abundant life that comes from loving relationships with God and family and neighbors. Finding contentment, we open ourselves to the life God intends for us, rich and abundant in love, joy and grace.

## **FEED MY PEOPLE NEWS**

by Suzi Wilhelms

The South County location of Feed My People recently launched a transformation program, which looks at a person's needs beyond food assistance. Clients can list items such as clothing, household items, transportation, and housing needs, and new applying for jobs.

They are then connected to other community resources that go beyond the scope of Feed My People.

Feed My People relies on fundraisers, individual donations, and grants to fulfill its mission.

For more information, visit feedmypeople.org

Please keep us in your prayers.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					10a.m. AA Meeting 7p.m. AA Meeting	2 10a.m. AA Meeting 10a.m2p.m. Re-Sell-It Shoppe
3 9a.m. Sunday School 10a.m. Worship service 11a.m. Fellowship 11:30a.am Stirring the Pot 4:30 - 6:30p.m. Basketball	4 9a.m. Sew and Sews 10:30a.m. AA Meeting 6p.m. UMM/UWF 6p.m. Cheerleading 7:30p.m. AA Meeting	5 10a.m. AA Meeting 5:30p.m. AA Meeting 6:30p.m. Choir Practice 7:30p.m. AA Meeting 7:30p.m. Dartball 8p.m. Handbells Practice	6 9a.m Piecemakers 5:30p.m. Karate 6p.m. AA Bookstudy 7p.m. NA Group	7 9a.m. Prayer Shawls 9:30a.m3:30pm Re-Sell-It Shoppe 5:30 p.m. Cheerleading 6p.m. Praise Band 7p.m. Al anon Meeting	8 10a.m. AA Meeting 7p.m. AA Meeting	9 10a.m. AA Meeting 10a.m2p.m. Re-Sell-It Shoppe
9a.m. Sunday School 10a.m. Worship service 10a.m. Bethesda Worship 11a.m. Fellowship 11:30a.am Stirring the Pot 1p.m. Parsonage OpenHouse 4:30 - 6:30p.m. Basketball	9a.m. Sew and Sews 10:30a.m. AA Meeting 5:30p.m. Cheerleading 7:30p.m. AA Meeting	12 10a.m. AA Meeting 5:30p.m. AA Meeting 6:30p.m. Choir Practice 7:30p.m. AA Meeting 8p.m. Handbells Practice	13 9a.m Piecemakers 5:30p.m. Karate 6p.m. AA Bookstudy 7p.m. NA Group	14 9a.m. Prayer Shawls 9:30a.m3:30pm Re-Sell-It Shoppe 5:30 p.m. Cheerleading 6p.m. Praise Band 7p.m. Al anon Meeting	150a.m. AA Meeting 7p.m. AA Meeting	16 10a.m. AA Meeting 10a.m2p.m. Re-Sell-It Shoppe
17 9a.m. Sunday School 10a.m. Christmas Concert 10a.m. Bethesda Worship 11a.m. Fellowship 11:30a.m Stirring the Pot 4:30 - 6:30p.m. Basketball	18 9a.m. Sew and Sews 10:30a.m. AA Meeting 5:30p.m. Cheerleaders 7:30p.m. AA Meeting	19 10a.m. AA Meeting 5:30p.m. AA Meeting 6:30p.m. Choir Practice 7:30p.m. AA Meeting 8p.m. Handbells Practice	20 5:30p.m. Karate 6p.m. AA Bookstudy 7p.m. NA Group	21 9a.m. Prayer Shawls 9:30a.m3:30pm Re-Sell-It Shoppe 5:30 p.m. Cheerleading 6p.m. Praise Band 7p.m. Al anon Meeting	16 OFFICE CLOSED 10a.m. AA Meeting 7p.m. AA Meeting	23 10a.m. AA Meeting 10a.m2p.m. Re-Sell-It Shoppe
CHRISTMAS EVE  9a.m. Sunday School  10a.m. Worship service  10a.m. Bethesda Worship  11a.m. Fellowship  11.30a.am Stirring the Pot  3p.m9p.m. FH Reserved  11p.m. Candlelight Service	CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED  10a.m. AA Meeting  12p.m8p.m. Blood Drive  5:30p.m. AA Meeting  6:30p.m. Choir Practice  7:30p.m. AA Meeting  8p.m. Handbells Practice	27 6p.m. AA Bookstudy 7p.m. NA Group	28 9a.m. Prayer Shawls 9:30a.m3:30pm Re-Sell-It Shoppe 6p.m. Praise Band 7p.m. Al anon Meeting	27 10a.m. AA Meeting 7p.m. AA Meeting	28 10a.m. AA Meeting 10a.m2p.m. Re-Sell-It Shoppe
NEW YEAR'S EVE 9a.m. Sunday School 10a.m. Worship service 11a.m. Fifth Sunday Potluck 6p.m10p.m. PG Reserved						

## Give-A-Meal-A-Month For Feed My People

(Bring donations to the Collection Room off of Fellowship Hall)

## **DECEMBER**

### **Main Menu**

Canned Ham, Turkey or Chicken Rice, (white, brown, instant, regular, rice side dishes)

Boxed Potatoes, (mashed, au gratin, scalloped, etc.)

