

Robert's Ramblings

A Call to Life

A once popular Christian apologist prior to his death was known for saying, "Jesus did not come into the world to make bad people good, but to make dead people alive." It is a powerful and true statement. Today is Pentecost Sunday, often referred to as the birthday of the church, when heaven opened up and the Spirit came down. We remember and celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus. Today however, we are going to look at a slightly different passage from John's gospel. Before the rushing wind... before the tongues of fire... before Peter preached, Jesus stood and cried out "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." It is an invitation that still stands today.

The world offers the temporary which leaves people empty, Jesus offers to fill us to overflow. The world produces exhaustion while the spirit produces life. "If anyone thirsts...", not are we religious, or talented, or have an impressive resume – are you thirsty? People thirst for many things: meaning, knowledge, intimacy, notoriety, power. Often there is a longing in us that we have tried to fill with everything except for the one source that truly can. One of the elements of the Christian faith that makes it special is that Christianity is not merely the imitation of Jesus, it is participation with Jesus in the Kingdom work of God the father through the Holy Spirit. The Spirit changes people. It took the followers of Jesus huddled in an upper room and made them courageous witnesses. It can do the same for us today.

Part of being human is thirsting for something more than we have, thirsty to be someone more than we are now. Despite time after time, story after story, testimony after testimony from others who unsuccessfully sought to quench that thirst by earthy means, we often still choose to learn the lesson for ourselves the hard way. Many in our culture have been led to believe that we can't speak to the truth of something unless we have done it, or been there, or have had that, or are that – whatever "it" may be. That is simply not the case. In a world that struggles with the concept of truth, the constant of the one who was and is the way, the truth, and the life never changes. Christ loves us enough to take us as we are – right where we are, and loves us enough not to leave us there.



Robert Wood, Associate Pastor
rwood@stlukecolumbus.org



1104 Second Ave.; Columbus, GA 31901

P.O. Box 867; Columbus, GA 31902

Telephone (706) 327-4343 • Fax (706) 327-4345

Ministry Center (706) 256-1017

Prayer Room (706) 327-4078

E-mail: stluke@stlukecolumbus.org

Website: www.stlukecolumbus.org

www.facebook.com/stlukecolumbusga

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Service 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Contemporary Service 9:00 a.m. (Ministry Center)

Worship in Spanish 12:30 p.m. (Turner Chapel)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The 11:00 a.m. service is streamed live at www.stlukecolumbus.org and broadcast live at WLTC 103.7 Lite FM • Taped broadcast on WTVM Channel 9 at 11 a.m.

May 24, 2026

Day of Pentecost

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Prelude....."Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling".....John Behnke

Welcome and Opening Prayer

*Hymn "O Spirit of the Living God"Number 539

***The Affirmation of Faith..... "The Apostles' Creed"Number 881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick*** and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic*** church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*The Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father)Number 70

Anthem....."Holy Spirit, Dove Divine".....Allen Koepke

"Holy Spirit, dove divine, let Thy light within me shine. All my guilty fears remove, fill me with Thy heavenly love. Life and peace to me impart, seal salvation on my heart, breathe thyself into my breast, seeking Your eternal rest. Speak Thy pardoning grace to me, set the burdened sinner free. Lead me to the Lamb of God, wash me in His precious blood. Let me never from Thee stray, keep me in the narrow way. Fill my soul with joy divine, keep me, Lord, forever thine."

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Choral Prayer Response....."Scottish Amen"arr. Marc Boensel

*Hymn "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"Number 500

Offertory....."Spirit of the Living God".....Daniel Iverson

The Dedication of Offerings..... "The Doxology"Number 95

The Written Word.....John 7:37-39 (*p. 94 NT in pew Bible*)

The Spoken Word....."**INVITATION AND OUTPOURING**"*Dr. Robert Wood*

*Hymn....."Breathe on Me, Breath of God".....Number 420

*The Benediction

Choral Benediction Response (11:00)."Sevenfold Amen".....John Rutter

Postlude....."Pentecostal Power".....Organ Improvisation

Standing as able.* * *quick* means "living"; *catholic* means "universal"

