



The **VISITOR**

A monthly publication of St. Luke's United Methodist Church - Kilgore, Texas

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE

February 2021

Issue 2

Lent

REMEMBRANCE. REPENTANCE. RENEWAL

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STAY CONNECTED

EVERYDAY | ALL DAY LONG

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<https://www.facebook.com/StLukesUMCKilgore/>

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<https://www.instagram.com/stlukeskilgore/>

Subscribe to our YouTube page

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQI83akQH4YDK-LYIHM0QXQ>

Sign-up to receive our emails

<http://stlukeskilgore.com/EmailList>

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The Board of Stewards met Sunday, January 17, for an afternoon training session during which information was shared about the workings of the single board, the financial guidelines of the endowment funds, and important “things to know” about the physical buildings of the church. A big thank you goes to Sabrina Bagley for providing a delicious lunch of taco soup and the trimmings. The regularly scheduled board meeting was held the following Monday during which the budget for 2021 was discussed and finalized. Two electrical projects concerning the Activity Center were discussed and approved - correcting the recently discovered code violation relating to the air conditioners and installing a security light for the parking lot and bus barn. Expenses for both would be covered by the income generated from the principal of the Ballard Endowment, which was set up specifically for the expenses of the Activity Center. Again, a big thank you is extended to the retiring members of the Board for their faithful service and a warm welcome to the new members coming on to serve.

HAVE YOU NOTICED. . .

Have you noticed the extra activity taking place at the old tennis court concrete area between the Activity Center and Knowles Street? It is a bustling place now! Last July, Cooper Shipman came to the board with an idea for a community outreach that involved rejuvenating that area by purchasing and installing two basketball goals and a volleyball net. His hope was to create a play area that the church youth could utilize, but even more, one that the community could enjoy. Cooper researched everything that would be needed and presented to the Board prices, and where the equipment could best be purchased. He noted that he and his dad (Daniel Shipman) would provide the manpower necessary for installation. The Board approved and Pumpkin Patch agreed to pay the expenses. Within the week, Cooper and Daniel had one basketball goal up and the other one soon followed. Many community people of all ages have been seen enjoying the area. One more addition to the area is planned. A timer will be placed on the existing lights so that after one hour, the lights will turn off automatically. The lights can be turned on again for another hour if desired, but having the timer keeps the lights from inadvertently being left on for a long period of time. Thank you, Cooper, for a wonderful idea for outreach!

2021 BOARD MEMBERS

Ginny Anderson

Michael Barnard

Carla Branson

Sheryl Caraway

Tommy Farnham

T.J. Gillen-Hall

Wendell Holcombe

Keith Hooks

Andrea McGilvray

Garry Mount

Lydia Rathbun

Denise Reinert

Karen Wilson

Syrena Witt



Bottom Line:

Jesus loves you.

Memory Verse:

"A friend loves at all times."

Proverbs 17:7 NIRV

Basic Truth:

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Our preschoolers will learn that God made us for love—the greatest love. He made that clear when He sent His Son, Jesus, to show us how to give and receive His love. When Jesus walked the Earth, He was God's love in the flesh. Jesus showed us time and time again that He loves us. That's why our focus this month is the powerful truth Jesus loves me. We were all made for His love! And that is why we chose The Big Sandbox for the theme. We want every child to know that Jesus is their friend and He is inviting them—all of them—to join Him, because He loves them. Everyone can play in The Big Sandbox! In a world where people and circumstances can easily make a person feel unloved, it is our desperate prayer that we can equip our preschoolers with the powerful truth that Jesus loves me. We want our preschoolers to live life knowing and believing—never doubting—that they are loved by the greatest love, and nothing will ever change that. After all, this is what they were made for—they were made for His love.



STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all the great things happening in children's ministry and at St. Luke's MDO

St. Luke's Kids

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukeskilgorekids>

St. Luke's MDO

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmdo>



LAKEVIEW CHURCH CAMP 2021

Registration is now open!

