



# *The* VISITOR

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

**LOVE GOD**

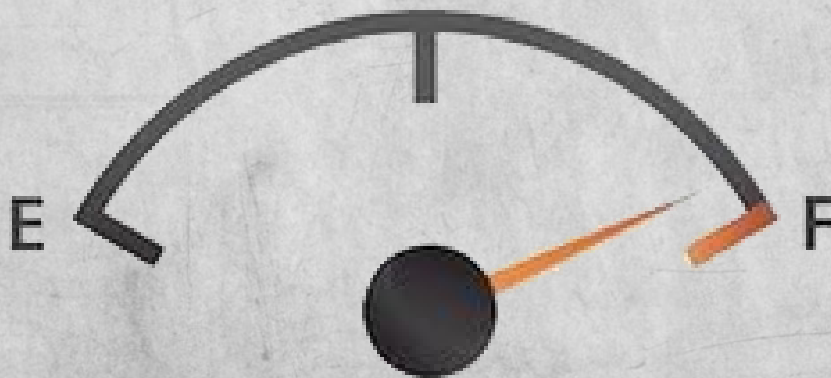
**LIVE HIS WORD**

**SHARE HIS GRACE**

May, 2021

Issue 5

W H A T A R E  
YOU *Full* OF?



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 2

Our Faithfulness

### PAGE 3

Board of Stewards

### PAGE 4

Upcoming Events

### PAGE 5 & 6

St. Luke's Kids  
Mother's Day Out

### PAGE 7 & 8

St. Luke's Class of 2021

### PAGE 9

St. Luke's Youth

### PAGE 10

Summer At St. Luke's

### PAGE 11

News

### PAGE 12

From the Pastors Desk

### PAGE 13

Calendar

### PAGE 14

Joys & Concerns  
Birthdays  
Anniversaries

## STAY CONNECTED

EVERYDAY | ALL DAY LONG

### Like and follow us on Facebook

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

### Like and follow us on Instagram

<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>

## STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

### Church Office

(903) 984-3576  
stlukesumc@stlukeskilgore.com

### Rev. Ben Bagley

(903) 984-3576

### Niki Chowdhury

Children & Jr. High Youth Dir.  
(903) 235-9401  
nikichowdhury5@gmail.com

### Jennifer Powell

Dir. of Communications  
(903) 984-3576  
stlukesumc@stlukeskilgore.com

### Richelle Rathbun

Hospitality Coordinator  
(903) 371-3499

### Misty Shipman

Sr. High Youth Dir.  
(903) 240-4609  
mdshipman@hotmail.com

### James Vermillion

Music Dir.  
(903) 241-1447

**Financial News: April, 2021**

Needed to meet budget each week	\$8,000.00
Received 4/4	\$13,273.65
Received 4/11	\$7,143.68
Received 4/18	\$4,971.05
Received 4/25	\$7,898.70
Needed to meet budget Through April 26	\$136,000.00
Total received for budget Through April 26	\$134,009.09
Difference	-\$1,990.91

**GIVING SHOWS RELIANCE ON GOD**

Another example we see is in Mark 12, the widow who had nothing to give, gave everything. And it was her great faith that moved Jesus' heart.

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

**Mark 12:41-44**

She demonstrated that though she was alone and without money or provision, she trusted in God above money, and so she gave as both an act of worship and trust in her creator. Likewise, giving to your local church can be an act of faith, obedience, or worship.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

One of the important aspects of being a United Methodist Church is that we are connected with all of the United Methodist Churches around the world. A part of this connection that we share is called Apportionments. Apportionments are financial contributions that every local church makes to help support missions and evangelism around the world. Our annual apportionments are approximately \$60,000. While this seems like a large number, it makes a direct impact on the kingdom of God around the world. When you give, you are not only contributing to local causes but helping us impact places all over the world.