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

Sunday, May 24

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary, Main)
9:00 a.m. The Nine - Contemporary Service (MIN)
Live streamed at www.stlukecolumbus.org
K-5th Grade Worship (MIN)
- 10:00 a.m. Pre-recorded broadcast of worship service on WTVM Channel 9
(Broadcast over WLTC 103.7 Lite FM and at www.stlukecolumbus.org beginning at 11:00 a.m.)
Worship in Spanish (Turner Chapel, Main)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)/K-5th Grade Worship (MIN)
5:00 p.m. Student Ministry (Youth Room)
11:30 p.m. Pre-recorded broadcast of The Nine worship service, WTVM Channel 9

Monday, May 25 **CAMPUS CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY**

Tuesday, May 26

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (SD, MIN)

Wednesday, May 27

- 8:30 a.m. Strategic Planning Meeting (Conference Room)
- 10:00 a.m. On-Site Respite (1021 Third Ave.)
12 Noon Men's Young Professional Bible Study (Youth Room, MIN)
Ministry Center Committee Meeting (Meeting Room)
- 3:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study (College House)
6:00 p.m. Student Ministry (Gym, Youth Area)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room, Main)
College House Ministry (College House)

Thursday, May 28

- 10:00 a.m. On-Site Respite (1021 Third Ave.)

Friday, May 29

- 8:30 a.m. Military Ministry Weekly Bible Study (MMC, 1022 2nd Ave.)
12 Noon Men's Fish Fry (LD, MIN)

Main (Main Building). MIN (Ministry Center). LD (Large Dining Room). SD (Small Dining Room), MMC (Military Ministry Center). Contact the Ministry Center for information about renting or reserving rooms, 706-256-1017.



Ministry Staff Contact List:

Director of Children's Ministries, Maddie Kratchman
mkratchman@stlukecolumbus.org

Director of Student Ministries, Derek Hay
dhay@stlukcolumbus.org

Director of College & Young Adult Ministries, Kami Davidson
kdaavidson@stlukecolumbus.org

Director of Missions and Outreach, Laura Haygood
lhaygood@stlukecolumbus.org

Director of Music Ministries, Marc Boensel
mboensel@stlukecolumbus.org

Who's on the Couch?

PRESENTED BY THE ST. LUKE CHURCH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Join us for a lunch where stories take center stage! A green couch, **A SURPRISE GUEST**, and a powerful testimony you won't hear anywhere else.

Take a seat, share a meal, and be part of the story. Each gathering brings a different voice; honest, encouraging, and rooted in what God is doing in real life.



Thursday, June 4th
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Ministry Center, Large Dining Room
Cost: \$15 includes lunch



Scan QR code or
call Julie @706-327-4343 to register

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

If you have a 4th, 5th, or 6th grader interested in serving as an acolyte in 2026, please contact: Laurie Dudley @704-891-7837 DudleySL99@yahoo.com

ST. LUKE CHURCH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Breathe
making room for sabbath

Step into a summer of renewal and discover the gift of rest God intends for His people. Through the study *Breathe*, by Priscilla Shirer, women will explore freedom from busyness, the blessing of Sabbath, and how making margin for God can reshape daily life.



Book Link

Join Kent Butler and Suzanne McCluskey, as they lead this 5-week study, June 16–July 14, Tuesdays from 1:30–3:00 PM at the College House.

Registration is open through June 1.
Contact Doris Reid to sign-up at 706.888.9172 or dorishreid@gmail.com
Use the QR code to order your study book.



MEN'S MINISTRY FRIDAY FISH FRY

Lunch and fellowship: Friday, May 29
Ministry Center • 12 Noon • \$15 per person
Guest Speaker: David Blackwell



Please let us know you're coming so we catch enough fish! Register and pay in advance with the QR code... or pay at the door.
<https://stlukechurchcolumbus.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3650282>

BE A PART OF ST. LUKE'S

MINI MISSION

All shoes have been covered – Praise God for a generous church!! If you would like to go on the half day trip to place the shoes on their feet, please sign up at the QR code.

Details: St. Luke buses leave the church at 3:30pm on June 10th, drive to Camp Grace in Roberta, GA, and return that evening.

Questions? Contact LHaygood@stlukecolumbus.org or 706.256.1310

Camp Grace

WED, JUNE 10



REGISTER FOR DAY
TRIP HERE



ALL THINGS KIDS!

Scan the QR code to find information and register for all upcoming St. Luke Kids events.



ST. LUKE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 13-17

Pre-K - rising 5th graders.

Scan the kids QR code above to register!

Volunteers Needed for VBS!

Scan the kids QR Code to Sign up



CampConnect

**ST. LUKE SUMMER CAMP
JULY 6-10**

Rising 4th and 5th graders.
Scan kids QR code to register.

