



The **VISITOR**

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

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE

October 2021

Issue 10



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STAY CONNECTED

EVERYDAY | ALL DAY LONG

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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

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/newsletters/>

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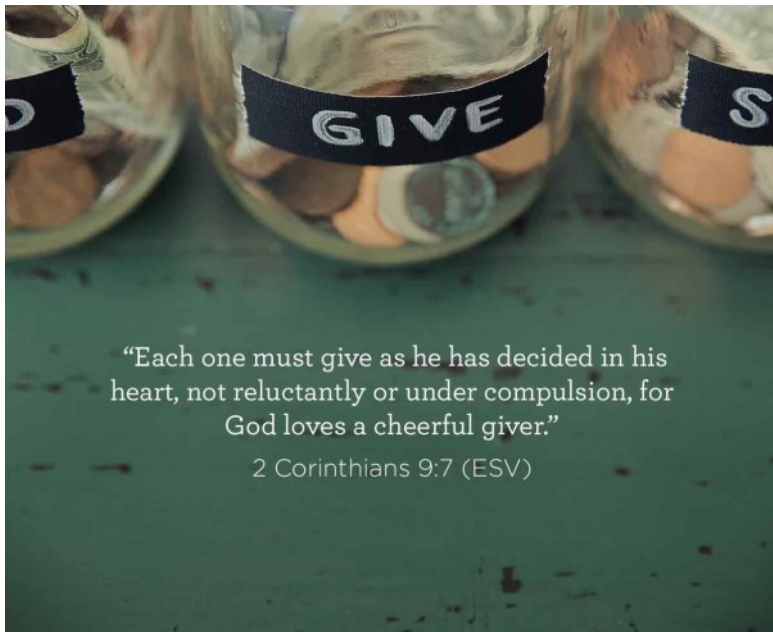
James Vermillion

Music Dir.
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Financial News: August/September 2021

Needed to meet budget each week	\$8,000.00
Received 8/29	\$10,704.00
Received 9/5	\$8,003.20
Received 9/12	\$6,008.53

Needed to meet budget Through September 13	\$300,000.00
Total received for budget Through September 13	\$266,634.52
Difference	-\$33,365.48



DID YOU KNOW

I recently walked around the church with an AC repairman. I quit counting AC units when I reached 25. I was surprised by how many AC units that we have and that we have to maintain. While we pay an AC company to engage in quarterly maintenance, we still have unforeseen costs when trying to ensure the temperature at the church is comfortable. Your gifts and financial contributions help not just ensure that our doors are open and our lights are on, but also that our buildings are comfortable and inviting.

WAYS TO GIVE at *St. Luke's*



ONLINE
at
stlukeskilgore.org



APP
Search for
Tithe.ly
in the Apple or
Google Play Store



BY MAIL
401 E Main St
Kilgore, TX 75662

3 ST. LUKE'S KIDS & MOTHER'S DAY OUT

OCTOBER EVENTS

October 1

6:00pm-10:00pm

Parent's Night Out (Gym)

Register online

www.stlukeskilgore.org

October 3

9:30am

Children's Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

10:30am

Children's Choir sings at worship

Please see the calendar on page 9 for a complete list of October events.



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>

Children's SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool

Preschoolers love to show adults how BIG they are . . . "Look at my BIG muscles! Look how BIG I can jump! Look at this BIG bite!" We don't have to teach a preschooler to show everyone how big they are. And, if we're all honest, there's something deep inside us that wants to do something big, too. We want to show the world that we can do things that matter—things that really matter. Could it be that we were all made to do big things? We think so. That is why we have planned an entire month around what being a Super Kid really looks like—doing the things God made us to do. God made us to do BIG things!

Elementary

Elementary students will be studying the connection between individuality and God's character, as shown through God's big story. God is one of a kind, with no beginning and no end. Everything God has created is unique and one of a kind, including people created in God's image. Every person is an original reflection of God in how they love, care for others, imagine, create, and solve problems. To see how we can do this well, we should look to Jesus. Jesus showed us what it means to be created in God's image in the way He loved all people and helped people feel like they had value—no matter who they were or what they had done. We can reflect this as we discover who we're meant to be and live out the individuality God gave us.