WAYS TO GIVE  
at *St. Luke's*



**ONLINE**

at  
[stlukeskilgore.com](http://stlukeskilgore.com)



**APP**

search for  
Tithe.ly



**BY MAIL**

401 E. Main St  
Kilgore, TX 75662

# 3 BITS FROM THE BOARD

## 2021 BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Barnard

Carla Branson

Sheryl Caraway

Tommy Farnham

T.J. Gillen-Hall

Wendell Holcombe

Keith Hooks

Andrea McGilvray

Celia Mooney

Garry Mount

Lydia Rathbun

Denise Reinert

Karen Wilson

SyRena Witt

The Board of Stewards held their April meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021. It was an exciting meeting, as the topics included more items of the life of the church, rather than concerns of handling the pandemic. Still, along those lines, the Board discussed the possibilities of reinstating food and fellowship (you know us Methodists!) and determined the safety of wearing masks at one's own discretion. On other business, the broken pieces of plexiglass covering and protecting our stain glass windows have been replaced and the rest of the pieces have been checked to make sure they are offering the protection needed. Receiving a bid for the addition of electrical plugs to the chancel area of the sanctuary, eliminating the need for extension cords, had to be postponed until a date after the Board meeting; therefore, it will be business handled in the next meeting. The necessary repairs to the parsonage that were discussed in last month's meeting have been made.

The new business brought before the Board included an in-depth discussion of a master plan dealing with the addition of more security cameras to our campus. Presently, we have cameras that cover activity in the children's courtyard and the business and financial offices. Bill Bryant and Scott Gibson provided the Board with a plan for systematically adding cameras throughout the campus, beginning with the Activity Center (Gym) and then moving to include the Sanctuary, followed by inclusion of the Family Center and more of the outdoor areas. These cameras will be able to be monitored by the ushers during services as well as staff and volunteers at any time. The Board decided to move forward with the first stage of the plan including the Activity Center because the proceeds of the Ballard Fund are already enough to cover the expenses. (The Ballard Trust Fund was set up cover expenses of the Activity Center.). The other stages of the plan will be implemented as monies are secured for them.

The Board also received, discussed, and decided to move ahead with two requests submitted by Misty Shipman. Misty brought to our attention that additional mulch needed to be added to the playground areas to keep the playgrounds safe and up to standard codes. Misty also requested that the Board investigate the building of a ramp that will make the children's courtyard more accessible. The need for the ramp has been noted during MDO, during Sunday school and during the regular cleaning of that area. Investigations of how to proceed with that have already begun.

Permission was also granted to Nikki Chowdhury and the youth to hold the Flamingo Fund Raiser to help defray costs of summer camps and summer mission opportunities for the youth.

The next meeting for the Board of Stewards is scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2021.





Holy Huddlers at The Jalapeno Tree.  
This looks like a group that knows how to have fun!

## 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.

**May 7**  
6:00pm  
Bodacious BBQ

**May 21**  
6:00pm  
The Cotton Patch, Longview

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

## SENIOR SUNDAY

**Saturday, May 16**

Join us in worship as we honor our 2021 graduating seniors. These students have worked hard to reach this milestone. Help us honor them for their hard work and bless them as they move into the world to accomplish their dreams.

## TOWN HALL MEETING

**Thursday, May 20**

**6:00pm - Sanctuary**

Join us for our regularly scheduled Town Hall meeting. This is a great place to ask questions, address concerns, bring new ideas, or just find out more information about what's happening at St. Luke's.

## SERVE DAY

**Saturday, May 22**

**9:00am-12:00pm - Family Center**

Come be the hands of Christ at our next Serve Day. We will have lots of hands on work projects around the church and a few community projects, so that there is something for everyone.



## Heritage Sunday June 20

We will be celebrating our 50 year and over members, singing from the Cokesbury hymnal, and honoring our Heritage Member recipient for 2021.

