



The VISITOR

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

February 2023

Issue 2



A church is more than a building. It's a people, a community, a movement. We believe that our church, St. Luke's Methodist Church, is an incredible force for reaching people for Jesus, discipling them in faith, and helping those in need — and we're proud of the work that God is doing through us! We love to say, "That's my church!" and that's what we'll be talking about during our stewardship campaign this year. Join us in February as we celebrate all the things we love about our church and learn more about how we can be apart of growing Christ's reach in our community.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

From the Pastor

PAGE 3 & 4

St. Luke's Kids
Children's Choir

PAGE 5

St. Luke's Youth

PAGE 6

Board of Stewards

PAGE 7 & 8

What is Lent?

PAGE 9

Missions

PAGE 10

Lent Crossword Puzzle

PAGE 10 & 11

What's Happening at St. Luke's

PAGE 12

Joys & Concerns

PAGE 13

February Calendar

BACK PAGE

Fat Tuesday Celebration



STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on social media to stay up to date
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/>

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

(903) 984-3576
office@stlukeskilgore.org

Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews

pastor@stlukeskilgore.org

Danielle Caskey

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

Scarlett Hartsell

Business Manager
(903) 987-2593
finance@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

I Love My Church

Do YOU love your church? I do! I love THE church and MY church, St. Luke's Methodist Church. In this part of the country, it is not too unusual for folks to profess their love and care for their church and the people who love them within their congregation. We are fortunate to live where it's not considered inappropriate conversation to talk about what God means to us and how our worshiping community matters!

My favorite story is from when my daughter was about three, and we walked down the steps from First UMC in Houston, where I was appointed. It had been a long morning, and my sights were set on just getting home. Caroline's little voice interrupted my thoughts when she asked, **"Why does everyone love me?"** Her dad and I were taken aback, and then our hearts melted. She was so deeply and constantly "loved on" by members and nursery caregivers that in her young experience, it was as if EVERYONE knew her and loved her. Friends, I don't know many places where a child or adult can be loved simply because they "are!" We cannot afford to underestimate how the love of Christ changes lives through his bride, the church.

So please, I urge you to love your church! How?..... We love our church if we love one another at St. Luke's. If we love the ministries that extend love to others beyond the church, we love our church. We love our church if we love the sick and homebound, the young and vulnerable in our congregation. If we like to talk about what St. Luke's means to us and how it helps us, then we love our church. We love our church if we invite and bring friends and strangers to church. If we can forgive the imperfections of the people in the church, then we love our church. We love our church if we are serious about our vows to uphold our church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. If we say we love Jesus, then we are called to love the church because the church is Christ's presence in the world.

In February, we will focus on what it means to love and support our church so that the Kingdom of God will be more vibrantly present among us and in us. Remember, loving your church means regularly bringing your love to our worshiping community and expressing it to all.

-Psalm 133:1 says, **"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!" When selfless love is present, unity is sure to follow!**

I'm so grateful for each of you in this season of recalibrating and expanding ministry in all churches climbing out of the "COVID" era of lethargy. Your participation and support are the only ingredients necessary to prove that God's not done with His church or people.

I don't know about you, but I speak proudly of St. Luke's, and it is my prayer that your pride in this wonderful and historical community of believers will be a witness that God is very much on the move in Kilgore, Texas.

"Each church should make it their ambition to excel still more in their faith and love, as they seek to truly be the Body of Christ God intends for them to be!"

(Paul in 1 Thessalonians)



Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews
Sr. Pastor



YOU'RE INVITED TO

GLOW

THE NIGHT AWAY

Kids and parents are invited to join us for a night of glow-in-the dark fun and games.

Friday, February 17
6:00pm-7:30pm
St. Luke's GYM



The first Parent's Night Out of 2023 was a big success!!! The bigger children enjoyed playing sports in the gym and riding on the tricycles and younger kids hung out in the cafe and played table games and made crafts to take home at the end of the night. The pizza and movie were a big hit and of course, no one was ready to go home when their parents showed up.



The Children enjoyed the arts and crafts table at the Happy Birthday, Jesus event. We even caught some of the youth members joining in on the fun!! Some kids made ornaments, gingerbread houses, and picture frames, while others enjoyed the table games and activities.

MARK YOUR *Calendar*

FEBRUARY

- 3** **Parents Night Out**
6:00pm-9:00pm
\$10 each
- 17** **Glow-in-the-Dark Games**
6:00pm-7:30pm
- 19** **Stewardship Breakfast**
9:30am
No Children's Sunday School
- 26** **Children's Choir**
sings in worship
8:30am

Please see the calendar on page 14 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.

