



The VISITOR

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

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE

August 2020

Issue 8

John Wesley's

3 RULES

for living

Join us in worship
August 16, 23, & 30,
as we learn about
John Wesley's 3 general
rules for living.

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Do you have news you would like
to share with the church family?

Submit your items to be
considered for the next
newsletter by email.

stlukesumc@stlukeskilgore.com

WAYS TO GIVE at *St. Luke's*



ONLINE
at
stlukeskilgore.com



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**I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.**

Isaiah 43:19

Hope is an interesting word in the world we find ourselves in today. We use it flippantly when we desire a good outcome for a present situation that we are facing, but as the months of 2020 have drug on, it seems like we are slowly losing hope for the more significant situations that we face in life. As difficulty and hardships seem to become an ever-present reality, we find ourselves losing hope for the future and instead merely trying to survive the next problem that comes our way.

Isaiah can be a difficult book to read at times because it is not the most positive of books. The prophet Isaiah had a difficult task ahead of him. He had to proclaim the Word of God to people who did not want to listen and certainly did not want to believe. The Israelites had essentially lost hope that God was still at work, and as their hope slipped, their faithfulness did as well.

The first part of Isaiah 43 proclaims a new hope but with a catch. God is promising to deliver Israel from the present circumstances, but it will get worse before it gets better. The Israelites will end up enslaved, but hardship was not the last word. In Isaiah 43:19, we are reminded that God is still the bringer of hope. Even better is the fact that God reshapes our present reality and turns it into a place of prosperity and growth. Notice in this passage, God does not remove the people from the desert but instead reshapes the desert and wilderness into a place that the Israelites can find peace.

God is working in our present reality. Life is very different now than it was a few months ago and will probably never be the same. But instead of looking at the future with dread, look at it with hope. God is taking the desert and wilderness we find ourselves in and reshaping it.

I am excited because we are starting to look at how we reshape the wilderness we find ourselves in at the church. We have not had much going on at the church because of our desire to ensure that we keep everyone safe. But soon, we will start seeing Sunday School classes meeting again and Children's and Youth programming starting back. You will begin seeing streams appear in the desert because God is still at work. I encourage you to continue watching your email, and our church Facebook page as more information is made available with upcoming plans.

I would also encourage you to be praying about new ways that God is working. If you think of an activity or program that we can do at the church and can be done safely, please let us know. We are always looking for new and great ideas that will help bring new life into our present reality.


Rev. Ben Bagley
Sr. Pastor

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

I am wonderfully made in God's image! Do you ever think about yourself like that—that you are wonderfully made in God's image? We tend to forget about all of the wonder that went into making us as we become grown-ups. Time has a way of dulling our shine. It's part of why people have to prod us to 'say cheese' when they take our picture.

I think if we really, really, really believed that we are wonderfully made in God's image, no one would ever have to tell us to smile when they pulled out a camera. We would be smiling from ear-to-ear as we lived in the wonder that God made me!

That is what we want for preschoolers. We want them to smile with confidence because they know God made me.

Bottom Line:

God made me.

Memory Verse:

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalms 139:14, NLT



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>

ST. LUKE'S

MDO

Mother's Day Out will begin our fall session on Monday, September 14th. Shifting our start date will ensure that all of our teachers are trained in the current recommendations from the State of Texas and CDC regarding child care centers.

We will have a parent meeting on August 24th at 6:00pm in the gym. This time will replace our traditional Meet the Teacher event. Parents will be informed of the policies and procedures that will be used to ensure the health and safety of our MDO children, their families, and our staff. This will also be a time to introduce our teachers to the families.

We still have openings for our upcoming school year. Please feel free to contact me at 903-240-4609 to discuss how our program can meet the needs of your family.



VIRTUAL VBS

We Loved seeing all you study the Bible lessons and activities in FOCUS Vacation Bible School! You really "FOCUSED" on your bible last month. If you missed any of the lessons, you can still check them out on our "St. Luke's UMC Children's Ministry" Facebook page or our website.

Check-out these St. Luke's Kids experiencing our first ever Virtual VBS! Mrs. Niki and her helpers prepared and delivered VBS kits to our kids. The kits contained all the supplies for a week of VBS. The kids were invited to follow along with the daily video lessons and activities on the St. Luke's Kids Facebook page.

