



The **VISITOR**

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

December 2022

Issue 12



HE WILL COME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

From the Pastor

PAGE 3

Music

PAGE 4

Giving

PAGE 5

Mother's Day Out

PAGE 7

St. Luke's Youth

PAGE 8 & 9

Christmas at St. Luke's

PAGE 9

Calendar

PAGE 10

Joys & Concerns
Birthdays
Anniversaries

BACK PAGE

Breakfast with Santa



STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on social media to stay up to date
on all things St. Luke's

<https://www.facebook.com/StLukesUMCKilgore/>

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukeskilgore/>

St. Luke's Youth

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesyouthkilgore>

St. Luke's Kids

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukeskilgorekids>

St. Luke's MDO

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmdo>

Subscribe to our YouTube page

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQl83akQH4YDK-LYIHM0QXQ>

Sign-up to receive our emails

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

Watch Worship Live

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/watch-live/>

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

(903) 984-3576
office@stlukeskilgore.org

Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews

pastor@stlukeskilgore.org

Danilee Caskey

Director of MDo & Children's Ministry
(210) 693-2859
mdo@stlukeskilgore.org

Scarlett Hartsell

Business Manager
(903) 987-2593
finance@stlukeskilgore.org

Cynthia Mathis

Assistant Youth Dir
youth2@stlukeskilgore.org

Michael Moore

Youth Dir.
youth@stlukeskilgore.org

Jennifer Powell

Dir. of Communications
(903) 984-3576
office@stlukeskilgore.org

Richelle Rathbun

Hospitality Coordinator
(903) 371-3499

James Vermillion

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

What Should I Wear, What Should I Bring?

We ask questions of decorum constantly during Thanksgiving and Christmastime. What a personal triumph it is when our outfit suits the occasion and the sweet potatoes with marshmallows are hit! Years ago in early December, I walked into my daughter's room to get her ready for a party. She was intently pulling off the white gown of her Madame Alexander baby doll. "Caroline, why are you taking off your baby's gown?" I asked. Without looking up she said, "Jesus is going to need something else to wear when he comes with us." What a sweet moment - and also a lesson inherent for us all. In this seasonal time, whatever we wear or bring, and wherever we go, we are to bring Jesus with us first and foremost! He is the only garment, accessory, or side dish truly needed.

Even as we aspire to abide in Christ and live in his love, we are acutely aware that we will fail in a thousand ways. The next month and a half will be for us all a time of contradictions: stress vs. joy, grief vs. gratitude, loneliness vs. over-stimulation, financial concerns vs. a desire for generosity. The plain truth is this: it's not possible for us to navigate all the demands of life successfully except through the presence of Christ. As we fill our calendars with events, programs and parties, let us put FIRST the task of spiritual preparation for establishing the coming of the One who saves us from despair and futility. St. Luke's is dedicated to helping you in your quest for Christ through worship, study, service, togetherness, prayer and so much more!

The recipe for spiritual integrity will always be lacking if we refuse to admit our need for corporate interaction with other Christ followers. Better that we gladly "enter the courts together with praise and thanksgiving" than sit quietly and unmoving in our tepid comfort. God longs for the great day when together we proclaim "Come, Lord Jesus!"

May we awake to the sacred words that "the old has passed away and the new has come!" This proclamation was meant for us. Our Holy God is waiting to create for you a blessed, celestial garment for every private and public occasion.

Jesus is the best accessory



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Andrews".

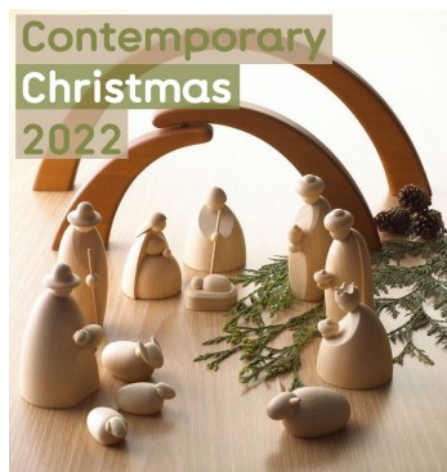
Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews
Sr. Pastor

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON December 11

Arise Service
8:30am | Sanctuary

Contemporary Christmas 2022

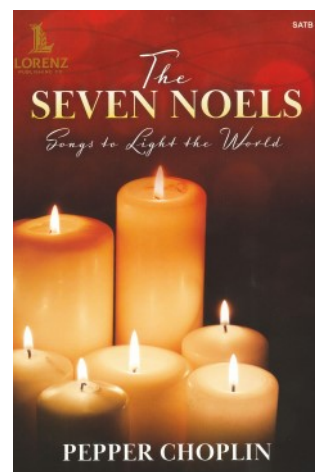
Shared by the Arise Band
Contemporary Christian music to lift you up into the Season by the Spirit



Traditional Service
10:30am | Sanctuary

The Seven Noels

shared by the Chancel Choir
Old carols and new anthems with congregational participation.



