



# The VISITOR

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

**LOVE GOD**

**LIVE HIS WORD**

**SHARE HIS GRACE**

May 2020

Issue 5

## MAY SERMON SERIES



### **Separated:** Letters to a Distant Church

Much of what we know about Paul's ministry is through the Epistle letters that he wrote that we find in the New Testament. He was a prolific writer whose words still speak to us today, even as we gather around our computer screens to worship. Paul had to write letters to the different churches because much of his ministry was done at a distance. While he was physically separated from the churches, he still implored them to find ways to live out the lives that God had called them to. I invite you to join me in worship over the next few weeks as we look at Paul's letters to a distant church and how they speak to us now.

### **We've been missing you!**

As we continue to adapt during this pandemic, please remember that we are here for you. If you have any questions or need any assistance please contact the church office.

**(903) 984-3576**

**[stluesumc@stlukeskilgore.com](mailto:stluesumc@stlukeskilgore.com)**

## MUSIC MINISTRY GOES VIRAL

Ok, I admit that's a bad title. This has been a challenging time for all churches, and music ministries are really having to become extra creative to make ministry keep going. Singing has always been and still is a very healthful activity on a personal level. Right now, it just isn't feasible on a group level with the coronavirus being so communicable.

Usually this time of year, our children's choirs have been working on their spring programs. Without being able to meet together, practice on the music is problematic. In the meantime, the children in the Hope and Angel Tones choirs that have program speaking parts have been practicing through Zoom meetings. They have enjoyed seeing each other so much, that they got their parents to open another Zoom meeting so they could visit each other. After acquiring permission from the publisher, we are planning on getting all the kids in those two choirs working on their music so we can start filming the program as soon as we are able. Once filmed (likely in small groups) we will put out a video of the program on YouTube. What is really crazy is that the musical this year is about "virtual reality!"

Our Chancel Choir was the first group to go virtual with our making "This Is the Day" video for Easter. I am working with that experience to get the Arise Band on a virtual band video as well. It's a bit more complicated for the band, but a doable way to work together while not together. The hope is we can continue to do this kind of thing until we finally get back together again.

Our organist, Susan, has been a real trooper. She has continued to prepare and practice for each Sunday. Thanks to Elijah and team Cody/Veronica for providing music online each Sunday for the Arise service.

I have enjoyed talking to many of you on the phone as the staff has been checking in with our members. It is good to be in touch on a more personal level as we all have been sheltered in place.

## ST. LUKE'S MDO

Although I have missed having the kids with me each week in Chapel, it has been a blessing to hear how much they are enjoying the videos. I will continue to post a weekly Chapel lesson each Monday.

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will open on Friday, April 24th. Classes are tentatively scheduled to begin on August 24th. Anyone wishing to register for the upcoming year can use the following link to complete the enrollment form and pay the registration fee; <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/1693524>

*~Misty Shipman*



### STAYCONNECTED

Like and Follow our Facebook pages to stay up to date on all the great things happening in children's ministry and at Mother's Day Out.

#### St. Luke's MDO

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

#### St. Luke's Kids

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

We are using a lemonade stand theme this month to welcome in the warmer days and introduce preschoolers to the amazing truth that God loves me. We want preschoolers to know that God has put a lot of planning and creating and love into each of them. And, just like you can't separate the water from the sugar or from the lemon juice once you mix them, NOTHING can separate us from God's love. Throughout the month our preschoolers will hear how the Bible teaches us that God made us in His image, has a plan for us, and will never stop loving us. So, think a lot of love and a little lemon – mix it all together and we will get an entire month of God loves me! Our prayer is that every preschooler will walk away knowing that God made them and God loves them. And NOTHING will ever change that!

## PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL



### Bottom Line:

God loves me.

### Memory Verse:

"Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love."

**Romans 8:39**

## ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our elementary kids are going to learn all about determination this month! Determination is deciding it's worth it to finish what you started. Throughout the Bible,

we read about all sorts of people who showed determination in the face of hardship and difficulty. They relied on God's strength to get them through it. Even Jesus Himself endured through the pain of the cross so that we would be able to have a forever relationship with God. When it comes to the situations in our own lives, God gives us the Holy Spirit to empower us to keep going, even when life gets difficult.