Visit our website to sign-up

<http://stlukeskilgore.com/churchcamp2021>

Session 4: July 5-July 9, 2021

Cost: \$440

Church camp is open to those who have completed the 2nd-12th grades

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

In February, our elementary kids will be studying the connection between kindness and God's character, as shown through God's Big Story. God was kind to us even when we didn't deserve it. Because of His love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and how much God loves them.

Kindness should be a characteristic of people who follow Jesus. Not only did Jesus model kindness, but He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated.

Life App

Kindness: Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them.

Memory Verse:

- You are God's chosen people.
- You are holy and dearly loved.
- So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient.

Colossians 3:12, NIrV

If you are unable to come to church, be sure to check out our lesson videos on our website at

www.stlukeskilgore.com/childrensvideos



Our MDO Chapel lessons in February focus on reinforcing that Jesus loves us. God made us for love. He made that clear when He sent His Son, Jesus, to show us how to give and receive His love. In a world where people and circumstances can easily make a person feel unloved, we want our preschoolers to know that Jesus loves them. We want them to know and believe that nothing will ever change the love God has for them.

"A friend loves at all times." **Proverbs 17:17**

MDO will be closed Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents' Day.

In His Service,

~Misty Shipman



**DOWNLOAD
THE PARENT CUE APP**



LAKEVIEW CHURCH CAMP 2021

Registration is now open!

Visit our website to sign-up

<http://stlukeskilgore.com/churchcamp2021>

Session 4: July 5-July 9, 2021

Cost: \$440

Church camp is open to those who have completed the 2nd-12th grades



STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to stay up to date on all the great things happening with St. Luke's Youth.

St. Luke's Youth

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesyouthkilgore>

@sly_srhigh

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

This month we'll be combining the Jr. High series, Awkward, with the Sr. High series, More to the Story, to discover what the Bible says about dating and relationships. Somewhere in the messages students get from their friends, their family, their significant others, and the media they consume, the real story on relationships and dating has gotten lost. This month we'll help students see that there's so much more to the story than they even realize. In fact, when it comes to relationships and dating, God wants more for their story than they know!

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Romans 12:10 NIV

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect" **Romans 12:2, NLT**

~Misty Shipman

Financial News: January 2021

Needed to meet budget each week	\$8,000
Received 1/3/2021	\$3,793.23
Received 1/10/2021	\$4,678.25
Received 1/17/2021	\$6,535.96
Received 1/24/2021	\$3,712.65
<hr/>	
Needed to meet budget in January	\$32,000
<i>Through January 24</i>	
<hr/>	
Total received for budget in January	\$18,720.09
<i>Through January 24</i>	
<hr/>	
Difference	-\$13,279.91

Thank You
SO MUCH

We are excited to say that our project to raise funds for new shelving to hold our old files was a huge success. That you everyone who donated to this project.

The shelves have been ordered and we will begin the fun process of organizing out the storage room.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that last year, in order to heat, cool, and power the lights around St. Luke's UMC it cost us approximately \$42,000? While ministries are important none of them would be possible without power and without your generosity that helps us meet our budget and keep our campus hospitable.

WAYS TO GIVE
at *St. Luke's*



ONLINE

at
stlukeskilgore.com



APP

search for
Tithe.ly



BY MAIL

401 E. Main St
Kilgore, TX 75662

7 WHAT IS LENT?

WHAT IS LENT?

The Reasons for the Season



Next to Advent and Christmas, Lent is one of the most celebrated and revered seasons in the year of the Catholic Church. Almost everybody knows the basics about Lent: that it begins on Ash Wednesday, lasts several weeks in which people routinely "give up" something, and concludes on Easter Sunday with a celebration of the Risen Christ.

But how many people, both practicing Catholics and otherwise, know about the meanings and history behind many of our Lenten traditions? We wanted to share this article with Father Czeslaw Krysa, diocesan director of the Office of Worship and rector of St. Casimir Church in Buffalo, to gain further insight into the traditions of Lent.