Children's Musical Program
6:00pm | Gym

A Christmas Journey, Rejoice! It's Christmas

shared by the Children's Choirs
Christmas, Joy, Faith, Hope, Mercy, Peace, and Generosity, and even Doubt make a journey to the Holy Little City. Their journey is not easy. Even with good friends all around, dangers threaten to keep them from reaching the Holy Little City in time all together and in one piece!



End-of-Year GIVING

What you need to know

1

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Current Contribution statements have been mailed to every member. Once you receive your statement please look over it and let us know if we need to make any adjustments. We moved to a new Membership Database this year and it may have caused some missing or mislabeled contributions. Please contact the church office so that we can get those fixed for you.

2

ONLINE STATEMENTS

With our new membership database you have the ability to view your Contribution Statements online. If you would like to receive log-in information so that you can view your statement, please contact Jennifer Powell in the church office.

3

END-OF-YEAR DEADLINE

The deadline for the church to receive your 2022 contributions is December 31. Contributions received after this date will not be included in your 2022 Contribution Statement. The office will be closed December 26-December 29. Contributions can be dropped off in the mail slot in the office door when the office is closed. You can contact Pastor Allison to set up an appointment to drop off your Contribution.

4

ONLINE GIVING

Visit our website stlukeskilgore.org to set-up a recurring contribution from a bank account, credit/debit card, or online bill pay. Contact the church office for more information or to set-up automatic giving.

If you have any questions or need assistance please contact the church office at office@stlukeskilgore.org or [903-984-3576](tel:903-984-3576).

WAYS TO GIVE AT St. Luke's



IN PERSON

Drop your gift in one of the offering boxes at worship or in the offering plate.



ONLINE

at
stlukeskilgore.org



TEXT

"give" to
[903-833-3576](tel:903-833-3576)



BY MAIL

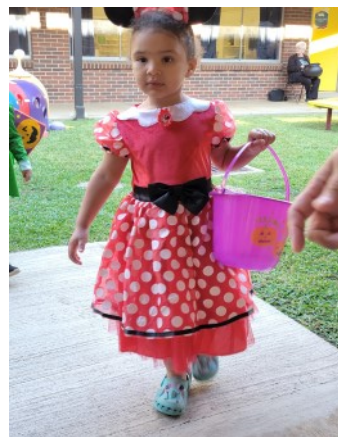
St. Luke's UMC
401 E. Main St
Kilgore, TX 75662

ST. LUKE'S MDO

Our MDO kids had a fun time Trick-or-Treating around the facility. As always, events like this require volunteers to help make it happen. MDO would like to thank: Karen Wilson, Ginny Anderson, Susan Moore, and Lauren Faye for helping pass out candy for our children. It was hard to tell if the children or adults enjoyed it more. October was filled with fun activities for our MDO children. The kids had their fall pictures taken in the pumpkin patch. Toddlers through Pre-K took a walking field trip to the Family Life Center for Story Time where they all received a free child sized pumpkin. The biggest hit of October was the classroom Halloween Parties!!! The children enjoyed a pizza lunch with tons of goodies on the side and quickly slipped into a sugar coma for naptime.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I would like to express how thankful I am for my wonderful MDO staff, my Board Members, and for all the behind the scenes people who donate meals, supplies, and their time to the program. You are all such a blessing to me and to the program. MDO is thankful for you all!!!

Danielle Caskey
MDO Director





On November 2, St. Luke's youth group participated in Bingo games with patients at the Willows Rehabilitation Center in Kilgore, TX. When young people work with individuals who are elderly or disabled it increases their critical thinking, problem solving skills, and fosters social interaction and connections; not to mention we had a blast. We look forward to devoting at least one Wednesday a month to support our local beloved seniors citizens.

Michael Moore
Youth Director



There has been no greater blessing than that of watching our youth grow in their faith and closer to each other. On Wednesday nights we have discussed Thomas and how asking questions can help them to better understand their faith and their relationship with God. They have created amazing skits, drawings, and models from clay as we have explored scripture. We have explored the Beatitudes through poetry and songs (written by the youth). However, watching them in Arbor Grace decorating the pumpkins with residents was truly breathtaking. Together they not only created "artistic masterpieces" but developed relationships. The laughter was contagious as they glued on eyes and bows. These young men and women were able to let their light shine before others and it was a blessing for me and the residents to watch them connect with these often overlooked members of our community.