## MAY EVENTS

### May 5

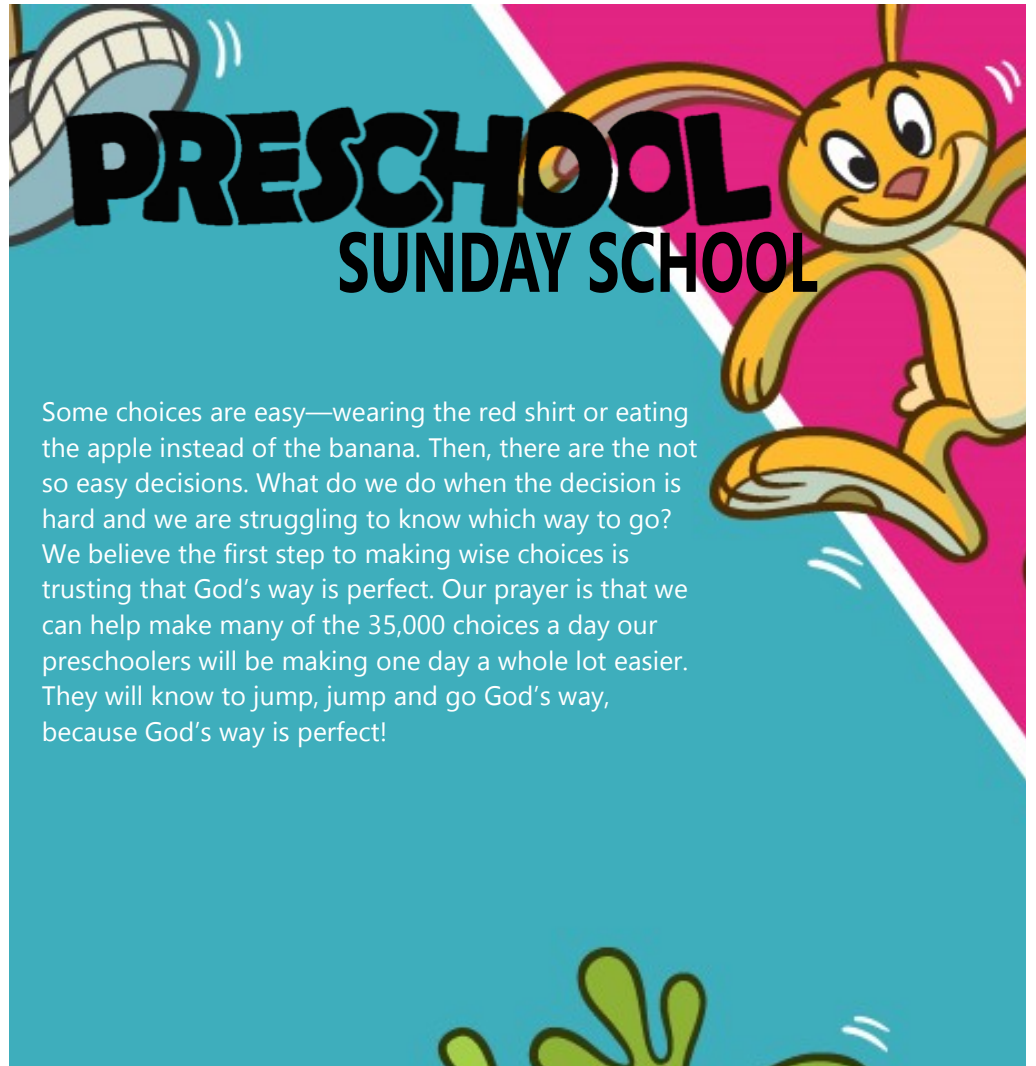
Mother's Day Out Graduation  
1:00pm

### May 7

Parents Night Out  
6:00pm-10:00pm  
Gym - \$10

### May 22

Serve Day  
9:00am-12:00pm  
Family Center



Some choices are easy—wearing the red shirt or eating the apple instead of the banana. Then, there are the not so easy decisions. What do we do when the decision is hard and we are struggling to know which way to go? We believe the first step to making wise choices is trusting that God's way is perfect. Our prayer is that we can help make many of the 35,000 choices a day our preschoolers will be making one day a whole lot easier. They will know to jump, jump and go God's way, because God's way is perfect!



