The VISITOR

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

LOVE GOD **LIVE HIS WORD** **SHARE HIS GRACE**

September 2020 Issue 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2
From the Pastor

PAGE 3 & 4
Children's Ministry

PAGE 5 & 6
Youth Ministry

PAGE 7
2020 Confirmation

PAGE 8
Mother's Day Out

PAGE 9
Board of Stewards Report

PAGE 10
News You Need To Know

PAGE 11 & 12
2020 Pumpkin Patch

PAGE 13
September Calendar

PAGE 14
Joys & Concerns
Birthdays
Anniversaries

BACK PAGE
Worship UPDATE

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 Director
(903) 241-1447

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Will you be faithful to this Church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

While joining a church looks different based upon which Church you go to, there is a question that will be asked at any United Methodist Church you join. It is a question that is meant as both a declaration and a challenge. You are asked to declare that you will work to make the Church a better place because you are there. It is a challenge to our faith because it asks us to offer up all that we are and not just the easy areas. Notice in the question above that it doesn't ask you to circle the ones you are comfortable with, or offer up the best three out of five. When you answer the question, join the Church, you bring everything you have and offer it to help build up the kingdom of God.

The beautiful part of this question is that it is asked of every single person that joins the Church. How people join may vary and look different, but it doesn't change the question. The beauty of this is that the Kingdom of God is dependent upon what you bring and what we collectively bring together. Your vow is just one part that is added to all the other voices in the Church. When everyone answers this question, we ensure that we are Stronger Together.

Through the next several weeks, we will look at how God has given us the ability to offer up our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. We will look at what each of us brings to the table and how God calls us to give generously in each of these areas and ultimately, how each individual brings the best that God gives helps us multiplies our gifts in ways that we could never have done on our own.

Our time in quarantine taught us that we thrive in community. While some time away might be appreciated, we missed our sense of community and our ability to be with those that we care about. Join us as we look at the people God created us to be and how we use the gifts that God has given to each of us. We are Stronger Together.

Rev. Ben Bagley
Sr. Pastor

SHOW YOUR ST. LUKE'S PRIDE!

Purchase your St. Luke's Yard sign today!

$10 each

Contact the church office for more information or to purchase your sign.

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Over the past several months, we have been reminded about how important it is to believe that God has a plan for me. Our world has changed. Everything we had planned changed. Hurt, disappointment, fear, loss, sickness… all of it has left us wondering, what will happen next? And, while we won't ever truly know what will happen next in any given situation, God does, because God has a plan for you, and God has a plan for me.

This month, we will use the super sweet theme of an Ice Cream Sundae, along with Joseph's life, to teach preschoolers that God has a plan for them. When we put all of the parts of Joseph's story together—just as with an ice cream sundae—it gives us a sweet reminder that we can trust that God has a plan for me, and it is always best. We just have to wait until God is done putting all of the parts together. Our hope this month is that preschoolers will begin to understand that God loves them, and He has a plan for them—a plan they can trust is always best, no matter what.

Bottom Line:

God has a plan for me.

Memory Verse:

"For I know the plans I have
for you says the Lord."
Jeremiah 29:13 NLT

STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all the great things happening in children's ministry.

St. Luke's Kids
https://www.facebook.com/stlukeskilgorekids

DID YOUR STUDENT GET THEIR BLESSING TAG?

Back-To-School Tags were blessed in worship on August 16. If your student did not receive one please contact Niki Chowdhury.

SEPTEMBER CHILDREN'S EVENTS

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

16 **Wednesday Night Bible Study/Children's Choir**
6:00pm-7:00pm (Family Center)

Masks and Social Distancing while indoors

WEDNESDAY NIGHT @ST. LUKE'S

Beginning Wednesday, September 16
6:00pm-7:00pm

- We will not have afterschool pick-up.
- We will not have dinner.
- You must come inside to check-in and pick-up your child.
- 30 minutes of Children's Choir and 30 minutes of a Bible Activity
  (Pre-K 4-5th Grade)
- Masks and Social Distancing
- Register Now at
  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSca2m8dFTlzFTXRcLuVbTBnvPWuM_w72vhDsLx9BqIOjIWKcg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Elementary Kids will be studying the connection between friendship and God's character, as shown through God's Big Story. Jesus showed us the greatest example of love when He laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, He showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we treat one another with friendship.

