



The VISITOR

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

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE

January 2022

Issue 1

NEW BEGINNINGS

January is a month where we typically think about 'beginning.' It is the start of a new year and ideas of new things and resolutions seem to become more prevalent. In many areas of our lives, we are excited about beginning something new. In worship, we will be exploring new beginnings in the Bible. Some are total life transformations, while others are smaller. Either way, the new beginnings that God offers have dramatic impacts all through scripture. Join us as we look at the ways, God is starting new things in your life.



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What's Happening

STAY CONNECTED

EVERYDAY | ALL DAY LONG

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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

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James Vermillion

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Financial News: November 2021

Needed to meet budget each week

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Received 11/7 | \$13,623.47 |
| Received 11/14 | \$6,703.05 |
| Received 11/21 | \$11,882.31 |
| Received 11/28 | \$5,679.22 |
| Needed to meet budget Through November 30 | \$388,000.00 |
| Total received for budget Through November 30 | \$347,545.44 |
| Difference | -\$40,454.56 |



WAYS TO GIVE AT St. Luke's



BY MAIL

St. Luke's UMC
401 E. Main St
Kilgore, TX 75662



ONLINE

at
stlukeskilgore.org



APP

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

Check out all the fun our youth and kids had in December.

JANUARY CHILDREN'S EVENTS

January 7

Parent's Night Out

6:00pm-10:00pm

January 12

Wednesday Night Activities

Resume

3:15pm-5:30pm*

5:15pm-6:00pm - Dinner

6:00pm-7:00pm - Studies & Groups

*check out our new Kids Wednesday Afternoon Activity options

January 16

Nerf & Nachos

4:00pm-6:00pm

January 22

Drive-In Movie

5:30pm

Please see the calendar on page 9 for a complete list of January events and meetings.

Children's SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL

A great storyteller can pull you in and make you forget everything else that is going on around you. They make you feel empathy and conviction for things that really matter. Life lessons are revealed with each word, and you walk away wanting to change and just be a better human. Jesus is that kind of storyteller. Jesus is indeed the master storyteller and there is nothing better than Story Time with Him. When Jesus starts talking, it's time to listen, because, Jesus teaches me important things

ELEMENTARY

Our elementary kids will be learning about the connection between self-control and God's character. We trust God no matter what. Even when we face unexpected circumstances, we can respond to them with self-control. We can trust that we don't need to rush in or take matters into our own hands. We can trust that God is working. Self-control is a Fruit of the Spirit. As we follow Jesus throughout our lives, the Holy Spirit transforms us and helps us live more like Jesus. We can follow His example and choose to do what we should do—instead of what we want to do. The Holy Spirit can give us the power and wisdom to show self-control.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

Part of our Wednesday Afternoon Ministry is that we pick children up from local schools and bring them back to the church for a time of snacks, fellowship, and Children's Choir. This semester we are expanding our offerings. Our pick-up process will be the same but children will be able to choose whether they attend children's choir or a new art program that will help children learn about God through designing different crafts. Parents will have to complete the new registration form for children to be able to take part in the art class. Children will also have to pick which activity they want to take part in and stay in the same activity throughout the entire semester. Look for more information about registration coming soon.

NERF & NACHOS

Sunday, January 16

4:00pm-6:00pm

Bring your Nerf gun (with your name on it) and join us for a fun evening of Nerf battles and delicious nachos on January 16, from 4:00-6:00pm! We will provide the nachos and darts. Please do not bring any ammo, the church will provide darts that are compatible with most Nerf guns. This event is for families of all shapes and sizes, everyone is welcome. If you do not have a nerf gun, we will have a limited amount of loaner guns. *Please let Niki know ASAP if you will need a loaner gun so we can make sure you get one.*



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>



We wrapped up our month with Pancakes with Parents and our class Christmas parties. A big thank you to Paula Hooks, Sally Holder, Sheryl Caraway, Ginny Anderson, Niki Chowdhury, and Richelle Rathbun for helping with Pancakes with Parents. These types of special events would not be possible without the support of volunteers.

MDO will be closed for Christmas Break December 20- January 4. Classes will resume on January 5.
Merry Christmas!

In His Service,
~Misty Shipman

Merry Christmas from the Mother's Day Out Staff

JANUARY MDO EVENTS

January 5

MDO Classes Resume
9:00am-2:00pm

**Please see the calendar on page 9
for a complete list of January
events and meetings.**



5 FROM THE PASTOR

Every year, as a part of the End of Year Reports, the Board of Stewards has to do an evaluation of the church and the community in which we serve. The evaluation is to look at both our strengths and the areas that we could grow. It helps us to both celebrate how far we have come in a year and to refocus some of our ministries, so that we are serving with purpose. It was a joy this year to look at how far we have come since the pandemic wrecked so many plans and lives in 2020 and 2021.