## 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>

## Summer @ St. Luke's

**June 21-25**

**June 1-4**

**July 5-9**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Summer Slam Mission Trip**

Completed 3rd-5th Grade

**Church Camp at Lakeview**

Completed 2nd-12th Grade

For more information visit our website

**[stlukeskilgore.com](http://stlukeskilgore.com)**

# ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Growing in faith is not something that happens by merely cramming more information about the Bible into a child's brain. All of that knowledge in their head means nothing if we don't help kids experience what that knowledge can do in their hearts. To fully experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith. And that takes commitment. God keeps all His promises and puts His plans into action. Because God has followed through on those plans, we get the chance to be with God forever. We reflect God's commitment to us when we can make a plan and stick to it. This month, we'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. Commit to practicing faith by reading God's Word, praying to Him consistently, talking about Him with friends, and living out that faith every day.

Our memory verse is  
"TRAINING THE BODY HAS SOME VALUE. BUT BEING GODLY HAS VALUE IN EVERY WAY. IT PROMISES HELP FOR THE LIFE YOU ARE NOW LIVING AND THE LIFE TO COME."  
1 TIMOTHY 4:8, 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](http://www.stlukeskilgore.com/childrensvideos)



The last day of the school year for MDO will be May 5. We have had a wonderful year and are excitedly looking forward to the upcoming school year, which will begin on August 23. There are still openings in most of our classes. If you would like more information about how our program can meet the needs of your family, please contact me.

In His Service,

*~Misty Shipman*



**Parent's Night Out**  
**Friday, May, 7**  
**6:00-10:00pm.**  
**Cost \$10**

Parents can drop their kids off in the gym to enjoy playing games with friends and eating pizza. You can register on our church website.



**DOWNLOAD**  
**THE PARENT CUE APP**







## Payton Berger

Daughter of Tara and Brian Hoberecht  
Graduating from Kilgore High School

### Awards/Honors:

All A Honor Roll, Ranked 4th in my class, Vice President of National Honor Society, Sports Editor for School Newspaper

### Future Interests:

Attending Stephen F. Austin State University to major in Elementary Education and eventually become an elementary school teacher

### What do I see myself doing in 5 years:

Graduating from college and starting my career as a teacher.

## Carley Dollins

Daughter of Kevin Dollins.  
Graduating from Kilgore High School

**After high school,** I plan on attending Stephen F. Austin University and though I am currently undecided on my major, I plan to take many different courses in hopes of finding a career path for me.

**In five years** I hope that I have graduated from college and found a career path that suits me. I hope that I am still around all of my close friends and living in a place that makes me happy. I hope that I have gotten the chance to travel more and see new places with the people I love.







## Isaac Hoberecht

Son of Brian Hoberecht and Stephanie Valdois  
Graduating from Kilgore High School

### **Awards/Honors:**

District 2 All-Region Team  
Newcomer of the Year  
Hoops for Autism Allstar's game

### **Future Interests:**

Attending Kilgore College to play basketball

### **What do I see myself doing in 5 years:**

Future plan is to become a Coach

## Dylan Jack Venable

Son of Jack and Cindy Venable  
Graduating from Kilgore High School

### **After High School:**

I plan to attend Kilgore College and then transfer to a university and work toward a computer science-related degree

**In five years,** I will have completed college and be working in a computer-related job.



## MAY EVENTS

**May 2**

Flamingo Fundraiser begins  
see page 11 for more information

**May 16**

Senior Sunday  
Graduating seniors will be honored  
during both worship services.