Pictured: Alyssa Lewis, Emmalyn Galvan, Sydney Chowdhury, & Cora Mooney

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

CREATIVITY
IMAGINING WHAT YOU
COULD DO BECAUSE YOU'RE
MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

When we look outside and see the beautiful world around us, we're reminded that God is SO great, powerful, and creative. From the birds flying high in the sky to the planets orbiting the sun to animals scampering around the earth, each one points to God's indescribable creativity. Jesus used creativity in how He told parables, performed miracles, and helped His followers understand more about what it means to be part of God's Kingdom. On top of that, we're created in God's image. We can solve problems, create art and music, design skyscrapers high into the sky. When we create, we reflect the image of God to the world around us.

This month we will help our Elementary Kids understand that creativity isn't just being able to draw, paint, or sing. It's making people laugh or smile. It's imagining stories. It's designing robotics. The ways we express our creativity are as limitless as creativity itself!

Ultimately, we can visualize how God has wired us to make a difference in the lives of the people around us. EVERYONE is creative—because an infinitely creative God has made them.



SR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY

This month we will finish our series, Explained where we look at the Bible. What is it? What's in it? Why do we trust it? Discover these the answers to these questions and more. It's the Bible...explained.

Following "Explained," we'll start a new series, Like Me. We all tend to compare ourselves to others. In this series, we'll discover that the further we move away from comparison and toward contentment, the more we'll be able to love who we are just as we are!

The videos for each week's lesson will be sent on the Remind app. If you aren't getting these texts, please contact Misty @ 903-240-4609.

I am praying for your families as this school year begins. Please let me know if there is any way we can be of assistance to your family at St. Luke's.

~Misty Shipman

JR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY

In Jr High Youth, we are still working on a four-week series on reading the Bible, called "Break It Down". This series looks at how we use the Bible to get to know God better and that we can use the Bible to see the whole story which helps us see more clearly. Later in the month, we will start a series called "This or That" which is designed to help your child break the cycle of comparison in their lives. In this phase, middle schoolers care a lot about the way they're perceived by others. We want to affirm who they are and how God made them, reminding them that they don't need to be anyone other than themselves.

The lessons will be posted to Facebook and we will talk about them on Zoom meetings, Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. The Parent Cue will also be emailed so parents will know more about the lessons and scriptures. If you do not know code for zoom meetings or are not getting Jr High emails, please let me know and I can add you to the list.

Blessings,

~Niki Chowdhury

Scholarships

The following scholarships have been awarded by the St. Luke's UMC scholarship committee for the fall 2020 semester:

Sloan Berger - \$500.00
 Cason Castaneda - \$400.00
 Mackenzie Chowdhury - \$500.00
 Troy Jones - \$500.00
 Victoria Shipman - \$500.00
 Carmen Vermillion - \$500.00
 Luke Weathers - \$500.00
 Gus Witt - \$500.00

Congratulations to these students,
 and good luck on a successful school year!

Not many people know, but these scholarships are not paid by St. Luke's funds. The money for scholarships comes from the J. A. Knowles foundation and is paid to us once a year by the Conference. This funding has helped many young adults graduate college for many years. It is renewable each semester as long as the criteria is met, for up to 5 years. For high school graduates who are applying for the first time, it is based on church participation and membership of the graduate and the graduate's immediate family. To renew the scholarship, criteria include a minimum GPA & number of class hours taken. We encourage all graduating high school seniors to apply!



**We will be recognizing our
 2020 high school seniors
 during the worship services
 on August 9.**

**If you haven't confirmed
 with Misty please call her
 at, (903) 240-4609.**

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 FAMILY & FRIENDS

Babby Carroll.....sister of April Watson
Linda Fontineau.....MDO teacher
Cindy Frederick.....sister of April Watson
Sharon Schoenemann.....sister of Jan Hattaway
Isabel Shipman.....mother of Daniel Shipman
Juanita Shughart.....mother of Misty Shipman
Edith Williams.....friend of many
Kim Worl.....sister of Shelia Cross

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Don & Cynthia Adams	Sue & George Jones
Sharry & Jack Christopher	Wilma Jones
Niki Chowdhury	David Reeves
Marian Clemens	Willie Roberts
Mikki Ellis	Pat Rudy
Sherry Ellis	Glennys Travis
Tommy Freeman	Wilbur & Kay Yates
Linda & Chet Garner	
Jacque & Todd Gibbs	
Gary Gray	
Wendell Holcombe	
Sam Holley	
Ronnie Jobe	

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

Joe White on the death of his brother Charles White.

