



The **VISITOR**

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

January 2023

Issue 1

MAKE A **FRESH START** AT ST. LUKE'S KILGORE



How would you like the opportunity for a new beginning? Fresh starts don't begin with a change of circumstances - a new job, new location, or new relationship - they begin with a change of heart. God specializes in clean slates and fresh starts. It's a new year, and at St. Luke's Kilgore we invite you to join us as we all look at ways to make this year, and the rest of our lives, the best they can be.

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STAYCONNECTED

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on all things St. Luke's

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

<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/UCQI83akQH4YDK-LYIHM0QXQ>

Sign-up to receive our emails

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

Watch Worship Live

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

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Finding Yourself in the Frenzy

By the time this article reaches your home, you will probably be exhausted or overwhelmed. Where is Christmas in the midst of too many obligations, family and friend drama, church events, decorations, and impending bills?

It seems with every year, the intensity of the Christmas season and the New Year increases. Simultaneously, our yearning for simplicity, peace, acceptance, wonder and sustaining faith ALSO increases. The problem for most of us this time of year is the almost irresistible vortex of worry and concern that obscures the light of Christ. The son is eclipsed by other issues.

As I pondered this reality during a sleepless night, fighting off my own panic attack, I snapped into the realization that my obstacles and fear give me a direct line to understanding the first Christmas.

Joseph and Mary were forced to travel 80 miles when she was about 9 months pregnant. Their journey would culminate in a crowded city. They had no money and no help. She gave birth in squalor conditions and we have no information that assures us that they were given a room upgrade after the birth. The world around them, save the characters in the birth narrative, was unaware of this momentous arrival of the Messiah. Most of the people crowding into Bethlehem were likely consumed with their own troubles and political worries about the Roman Empire.

No, the tinsel, the warm lights, the parties, the family time, the Facebook posts of family gatherings, and the many opportunities to worship were not available to the Holy Family. They had to bear up under the scrutiny of an unusual birth in an unwelcoming environment, under the religious rule of one who sought to kill this infant threat to his kingship.

When Bethlehem was finally in the rear view mirror, the tiny family fled to a foreign country to live as immigrants. We can assume that was a meager existence with no visits from grandparents, no baby showers, no friends to connect with, and no crystal ball to tell Mary and Joseph what each day would bring.

Two weeks ago, I saw the musical, THE MUSIC MAN. The production's most iconic song is "Trouble in River City." The musical group chants, "yes there's trouble, trouble, trouble, trouble...." The trouble Mary, Joseph and Jesus faced was real, threatening and all encompassing.

What is my point?

Christmas time, from the beginning, has never been easy. The fantastic news is that God delivers his greatest gift of salvation precisely because of our human struggle. As you look at the residual mess from Christmas and prepare to move on to another point in the year, don't return or forget the true gift of the One who comes to us, especially when life is difficult.



Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews
Sr. Pastor

POINSETTIAS & CHRISMON'S

2022 Christmas Poinsettias

Given in Honor of.....	Given by
Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews.....	Michael Adams
Cindy Lindley.....	Caring Christians Sunday School Class
Our children & Grandchildren.....	Danny & Kalynn Harrison
My great-great nieces & nephew.....	Kay McKinley
Kimberly Miller.....	Dean & Kathe Miller
Matthew Pitt.....	Dean & Kathe Miller
Celia Miller-Pitt.....	Dean & Kathe Miller
Nina Miller-Pitt.....	Dean & Kathe Miller
Our Great Grandchildren: Bryce Linkinhoker, Addison Thomas, & Riley Thomas.....	Don & Debbie Nicholson
Jim & Alana Williams.....	Tracey Varvel
Sandra Varvel.....	Tracey Varvel
Ralph & Gay Marbury.....	J.C. & Alana Williams

Given in Memory of.....	Given by
Joe & Mary Davis.....	Carol Brady
Agnes Oliver.....	Bob & Hope Cantu
Robert Cochran.....	Glenda Cochran
Molly Courtney.....	Leon & Ludie Courtney
Kenneth & Nan Courtney.....	Leon & Ludie Courtney
R.B. & Louise Haney.....	Leon & Ludie Courtney
Olga & Doyle Craver.....	Janet Craver
Our Parents.....	Danny & Kalynn Harrison
Sue Jones & Marty Jones.....	George Jones
Loved Ones.....	Sara Lugeanbeal
My Mom & Dad.....	Kay McKinley
Our Loved Ones.....	Don & Debbie Nicholson
Frances & Cecil Freeman.....	Joy Tate
Mark Varvel.....	Tracey Varvel
Charles & Jo Anne Vermillion.....	James & Laura Vermillion & family
Bud & Florence Williams.....	J.C. & Alana Williams