Any Canned Vegetable

Any Canned Fruit/Applesauce

Powdered Milk or Soy Milk, (shelf stable)

### Additional Items -

Baby Food, baby cereals, (rice, barley, mixed)
Baby juices, baby formula with Iron
Diapers, diaper wipes

Adult diapers, Boost, Ensure (or similar product)

## Noah's Ark Kids

by Shari Scott

We are so proud of our Noah's Ark Kids Sunday School Class

for taking on Heifer Project as their mission. It's a wonderful learning opportunity for them and allows them to help families in need. Their gifts to Heifer will also provide training for the recipients on how to care for the animals and their uses.

So far this year, with the help of matching gifts through the Heifer Project, the kids have been able to purchase a Basket of Hope (\$50), a water buffalo (\$250) and this month they were able to purchase an Alpaca (\$150). They aren't sure what their next animal will be but they have already saved \$25.00 towards that purchase and Heifer project just announced a 3X matching gift which will give them \$75.00!

## DECEMBER'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 2—Norm and Lydia Neun
- 26-Ron and Barb Main
- 28—Matt and Sheila Cappello

## **DECEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS**

- **3**—Mike Gillen
- 3—Molly Howard
- 5—Dawn Follmer
- **10**—Anne Aubuchon
- **10**—Norm Curran
- **12**—Holly Schneringer
- 16—Jan Carter
- 16—Kathy Reed
- 17—Ed Chard
- 17—Calvin Lampe
- **27**—Ron Feddersen
- **27**—Tippie Heimos
- **28**—Michelle McClure
- 28—Norm Neun
- 28—Joe Schmidt
- **30**—Judy Aubuchon
- 30—Noah Rothe
- **31**—Emily Bone

## Have you invited anyone to St. Luke's lately?

Take some time this December to welcome friends, family and potential guests to St. Luke's United Methodist Church!

## **PIECEMAKERS**

Piecemakers will be meeting on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> and then taking a break until the New Year. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, January, 10. The December meetings will be spent making plans for the new year by doing some major clean-up and organizing in the quilter's room. We will be sorting and organizing our fabric stash and setting some aside for a donation to the City Sewing Room. Our project for January and February will be making play mats and blankets for Layettes to be donated to Feed My People and Lifewise. Of course, after each meeting we will go to lunch!

- Karen Anderson

## **DARTBALL**

It's Dartball season!

Come support the St. Luke's Dartball team this season in the Parkhurst Gym for our home games. Doors open at 7:30 PM.

There is no admission fee!

- December 5th
- January 23rd
- January 30th
- February 13th
- February 27th
- March 5th
- March 12th
- March 19th

## **United Women in Faith**Faith - Action - Sisterhood



### **December 2023 News**

Our next meeting is Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the Open Door classroom across from the office area. We will be having a program focusing on this special season of Christmas. Please join us for a meal at 6:00 p.m. prior to the meeting in Gospel Café. The UMM are preparing the dinner that evening.

We are planning a service project for December. We will be putting together some small gift boxes for the men at a Men's home in the Carondelet Neighborhood. Our goal is 34 boxes filled with various items. Men's socks, candy, meat sticks, chips, personal care items, gloves, deck of cards, etc. We will wrap the boxes and deliver to the home as a special gift.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers that set up and worked at the Re Sell it Shop and the special **Cash and Carry Sale** in November. We had so many fantastic items to display and sell! There are still many Holiday items for sale in the Christmas room next to the shop. Be sure to stop in on Thursdays and Saturdays for more bargains.

Sandy Newman, President UWF



## Festival of Sharing: Collection Opportunity

by Sandy Newman

What can we do year round to help out with Festival of Sharing? Just save the UPC Labels off of the "Best Choice" brand items that you purchase. It is an easy collection opportunity! There are a variety of products sold in the BEST CHOICE brand at Wal-Mart and Target. After you use the product just cut off the UPC label and bring to church to put in the Collection jar marked for that purpose. For every 1,000 labels turned in the Festival is able to collect \$33.00 to be used for hunger related projects in Missouri! We will collect these labels all year long!



## This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you - John 15:12

When you think about the members of our church, your mind may automatically settle on the people who are here at services every week or those you serve with on committees or in small groups. It's just as important that we think about others who are just as much a

part of the church but don't immediately spring to mind because they are not able to attend in person. By staying in contact with our friends that are homebound or in assisted living facilities helps them stay connected. Don't forget about those you haven't seen in church for awhile. It is so important that we reach out to these folks via phone calls or cards/letters to let them know they are in the thoughts and prayers of their St. Luke's family.

A big Happy Birthday shout goes out to Tippie Heimos whose birthday is December 27th. And, please think about sending Christmas cards or notes to our homebound friends just to let them know you are thinking of them. If you need their contact information, you can call or stop by the church office. Don't forget to keep our entire St. Luke's family, in your hearts by including them in your daily prayers.