MAY MISSION BASKET



This May, we're caring for women and families in tangible ways through Belize and our Uptown Outreach Center.

Please bring products for women such as feminine products, incontinence pads/pull ups, and adult diapers.

Baskets will be located outside both services.

FREE SPIRITS LUNCH & ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM OF

"...bits and pieces"

June 16, 2026

St. Luke Ministry Center - 11:30 a.m. - Cost \$12.00

A bit of jazzy sax, tapping, musical theatre, and old fashioned singing. Reservations must be made by phone. RSVP by calling Julie @ 706.327.434 OR Email: jwidener@stlukecolumbus.org **Reservations Due on June 9th**



College House

Sunday School

@ College House after The Nine

Wednesdays @7:00 p.m.
Worship and bible study

**STudents
LUKE**
COLUMBUS, GA



SUMMER IS HERE!

Be on the look out for our summer schedule soon!



RESPITE CARE

Schedule time wisely for those loved ones with dementia

Establish a daily routine. Some task, such as bathing and medical appointments, are easier when the person is most alert and refreshed. Take your time and anticipate that task may take longer than they used to and schedule more time for them. Allow time for breaks during tasks. For more information on St. Luke Respite Care Ministry, call Kathryn Fussell, 706.256.3117

LOVE, AND FOLLOW JESUS.

OUR KNOWN SICK: Orchard View Rehabilitation: Bryan Sargent, 116.
Piedmont Midtown: Chico Rieder, 506.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Ms. Angel Wright comes by profession of faith. Her son, Adrian, will be added to our preparatory roll.

Mr. and Mrs. Tyler (Kathryn) Maddox come by profession of faith. Their daughter, Rayleigh, will be added to our preparatory roll.

ABIDING GIFTS

If you wish to honor or remember someone, please attach to your check the name of that person and the address to which you wish the acknowledgment sent, and mail or bring to the church office. Contact maggie@stlukecolumbus.org.

Memorial Maintenance Fund: In memory of Mrs. Judy Hubbard by Mr. and Mrs. Larry King and Meredith and Julie King. In memory of Mrs. Angie Hart by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Howard. In memory of Mr. Monty Thorne by Ms. Jane Wilder and Mrs. Barbara Marks.

Shoes for Camp Grace: in honor of Mrs. Barbara Collins by Mrs. Mildred McAfee.

Music Scholarship Fund: In memory of Mrs. Agnes M. Pedersen by Ms. Nancy Pedersen.

Respite Construction Fund: In honor of Ms. Kathryn Fussell by Ms. Nancy Pedersen.

Food Pantry: In memory of Chance Miles by Mrs. Peggy Gindville. In honor of the college graduates by Mrs. Joyce Fowler.



MILITARY MINISTRY

Warriors Battle brings together a community of brave individuals who share a bond forged by honor, sacrifice, and service. Offering a supportive environment where these courageous individuals can share their experiences, be heard, and receive encouragement and empathy from their peers through a proven biblical faith-based approach. Join Warriors Set Free in one of their upcoming Men's Encounters (Warriors Battle) from August 12 - 15, 2026, in Brandenburg, KY, or November 4-7, 2026, in Lake Allatoona, GA. There is also a devoted Women's Encounter (Heroes Reflect) from November 18-21, 2026, in Lake Allatoona, GA. Learn more at warriorssetfree.org/battle/.

Music Box

The Music Scholarship Fund needs your support! We are able to offer a modest scholarship to music students from CSU who participate in our Music Ministry only through the generous donations of the congregation to the Music Scholarship Fund. Please help as you are able.

Please consider supporting the Music Ministry by making a donation to the Music Fund, Organ Fund, or Orchestra Fund.

Join the Music Ministry! Children, youth, and adults are welcome in the Music Ministry. The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays at 7pm, and sings at the 8:30 or 11am services weekly. The Handbell Team meets on Wednesdays at 5:00pm, and plays at the 8:30 and 11am services monthly. The Children's Choir meets on Sunday afternoons. The St. Luke Orchestra is a wind and percussion ensemble that meets periodically throughout the year.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God and in loving memory Mr. James M. Sigmund by Mrs. Janice Sigmund and family.

OPEN ALTAR FLOWER DATES: June 28; July 5; September 13, 20, 27; October 11, 25; November 15, 22, 29.

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE (THE NINE): 9:00 a.m., Ministry Center, Dr. Robert Wood