Thank you to everyone who stepped in to make sure that MDO had a seamless start. So many people stepped up to fill in as substitutes. I am forever grateful for all of the help!

This month in Chapel, we are going to be discussing Bible stories that remind us that God made us to do BIG things! We don't have to teach toddlers and preschoolers to show everyone how big they are. If we're all honest, there's something deep inside us that wants to do something big, too. We all have a desire to do things that really matter. We are all made to do BIG things.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid...for the Lord your God goes with you."

Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV

In His Service,
Misty Shipman

stlukeskilgore.org

OCTOBER EVENTS

October 3

3:30pm-7:00pm

Foam Party & Worship
First Methodist Longview

October 24

4:00pm-6:00pm

Serve in the Pumpkin Patch

October 30

7:30am-10:00am

Pumpkin Run 5K Fundraiser

October 14

6:00pm

Strategic Planning Town Hall Mtg
(Family Center)

October 19

6:00pm

Strategic Planning Stakeholders Mtg
(parents of 6th-12th graders)
(Family Center)

**Please see the calendar on page 9
for a complete list of October
events.**

SR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

The Upside Down Kingdom

You can probably tell your teenagers are gaining more and more influence, authority, and power in their lives – even if it's in small ways like having later curfews, getting car keys, or having more say in how they spend their time and money. You've probably also noticed they're more vocal about their opinions of the power structures they see at home and in the media. The conversation around power and authority is tricky for teenagers who want to experience freedom and learn what a healthy relationship with authority means. In this series, we want teenagers to learn about authority and power from the best example there is, Jesus. In a world that is power hungry, Jesus demonstrates the way of the upside down kingdom by using His power to love.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV

~Misty Shipman

JR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

In Charge

"In Charge" is a new series we will start in October, designed to help your middle schooler learn to respond to the people in charge—the authority figures in their lives—in healthy, honorable ways. Middle schoolers often feel like they're lacking the freedom to be in charge of their own lives during this phase, so remember that if your middle schooler is struggling with the people in charge (maybe even you!), they're often struggling with the desire for more freedom more than anything else. Our focus scripture will be "Jesus came and told His disciples, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.'" Matthew 28:18, NLT

~Niki Chowdhury

FOAM PARTY & WORSHIP

Sunday, October 3, St. Luke's youth are invited to meet at our gym at 3:30pm and we will head over to First Methodist, Longview, for worship followed by a meal and then all the foam you can imagine! The worship band, Covie, will be joining us. They are a lot of fun and play all over the state. Should return to St. Luke's around 7:00pm.

PUMPKIN RUN 5K FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 30

The 4th Annual Pumpkin Run is right around the corner and we are going to need YOUR help. The Pumpkin Run is a fundraiser to help offset the cost of summer camp and mission trips. If your 2nd-12th grader is planning to attend church camp or go on a mission trip this summer, they need to volunteer at the Pumpkin Run. Each student that works the event will be credited with funds toward the cost of our summer activities. This can greatly reduce the cost of these activities and help lessen the financial burden on your family. Contact Niki Chowdhury or Misty Shipman for more information or to volunteer.



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

2021 Pumpkin Patch T-shirts ORDER YOURS NOW!!



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

www.stlukeskilgore.org
\$10.00 each

DRESS OUR SCARECROWS



The move to the Activity Lot means that we have a lot more room to spread out in the patch. We have several great scarecrows, but we need a couple more. We are looking for clothing items that can be used to dress our scarecrows; overalls, blue jeans, boots, flannel shirts. All donations can be dropped off in the church office.

VOLUNTEER IN THE PATCH

www.stlukeskilgore.org

We need volunteers to man the patch daily from 10am-8pm. The volunteer slots are set in two hour shifts and we need two adults in each shift. Please consider helping out in the patch. Volunteers can sign-up on our website or by contacting Jennifer in the church office.

WE NEED CANDY

We need unopened bags of individually wrapped candy for Trunk-or-Treat on October 27. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or at worship.