Cynthia Mathis
Asst. Youth Director

MARK YOUR *Calendar*

MID-WINTER

January 13-15

6th-12th grade

Cost \$75

We are excited to announce that the youth will be attending Mid-Winter at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center this January. This weekend retreat will replace The RISE that we usually attend. Parents will need to register and pay through the Lakeview Website just like you do for summer camp. St. Luke's will be covering half the cost of this retreat. The cost to our students will be \$75. If you have any questions or need any assistance please contact the Youth Directors or the church office.

Register Now at iheartlakeview.org

SUMMER CAMP

July 3-7

Completed 2nd-12th grade

Cost \$440

BIG HOUSE

TBD

Completed 6th-12th grade

Cost \$135

CAMP FUND

Parents your student can receive funds for Mid-Winter, Summer Camp, and Big House by participating in Youth Fundraisers or by applying for scholarship funds.

Church, if you would like to help our students the need financial assistance to attend these events, you can donate to the Youth Fund. All financial gifts are appreciated. Contact the church office for more information.

7 CHRISTMAS AT ST. LUKE'S

Poinsettia ORDER FORM

Help us pay for a poinsettia and also support St. Luke's Youth. Poinsettias that will decorate our sanctuary for the Advent & Christmas season are \$25 per poinsettia. Please complete this form, write a separate check from your normal giving to SLUMC, and place the form and the check in the offering plate. The net proceeds for each poinsettia will help send youth to Church Camp and Summer Mission Opportunities.

Name:

Phone #:

If applicable, please circle one:
IN MEMORY or IN HONOR OF:

Name(s):

Number of Poinsettias _____ at \$25.

For a total of \$_____.

Final Deadline for ordering is
December 18.



Worship with us this Christmas

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24

6:00pm* & 11:00pm

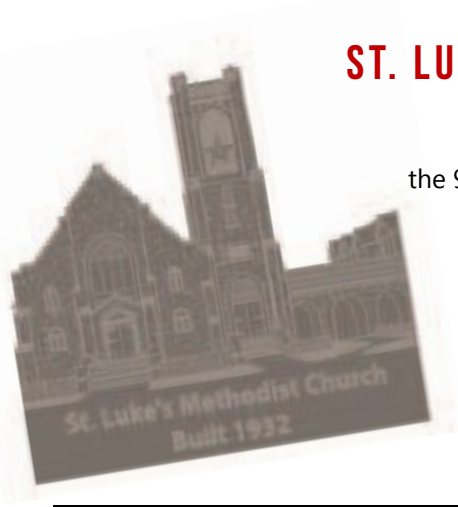
Christmas Day Worship**

December 25

10:30am

*Nursery Care at 6:00pm only

**No Sunday School or Children's Church.
Nursery Care available (birth-3years old)



ST. LUKE'S CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

\$15.00 each | On sale NOW

The St. Luke's Youth are excited to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the sanctuary with limited edition Christmas ornaments.

All proceeds from the sale of the ornaments will go to the Youth Summer Camp Fund. Ornaments can be purchased at worship on Sundays or in the Church Office during the week.

Chrismon ORDER FORM

Each year we add Chrismon's to the Chrismon Tree in our Sanctuary. Chrismon's are \$10 each. Please complete this form, write a separate check from your normal giving to SLUMC, and place the form and the check in the offering plate, or drop it off in the church office. The proceeds for the sale of Chrismon's will help offset the cost of our beautiful new tree in the Sanctuary.

Name:

Phone #:

If applicable, please circle one:
IN MEMORY or IN HONOR OF:

Name(s):

Number of Chrismon's _____ at \$10.

For a total of \$_____.

Final Deadline for ordering is
December 18.

Christmas OPEN HOUSE at the Parsonage

**Sunday, December 18
4:00pm-6:00pm**

Your invited to a Christmas open house
at the St. Luke's Parsonage.
Stop by for snacks and to check
out the parsonage all decked
out for Christmas.

St. Luke's Parsonage
409 Hillside
Kilgore, TX

* Nursery provided for this event.
 ** Nursery can be arranged for this event.
 Call the church office, 903-984-3576

				1	2 Parents Night Out 6:00pm-10:00pm Holy Huddlers @ St. Luke's 6:00pm	3
4 Youth Jam Band 5:00pm	5	6 Methodist Women 6:00pm	7 Last Wednesday Night Dinner & Studies	8	9	10 Breakfast With Santa 8:30am-11:00am
11 Christmas Cantata 8:30am & 10:30am Children's Christmas Program 6:00pm	12 Board of Stewards Meeting 6:00pm	13	14 Children's Choir & Youth Christmas Parties 3:15pm-5:00pm	15	16	17
18 Parsonage Open House 4:00pm-6:00pm Youth Jam Band 5:00pm	19	20 Mission Team Meeting 6:00pm	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 6:00pm & 11:00pm
25 Christmas Day Worship 10:30am	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed Last day for End-of-Year contributions	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

