



The VISITOR

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

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE

November 2021

Issue 11

ESTHER

THE GOOD BEHIND EVERYTHING



November Sermon Series:
Pastor Ben will be using the
book of Esther to help us see
that God has a plan for us

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Our Faithfulness

PAGE 3 & 4

St. Luke's Kids
St. Luke's MDO

PAGE 5

From the Pastor

PAGE 6

Strategic Visioning

PAGE 7 & 8

Pictures from the patch

PAGE 9

Pumpkin Patch Sponsors

PAGE 10

All Saints Sunday

PAGE 11

What's Happening At St. Luke's

PAGE 12

St. Luke's Youth

PAGE 13

Calendar

PAGE 14

Joys & Concerns
Birthdays
Anniversaries

BACKPAGE

What's Happening

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

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

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

(903) 984-3576
office@stlukeskilgore.org

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
office@stlukeskilgore.org

Richelle Rathbun

Hospitality Coordinator
(903) 371-3499

Misty Shipman

Sr. High Youth Dir.
(903) 240-4609
mdshipman@stlukeskilgore.org

James Vermillion

Music Dir.
(903) 241-1447
music@stlukeskilgore.org

Financial News: September 2021

Needed to meet budget each week	\$8,000.00
---------------------------------	------------

Received 9/5	\$8,003.20
--------------	------------

Received 9/12	\$6,008.53
---------------	------------

Received 9/19	\$8,746.15
---------------	------------

Received 9/26	
---------------	--

Needed to meet budget	\$316,00.00
-----------------------	-------------

Through September 30

Total received for budget	\$281,260.92
---------------------------	--------------

Through September 30

Difference	-\$34,739.08
------------	--------------

**DID YOU KNOW**

The St. Luke's United Methodist Women's Morning Circle may not meet anymore, but the ladies are still active in ministry. Each year a small group of these women volunteer to deliver meals for our area Meals on Wheels program. For 4 weeks in January and August, St. Luke's is responsible for delivering meals daily to 5-6 clients in Kilgore. As we look to the future we want to encourage others to participate in this ministry. If you are interested in helping to deliver meals in January or August, please contact the church office (903-984-3576).

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

NOVEMBER CHILDREN'S & MDO EVENTS

Parents Night Out

November 5
6:00pm-10:00pm

MYMU (4th & 5th Graders)

November 14
1:30pm-6:30pm
Cost: \$25

Tailgate Lunch

November 21
11:30am

Family Advent Celebration

November 28
6:00pm

Kilgore Christmas Parade

November 30

Please see the calendar on page 9
for a complete list of November
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](https://www.facebook.com/stlukeskilgorekids)

St. Luke's MDO

[https://www.facebook.com/
stlukesmdo](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmdo)

Children's SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL

This month we are going to use a community garden theme to teach our preschoolers that "I can thank God for everything." Wow, there is so much goodness in that one statement! First of all, I can thank. Choosing to be thankful is the road to contentment, joy, and peace. And we want our preschoolers to have all of that goodness in their lives. Second, I can thank God. Thanking God is how we acknowledge the One giving us all the good in our lives. And third, I can thank God for everything. Yes, even the not so good stuff. When we thank God for everything, we are showing God that we believe He can use ALL things for His purpose and nothing is too big for Him. We want our preschoolers to know they can thank God for everything. We want them to experience the contentment, joy, and peace that comes from a thankful heart.

Memory verse: "I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART."
PSALM 111:1, ESV

ELEMENTARY

Elementary children will be learning to be ok with what we have. Everything we have comes from God. He is faithful to provide what we need. And even more than what we own, God can also provide what we need to face whatever happens in our life. God has proven time and again that we can trust Him no matter what. We can complain or become jealous of what others have . . . or we can choose to respond with contentment, knowing that God has a plan for our lives.

Memory verse: "THEN HE SAID TO THEM, 'WATCH OUT! BE ON YOUR GUARD AGAINST WANTING TO HAVE MORE AND MORE THINGS. LIFE IS NOT MADE UP OF HOW MUCH A PERSON HAS.'" LUKE 12:15, NIRV

MYMU (4th – 5th graders)

Sunday, November 14

1:30pm-6:30pm

November 14, meet at St Luke's gym at 1:30pm to go to Times Square Grand Slam in Tyler. Returning around 5:30pm. Cost is \$25. Friends always welcome!