1 What is Lent?

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday, Lent is marked by 40 days on the Church calendar where the faithful are called to purify and renew themselves spiritually.

"Lent is a time to prepare for the renewal of our life in the Resurrection, and a renewal of our baptismal experience of Jesus our Risen Lord,"

2. What is Ash Wednesday?

Christians are called to attend worship and receive ashes marked on their forehead in the sign of a cross. The ashes are made from the remains of the burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday services. It is also recommended Christians fast on Ash Wednesday, abstaining from meat.

Note the significance of the ashes, as it is symbolic of freeing ourselves from the unnecessary as "remember you are dust and to dust you will return."

Traditionally, Ash Wednesday prepared Catholics for baptism and the reconciliation of penitence.

The imposition of ashes was a sign of entrance into the state of penitent, This is way before confession existed. People who committed major, not just mortal, sin were enrolled into penitence, meant they had ashes imposed and stood at the back of the church and did not receive the Eucharist until they were reconciled on Holy Thursday.

3. Why do we "give up" something during Lent?

Many Christians make personal sacrifice pledges to themselves during Lent, such as giving up chocolate, alcohol or coffee. But with that sacrifice should be a pledge to give something of yourselves, to walk in the path of Christ.

For us to be renewed, (we) have to take some kind of spiritual journey, or I call, a spiritual workout. If you want to work out and get healthy, you go and you train. This is a spiritual training time, and therefore, makes a person healthier. That's part of it, but another part of it is dieting and fasting. There's a difference between abstaining and

fasting, such as abstaining from certain types of food like meat on Fridays, while fasting is limiting the amount of food you take. Downsizing is another good word. That's one aspect, which leads to renewal.

Christians should also share the fruits of their fasting.

"When I deny myself, I need to place at the table somebody who is less fortunate and needy. That's the origin of Christian fasting. I hear people say, 'I'm not going to Starbucks during Lent. The money I save by not going to Starbucks, I can put aside and give it to the food pantry. We gather the fruits of the fast.

"It's not just writing a check, it's connected with our fasting and purifying ourselves. Fasting and abstinence needs to have the other side of the coin. What I deny myself, I have to give to somebody else."

4. Why do we abstain from meat on Fridays and fast days?

In ancient tradition, different religions picked different days of the week to fast, so while Hebrews had Tuesdays and Thursdays, Christians fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays. That is where the customary observance for Fridays came from, and also connects to Good Friday.

As far as abstaining from meat goes, unlike modern society, meat was considered a luxury in the past, and only consumed on special occasions like a Feast day.

"It wasn't as available and more expensive. Pork, in European society, was a sign of prosperity because of the fat. So meat was connected to something that was not daily. Everything else was daily fare. In the time of Christ, what we would consider a hamburger and fries was a regular dinner, it would be salt and bread."

5. Why is Easter on a different day each year?

The Lenten calendar changes each year, because tradition dictates that Easter should fall on the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. Because of this tradition, Easter will always fall between March 22 and April 25.

Once the date of Easter is decided, the Lenten calendar goes back 40 days (excluding Sundays) to determine Ash Wednesday. The 40 days tradition stems from the amount of time Jesus Christ spent wandering and fasting in the Judean Desert. Excluding Sundays from Lenten fasting connects to Sundays celebrating the Resurrection of Christ, and, in modern parlance, gives Catholics a "cheat day" from their Lenten sacrifice.

9 5 WAYS TO FEED YOUR SOUL

How does it with your soul? What kind of answer would you like to have for that question?

Back in the 1700's, groups of people regularly gathered to share responses to this question. They were so methodical in addressing the question, and in utilizing practices to nourish their souls, that they were derisively called "Methodists." The name stuck and is still in use today.

There are seasons when our souls feel as deep and thriving as a wide river. And other seasons when we feel our souls are parched streams. Perhaps by adopting some of these methods, we, too, can inspire some nourishment for our souls.

How can I feed my soul?