Open gym & Ice Cream  
4:00pm-5:00pm  
Gym

**May 22**

Serve Day  
9:00am-12:00pm  
Family Center

## SR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

**Habits**

In this series, we'll be talking about the faith habits that make it possible to connect with an invisible God. And while there's no formula for knowing everything about God, there are key habits that will change the way we see Him at work all around us.

"Go to the Lord for help; and worship him continually." **Psalm 105:4**

*~Misty Shipman*

## JR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

**Habits**

Wouldn't it be incredible if your middle schooler didn't just think about their faith on Sunday, but instead, made their faith part of their everyday life? That won't happen overnight! It's something that grows each and every day. Our series this month, Habits, is a five-week series designed to help students develop spiritual habits that will connect them with God and grow their faith. The idea of connecting with a God they can't see in front of them is certainly abstract for middle schoolers. That's why walking them through concrete examples they can put into practice will help them grow in understanding and practicing these spiritual habits as a part of the everyday faith they're developing

*~Niki Chowdhury*



**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



**SUNDAY, May 16**  
**4:00pm-5:00pm**

All youth are invited to join us for  
ice cream and fellowship.

# Summer @ St. Luke's

**Summer will be here soon  
and for the children and youth of  
St. Luke's that means  
mission trips and church camp!**

*Help change a life  
this summer*  
*Send a kid to camp*

These trips allow the children and youth of St. Luke's to enjoy a fun, safe time of fellowship while growing in their faith and serving others, but they can be expensive for their families. If you would like to donate money to offset the cost of these trips for our children and youth, please contact Misty Shipman 903-240-4609 or Niki Chowdhury 903-235-9401

**SUMMER SLAM!** Preteen Mission Camp is a chance for students who have completed 3rd-5th grade to experience an age-appropriate youth mission where they can serve Jesus by helping others. Adult-led student work teams engage in a variety of community service and light construction projects in the Gregg County area. When not at work, students enjoy free time, recreation, and great worship.

**Cost \$75**

**Dates June 1-4**

**CHURCH CAMP @ LAKEVIEW**- Lakeview Methodist Conference Center is a place where students who have completed 2nd-12th grade, make memories, begin friendships, and explore their faith. Every summer, the children and youth from St. Luke's look forward to participating in this life changing camp experience which is full of bible study, worship, and fun.

**Cost \$440**

**Dates July 5-9**

**BIG HOUSE** is a mission trip to prepare youth who have completed 5th - 12th grade to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, by providing an opportunity to be in mission to churches in need everywhere. Work projects include painting, landscaping, handrail repair, preparing meals, and stocking food pantries. The evenings are full of fun, games and worship.

**Cost \$150**

**Dates TBA**



## MASK UPDATE

Throughout the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Board of Stewards has been working to ensure that we were able to meet and worship as a church in the safest way possible. We have seen improvements in the pandemic in our area over the last several weeks. The number of people being vaccinated has increased and even with the lifting of the state-wide mask mandate, we have seen no noticeable increase in cases in our area. With that in mind, the Board of Stewards has removed our mask policy. We are no longer requiring masks to be worn at church events. We want you to be able to come to church and be a part at the level that you are comfortable with. If you have any questions, please contact us at the church office.

## SECURITY CAMERAS

Over the course of the last year, we have taken a great deal of time to look at our church security and determine ways that we can not only protect our church campus, but also ensure we are creating a safe environment for all those who come to worship at our church events. We have recently begun increasing our video camera capability around the church to include all entry and exit from any buildings. The only space that we are lacking is in the sanctuary. In order to make this space safe we need your help. The camera system needed in the sanctuary will cost \$4000. If you would like to help cover the cost of the system or to make financial contributions towards church security, please contact Scarlett in the finance office.