KILGORE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Tuesday, November 30

6:30pm

The Kilgore Christmas Parade will be November 30 at 6:30pm. The theme is "Christmas in the Oil Patch". If you would like to volunteer to decorate the St. Luke's float, or would like to ride on the float, please let Niki Chowdhury know.



The arrival of the pumpkins always signals an increase in activity at St. Luke's and that includes MDO. Our sweet kids have been able to enjoy the extra play space provided by the pumpkin patch. They have really enjoyed the maze and looking at the multitude of sizes and colors of the pumpkins that we received.

A big thank you to the Story Time volunteers. The classes always love getting to have a special snack and a story read when they visit the Pumpkin Patch Story Time. The kids are always so excited to show their parents the pumpkin that they received and tell them about their story time.

I would also like to thank Jennifer Powell for all of her hard work taking pictures of our kids in the patch. The families are always so appreciative of the pictures that she provides for them.

Kilgore Fire Department will be visiting MDO on October 25 to teach the kids about fire safety.

Our classes will wrap up the month with Halloween and Trick or Treating at the church offices on October 27.

In November, our Chapel lessons will focus on all of the things in life that we have to be thankful for. We want our preschoolers to know they can thank God for everything and to experience the contentment, joy, and peace that comes from a thankful heart.

November Bible Memory Verse: "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart." Psalm 111:1, ESV

MDO will be closed November 22-26 Thanksgiving.

In His Service,
~Misty Shipman

FAMILY ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 28

6:00pm

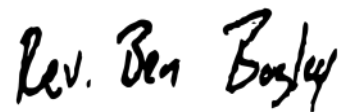
Help us create a traditional Christmas for your family. We will be hosting The Traditions of Christmas each Sunday during Advent, beginning with a Family Advent Celebration on Sunday, November 28. Meet us in the Family Center at 6:00pm to create an Advent Wreath for your family to use at your home during the Advent season.



One of the things I miss most during the summer around the church is all of the children that attend our Mother's Day Out Program. When MDO is not meeting the church campus is oddly quiet and still. When school is in session there is always noise, laughter, and excitement from the children as they play, sing, learn and go through their day. This school year MDO has been a little different. Covid has continued to create problems as teachers and students have had to miss school due to sickness and exposure, but even with the hecticness, it is still great to see all of the excitement.

Misty has done a great job at ensuring that MDO still happens and that there are plenty of teachers and subs to create a safe and fun environment. There is also a great deal of prep work that is required to create a safe environment. Sanitizing takes place as well as cleaning nap mats. Arts and crafts are laid out and snacks are prepared for the students to enjoy. In order to help with communication throughout the classrooms, we recently acquired more walkie-talkies so teachers could communicate without having to leave the classroom. The first day we went to use them, I took them off the chargers and immediately realized there was a problem. While they were charging, they worked, but the minute I unplugged them they died. This led to panic and frustration until I took the back off the battery compartment and realized that the batteries had not been put into the walkie talkie so no charging had taken place. It was an easy oversight but an important one.

I often wonder how many times we run around frantically trying to prepare and plan but face the same oversight. Without the batteries, the walkie-talkies could not be charged and so they were not ready when needed. We often stay busy and in doing so do not allow ourselves time to recharge. In Genesis, God rested after creation was done. The seventh day was a day of Sabbath. Sabbath is a day of rest where we allow ourselves to experience the goodness of God and allow God to charge us up to face the week ahead. Preparation and planning are important, but so is Sabbath. Are you giving God time to charge you up for the journey ahead?



Rev. Ben Bagley

Sr. Pastor

We spent September working to create a vision for the future of Children's Ministry at St. Luke's UMC. The following is the beginning results from our Town Hall & Stakeholders meetings. Please be in prayer for our board, staff, parents, and children as we continue to dig deep and dream big.

Start at the end

Clarify where we want

What we want for St. Luke's Children's Ministry

- Programs that are structured and fall in line with our vision to Love God, Live His Word, & Share His Grace
- Biblical Foundation that leads to practical use
- Programs that build good relationships and socialization skills in our kids
- Adult volunteers that lead by example and are good role models
- Programs that teach kids to be in service to others
- Worship experiences that teach kids how to participate in worship

Where are we now?

Evaluate what we have.

What we have right now

What are we doing well?

Our location in town
Options for all ages
Consistent programing
Church-wide communication
Creativity in programing
After school pick-up
Strong programs: PNO, MDO, Summer Slam, Children's Choir

What needs work?