If you are contacting any of our members that are unable to attend services in person, please let the office know that you have talked with them and how they are doing

- St Luke's Homebound Ministry

## **FISH FRY**

Oh! Yes! It does seem to be too early and too busy to even be thinking about Fish Fry Fridays. Just think how fast Thanksgiving comes, then Christmas and the New Year celebrations, quickly followed by February and Ash Wednesday. To everyone who has helped or plans to help with the 2024 Fish Fry, please join us at an organizational/planning meeting on January 10, 6:30 in the Library. This announcement is coming out early so you can clear your calendar and come share ideas for possible improvements and comments on things that changed last year and worked out well. This is our biggest fund raiser each year, providing us with an extra opportunity to share St. Luke's mission message with many who are living in our community. If you have any questions about this meeting, contact Tammy Caldwell or Karen Anderson. (2024 Fish Fry Friday dates: February 16 – March 29) - Karen Anderson



## SIMPLE. FAST. SECURE.

Want to donate to St. Luke's UMC? Use Tithe.ly! Tithe.ly can be accessed by heading to our church website, orclicking on the button provided in the weekly email blast, or downloading the app in either Google Play Store or Apple iTunes. Tithe.ly will enable givers to either give a 1 time donation or create an account. Donors will be able to direct gifts to 5 designated areas, set-up weekly giving reminders and re-occurring gifts, receive instant emailed receipts, and track amounts given over the year! **ONLINE GIVING JUST GOT EASIER!** 













# Thank you! Thank you!!!!

Because of the generosity you



showed by donating funds, turkeys & pies plus volunteering your time to cook serve, greet, set up and clean up, St. Luke's was able to serve 185 meals on Thanksgiving Day. We couldn't have done it without our many volunteers. This is just one of many reasons we love our St. Luke's family!

-Shari Scott

## PRAYER LIST

Brenda
Jackie England
Ron Main
Lloyd Nelson
Debbie Tate
Ted Piskos
Family of Ron Main

Michael Ackerman
Judy Appel
Matias Avalos
William Bone
Linda Durker
Family of Kathy Follmer
Richard Icenhower
Gilda Lahrman
Gary Meadows
Renee Wiegers
Georgia Wymer

Challie Allison
Judy Aubuchon
Janet Berkley
Tom Diekhaus
Coleen Eggemeyer
Geoffrey Fasoldt

Shawn Feddersen
Bridget Fischer
Ashley Halker
Althea Hart
Tippie Heimos
Freya Koch
Connie Laramie
Dennis Ledgerwood
Caroline Lewis
Janean Little
Marlene Loesekam
Mae McAdow
Dot McCoy
Anita Phillips

We are here for you if you are in need of PRAYER

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Matthew 21:22 (ESV)

Our Prayer Room is always open.

You may use it to pray privately or there will be someone available to pray with you.

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

Max Lucado

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** by Jean Bailey

Our December Grief luncheon will be December 4th at Sybergs in Arnold at 249 Arnold Commons at 12 noon.

Any questions please call Jean Bailey at 314-660-2912 or the office.



## PRAYER WARRIORS

We are looking for individuals or couples to staff the Prayer Room on a rotating basis on Sundays. You would be in the Prayer Room for 15 minutes before and 10 Minutes after the Worship service. If you would be interested in being a Prayer Warrior, please contact Shari Scott.

## DECEMBER MONTHLY MISSION







There will be an opportunity for you to contribute to the "Giving Tree" that will be located in the Welcome Center for the month of December. We are asking for donations for men's, women's, and children's winter items. These will be donated to Haven Street Ministry and a Men's Home in St. Louis City. Suggestions include: Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Scarves, Earmuffs, Warm socks

Thanks you for your generous donations!

## **COMMUNION STEWARDS NEEDED!**

Thank you to those that have stepped forward to serve as communion stewards. We still need a few more people to add to our list so, If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, please consider being a communion steward.

We need two people each month to assist Dr. Mike with serving communion on the First Sunday of the month. Ideally, if we have 12 volunteers, you would help with communion two times per year.

If you are interested in volunteering or need more information, please contact Shari Scott at the church office. She will also have a sign up sheet available in the welcome center.





Shake Up Your Holiday Tradition Give Blood

## St. Luke's United Methodist Church

December 26, 2023

Tuesday

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Multipurpose Building 2761 Telegraph Rd. 63125

Join us this holiday and

Give the Gift of Life!

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Give Something that Means Something®

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2761 Telegraph Road St. Louis, MO 63125

Address Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

Church Office: 314-892-5595

10AM Worship Service

Service is recorded and posted onto the St. Luke's Youtube page at 11:30 every Sunday.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mike Gillen

**Executive Assistant: Maya Quintana** 

Treasurer: Cheryl Rothe Music Director: Tom Schmidt

Minister of Worship: Rev. Bruce Walker

**Custodian: Mers-Goodwill** 

Email: office@stlukesumcmo.org Email: pastor@stlukesumcmo.org





# DECEMBER SERMON SERIES BY REV. DR. MIKE GILLEN: "Basic Faith"

12/03 Hope

12/10 Peace

12/17 Joy

12/24 Love

12/31 Reflections on the Year



## Facebook.com/SaintLukesUMC



We want you to join in the conversation on Facebook!