STORYTIME READERS

www.stlukeskilgore.org

We are looking for volunteers to read to the students who come to Storytime in the Patch. Storytime takes place in the Library, in the Family Center, October 11-21. Volunteer slots are set for 30 minutes each, 10:00am-1:30pm. Contact the church office or visit our website to sign-up

PUMPKIN PATCH SPONSORS

Sponsorships are an important part of the funding for Pumpkin Patch. Sponsorships help fund the purchase of mini pumpkins for the schools and cover the cost of all of our events in the patch. Please prayerfully consider being a Pumpkin Patch Sponsor or asking a business owner to be a Pumpkin Patch Sponsor. Sponsor levels are, \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, or \$500. For more information please contact the church office or visit our website, www.stlukeskilgore.org.

PUMPKIN RUN 5K SPONSORS

Youth Fundraiser

We are excited to be hosting the 4th Annual Pumpkin Run 5K. The run is a fundraiser for our youth department and helps offset the cost of our summer camps and mission trips. If you have a business please consider being a Run Sponsor. Sponsorship levels are \$250, \$500, or \$1,000. Contact Misty Shipman for more information or visit our website, www.stlukeskilgore.org.

PUMPKIN RUN 5K

Saturday, October 30 (8:00am)

Registration \$25 +\$2.45 SignUp fee

Run, walk, or stroll through our 5K course in downtown Kilgore on Saturday, October 30. Visit our website to register TODAY!!

www.stlukeskilgore.org

2021 Pumpkin Patch

September 25

Decorate the Patch

8:00am-12:00pm

September 29

Pumpkin Unload

5:00pm

September 30

Pumpkin Patch Opens

10:00am-8:00pm

October 3

Pumpkin Patch Sunday

Chili Lunch

11:30am

October 5

Party in the Patch

6:00pm-8:00pm

October 20

Pumpkin Carving Contest

6:00pm-8:00pm

October 23

Movie in the Patch

6:30pm-9:00pm

October 27

Trunk-or-Treat

6:00pm-7:00pm

October 30

Pumpkin Run 5K, Walk

8:00am

Register NOW!

www.stlukeskilgore.org

7 STRATEGIC PLANNING

ST. LUKE'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Strategic Visioning Plan

Start at the end

Clarify where we want St. Luke's program ministries to go. What do we want our children, youth, & music programs to look like in 3-5 years?

Where are we now?

Internal strengths and weaknesses. External opportunities and challenges. Prioritize what to act on.

Critical Goals

Prioritized by criticality. Define rolls and responsibilities, set a time line, create accountability. How can we get to where we want to be?

Execute

Any plan is worthless without relentless execution.

Honest Evaluation

Clarify what to fix, what to capitalize on, where investment is needed and what is working.

Be a part of the plan

Join us for townhall and stakeholder meetings to help us dream for our future, evaluate our current weaknesses and strengths, and create a plan.

Children's Ministry

9/16 Town Hall Meeting (6:00pm)
Family Center

9/21 Stakeholder Meeting (6:00pm)
Parents of children birth-5th grade
Family Center

Youth Ministry

10/14 Town Hall Meeting (6:00pm)
Family Center

10/19 Stakeholder Meeting (6:00pm)
Parents of students 6th-12th grade
Family Center

Music/Worship Ministry

11/9 Stakeholder Meeting (6:00pm)
Chancel Choir, Arise Band, &
worship volunteers
Family Center

11/18 Town Hall Meeting (6:00pm)
Family Center



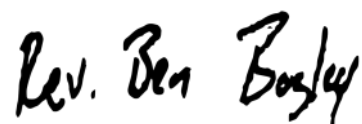
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

I always heard the phrase growing up “The only thing certain in life is death and taxes.” It took me several years to really understand the impact of this statement. As much as we crave certainty, very little in life stays the same or stays the way we want it to be. I think a more accurate statement would be “The only thing certain in life is death, taxes, and change.” Change is never easy and typically requires that we let go of something familiar and something that we enjoy. Oftentimes change is thrust upon us and we have little say in the matter. Sometimes we change begrudgingly with little understanding as to why. While change is certain, it is not always something that we enjoy.

As we have started our fall programming around the church and prepare for Pumpkin Patch in October, it is exciting to see some of our favorite activities appear on the calendar again. It was great welcoming over 60 people back on Wednesday nights as we have a time of fellowship and Bible Study. But as much as there are some familiar activities on our calendar, there are also some changes born out of necessity. Both the pandemic and the looming city project that will make portions of our campus difficult to reach have made us modify many plans and change some things. It is not change for the sake of change, but instead, adapting so that we can still worship, fellowship, and engage in Bible Studies.