The family of longtime church member,
Jerry Ann Boone.

MONTHLY PRAYER FOCUS

All Schools reopening
St. Luke's Mother's Day Out
Churches struggling during this time

AUGUST 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).**

August 2
Louise Cammack

August 3
Abby Horst
Beth White

August 4
Bob Burns

August 5
Hunter Dean

August 6
Mark Barton

August 8
Heidi Tryon

August 9
Jimmy Arbuckle
Nick Holley
Becci Thurston

August 10
Jaden Parsons

August 11
Gabriel Mathis
Karen Wilson

August 12
Sydney Chowdhury
Matthew Ellis
Laela Watkins

August 13
Denver Allen
Sierra Byrd
Ronnie Jobe
Daniel Shipman

August 14
Sandra Holley

August 15
Lindsey Bennett
Mark Francisco

August 16
Gabrielle Frachiseur
Jerry Medford

August 17
Niki Chowdhury
Alyssa Lewis

August 19
Austin Clark

August 20
Samuel Thurston

August 21
Madison Adams
Jane Stone

August 22
Darwood Galaway
Garrett Shipman

August 23
Randy King
Gus Witt

August 24
Jason Silvey
Tony Witt

August 25
Cody Hatfield

August 26
Bridges Gibbs
Sarah Ridge

August 28
Alan Clark
Donna Jackson

August 29
Ben Copeland

August 30
Brenda Culpepper
Jan Hattaway

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

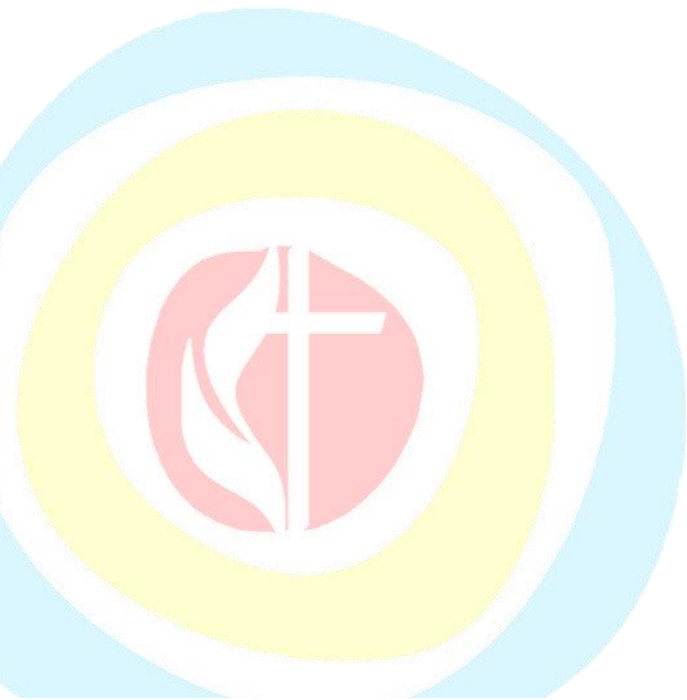
Name	Date
Mark & Barbara Francisco	Aug 1, 1997
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Aug 2, 1983
Jerry & Peggy Medford	Aug 7, 1971
Bob & Judy Burns	Aug 9, 1963
Danny & Kalynn Harrison	Aug 9, 1980
Ernie & Pat Sers	Aug 11, 1967
Joe & Ann White	Aug 24, 1968
James & Laura Vermillion	Aug 26, 2000

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDS

For some time now we have been discussing ways to better secure our children's courtyard area. Our top priority is the safety and security of our members. This area has always posed a challenge due to the open layout. We have looked at many different ways to do this in order to both keep the children from leaving this area without an adult while at the same time serving as a deterrent for those whom may not have the best intentions. These concerns coupled with the increasing Covid restrictions for day schools, such as our MDO program, are why we felt the need to put this project into motion.

One of our biggest challenges has been to have something in place that is effective, but still have that inviting/welcoming presence that a church needs to have. In the coming days we will be installing some additional gating and ornamental fencing in the areas leading to the children's courtyard. These gates will be installed in such a way that they can be closed and secured when this area is occupied, but also have the flexibility to still allow pass-through on Sunday mornings when going between buildings.

A member of Saint Luke's has generously offered to fund this effort in the spirit of keeping our church family safe. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we enhance the security of our campus.