Memory Verse:
"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES.
THEY ARE THERE TO HELP
WHEN TROUBLE COMES."
PROVERBS 17:17, NIRV

Check out our
"St. Luke's UMC Children's Ministry"
Facebook page for daily activities or lessons.

ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

SR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY

This month we'll continue our series, Like Me. We all tend to compare ourselves selves to others. It can all feel like one long list of what others have that we don't! In this series, we'll discover that comparison keeps us from liking others; it holds us back from being able to like ourselves! The further we move away from comparison and toward contentment, the more we'll be able to love who we are!

I am SO EXCITED to announce that Sunday School will resume at 9:30am on September 13 & Wednesday Bible Study will begin on September 16 from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Mark your calendar, set a reminder, and make plans to attend! If you have any questions, feel free to call or text me at 903-240-4609.

~Misty Shipman

JR. HIGH BIBLE STUDY

In Jr High Youth, we are starting a three-week series on comparison called "This or That." Comparison can lead us to believe things that aren't true about ourselves and others. We will look at the Bible to see how God can help us with comparisons.

Topics discussed will be:

WEEK 1: God doesn't compare you to others.

WEEK 2: When we stop comparing, we can better celebrate others and ourselves. WEEK 3: God wants us to see ourselves the way He does.

MEMORY VERSE

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."
Proverbs 4:23 NIV

Blessings,
~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

A huge THANK YOU to Carol Brady, Carla Branson, Barbara Francisco, Jan Hattaway, and Pat Sers. These wonderful women are members of the Prayer Shawl ministry. They lovingly crafted and prayed over the 14 afghans that were given to our graduating high school seniors.

SEPTEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

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

16 **Wednesday Night Bible Study**
6:00pm-7:00pm (Youth Room)

Masks and Social Distancing while indoors

CONFIRMATION 2020

Holly Boone
Baptized

Cruz Castaneda
Confirmed

Cade Clark
Confirmed

Madison Holman
Confirmed

Autumn McDaniel
Baptized

Madison McDaniel
Baptized

Tucker LeBlanc
Confirmed

Anna Tryon
Baptized

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 CONFIRMATION CLASS.

The Confirmands worked hard to complete community service, attend classes, participate in worship, and grow in their faith.

Special Recognition for **Cade Clark** and **Anna Tryon**. Both of these students completed 40 hours of community service as part of the Confirmation process.

SEPTEMBER MDO EVENTS

14 **2020-2021 School Year Begins**
9:00am-2:00pm

NEW school year new look

All of the classrooms in the Children's Courtyard got a fresh new look over the summer. The classrooms were painted, the floors were waxed, and the baseboards were replaced. Some of the rooms got new bulletin boards and updated décor. The Courtyard also got a little update with maintenance and fresh paint on the benches. We are ready for a great school year!

ST. LUKE'S MDO

St. Luke's MDO will begin our 2020-2021 school year on September 14. Don't worry though, there's still time to register your child for this year. We have openings for ages 6 weeks through Pre-K. Feel free to contact me at 903-240-4609 to discuss how our wonderful program can meet the needs of your family.

Please note that this year all parents/visitors will be required to check in at the church office before entering the children's area. I apologize for any inconvenience, but this is a necessary step to ensure the safety of the children in our program. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

~Misty Shipman

STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all the great things happening at St. Luke's Mother's Day Out.

St. Luke's MDO
https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmdo

BOS REPORT

NEW FENCING

For years the leadership of the church has discussed the best way to enclose the unique structure of the Children's Courtyard. This last month we were able to complete a new fencing project to do just that. The new fences were placed outside the church office, in the alley way, and at the covered walkway leading to the Family Center. The gates all have latches to keep people out of the courtyard when necessary, but are able to be opened for easy access on Sunday mornings and high traffic times. All visitors will be required to check-in at the church office during office hours in order to access the Children's Courtyard and the side entrance to the Sanctuary Building.

BASKETBALL COURT

The Board of Stewards is excited to support Cooper Shipman in his Basketball Court Refurbishment Project. Cooper and his dad, Daniel, have put in hours of hard work replacing the basketball goals and cleaning up the area. They plan to paint the court, add some benches around the outside, paint the volleyball posts, and replace the volleyball net. We look forward to seeing our community enjoy the refurbished area.

GOODBYE SUSAN

This Sunday will be Susan Crawford's last Sunday with us as organist. She and her husband, Chris, have both accepted positions at First Christian Church. They will be employed together in a church for the first time in a long time. We pray God's blessings upon their new ministry. We will miss Susan's playing and the involvement both she and Chris have had in our other ministries.