## DETERMINATION

**deciding it's worth it  
to finish what you started.**

**"LET US NOT BECOME TIRED OF  
DOING GOOD. AT THE RIGHT  
TIME WE WILL GATHER A CROP  
IF WE DON'T GIVE UP."  
GALATIANS 6:9, NIRV**



Congratulations to the winners of our DIY Fort Competition, the Lewis Family with the **"Lewis Secret Hideout"** and the Patton Family with the **"Patton Covid-19 Hospital"**!

These families built some awesome forts!



**Weekly Zoom meeting** Bible study is definitely different now but I am thankful for technology so we still get to meet together.



Lexi & Ben Copeland did a great job on the Peep Challenge that was part of our online Easter Celebration.

## LOVE HATE

### SR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY

#### Love/Hate

Loving others isn't always easy. How do we love people who drive us crazy? How do we tell someone the truth without sounding like a hater? How do we love the unlovable? In this series, we'll explore what it looks like to lead with love rather than judgement and make a move toward landing on the right side of the line between love and hate.

I will post a video for our lesson each week on Tuesday. We will meet on Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday and Sunday for a time of fellowship and discussion of our lesson. The link to our Zoom meeting will be sent via Remind an hour before each scheduled meeting. If you would like to be added to the Sr. High Remind messages, please send me a text @ 903-240-4609.

*~Misty Shipman*

## IN MY OPINION

### JR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY

The Jr. High Youth will be studying a three-week series about judging others called "In My Opinion". The topics are: Choose words that help others, use kindness and love when you speak up, and there's more to others than just our opinions of them. Our memory verse is "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them." Genesis 1:27a NIV. You and your student can subscribe to the Daily Devotionals, called "In My Opinion", through the YouVersion Bible App. These daily devos will help your students engage with God's Word throughout the week. We will also continue to have Zoom meetings until we can meet again in person.

*~Niki Chowdhury*



# HATS OFF



*William Nicholas Bennett*

son of Cristy and Keith Bennett

While attending Kilgore High School, William was a member of the National Honor Society, the Baseball Team (3 years) and the Tennis Team (3 years). He will be working toward a degree in process technology and plans to work at Eastman. In 10 years William sees himself with a good paying job with a wife and at least one child. He also sees his faith being stronger than ever with him and his family



*Mallory Burgess*

daughter of Jimmy Burgess and Shanna Smith.

While attending Longview High School, Mallory was the secretary of the Longview High School Zonta Club, part of the International Baccalaureate program, and was heavily involved in Soccer with Solar Soccer Club. She will be attending the University of Southern Mississippi, majoring in Kinesiotherapy and playing soccer. In 10 years she plans to be playing professional soccer overseas. If that doesn't work out, then she plans to start a family and be successful.



*Sydney Chowdhury*

daughter EJ and Niki Chowdhury

While attending Kilgore High School, Sydney was a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, the cheer squad, and the CNA program. As a senior she was the class representative for the Health Science Club. She was a state champion at SkillsUSA, named to the all "A" Honor Roll, and is 7th overall in the 2020 Graduating Class. Sydney plans to attend Texas Tech to major in biology with a focus in premed. In 10 years she sees herself completing residency at a hospital on the path to become a doctor.



*Cheyenne Jones*

daughter of Steffen and Colette Jones.

While attending Kilgore High School, Cheyanne participated in Varsity Choir, Advanced Theatre, Peer advocates for special needs students, and Voices of Soul. She was named East Texas's best prep (female tennis athlete), Varsity tennis captain, was part of the Homecoming court, and was a Choir Solo and Ensemble State Qualifier. Cheyanne plans to attend Kilgore College in fall 2020 and work toward a sociology degree before attending Stephen F. Austin University to be a speech and disorders major. In 10 years she sees herself working with students using my speech pathology degree from SFA.



# TO OUR GRADS



*Kelton Kelley*

son of Kara Nichols

While attending Kilgore High School, Kelton was a member of the Tennis Team. He plans to attend East Texas Baptist University to major in Nursing and play tennis. In 10 years Kelton wants to be traveling the world using his nursing skills.



*Kord Laird*

son of Kynan & Jayanna Laird.

While attending Sabine High School, Kord played varsity football and baseball, was named All District First Baseman and Outfielder, was a Junior Rotarian, and was an active member of FFA. He will be attending Texas A&M, Texarkana, and playing baseball. In 10 years Kord sees himself with a steady job, in a nice house, starting a family



*Clay Mooney*

son of James and Celia Mooney.