Part of the evaluation of areas that the church should grow in is a follow-up question. It is one thing to say that we are deficient in an area as we voice concerns and frustrations. Oftentimes when we focus on growth areas, we use that time as a way to vent frustrations about how things should be different and the ideas that we believe have not been fulfilled. The follow-up question forced the Board of Stewards to change their perspective. After choosing growth areas, they then had to list ways that they were encouraging growth in the different areas.

This follow-up question forced me to sit back and think. I am good at naming ways that I believe things should be different, but how invested am I in changing them? Am I simply expecting others to do what I want and make the changes, or am I willing to do the hard work of bringing about growth in areas that I feel are important? This question made me stop and not just evaluate the church, but also my life. Where are areas that I want to change, but am unwilling to do any work to change things?

As we come into a new year I believe that these two questions are immensely powerful. What are the growth areas in your life as well as the growth areas in the church, and then how are you willing to encourage those changes to take place? Growth is only possible if we are willing to take part and do the hard work that is required.

I look forward to seeing where God is leading us in 2022 and how God will use this church to build his Kingdom.



Rev. Ben Bagley
Sr. Pastor

As 2022 begins we are looking to restart many of our teams that took a break during the pandemic. The teams are open to any that wish to participate and cannot be possible without your participation. Join one of the teams that meet the gifts God has given you.

WORSHIP TEAM

This team will continue looking at both of our worship services and determine ways to create more meaningful worship that invites everyone in to participate. This is not limited to the music but also includes, the structure of the services, visuals to aid worship, and many other areas. One of the first actions this team will be taking is to develop a survey and administer it to begin a conversation about the direction worship should take. The first meeting will take place on January 18, at 6:00 pm.

MISSION TEAM

While we have engaged in missions throughout the last few years, our team has not been able to consistently meet. This team focuses on ways that our congregation can engage in missions on our church campus, in our community, and nationally. There are opportunities for people of all skill levels. This team also helps to plan special events like Mission Sunday, where we celebrate the different missions that the church has been involved in. The first meeting of this team is on January 11, at 6:00 pm.

OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach team helps us to create a bridge between our community and the church. This involves being involved in community events, greeting on Sunday mornings, hosting community events, and many other things. We need people to help with the events and those willing to bring new ideas and help plan. The first meeting will be on January 13, at 6:00 pm.

While we have many other great ways to serve at St. Luke's UMC, we hope you will get connected on one of these teams.

Every year, we have a group of Board of Stewards Members that end their term and another group that is beginning their time on our leadership team.

Our tradition has been to lift the entire Board of Stewards up in prayer as the year begins and to thank those that have served over the last several years. I invite you to join me in worship on Sunday, January 9, as we pray over our Board of Stewards and thank them for the service to the ministry of the church.

2022 BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair

Keith Hooks

Lay Leader

SyRena Witt

Staff Parish Relations

Karen Wilson

Trustees

Garry Mount

Endowments

Celia Mooney

Class of 2022

Carla Branson

Lydia Rathbun

Class of 2023

Michael Barnard

Sheryl Caraway

Tommy Farnham

Denise Reinert

Class of 2024

Gabrielle Fraschiseur

Milton Hattaway

Jim McCann

Susan Moore

Rotating Off

Dennis Ellis

T.J. Gillen-Hall

Wendell Holcombe

Andrea McGilvrery

**Thank you for serving St. Luke's
the last 3 years.**

7 WHAT'S HAPPENING

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Resume on January 12

5:15pm - Family Center

In order to help Richelle better plan the weekly meals we will be taking online payments. Meals will cost \$3 for kids (under 12) and \$6 for adults (over 12).

We are offering a discount for anyone willing to pre-pay for the entire semester. \$42 for a semester of meals for kids, a saving of \$6, and \$84 for a semester of meals for an adult, a savings of \$12. If your family plans to attend Wednesday Night Meals you can pre-register and pre-pay by visiting our website, stlukeskilgore.org. the payment portal will open on December 27. Contact the church office if you have any questions or need any assistance.

JANUARY MENUS

January 12

Loaded Baked Potatoes,
Salad, Drink & Dessert

January 19

Shredded Chicken Tacos,
Nachos, Dessert & Drink

January 26

Beef Spaghetti, Salad,
Garlic Bread, Dessert & Drink

ST. LUKE'S WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Tuesday, January 4 (6:00pm)

During our Christmas party meeting we elected the officers for 2022.

President - Brenda Culpepper

Vice President/Program Leader - Anna Rohde

Secretary - Barbara Francisco

Treasurer - Mikki Ellis

Fundraising Leader - Sally Holder

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 4, at 6:00.

Anna Rohde will be helping us to discover the "WHY" of Discipleship by Rev. Junius Dotson.

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 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.