As I look at the calendar with both the familiar and changed activities, I am reminded there is one other certainty in life. Hebrew 13:8 reminds us that Jesus Christ does not change. While uncertainty might move around us and undesired change might come our way, Jesus is still here with us, just as he always has been. Change can be scary and difficult, but Jesus is bigger. When you feel your anxiety and frustration rise over changes, whether they are big or small, remember, Jesus is still with you and that will never change.



Rev. Ben Bagley
Sr. Pastor

9 CALENDAR

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

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

Monday

9:00am-9:45am Exercise (Family Center)
9:00am-2:00pm Mother's Day Out

Tuesday

8:00am Prayer Group
(Knowles Chapel)

Wednesday

9:00am-9:45am Exercise (Family Center)
9:00am-2:00pm Mother's Day Out
3:15pm-5:30pm Children's Choir
5:15pm-6:00pm Wednesday Night
Dinner (Family Center)
6:00pm-7:00pm Wednesday Activities
6:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm Prayer Group (Parlor)

Thursday

6:30pm Arise Band Rehearsal

Friday

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

PUMPKIN PATCH

September 30-October 31

Monday-Saturday

10:00am-8:00pm

Sunday

12:00pm-8:00pm

* 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.org.

ALSO SCHEDULED...

Friday, October 1

6:00pm-10:00pm Parent's Night Out (Gym)

Sunday, October 3

Pumpkin Patch Sunday

9:30am Children's Choir Rehearsal (sanctuary)
10:30am Children's Choir sings in worship
11:30am Chili Lunch (Family Center)
3:30pm-7:00pm Youth Event

Tuesday, October 5

6:00pm Women's Ministry/Pam Besser Circle (Fireplace Room)
6:30pm Party in the Patch (Pumpkin Patch)

Thursday, October 14

6:00pm Town Hall Meeting (Family Center)

Monday, October 18

6:00pm Board of Stewards Meeting (Parlor)

Tuesday, October 19

6:00pm Stakeholders Meeting
Parents of Youth 6th-12th grade (Family Center)

Wednesday, October 20

6:00pm Pumpkin Carving Contest & Pumpkin Glow
(Pumpkin Patch)

Saturday, October 23

6:30pm-9:00pm Movie in the Patch (Pumpkin Patch)

Wednesday, October 27

6:00pm-7:00pm Trunk-or-Treat (Pumpkin Patch)

Saturday, October 30

7:30am Packet Pick-up for run (Pumpkin Patch)
8:00am Pumpkin Run 5K (Pumpkin Patch)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MENUS

October 6

Chicken Nuggets, Mac & Cheese,
a Drink, & Dessert

October 13

Enchiladas, Nachos, Beans & Rice,
a Drink, & Dessert

October 20

Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans,
Roll, a Drink, & Dessert

October 27

Hotdogs, Nachos, Frito Pie, & a Drink

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 the list longer, 903-984-3576.

For a complete list of Joys & Concerns, military members, and members in care facilities, please contact the church office.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Kristi Boone	Sandra Holley
Pamela Brown	Sam Holley
Marian Clemens	Wilma Jones
E.J. & Niki Chowdhury	Kasey Ridge
Tommy Freeman	Angela Thompson
Chet Garner	Wilbur & Kay Yates
Linda Garner	

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Brenda Abraham.....sister of Lori Briers
 Mark Abraham.....brother of Lori Briers
 Vicki Benbow.....sister of Karen L. Wilson
John Byrd.....nephew of Glenda Cochran
Dixie Duncan.....mother of Jana Castaneda
 Lisa Gillespie.....daughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher
 Margorie Heath.....friend of Karen L. Wilson
 Paul Kerns.....friend of Dean & Kathe Miller
 Holly Morchat.....daughter of Art & Pat Morchat
 Kym Rohde.....brother of Rhett Rohde
 Jim Rucker.....father of Jessica Wilson
 Paula Saari.....cousin of Sharon McCann
 Toady Sanders.....brother-in-law of April Watson
 Judy Simmons.....sister-in-law of Carol Grimes
 William "Bubba" Threadgill.....friend of Tommy Farnham
 Janice Vopalka.....mother of Lori Briers
 Julie Warren.....cousin of Rhett Rohde
 Dennis Wheeler.....father of Veronica Sprayberry
 Kim Whorl.....sister of Shelia Cross

WE SHARE JOY WITH..