Volunteer engagement
Overall cohesion of programs
More age-level specific events
Inconsistent participation
Targeted communication
Infrastructure
Sunday School Curriculum
Part-Time staff with fulltime needs

Underutilized opportunities

Survey of congregation
Activity Lot
Proximity to downtown events
Proximity to City Park/Splashpad
Community events/involvement
Events with other churches
Targeted regular communication

Outside issues that effect our program

Finances
Competition (sports/dance/etc)
Covid
Main Street Project
Burn out of volunteers
Lack of commitment

Critical Goals

How can we get to where we want to be?

Be on the look out for our short-term & long-term goals and plans for St. Luke's Children's Ministry

Youth Ministry Strategic planning took place in October.
The results of those meetings will be in the December issue of The Visitor.

Music/Worship Strategic planning will take place in November.
Everyone is invited to join us for our Town Hall & Stakeholders Meetings to share their hopes and dreams for the future of St. Luke's UMC

7 PUMPKIN PATCH



Thank You!

Pumpkin Patch relies on the generosity of our volunteers to make it a success. Thank you to everyone that helped in the patch this year. Setting up, moving pumpkins, volunteering in the patch, reading at story time; every hand helps.



Thank you to all of our 2021 Pumpkin Patch Sponsors!

Orange Level Sponsors

Benis Mexican Restaurant

Bronze Level Sponsors

Greg & Sheryl Caraway
Charlies Snoball & Seasonal Tanning
E.J. & Niki Chowdhury
Dennis & Mikki Ellis
Gabby Frashieur
Global Graphics
Jaclyn Hatchett

Mark & Anne Hatfield
Joe & Barbara Johnson
Jim & Sharon McCann
Billy & Billie Sue Mims
James & Celia Mooney
Mooney Oilfield Services
Tracey & Mark Varvel

Silver Level Sponsors

Automotive Supercenter
Dan & Janel Brown
Kathy Brown
Leon & Ludie Courtney
Dan & Shelia Cross
Doug & Mona Effler
Cindy Frederick
Gabriel-Jordan Buick GMC

Mrs. J.D. Hancock
Pat Haynes
Keith Mathis
Kay McKinley
Lefty & Cecilia Mitchell
Art & Pat Morchat
The Burrito Shop
David & Karen Wilson

Gold Level Sponsors

Alan & Meggan Clark
Danny Harrison Lawn Care
Evalee Haynes Insurance
Jack & Susan Moore

David & Annette Morgan
Rader Funeral Home
Ima Roberts
SHS Welding



Ever since the 7th century, Christians have been calling the first Sunday in November *All Saint's Sunday*. It is a time of honor and respect for our beloved brothers and sisters who have gone to be with our Lord during the year.

As is our custom at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Kilgore, we will be expressing our gratitude for those who have contributed so much to our lives. On **Sunday, November 7**, during both the 8:30am & the 10:30am worship services, we will be honoring and celebrating the lives of those we have lost this year. There will be a reading of the St. Luke's saints and a candle lit in their memory during worship.

We know that many are struggling with the loss of loved ones and we want to honor them by remembering their loved one during the All Saints Service. If you have a loved one that you would like us to call by name during the service, please contact the church office by November 3.

Following the traditional service, we will be hosting a churchwide lunch. Join us at 11:30am in the Family Center for a family meal celebrating the lives of those we have lost this year. If you cannot attend worship, the service can be viewed online on our Facebook page.

Please share this information with your family members and other loved ones so that all will be present for one of the worship services.

Please know that the church continues to pray for you and your family.

PLEASE NOTE: Daylight Saving Time ends. Don't forget the time change.

ST. LUKE'S WOMEN'S MINISTRY**Tuesday, November 2 (6:00pm)**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 2 at 6:00pm with Sally Holder as hostess and April Watson leading the devotional. We will be working Franklin Graham's Christmas shoe boxes. Don't forget to bring the items you signed up for. All ladies are welcome to join.

Barbara Francisco
Secretary

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.

November 5

6:00pm

Papacita's, Longview

November 19

6:00pm

Whataburger, Kilgore

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

CHARGE CONFERENCE**Sunday, November 14**

We will be hosting our annual Charge Conference meeting Via Zoom this year. For those wishing to participate in the meeting we will give out the Zoom link upon request or you can view the meeting with us in the Sanctuary.

Charge Conference is an annual meeting that we have with the other churches in our district and our District Superintendent. This is the time that we approve the Church Officers for the upcoming year and approve the upcoming Budget. This meeting is open to anyone wishing to attend.