## Calling all prayer warriors!

We are excited to be kicking off weekly prayer groups! Anyone interested in actively praying for our church, our community, and our world is invited to join us for weekly prayer on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

## Prayer Groups

Tuesdays @8:00am  
Knowles Chapel

Wednesdays @7:00pm  
Parlor



## FLAMINGO FUNDRAISER

Pink flamingos are coming to Kilgore, TX! They are scheduled to roost in yards around town from May 2nd - May 16th. These flamingos travel in flocks and are highly territorial and should only be removed by trained relocation experts. The great news for you is that the youth of St. Luke's are experienced in flamingo relocation. If the flamingos roost in your yard, you can contact Misty (903-240-4609) or Niki (903-235-9401) to make a donation and have the flamingos moved to another yard along their path of migration. Flamingo Protection Insurance will also be available to purchase for \$25 to ensure that your yard is not on the migration path. This fundraiser is all in good humor and the proceeds will go toward summer mission trips and church camp for our youth.



This is a weird time of year around the church office. In many ways, it is business as usual as we prepare for weekly worship services, Sunday School and Bible Studies. But on the flipside, we are also beginning to plan for the unstructured chaos of summer. While the school year normally means we follow a pretty standard routine and recurring events on the church calendar, our summer is full of large-scale one-time events that require a great deal of planning and bring a great deal of excitement.

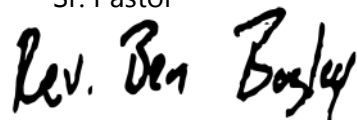
It can be a stressful time as we work to live in both worlds of structure and unstructured. We are running trying to make sure everything continues to happen while getting ready for what is to come. It is easy for me this time of year to focus only on the 'hecticness' and the stress. I am sure many of you are the same way. There are times that we know exactly what life is throwing at us and then there are other times when it feels like we are barely keeping our head above water. Life can be hard to balance and if we let it, our stress and busyness can take over and become our number one priority.

**So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,  
do it all for the glory of God.**

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

In this passage out of 1 Corinthians Paul is trying to help the church navigate through a difficult time. The people were unsure what to do next and how they should glorify God. They were stuck between the way that they had always done it and the challenge of new things. Wrapped in the middle of their worry Paul speaks these simple words. Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. I remind myself of these words during these busy times. Whether it is routine events or unscheduled interruptions, we exist to worship God. Instead of letting the busyness take over, focus on how God is using you in each moment and use each moment to glorify God.

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)

### Tuesday

8:00am Prayer Group  
(Knowles Chapel)  
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  
7:00pm Prayer Group (Parlor)

### Thursday

6:30pm Arise Band Rehearsal

### Friday

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

## ALSO SCHEDULED...

### Sunday, May 2

**Flamingo Fundraiser Begins** (Runs through May 16)  
4:00pm Short-Term Bible Study

### Wednesday, May 5

1:00pm Mother's Day Out Graduation  
*Last Day of the School year*  
6:00pm Wednesday Night Activities  
*Last one of the school year*  
*We will resume in the fall*

### Friday, May 7

6:00pm Holy Huddlers at Bodacious BBQ  
6:00pm-10:00pm Parents Night Out (Gym)

### Sunday, May 9

#### Mother's Day

### Sunday, May 16

#### Flamingo Fundraiser Ends

#### Senior Sunday

4:00pm-5:00pm Youth: Open Gym & Ice Cream (Gym)

### Monday, May 17

6:00pm Board of Stewards Meeting (Parlor)

### Thursday, May 20

6:00pm Town Hall Meeting (Knowles Chapel)

### Friday, May 21

6:00pm Holy Huddlers at The Cotton Patch, Longview

### Saturday, May 22

9:00am-12:00pm Serve Day (Family Center)

### Sunday, May 23

#### Pentecost Sunday

\* 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](http://stlukeskilgore.com).