1) Go silent

The early Methodists fasted regularly. Fasting does not simply mean giving up food. Today we might fast from social media, television, or other distracting activities. The goal of fasting is to clear out space and set a feeling of expectation. We set aside distractions or other things in expectation that God will speak a sense of nourishment and satisfaction into us.

2) Pray

Fasting and prayer may sound intimidating to many. And while fasting is meant to be a challenge, prayer is not. Prayer, in its simplest form, is speaking to and listening to God. It could take the form of an internal conversation. Or a pray-er could utilize a practice like Centering Prayer.

3) Read

The founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley, said "all who desire the grace of God are to wait for it in 'searching the Scriptures'."¹ His point is that a key means for learning about and experiencing God's goodness is in the stories and ideas of the Bible. Reading the Bible brings us into contact with God's story. Reading other spiritually-based books provides nourishment for the soul, too.

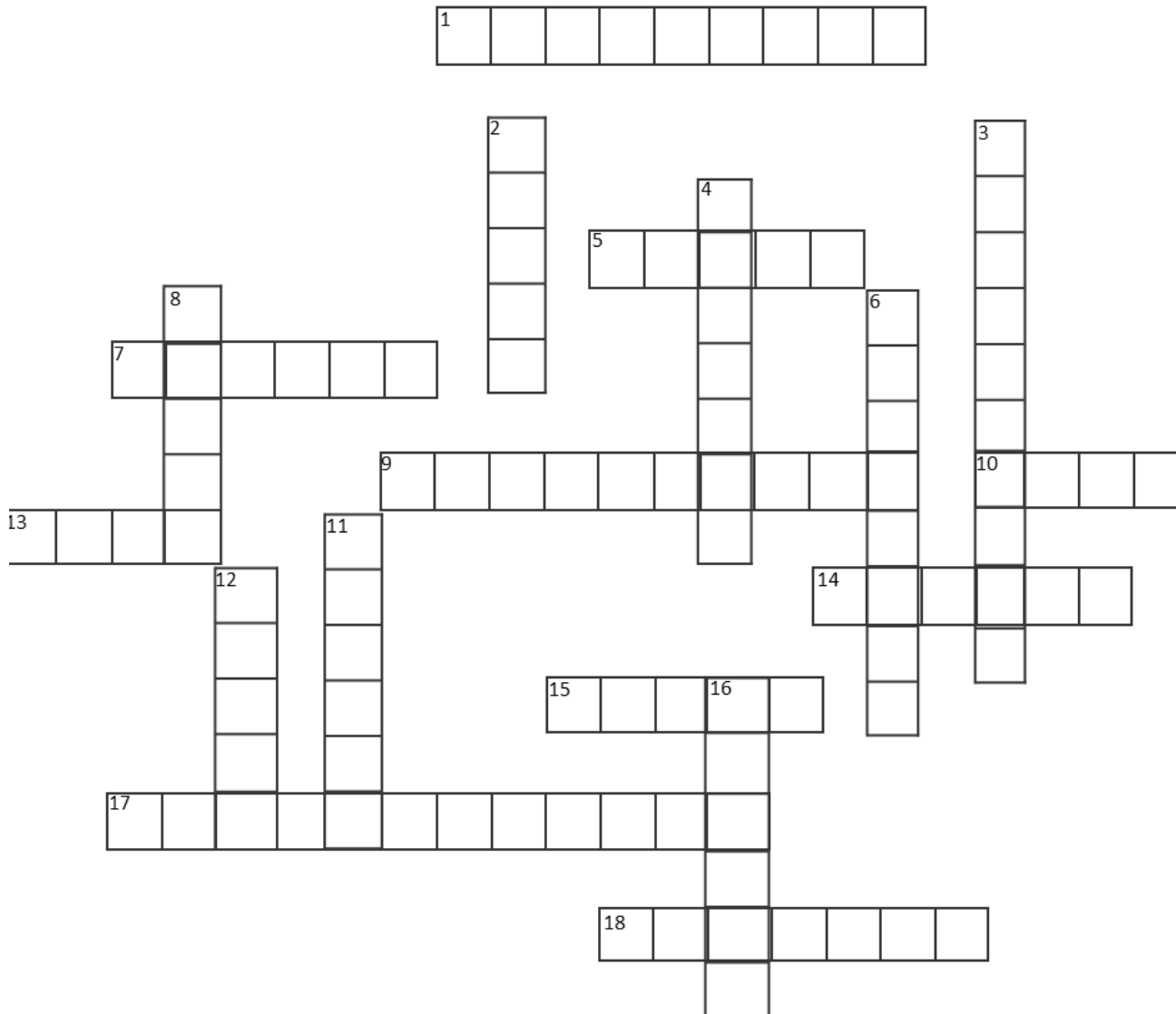
4) Do good for someone else

The early Methodists practiced "works of mercy" like visiting prisons and hospitals, feeding the hungry, and standing up for the oppressed. Such works uplift our souls. Identify the needs around you and look for a way in which you can interrupt the cycles of brokenness. Special feelings spring up when doing good things for those who can never repay the kindness. For some inspiration on doing good abroad, check out umcmmission.org.

5) Get together

We complain that, at times, people around us drain our souls dry. But in reality, people feed our souls even more. In gathering with others we get inspired by their stories and in witnessing the acts of God in their lives. Their ideas shine light and provide nourishment for our own souls. We are especially affected by others when we join them in some of the above-mentioned activities. Give it a try!

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/5-ways-to-feed-your-soul>



Across

1. Ash _____
5. The Christian holy book
7. Jesus entered Jerusalem on this animal
9. Day in Lent recalling Jesus' death (2 words)
10. Branches waved at Jesus upon his entry into Jerusalem
13. Was with Jesus at the cross
14. Jesus prayed for 40 days here
15. What Jesus died upon
17. We spend Lent preparing for Jesus death and _____
18. Giving to _____ is a good Lenten practice