MEDICARE INFORMATION MEETING**Tuesday, November 196****11:00am - Family Center**

We will be hosting Evelee Haynes of Evelee Haynes Insurance with an informational session about your Medicare options. Get all of your questions answered at a safe, convenient in-person meeting. For more information contact Evelee Haynes at 903-387-7750.

TAILGATING**Sunday, November 21****11:30am**

Join us for a fall tailgating celebration! We will be asking various groups and classes to help out by providing and serving different Tailgate foods for us to share as a family. Gather with us in the Family Center Lawn following the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, November 21. After the meal we will be helping to decorate the campus for the Advent season.

**A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS**

During Advent we will be celebrating a Traditional Christmas. Each Sunday evening we will host a Christmas Tradition Event for your family to enjoy.

Sunday, November 28

Family Advent Celebration– Advent Wreath Making
(6:00pm) **see more information on page 4**

Sunday, December 5

Children's Choirs Christmas Concert (6:00pm)
Christmas Cookie Decorating (6:30pm)

Sunday, December 12

Blue Christmas Worship (6:00pm)

Sunday, December 19

Los Posadas Christmas Celebration (6:00pm)

NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

Bowling

November 7
11:30am
Cost: \$10

Tailgate Lunch

November 21
11:30am

Family Advent Celebration

November 28
6:00pm

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



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](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesyouthkilgore)

@sly_srhigh

SR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

Bittersweet

Okay so you've forgiven, but how can you tell if it's even working? The hurt, frustration, or confusion is still very real and "they" never actually said sorry. We know when the worst stuff happens to us it can feel sweet to stay bitter. But maybe there's a better answer. In this series we'll learn how when you don't forgive, it hurts you, that everybody needs forgiveness and how it's okay that healing doesn't always happen overnight.

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13 NLT

~Misty Shipman

JR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

Moving On

In November, the Jr High youth will look at a series called "Moving On" which is about something that can be difficult for all of us: forgiveness. This can be an especially hard concept for middle schoolers to grasp because their thinking is very concrete. It's important to talk about forgiveness in a way that helps students see the benefits it offers to others and themselves. And it's a chance to help them see that forgiveness allows them to move forward and move on in a healthy, helpful way.

Memory verse: "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others." Colossians 3:13, NLT

~Niki Chowdhury

BOWLING

Sunday, November 7

11:30am

Youth invited to meet us for bowling on Sunday, November 7. After worship, we will eat at the church soup luncheon, then we will head over to the Kilgore Bowling Alley. Cost \$10. Parents welcome to join!

13 CALENDAR

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

8:30am

Arise Worship* (Sanctuary)

9:30am

Sunday School*

10:30am

Traditional Worship * (Sanctuary)

Monday

9:00am-2:00pm

Mother's Day Out

Tuesday

8:00am

Prayer Group (Knowles Chapel)

11:45am

Lunchtime Bible Study (Family Center)

Wednesday

9:00am-2:00pm

Mother's Day Out

10:00am-12:00pm

Coffee & Conversation (Family Center)

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 (Sanctuary)

* 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

ALSO SCHEDULED...

Tuesday, November 2

6:00pm

Pam Besser Methodist Women Circle (Family Center)

Friday, November 5

6:00pm

Holy Huddlers at Papacita's, Longview

6:00pm-10:00pm

Parent's Night Out (Gym)

Sunday, November 7

All Saints Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends

11:30am

Church-wide Lunch (Family Center)

Tuesday, November 9

6:00pm

Stakeholders Meeting: Music/Worship

Sunday, November 14

3:00pm

Charge Conference Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 16

11:00am

Medicare information Meeting (Family Center)

Thursday, November 18

6:00pm

Town Hall Meeting: Music/Worship (Family Center)

Friday, November 19

6:00pm

Holy Huddlers at Whataburger, Kilgore

Sunday, November 21

11:30am

Tailgate Lunch (Family Center)

Decorate for Advent

Monday, November 22-Friday, November 26

The Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, November 24

NO Children's Choir, Wednesday Night Dinner, or Wednesday Night Activities

Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 28

1st Sunday of Advent

6:00pm

Family Advent Celebration (Family Center)

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

Pamela Brown	Donna Jackson
Hope Cantu	Wilma Jones
E.J. & Niki Chowdhury	Noah McClammy
Tommy Freeman	Angela Thompson
Chet Garner & Linda Garner	Sam Thurston
Milton Hattaway	Ann White
Sandra Holley	Wilbur & Kay Yates
Sam Holley	