Over the last several years, Susan's service here has been marked by her hard work and dedication. She spent many hours practicing on the organ for all of the services and events where she performed. She is second to none in her tireless preparation. She always took each piece of music seriously, studying it, and working out the best ways for her to make it into the music she heard in her heart and mind.

With all that dedication, I will most remember Susan's heart for those around her. She immediately became involved in the care ministries of St. Luke's upon coming here, even as she continued ministering to those she had come to care for in her past churches. Susan also worked with challenged children at Crisman School in Longview. She has always been alert to those in the choir and in her Sunday school class that were in need. Susan's giving spirit will be missed as much as her music. Perhaps we should call that giving spirit part of the beautiful music of her life.

I am sad that lots of hugs and handshakes are out of vogue these days, making it not suitable to do the usual goodbye reception. To give everyone some way to provide a personal touch to wishing Susan well in her new ministry, I would like to invite you to send her a written card or note. If you do not know her address, you can send it to the church at 401 East Main St. I will make sure they are given to her this Sunday. We will also have a basket set-up at worship if you want to drop a card off. (If any come after Sunday, I will make sure they get to her.)

Thank you, Susan. We have been blessed to have you here! And thank you, Chris, for all your involvement as well!

SATURDAY BREAD

Despite the pandemic, St Luke's is still feeding the hungry through Saturday Bread. Saturday Bread is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church that provides a free lunch every Saturday of the year to shut-ins, lower income wage earners, seniors and anyone in need. There are 12 teams with members from First Presbyterian Church and several churches. Therefore, we are responsible for 4-5 times per year. Since it is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church, they finance the food and provide their kitchen and we provide the manpower.

On Saturday August 22, Our St Luke's group prepared and delivered 129 meals to homes and gave 17 to people who showed up at First Presbyterian Church needing meals. The meal we serve is usually baked chicken, a vegetable, a fruit, bread and cookies for dessert.

Thanks to Barbara Francisco, Ginny Anderson, Charlotte Reynolds, Milton and Jan Hattaway, Dennis, Mikki, and Matthew Ellis, Paul Johnston, Debra and Shay Malloch and Brenda Culpepper for showing up in their masks and using their time and energy to follow God's commandments.

We always need volunteers to help. There is preparation on Friday and on Saturday there is cooking, washing dishes, packing meals and delivering meals. On Saturday, the cooking and packing group starts at 8:30 and the drivers arrive about 10:00 to load their vehicle and deliver the meals. Each delivery team has a route for delivery. There are 5 routes. Everyone is usually finished about noon.

Our next turn is November 14, 2020.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Brenda Culpepper at 903-987-1453 or the church office.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Wednesday, September 16
6:00pm-7:00pm

Join us in the Family Center for weekly
Adult Bible Study, led by Pastor Ben.

11

PUMPKIN PATCH 2020 QUARANTINED

2020 EVENT SCHEDULE

Decorate the Patch
Saturday, September 26
9:00am-12:00pm

Pumpkin Unload
Wednesday, September 30
5:30pm

Pumpkin Patch Sunday
Sunday, October 4
Drive-Thru Chili Lunch (10:30am)
$5 - a bowl of chili & cornbread

Pumpkin Run
Saturday, October 17
Plans pending

Pumpkin Carving & Pumpkin Glow
Saturday, October 24
6:00pm

Trunk-or-Treat
Wednesday, October 28
6:00pm

Do you need to replace your Pumpkin Patch yard sign?

Contact the church office to get a replacement sign.

STAYCONNECTED

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

St. Luke's Pumpkin Patch
https://www.facebook.com/PumpkinPatchStLukes

@stlukespumpkinpatch

2020 Pumpkin Patch t-shirts Available for purchase mid-September

Adults Small-2XL	**$15**
Youth XS-XL	**$10**
***2T-4T (Pre-order only)**	**$10**

*Toddler shirt is available in the 2020 t-shirt and the Traditional black t-shirt

Use the link below to pre-order your toddler size shirt.
https://forms.gle/KNXXJH4yioW7MdRD9

We also have a small number of the Traditional Black shirts available in Adult and youth sizes. Contact the church office if you have any questions, (903)984-3576.