Down

2. What Jesus shed for our sins
3. Holy Communion started after this
4. To go without
6. The final week of lent (2 words)
8. number of days in Lent
11. Season after Lent
12. Disciple who betrayed Jesus
16. Palm _____

11 UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY BREAD

February 6 (8:30am-11:00am)

First Presbyterian Church

Help! We have had some of our regular Saturday Bread volunteers unavailable for the next volunteer date. We need people to help prepare, package, and deliver meals on Saturday, February 6. If you are able to help out, please contact Brenda Culpepper, (903) 987-1453.

HOLY HUDDLERS

We would like to invite and welcome everyone to eat and fellowship as the Holy Huddlers. We will meet twice a month (not always the same week of the month due to holidays) Supper will be on you, but the fellowship will be shared by all.

February 12

6:00pm

Flying Burger & Seafood, Longview

February 26

6:00pm

Jason's Deli, Longview

If you have any questions, please call
Miki Ellis at 903-987-2506.

LENTEN MICROPRACTICES

This Lent we want to encourage you to participate in our daily Lenten Guide, "Lenten Micropractices." In Lenten Micropractices, you'll find a new practice to guide you each day on your journey of preparation. Some practices can be done on the spot, some during the day, and others will take some time and/or prep work.

Traditionally, there are three pillars of Lent: praying, fasting, and alms giving, which come to us from Matthew 6:1-18. Our micropractices rotate through these themes, along with additional practices that don't fit neatly in one of those categories ("more").

WHAT'S A MICROPRACTICE?

A micropractice is a small spiritual practice. Instead of engaging the same spiritual practice throughout Lent, the micropractices are meant to give a sample across many different styles of practices. Some are active, some are reflective. They will make you think, take action, connect with God and others, and live into your Christian life.

"Lenten Micropractices in a bag" will be available to pick up in the church office or at worship. Contact the church office for more information.

We will also be sharing each daily exercise on our Facebook page. You can participate by commenting on the posts or sharing a post of your own with our hashtags #stlukeskilgore and #lent2021



We are excited to have the Prayer Net return to St. Luke's. The net will be set up beginning February 17.

Stop by and add your prayer.