2022 Chrismon's

Given in Honor of.....	Given by
Dr. Duane & Patty Andrews.....	Michael Adams
Andrew & Caroline Thompson.....	Michael Adams
Hope Hankins.....	Bob & Hope Cantu
Kaydence Hankins.....	Bob & Hope Cantu
our Grand Children.....	Leon & Ludie Courtney
our great-grandchildren.....	Leon & Ludie Courtney
Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews.....	Sara Lugeanbeal
My Family.....	Joy Tate
My Family.....	Joy Tate
Jim & Alana Williams.....	Tracey Varvel
Sandra Varvel.....	Tracey Varvel

Given in Memory of.....	Given by
Frank & Shirley Hardin.....	Don & Debbie Nicholson
Jesse & Dean Nicholson.....	Don & Debbie Nicholson
Randy Williams.....	J.C. & Alana Williams
C.A. & Lucille Maule.....	J.C. & Alana Williams
Mark Varvel.....	Tracey Varvel

End-of-Year GIVING

What you need to know

1

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2022 End-of-Year Contribution Statements will be mailed out on January 15, 2023. 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**.

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



BY MAIL

SLMC

401 E. Main St
Kilgore, TX 75662

ST. LUKE'S Spotlight

We want to send a big congratulations to these awesome educators!

Laura Vermillion, Laura Johnston,
& Amy Bruyere; Longview ISD is lucky
to have you!



Laura Vermillion has officially passed all components over a two year period and become a National Board Certified teacher. Only 1/3 of applicants pass first time.



Amy Bruyere and Laura Johnston
both earned a Masters in
Educational Leadership from
The University of Texas at Tyler.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choirs did an amazing job performing, "A Christmas Journey." Christmas, Joy, Faith, Hope, Mercy, Peace, and Generosity, and even Doubt made a journey to the Holy Little City. Their journey was not easy. Even with good friends all around, dangers threatened to keep them from reaching the Holy Little City in time all together and in one piece!



ST. LUKE'S YOUTH



The youth celebrated Christmas break with a few rounds of Bingo and decorating Gingerbread houses.

We look forward to seeing everyone after the holiday break. Sunday School will resume on January 8, and Wednesday Night Activities will resume on, January 11.



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 Michael Moore 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.

2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair

Milton Hattaway

Staff Parish Relations

Carol Grimes

Endowments

Celia Mooney

Lay Leader

Anna Rohde

Trustees

Michael Barnard

Class of 2023

Michael Barnard

Sheryl Caraway

Tommy Farnham

Denise Reinert

Class of 2024

Paul Hooks

Jim McCann

Susan Moore

Cody Sprayberry

Class of 2025

Kathy Brown

Alan Clark

Amanda Gillen-Hall

Carol Grimes

Dean Miller

These volunteers have agreed to help lead the church. If you have any questions about what is happening around St. Luke's please contact one of them.



Friday, January 6
6:00pm-9:00pm**
\$10 per child

Register now at
stlukeskilgore.org

**Notice that we have changed the end time of PNO. Please be prompt when picking up your children.

LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 11:45am | Family Center
Resumes on January 10

Join Pastor Allison for weekly Bible Study each Tuesday at 11:45am. This is a great time to get together for learning, spiritual growth, and fellowship.

HOLY HUDDLERS

We would like to invite and welcome everyone to eat and fellowship with 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 6

6:00pm

Bodacious BBQ, Kilgore

January 20

6:00pm

Pizza King, Longview

If you have any questions, please call
Barbara Francisco, 903-918-6797,

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

5:15pm-6:00pm | 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 if you pre-pay for the entire semester early. Use the QR Code to pay online or contact the church office for assistance.

Single Adult Meal-\$6.00

Single Child's Meal-\$3.00

Full Semester Adult-\$84.00

Full Semester Child-\$42.00

JANUARY MENUS

January 11

Taco Salad, Nachos,
Chips & Salsa, Dessert
& Drink

January 18

Hot dogs/Chili dogs,
Macaroni & Cheese,
Veggies with Ranch,
Dessert & Drink

January 25

Chicken Noodle, Potato,
or Taco Soup, Garlic
Toast, Drink & Dessert



MISSIONS Highlight

The missions team has been working hard to come back to full working capacity following Covid. We have resumed regular meetings and have taken steps to add new projects in 2023. We wanted to take a moment to highlight one of our favorite mission programs.