Storytime

The Pumpkin Patch will be hosting Virtual Storytime this year. In order to maintain social distance we feel the best thing is to not host in-person Storytime. Teachers and parents can request a Storytime Box so that they can enjoy Virtual Storytime at no cost. Each box will come with 1 pumpkin patch coloring/activity book for each student, 1 photo prop, 1 pumpkin themed storybook, and 1 mini pumpkin for each student. Storytime videos for each storybook will be available on our website and viewed as a class or family.

Request your Pumpkin Patch Storytime Box now!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfx9c3Cor9CUmH2qqp8Ve7dVV2K92mSyiPwT2cL55Rq1S-TCw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

How Can You Help?

- **work in the Pumpkin Patch Visit the Church Website to sign-up or contact the church office**
- **help us decorate the patch**
- **Help us package Storytime boxes**
- **Help deliver Storytime boxes to local schools**
- **Star in a Storytime video**
- **Help us unload pumpkins**
- **Put a Pumpkin Patch sign in your yard**
- **Wear your pumpkin patch t-shirt**
- **Follow us on Facebook and share our posts**
- **Participate in one of our virtual events**
- **Buy pumpkins**
- **Help deliver pumpkins to homes that pre-order**

Contact the church office for more information or to sign-up to help.

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

Tuesday

11:00am Lunchtime Bible Study (Family Center)

Wednesday

9:00am-2:00pm Mother's Day Out
6:00pm Children's Bible Study
Children's Choir
Youth Bible Study
Adult Bible Study*
Prayer Shawl Group

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…

Monday, September 7
Office Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8
1:00pm United Methodist Women Morning Circle (Family Center)
5:30pm-6:30pm Drive-Thru Communion (Gym Portico)

Wednesday, September 9
6:00pm-7:00pm Wednesday Night Activities Resume
See page 10 for more info

Sunday, September 13
Regular Sunday Schedule Resumes

Monday, September 14
9:00am-2:00pm Mother's Day Out Resumes

Tuesday, September 15
6:00pm United Methodist Women Pam Besser Circle (Family Center)

Monday, September 21
6:00pm Board of Stewards Meeting (Family Center)

Saturday, September 26
9:00am-12:00pm Decorate the Patch

Wednesday, September 30
5:30pm Pumpkin Unload

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
Marian Clemens
Tommy Freeman
Jacque & Todd Gibbs
Gary Gray
Wendell Holcombe
Sam Holley
Ronnie Jobe
Wilma Jones
Willie Roberts
Glennys Travis
Wilbur & Kay Yates

MONTHLY PRAYER FOCUS

Kilgore College
First Baptist Church
St. Luke's Children's Ministry
Canada

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Art & Pat Morchat	Sep 4, 1977
James & Celia Mooney	Sep 8, 2001
George & Sue Jones	Sep 16, 1967
Tony & SyRena Witt	Sep 16, 1995
Cody & Veronica Sprayberry	Sep 17, 2015
Chet & Linda Garner	Sep 21, 2013
Mack & Toby Monday	Sep 22, 1967
Randy & Alice Crocker	Sep 25, 1992
Jeff & RoseAnna Howell	Sep 30, 1989

SEPTEMBER 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).

September 1
Merryann Hodnett

September 3
Kay Evans
Willie Roberts

September 4
Hollyann Davis
Doug Effler
Carol Grimes

September 6
Misty Lewis

September 7
Brittney Copeland

September 9
Troy Jones
Richelle Rathbun

September 10
Dwaine Kirksey
Rhett Rohde

September 11
Reese Burgess
Emily Mason

September12
William Bennett
Marian Clemens
Joan Smith

September 13
Lily Chowdhury
Bruce Tindell

September15
Billie Sue Mims
Jordan Stephens
Ann White

September 16
Presley Thompson

September17
Barbara7Francisco

September18
Keith Hooks
Brinlee McGilvray
Isabell Witt

September19
Andy Hearn
Lisa McClammy
Billy Mims

September20
Barbara Boyd
Heather Holland
Susan Moore

September21
Jeff Beck
Anna Gillen-Hall

September22
Cheyanne Jones

September24
Lisa Frazier

September25
Pat Thompson

September26
Don Adams
Laura Farnham
Oaks Smith

September28
Clay Rabius

September29
Jana Castaneda

September30
Adalynn Bagley

E-Mail: stlukesumc@stlukeskilgore.com Office: 903-984-3576 Web Site: www.stlukeskilgore.com

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