January 7

6:00pm

Flying Burger & Seafood, Longview

January 21

6:00pm

Maria's Mexican Restaurant, Kilgore

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

SATURDAY BREAD

If you love serving your community, we have just the thing for you. St. Luke's partners with Kilgore First Presbyterian Church to help provide meals for our community members in need. One Saturday a quarter we supply the volunteers to cook and deliver meals for the Saturday Bread Program.

For more information or to volunteer please contact
Brenda Culpepper (903-987-1453).

2022 DATES

January 8

March 26

June 11

August 27

November 12

DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

January 12

**Wednesday Night Activities
Resume**

3:15pm-5:30pm - Youth

5:15pm-6:00pm - Dinner

6:00pm-7:00pm - Studies & Groups

January 16

Nerf & Nachos

4:00pm-6:00pm

January 22

Drive-In Movie

5:30pm

January 28-30

The Rise

Please see the calendar on page 9 for a complete list of January events and meetings.

SR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas

We know that anything of value probably has a counterfeit version out there, from off brand cereals to knock-off luxury items. The same is true for our faith. Maybe copying the behaviors of other believers was a great place to start your faith journey, but how can we move beyond copying Christians to following Jesus? How do we make our faith our own? The difference between a counterfeit faith and an authentic faith is growth and heart change. This month we'll discover that God can use just about anything to help us grow a faith of our own.

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock." **Matthew 7:24, NIV**

~Misty Shipman

JR HIGH BIBLE STUDY

Connect the Dots

Connect the Dots is a five week series designed to help students grow and develop a faith of their own. By talking to them about the specific things God can use to grow their faith, middle schoolers will get a tangible understanding of something that can seem abstract: the way they can connect the dots to further connect with the God of the universe.

MEMORY VERSE "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." **Colossians 2:6-7, NL**

~Niki Chowdhury

Parents, check out the series devotionals on the YouVersion Bible App and follow along with your students! Just search for Countdown to Christmas in the "Plans" section of Bible.com or in the YouVersion Bible App. Challenge your students to complete the plans with you, and share what you're learning through the devotionals.

THE RISE

January 28-30

Mark your calendars for the community wide youth RISE conference, January 28-30! There will be three sessions we will attend at The RISE, located at First Baptist Longview. Sessions include amazing worship music and awesome speakers. Cost is \$65 per student (includes shirt). Please register by January 10, to be guaranteed a shirt. Registration forms are in the gym. Bring your friends!

Our mission project this year is the Clean Water Project. We will be collecting money to send water filter units to third world countries. We will also be collecting small stuffed animals such as beanie babies, new or used, and give these as a gift to the children in the families getting water filter units. For questions, please contact Niki Chowdhury or Misty Shipman.



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_srhgh

9 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/Art

5:15pm-6:00pm

Wednesday Night

Dinner (Family Center)

6:00pm-7:00pm

Wednesday Activities

6:00pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

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
our website, stlukeskilgore.org.

ALSO SCHEDULED...

Saturday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Tuesday, January 4

6:00pm Pam Besser Circle-Methodist Women (Family Center)

Wednesday, January 5

9:00am-2:00pm Mother's Day Out Resumes

Friday, January 7

6:00pm Holy Huddlers at Flying Burger & Seafood, Longview

6:00pm-10:00pm Parents Night Out

Saturday, January 8

8:30am Saturday Bread at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 9

Board of Stewards Recognition in Worship (8:30am & 10:30am)

11:30am Board of Stewards Training

Tuesday, January 11

6:00pm Mission Team Meeting (Parlor)

Wednesday, January 12

Wednesday Activities Resume

3:15pm-5:30pm Children's Choir/Art

5:15pm-6:00pm Dinner (Family Center)

6:00pm-7:00pm Groups & Studies

Thursday, January 13

6:00pm Outreach Team Meeting (Parlor)

Sunday, January 16

4:00pm-6:00pm Nerf & Nachos (Gym)

Monday, January 17

Office Closed for Martin Luther King Day

6:00pm Board of Stewards Meeting (Parlor)

Tuesday, January 18

6:00pm Worship Team Meeting (Parlor)

Thursday, January 20

6:00pm Town Hall Meeting (Knowles Chapel)

Friday, January 21

6:00pm Holy Huddlers at Maria's Mexican Restaurant, Kilgore

Saturday, January 22

5:30pm Drive-in Movie (Activity Lot)

January 28-30

The Rise youth Conference

Sunday, January 30

5:00pm Hymn Service & Organ Program at First Presbyterian Church

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

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| E.J. & Niki Chowdhury | Wilma Jones |
| Tommy Freeman | Dwaine Kirksey |
| Linda Garner | Angela Thompson |
| Sandra Holley | April Watson |
| Sam Holley | Wilbur & Kay Yates |

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Vicki Benbow--sister of Karen L. Wilson
 Babby Carroll--sister of April Watson
 Valerie Conner--daughter of Gary & Beverly Gray
 Lisa Gillespie--daughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher
Brittany Hooks--daughter-in-law of Keith & Paula Hooks
 Gloria Kinney--granddaughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher
 Brianna McClung--Spring Hill Student
Keith Thompson--friend of Jim & Sharon McCann
 Julie Warren--cousin of Rhett Rohde
 Vicki Warlick--friend of Pat Morchat
 Dennis Wheeler--father of Veronica Sprayberry
 Kim Whorl--sister of Shelia Cross
 Geri Wink--friend of many

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

George Jones, on the death of his wife, **Sue Jones**.