Amanda and T. J. Gillen-Hall on the birth of their third daughter, **Sarah Mae**. Baby Sarah was born September 13, weighing 7lb 14oz, 20 inches long.

Congratulations to big sisters **Leah & Anna**.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO..

The family of **Ray Reinert**. Ray passed away on August 28. Please keep his wife **Denise** & their sons, **Robbie & Ryan**, in your prayers.

The family of **Todd Gibbs**. Todd passed away on September 9.

OCTOBER 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).

October 2 Daniel Ellis	October 21 Wyatt Bagley Lori Beck Ludie Courtney
October 6 Nancy Bullock Tara Hoberecht Steffen Jones Debra Wheeley	October 22 Cooper Clark
October 8 Mackenzie Chowdhury	October 24 Gage Chism
October 9 Robert Ellis Sally Thompson	October 25 Jeanette Lawrence
October 12 Kay Yates	October 26 Rene Holt Cindy Silvey
October 14 Meggan Clark	October 27 Clemmie Richards Marshall Tinkler
October 15 Isaac Hoberecht Carmen Vermillion	October 28 Charlotte Allen
October 16 Emilee Hanshaw Jake Thompson	October 30 Annette Morgan Agnes Oliver Wilbur Yates
October 19 Cooper Shipman	October 31 Clifton Lynch

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Jeff & Lori Beck	Oct 19, 1990
Brian & Lori Todak	Oct 31, 2001

OCTOBER PRAYER FOCUS

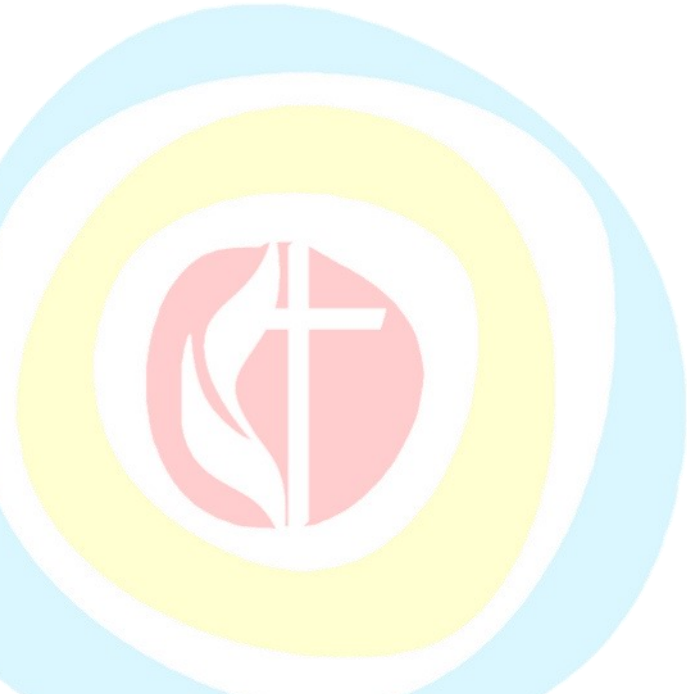
2021 Pumpkin Patch
 Crossroads UMC
 Pine Tree ISD
 Haiti

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What's Happening At St. Luke's

ST. LUKE'S WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Tuesday, October 5 (6:00pm)

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 5 at 6:00 with Cassie & Carmen Stephens as hostesses and Brenda Culpepper leading devotionals. I can't talk about the project we will be working on because... it's a secret. Don't forget to bring the items you signed up for. All ladies are welcome to join.

Barbara Francisco
Secretary

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays @ 11:45am

Wednesdays @6:00pm

It's not too late to join us for Pastor Ben's Bible Study Series over Ecclesiastes. Everyone is welcome.

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.

October 8

6:00pm

The Tackle Box, Kilgore

October 22

6:00pm

Dairy Queen, Kilgore

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