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Brenda Abraham.....	sister of Lori Briers
Mark Abraham.....	brother of Lori Briers
Vicki Benbow.....	sister of Karen L. Wilson
Babby Carroll.....	sister of April Watson
Beverly Crawford.....	friend of Milton & Jan Hattaway
Dixie Duncan.....	mother of Jana Castaneda
Lisa Gillespie.....	daughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher
Jason Grimes.....	son of Carol Grimes
Lenette Isom.....	friend of Mike Kerr
Paul Kerns.....	friend of Dean & Kathe Miller
Holly Morchat.....	daughter of Art & Pat Morchat
Jim Rucker.....	father of Jessica Wilson
Judy Simmons.....	sister-in-law of Carol Grimes
Paula Saari.....	cousin of Sharon McCann
William "Bubba" Threadgill.....	friend of Tommy Farnham
Janice Vopalka.....	mother of Lori Briers
Julie Warren.....	cousin of Rhett Rohde
Vicki Warlick.....	friend of Pat Morchat
Dennis Wheeler.....	father of Veronica Sprayberry
Kim Whorl.....	sister of Shelia Cross

WE SHARE JOY WITH..

Art & Pat Morchat on the birth of their granddaughter Lucy, to Holly and Mark Stanko

NOVEMBER PRAYER FOCUS

St. Luke's Children's Choir
Spring Hill ISD
Calvary Way Pentecostal Church
Norway

NOVEMBER 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).

November 2 Mona Effler Keith Mathis Harrison Weathers	November 14 Bob Davis Amanda Patton
November 3 Heather Chism Scott Stebbins	November 15 Michael Barnard Luke Weathers
November 4 Jacqueline Womack	November 16 Cason Castaneda
November 5 Cathy Geese Don Nicholson Pat Rudy	November 18 Matt Patton
November 7 Amy Bruyere Dorothy Denham	November 19 Dan Cross Suzie Gibson
November 8 Liz Rodgers	November 21 Victoria Shipman
November 9 James Hanshaw	November 26 Joy Tate
November 11 Mallory Burgess Cathy Mount	November 27 Tamara Dean
November 12 Emma Reinert	November 29 Carolina Bryant
	November 30 Pat Sers

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

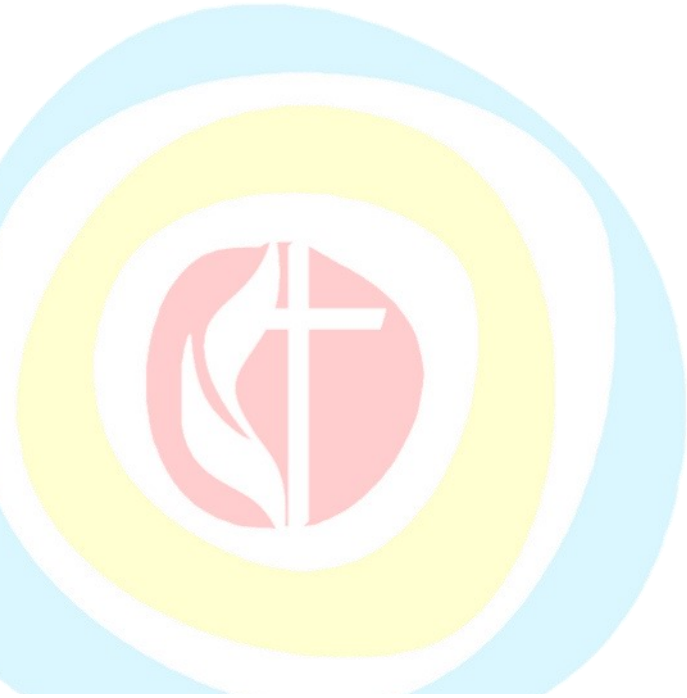
Name	Date
Bo & Amy Bruyere	Nov 10, 2018
Randy & Sally Holder	Nov 12, 1988
Robert & Joan Smith	Nov 15, 1985
Tommy & Laura Farnham	Nov 19, 2001
Gregg & Sheryl Caraway	Nov 28, 1987

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



A graphic for a 'Tailgate Party'. It features a green background with a football at the top. A black banner with white text reads 'TAILGATE PARTY'. Below the banner is a black silhouette of a car. To the left of the car is a black silhouette of a grill. At the bottom, a white box contains the text: 'FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, & FUN', 'Sunday, November 21 - 11:30am', and 'Stay after to help decorate the church for advent'.