Linda Garner, on the death of her husband, **Chet Garner**.

Keith Hooks, on the death of his cousin, Donnie Hooks.

Kay Evans, on the death of her husband, **Jack Evans**.

JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS

Board of Stewards
 Gladewater ISD
 McCary's Chapel UMC
 Kentucky

JANUARY 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).

| | |
|---|--|
| January 2 Ed Aguilar Danny Harrison Morgan Russ | January 15 Sam Holley |
| January 3 Scott Clark Shelia Cross Madison Todak Matthew Todak | January 16 Tracey Varvel |
| January 6 John Lewis Gretchen McDaniel | January 17 Karen Lynch Andrea McGilvary |
| January 7 Jennifer Powell | January 19 Amanda Gillen-Hall Debra Maloch |
| January 8 Bob Lindley | January 20 Peggy Ferebee Lori Todak |
| January 9 Kay McKinley William Watkins Nathan Watson | January 21 Alice Crocker Kyleigh Lewis Trey Rathbun |
| January 11 Paul Banner Ben Hatfield Michael McClammy | January 25 Clay Mooney |
| January 12 E.J. Chowdhury | January 26 Ginny Anderson Charley Corbin Paul Johnston |
| January 13 Maurine Witt | January 27 Bill Ridder |
| January 14 Lorelai Aguilar | January 29 Chris Beck Celia Mooney |
| | January 30 Mikki Ellis Anna Tryon |

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

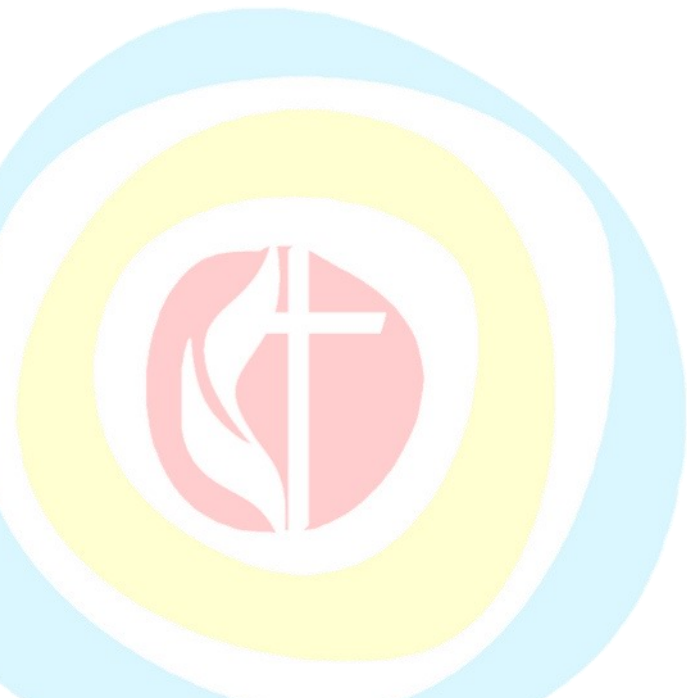
| Name | Date |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Dan & Janel Brown | Jan 5, 1963 |
| Michael & Donna Barnard | Jan 7, 2005 |
| Robert & Sherry Ellis | Jan 7, 1980 |
| Paul & Laura Johnston | Jan 11, 2014 |
| E.J. & Niki Chowdhury | Jan 17, 1998 |
| Jeff & Margo Davis | Jan 27, 1990 |
| Dean & Kathe Miller | Jan 30, 1965 |
| David & Annette Morgan | Jan 31, 1981 |

The
VISITOR

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ST. LUKE'S FAMILY EVENTS CALENDAR

**JAN
12**

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

3:15pm-5:30pm | Children's Choir/Art
5:15pm-6:00pm | Dinner
6:00pm-7:00pm | Groups & Studies

**JAN
22**

DRIVE-IN MOVIE

5:30pm
Movie TBA



**JAN
16**

NERF & NACHOS

4:00pm-6:00pm



Make plans to join us for all of
our upcoming Family Events.
For more information contact
Jennifer in the church office.

(903)984-3576

office@stlukeskilgore.org