**“Even now,” declares the Lord
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
Rend your heart and not your garments.
Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious
and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.**

Joel 2:12-14

As I write this article, the inauguration of the President is playing in the background. I watch with hesitancy and a bit of tension. After the last several weeks, it is not hard to sit on the edge and pray that we are able to make it through the day and the next few weeks with no violence. The last few months have been difficult and have divided us as a nation. Many have felt wronged and like they have been treated unfairly. But I also sit here with the inauguration on with a sense of hope. Not hope in one party or another. Not hope in offices or buildings. But hope that God is still working in our lives and the world around us.

During February, our season of lent begins. Lent is a time when we reflect on our own lives and see how we have sinned and fallen short. It is not a time meant to simply dwell on the mistakes we made, but instead to be honest with ourselves. When were times in our lives where we were divisive? When were times where our failings hurt others? When were times our words caused unnecessary harm? Lent is a time to truly look at our lives and the times that we have pulled away from God.

Lent is not about just beating ourselves up. Lent is a time when we look at our lives so that we can in fact, turn back to God and rededicate our lives to the salvation that God offers. The passage from Joel above is used during lent. It is a reminder that we have fallen short. We have sinned and we have made mistakes. But that is not the end of the story. God is still working in our lives and still calling us back to faithfulness.

I sit hopeful today for the future because I know that God is still God and that even when we fall, stumble or sin, God gives us the ability to turn back. As we begin Lent, I encourage you to spend time looking at your life. Be honest with the areas you are falling down in and offer them back to God so that we might be able to create a future of hope.


Rev. Ben Bagley
Sr. Pastor

13 CALENDAR

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

8:30am Arise Worship* (Gym)
9:30am Sunday School*
10:30am Traditional Worship *
(Sanctuary)

Monday

9:00am-2:00pm Mother's Day Out
9:00am-9:45am Exercise (Family Center)
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday

11:45am Lunchtime Bible Study
(Family Center)

Wednesday

9:00am-2:00pm Mother's Day Out
9:00am-9:45am Exercise (Family Center)
6:00pm Children's Bible Study
Children's Music
Youth Bible Study
Adult Bible Study*
6:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

6:30pm Arise Band Rehearsal

Friday

9:00am-9:45am Exercise (Family Center)

* Nursery provided for this event.

** Nursery can be arranged for this event.
Call Niki Chowdhury, 903-984-3576.

A complete schedule of events including
scouts and private events can be found on
our website, stlukeskilgore.com.

ALSO SCHEDULED...

Saturday, February 6

8:30am-11:00am Saturday Bread
First Presbyterian Church

Friday, February 12

6:00pm Holy Huddlers
Flying Burgers & Seafood
Longview

Sunday, February 14

**Valentine's Day
Scout Sunday**

Wednesday February 17

Ash Wednesday

5:30pm-6:00pm Ashes to Go
6:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship (**Sanctuary**)
7:00pm-7:30pm Ashes to Go

No Wednesday Night Activities

Friday, February 26

6:00pm Holy Huddlers
Jason's Deli
Longview

Lent

REMEMBRANCE. REPENTANCE. RENEWAL

Ash Wednesday February 17 See Schedule on back page	Good Friday April 2
Palm Sunday March 28	Easter Sunday April 4
Maundy Thursday April 1	Be on the look out for more information about worship times

JOYS & CONCERNS

Please keep us updated on your loved ones. People will remain on this list for one month. Please let us know if they need to be on longer, 903-984-3576.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Don Adams	Wilma Jones
Marian Clemens	Jack Moore
E.J. Chowdhury	Ima Roberts
Tommy Freeman	Wilbur & Kay Yates
Jacque & Todd Gibbs	
Sandra Holley	
Sam Holley	
Ronnie Jobe	

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

Scott Gibson on the death of his wife, **Deb Gibson**.

Don Adams on the death of his wife, **Cynthia Adams**

Ima Roberts on the death of her husband, **Willie Roberts**

Sabrina Bagley on the death of her grandmother, **Bobbie Y'Barbo**.