8:30am | Arise Worship* (Sanctuary)
 9:30am | Sunday School*
 10:30am | Traditional Worship * (Sanctuary)
 11:30am | Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)

Monday

9:00am-2:00pm | Mother's Day Out (Children's Courtyard)

Tuesday

8:00am | Prayer Group (Knowles Chapel)
 11:45am | Lunchtime Bible Study (Family Center)

Wednesday

9:00am-2:00pm | Mother's Day Out (Children's Courtyard)
 3:15pm-5:30pm | Children's Choir (Gym/Choir Room)
 5:15pm-6:00pm | Dinner (Family Center)
 6:00pm-7:00pm | Studies
 6:00pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday

6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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

Sharry Christopher	Dwaine & Elaine Kirksey
Cindy Frederick	David Morgan
Tommy Freeman	Angela Thompson
Gary Gray	April Watson
Pat Haynes	Wilbur & Kay Yates
Sam Holley	

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Danny Acuna.....brother of Carolina Bryant
 Babby Carroll.....sister of April Watson
 Allison Covington.....niece of Bill & Peggy Clarke
 Lisa Gillespie.....
daughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher
 Ella Holmes.....grand-niece of Allison Andrews
 Gloria Kinney.....
granddaughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher
 Sam, Sandi, Kelsey, & Jenna Lewis.....
friends of many
 Melody Martins.....
great niece of Bill & Peggy Clarke
 Nelda Morgan.....St. Luke's Custodian
 Joey Pipkin.....nephew of Dan & Shelia Cross
 JR & Laurie Tarply.....friend
 Tom Watson.....nephew of Bill & Peggy Clarke

DECEMBER PRAYER FOCUS

St. Luke's Children's Ministry
 Highland Park Baptist Church
 Spring Hill ISD
 Iran

DECEMBER 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).

December 5

Joshua Russ

December 16

Cora Davis

December 6

Jean Gray

December 19

Jo Stiles

December 8

George Jones
 Jack Sprayberry
 Les Thurston

December 20

Payton Berger

December 24

Bobbie Smith

December 9

Carol Brady

December 25

Jamie Haynes

December 10

Marcy Huey

December 27

Kalynn Harrison

December 12

Wilma Jones
 Kathe Miller
 James Mooney

December 29

Lexi Copeland

December 14

Caylee Clark
 Peggy Clarke

December 30

Dan Brown

December 31

Chuck Kunkel

December 15

Dean Miller

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

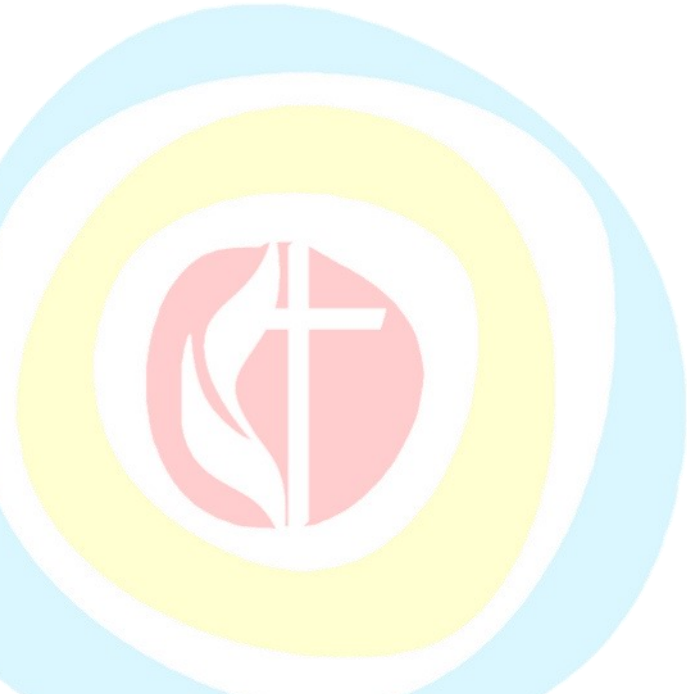
Name	Date
Clifton & Karen Lynch	12/18/1999
Jay & Tamara Dean	12/19/1992
Daniel & Misty Shipman	12/23/1995
Joe & Barbara Johnson	12/24/1958
Wendell & Carolyn Holcombe	12/26/1970

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



BREAKFAST with *Santa*

December 10, 2022
8:30am-11:00am

Pancake Breakfast
& Picture's with Santa

Sponsored by St. Luke's UMC and
Kilgore Men & Women of Alliance