While attending Kilgore High School, Clay was involved in football, Ag, and welding. He has also worked at Kenco Pools since last summer. He has always loved the outdoors, and he especially enjoys hunting, fishing, and riding his four-wheeler. After graduation, Clay hopes to work in the oil field or get a welding job.



*Scott Hampton Silvey*

son of Wade and Cindy Silvey

While attending Kilgore High School, Scott was named Academic All District in Football (11th & 12th grade), 2nd Team All State Football (12th grade), Highest GPA for a Senior Football Player. He was a member of The National Honor Society, the Hope Initiative, and the Prom Committee. Scott played football, baseball and golf, and was named to the AB Honor Roll in 10th, 11th, & 12th grades. As a senior Scott participated in model UN, where he was awarded 1st place general Assembly Delegation, 2nd place Individual General Assembly Delegation, and 3rd Place Maps. He plans on completing his basics at Kilgore College and transferring to The University of Texas at Tyler to complete his Business Management Degree. In 10 years Scott sees himself in a successful career, with a family of his own.



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF



*Carmen Elizabeth Vermillion*  
daughter James and Laura Vermillion

During high school, Carmen participated in LHS theatre. She was in four musicals. She played the roles of Cosette in *Les Miserables*, Rosie Alvarez in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* and Marian the Librarian in *The Music Man*. She also participated all four years in One Act Play Competition. At UIL One Act Play Competition, Carmen received All Star Cast Awards for her performances in "Frankenstein" and "Mother Courage and Her Children." This year, She is the Vice President of the theatre group.



Carmen will graduate with an Associates of Arts degree from Kilgore College in May. Because of her college grades, she was awarded a place in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Carmen sang in the Concert Choir all four of her high school years. She participated in All-Region Choir her sophomore through senior years and earned 2nd chair each year. She advanced to Area Choir competition her sophomore and junior year of high school. Her senior year she participated in solo and ensemble with a class 1 solo and earned the top score of 1, qualifying for state competition. She is the co-president of choir.

Carmen plans to go to college and major in vocal performance. She has been awarded both academic and music scholarships from Centenary College of Louisiana, choir and vocal scholarships from Texas Christian University, and academic scholarships from University of North Texas.

Carmen wants to have a family and be a university voice professor with the ability to participate in operas around the world.



*Luke Weathers*  
son of Jeff and Dana Weathers

While attending White Oak High School, Luke was a member of the marching band, where he participated in State Marching Contest and State Solo and Ensemble. He plans to major in political science in college. In 10 years Luke sees himself working on a political campaign or possible running for public office.



*Sam Witt*  
son of Tony and SyRena Witt

While attending Kilgore High School, Sam was a member of The National Honor Society, the Football Team, The Baseball Team, Co-Ed Dance, and the Prom Committee. He participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes All-Star Baseball game, was named Texas High School Coaches Association Academic All-State Honorable Mention for Football, and was awarded the KHS Football Bulldog Award. Sam plans to attend Kilgore College in the fall before transferring to Texas A & M, to get a degree in Wildlife Management. In 10 years he sees himself running a his own big game ranch and hunting guide business.





## JOYS &amp; 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 FAMILY &amp; FRIENDS

Anonymous prayer request for personal reasons

Georgia Albus.....friend of Pat Morchat

Bill Brown.....friend to many

Babby Carroll.....sister of April Watson

Greg Cashen.....friend of Mike Kerr

Carey Challis.....friend of Karen Wilson

Bella Crosby.....friend

Linda Fontineau.....MDO teacher

Cindy Frederick.....sister of April Watson

Jessica Hooks.....daughter-in-law of

Keith & Paula Hooks

Connie McGilvray.....mother of John McGilvray

R.D. Miller.....neighbor of Sally Holder

Sharon Schoenemann.....sister of Jan Hattaway

Isabel Shipman.....mother of Daniel Shipman

Juanita Shughart.....mother of Misty Shipman

Charles White.....brother of Joe White

Edith Williams.....friend of many

Kim Worl.....sister of Shelia Cross

Liz Y'Barbo.....mother or Sabrina Bagley

## MONTHLY PRAYER FOCUS

Our Members who are homebound

Parents & Teachers dealing with online school

Churches dealing with going digital

Our state as the "Stay At Home" order expires

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Dan & Shelia Cross	May 7, 1979
Joe & Heather Chism	May 17, 1997
Jeff & Cassie Stephens	May 18, 1997
Bill & Peggy Clarke	May 20, 1978
Kraig & Tonya DeKoker	May 22, 2004
Bill & Rebecca Hale	May 22, 2009
Jeffery & Donna Jackson	May 23, 2013
Chris & Susan Crawford	May 28, 1978

## PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Don & Cynthia Adams

Sharry & Jack Christopher

Marian Clemens

Mikki Ellis

Tommy Freeman

Linda & Chet Garner

Jacque & Todd Gibbs

Gary Gray

Sam Holley

Ronnie Jobe

Sue & George Jones

Wilma Jones

Dean & Kathe Miller

Stephanie Prine

Richelle Rathbun

Willie Roberts

Ralph Rudy

Glennys Travis

Wilbur & Kay Yates

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

*Praying for our St. Luke's Family.*

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).**

**May 1**

Michael Allen

**May 3**

Jeannie Allison

Brooklyn Patton

**May 4**

Addilyn DeKoker

Jacob Mooney

Xsavier Ortiz

**May 5**

Sloan Berger

Kristin Elms

Zack Fredenburg

**May 6**

Kennedy Buyher

**May 7**

Leon Courtney

**May 8**

Bill Bryant

Dennis Ellis

Robert Smith

**May 9**

Veronica Sprayberry

**May 10**

Alma Casey

Cade Clark

Mark Hatfield

Cora Mooney

**May 11**

Charlotte Reynolds

**May 14**

Sami Nelson

**May 15**

Misty Shipman

**May 16**

Luke McGilvray

Zack Smith

**May 17**

Madison Dean

Matthew Huey

Zaida Ortiz

Ray Reinert

**May 18**

Kaylon Jackson

**May 19**

Linda Garner

Cameron Stephens

**May 20**

Christine George

**May 21**

Jack Christopher

Morgan Payne

**May 22**

William Payne

**May 24**

Marilyn Summers

**May 27**

Madden Ridge

**May 28**

Keith Mathis

**May 30**

Janie Sweeney

*The*  
**VISITOR**

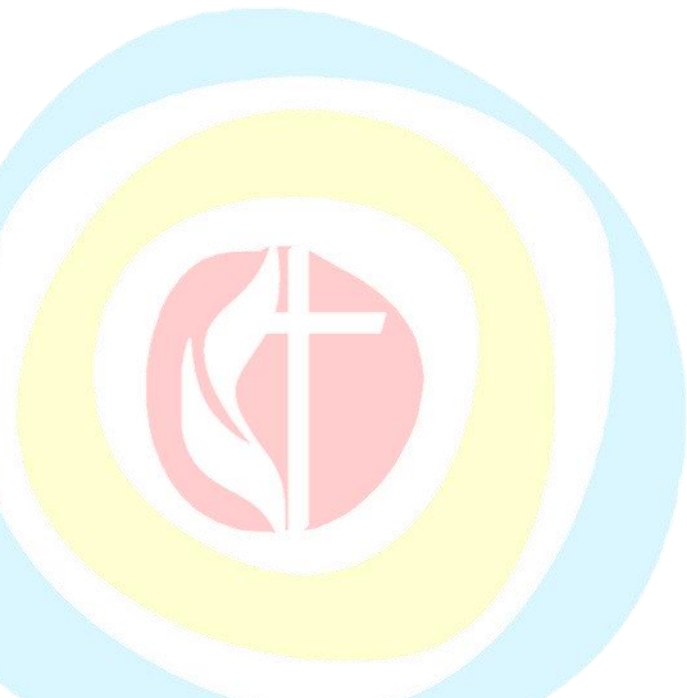
"The Visitor" Published Monthly by:  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
401 E. Main St., Kilgore, TX 75662-5905

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**

Arise Service.....8:30 AM  
Sunday School.....9:30 AM  
Traditional Service.....10:30 AM

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Kilgore, Texas  
Permit No. 202

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**WORSHIP  
WITH US**

**SUNDAYS AT  
8:30AM & 10:30AM  
ONLINE & DRIVE-IN**