## 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

Marian Clemens  
**Sharry Christopher**  
E.J. Chowdhury  
Tommy Freeman  
Jacque & Todd Gibbs  
**Carolyn Holcombe**  
Sandra Holley  
Sam Holley  
Ronnie Jobe  
Wilma Jones  
Wilbur & Kay Yates

## MAY PRAYER FOCUS

St. Luke's Seekers Class  
Kilgore Middle School  
First Presbyterian Church  
India

## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Elena Anzualda.....niece of Daniel & Misty Shipman  
Babby Carroll.....sister of April Watson  
**Bella Crosby**.....**friend**  
Cindy Frederick.....sister of April Watson  
**Holly Morchat**.....**daughter of Art & Pat Morchat**  
**Jim Rucker**.....**father of Jessica Wilson**  
**Toady Sanders**.....  
Edith Williams.....friend of many  
Kim Worl.....sister of Shelia Cross

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
James & Sharon McCann	May 4, 1968
Dan & Shelia Cross	May 7, 1979
Wade & Jessica Wilson	May 16, 2012
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

## MAY 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).**

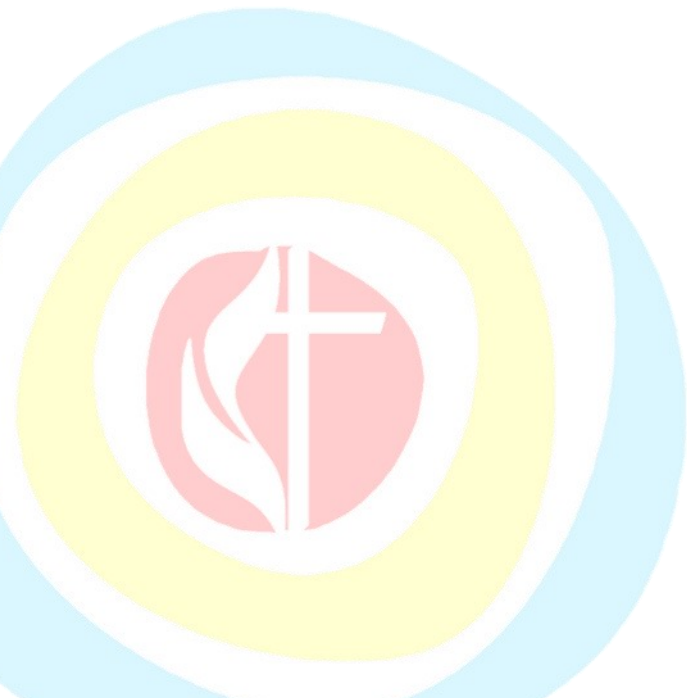
<b>May 1</b> Guy Howell	<b>May 8</b> Bill Bryant Dennis Ellis Rebecca Hale Robert Smith	<b>May 15</b> Misty Shipman	<b>May 22</b> Janet Craver
<b>May 3</b> Jeannie Allison Brooklyn Patton	<b>May 9</b> Veronica Sprayberry	<b>May 16</b> Luke McGilvray	<b>May 23</b> Christian Stephenson
<b>May 4</b> Addilyn DeKoker Jacob Mooney	<b>May 10</b> Alma Casey Cade Clark Mark Hatfield Cora Mooney	<b>May 17</b> Madison Dean Ray Reinert	<b>May 24</b> Marilyn Summers
<b>May 5</b> Sloan Berger Zack Fredenburg	<b>May 11</b> Charlotte Reynolds	<b>May 19</b> Linda Garner Cameron Stephens	<b>May 27</b> Madden Ridge
<b>May 6</b> Kennedy Buyher	<b>May 14</b> Sami Nelson	<b>May 20</b> Christine George Logan Gilbreath	<b>May 28</b> Keith Mathis
<b>May 7</b> Leon Courtney	<b>May 21</b> Jack Christopher	<b>May 30</b> Janie Sweeney	<b>May 31</b> Cecilia Mitchell

*The*  
**VISITOR**

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FLAMINGOS  
ARE COMING!