Backpack Ministry

We are currently providing weekend meal kits for 52 children at Kilgore Primary, Chandler Elementary, and Kilgore Intermediate Schools. Each month volunteers sort the food that is delivered from the East Texas Foodbank and each week volunteers deliver it to the schools. Thanks to grants and your contributions we were able to provide over 1,300 meals last school year. The 2022-2023 saw a rise in students needing assistance. This year we are on track to give out almost 2,000 meals. This ministry will cost us almost \$10,000. Your contributions along with community grants and endowments makes this program possible. Thank you to everyone that contributes to the Backpack Ministry.

How can you support Backpack Ministry?

Donate to the Backpack Ministry Fund

Use the link below to donate online now

<https://app.sharefaith.com/App/Form/fcc7b675-5946-4675-aadf-f6ba8fa36454>

Volunteer your time

We are always looking for volunteers to help us sort food or make weekly deliveries. Contact the church office to see how you can help.

Join the Mission Team

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of Each month to plan upcoming mission projects and programs. We would love to have more people join our team. Our next meeting will be January 24, at 6:00pm in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome.

January 2023

1 Combined Worship 10:30am	2	3 Methodist Women 6:00pm	4	5	6 Parents Night Out 6:00pm-9:00pm Holy Huddlers at Bodacious BBQ, Kilgore 6:00pm	7
8	9 MDO resumes	10 Lunchtime Bible Study resumes	11 Wednesday Activities resume	12	13	14
15 Youth JAM Band 5:00pm	16 MLK Day Office Closed NO MDO Board of Stewards 6:00pm	17 Mission Team 6:00pm	18	19	20 Holy Huddlers at Pizza King, Longview 6:00pm	21
22	23	24 Worship Team 6:00pm	25	26	27	28
29 Children's Choir Sings 10:30am Youth JAM Band 5:00pm	30	31	<div> <p>* Nursery provided for this event. ** Nursery can be arranged for this event. Call the church office, 903-984-3576</p> </div>			

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	Elaine Kirksey
Cindy Frederick	David Morgan
Tommy Freeman	Angela Thompson
Gary Gray	Cindy Venable
Jo Hancock	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
Joey Pipkin.....nephew of Dan & Shelia Cross
JR & Laurie Tarply.....friend
Tom Watson.....nephew of Bill & Peggy Clarke

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

The family of **Agnes Oliver**. Agnes passed away December 1. Funeral services were held on December 3.

The family of **Karen Lynch**. Karen passed away on December 3. Funeral services were held in Athens, TX on December 9.

The family of **Pauline Jones**. Pauline passed away on December 5. Funeral services were held on December 9.

The family of **Clemmie Richards**. Clemmie passed away on December 10, following a short hospital stay. Funeral services were held on December 15.

The family of **Dwaine Kirksey**. Dwaine passed away on December 13. Funeral services were held at St. Luke's on December 22.

JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS

St. Luke's Mission Team
White Oak ISD
Christ The King Catholic Church
Afghanistan

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 16 Tracey Varvel
January 3 Shelia Cross Madison Todak Matthew Todak	January 17 Leslie Bennett Andrea McGilvray
January 6 Gretchen McDaniel	January 18 Rachel Holder
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	January 21 Alice Crocker Trey Rathbun
January 11 Michael McClammy	January 25 Clay Mooney
January 12 E.J. Chowdhury	January 26 Ginny Anderson Paul Johnston
January 13 Maurine Witt	January 29 Chris Beck Brian Holcombe Celia Mooney
January 14 Lorelai Aguilar	January 30 Mikki Ellis
January 15 Sam Holley	

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Dan & Janel Brown	1/5/1963
Dean & Kathe Miller	1/30/1965
Robert & Sherry Ellis	1/7/1980
David & Annette Morgan	1/31/1981
E.J. & Niki Chowdhury	1/17/1998
Michael & Donna Barnard	1/7/2005
Paul & Laura Johnston	1/11/2014

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Office: 903-984-3576

Web Site: www.stlukeskilgore.org

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**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

**NEW
YEAR'S
DAY
WORSHIP**

**Sunday, January 1
10:30am
Sanctuary**

NO 8:30am worship
or Sunday School