Jan Hattaway on the death of her sister, **Sharon Schoenemann**

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Babby Carroll.....sister of April Watson

Chris & Pam Cross.....**brother & sister-in-law of Dan Cross**

Cindy Frederick.....sister of April Watson

Pastor John Newsom.....**brother of Dan Cross' sister-in-law**

Edith Williams.....friend of many

Kim Worl.....sister of Shelia Cross

OOPS..

Some names got left off the Chrismon list in last month's Visitor.

In memory of.....**given by**
 Joe Summers.....Jack & Cindy Venable
 Bo Sanders.....The Lost & Found SS Class

In honor of.....**given by**
 Marilyn Summers.....Jack & Cindy Venable

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Please say a prayer for our church family on their special day.

If we missed your date, please call the church office (903-984-3576).

February 1 Randy Crocker Robert Holder	February 16 Judy Burns Milton Frazier Freya Galvan Rebecca Stephenson
February 2 SyRena Witt	February 17 Carter Boone
February 4 Hannah Holmgren Don Tuck	February 19 Lee Briers Jacque Gibbs
February 5 Lynn Holt	February 21 Elaine Kirksey
February 6 Sally Holder	February 22 Madison Chism
February 7 Eli Eckert Mak Eckert Barbara Johnson Dena Rabius Jeff Stephens	February 24 Bailey Marley
February 12 Joe White	February 25 Sharon McCann
February 13 Kaylie Watkins	February 26 Billy Boggs Milton Hattaway David Mason
February 15 Jo Hancock Carmen McFadin	February 28 Peggy Bennett Jacob Hill Mickey Smith

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

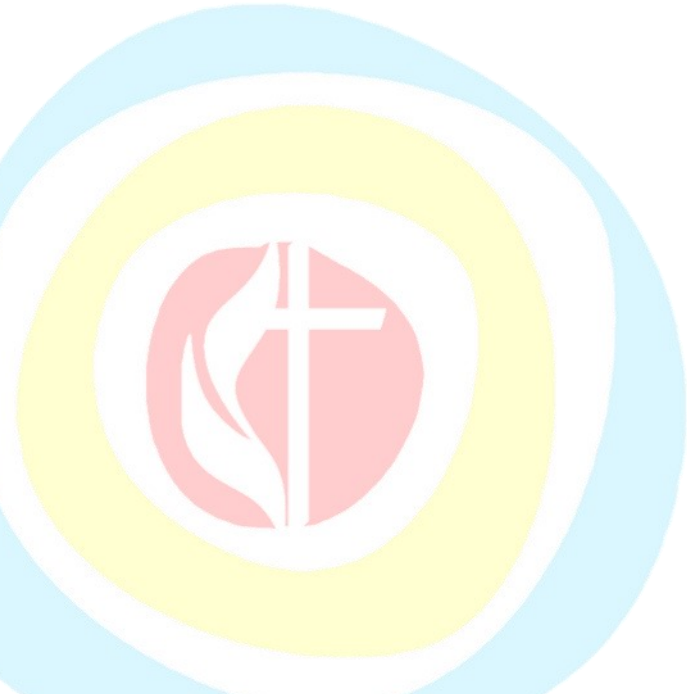
Name	Date
Scott & Laura Clark	Feb 2, 1985
Jimmy & Dee Arbuckle	Feb 4, 1979
Rhett & Anna Rohde	Feb 5, 1983
Nathan & April Watson	Feb 23, 1980

The
VISITOR

"The Visitor" Published Monthly by:
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
401 E. Main St., Kilgore, TX 75662-5905

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Ash WEDNESDAY

February 17

5:30pm-6:00pm
"Ashes to Go"

Drive Thru
Imposition of Ashes

6:00pm
Ash Wednesday Worship
Sanctuary

In-person & Online Worship
with imposition of Ashes

5:30pm-6:00pm
"Ashes to Go"

Drive Thru
Imposition of Ashes

social distancing and masks required for all in-person events