SUMMER @ST. LUKE'S

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 26-30
9:30am-12:00pm
4yr-5th grade

CHURCH CAMP

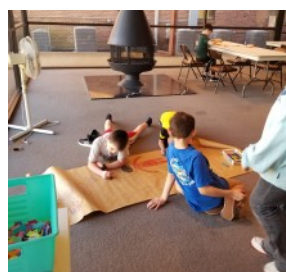
July 3-7
Completed 2nd grade-12th grade

SUMMER SLAM

July 12-14
Completed 3rd-5th

Be on the look out for more information and registration dates.

Children's Choir



We love to hear all those excited voices and little feet on Wednesday afternoons. The children's choir is back in full swing, and we are working hard to prepare for our Spring Musical. This semester we were able to split the kids into two choirs. During Music with Mr. James, the kids are learning songs and skills, and in crafts, we are having fun with new projects and creating the props for our show.



ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

SUPERBOWL *Party*

Sunday, February 12
5:00pm-until the end of half-time
409 Hillside, Kilgore



MARK YOUR *Calendar*

FEBRUARY

- 12 **Super Bowl Party**
5:00pm
- 19 **Stewardship Breakfast**
9:30am
No Youth Sunday School
- 22 **Ashes at Whataburger**
7:00am

Please see the calendar on page 14
for a complete list of this month's
events and meetings.

SUMMER @ST. LUKE'S

MISSION WEEK

June 17-22
6th-12th grade

SUMMER CAMP

July 3-7
Completed 2nd-12th grade

CAMP FUND

Parents, your student can receive
funds for Summer Camp by
participating in Youth Fundraisers
or 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.



The youth have been spending Wednesdays creating banners for
our stewardship campaign, playing games, and having fun with
Pastor Allison & her husband Michael Adams.

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

Paula 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.

Meet our BOARD



Sheryl Caraway

Sheryl and her husband Greg have been members of St. Luke's since 1999. She spends her time volunteering with Children's Choir, helping Richelle in the kitchen, and working at St. Luke's MDO. Sheryl loves St. Luke's and it shows in everything she does to help support and grow the ministries of our church.

Make sure to thank Sheryl for her service on the Board of Stewards.

A MESSAGE from the Board

We are currently in the process of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. This process has many steps and hurdles to complete. Please bear with us as we go through this process. We are in the middle of getting quotes and making plans to change all of our signage. Right now, we have removed the cross and flame and the word "United" from all the places we reasonably can. If you see something that still uses "UMC" or the cross and flame logo, please let the office know so we can take care of it quickly.

Thank you for being so patient as we traverse this new process and prepare for our exciting future here at St. Luke's Methodist Church.

WHAT IS LENT?

The Reasons for the Season



Next to Advent and Christmas, Lent is one of the church's most celebrated and revered seasons. Almost everybody knows the basics about Lent: it begins on Ash Wednesday, lasts several weeks in which people routinely "give up" something, and concludes on Easter Sunday with a celebration of the Risen Christ.

But how many people, both practicing Catholics and otherwise, know about the meanings and history behind many of our Lenten traditions? We talked to Father Czeslaw Krysa, diocesan director of the Office of Worship and rector of St. Casimir Church in Buffalo, to gain further insight into the traditions of Lent.

1 What is Lent?

Beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter Sunday, Lent is marked by 40 days on the Church calendar where the faithful are called to purify and renew themselves spiritually.

"Lent is a time to prepare for the renewal of our life in the Resurrection, and a renewal of our baptismal experience of Jesus and our Risen Lord,"

2 What is Ash Wednesday?

Christians are called to attend worship and receive ashes marked on their forehead in the sign of a cross. The ashes are made from the remains of the burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday services. It is also recommended Christians fast on Ash Wednesday, abstaining from meat. Note the significance of the ashes, as it is symbolic of freeing ourselves from the unnecessary as "remember you are dust and to dust you will return."

Traditionally, Ash Wednesday prepared Catholics for baptism and the reconciliation of penitence.

The imposition of ashes was a sign of entrance into the state of penance. People who committed major, not just mortal, sin were enrolled into penitence meant they had ashes imposed and stood at the back of the church and did not receive the Eucharist until they were reconciled on Holy Thursday.

3.

Why do we "give up" something during Lent?

Many Christians make personal sacrifice pledges to themselves during Lent, such as giving up chocolate, alcohol or coffee. But with that sacrifice should be a pledge to give something of yourselves, to walk in the path of Christ.

For us to be renewed, (we) have to take some kind of spiritual journey, or I call, a spiritual workout. If you want to work out and get healthy, you go and you train. This is a spiritual training time, and therefore, makes a person healthier. That's part of it, but another part of it is dieting and fasting. There's a difference between abstaining and fasting, such as abstaining from certain types of food like meat on Fridays, while fasting is limiting the amount of food you take. Downsizing is another good word. That's

one aspect, which leads to renewal. Christians should also share the fruits of their fasting.

"When I deny myself, I need to place at the table somebody who is less fortunate and needy. That's the origin of Christian fasting. I hear people say, 'I'm not going to Starbucks during Lent. The money I save by not going to Starbucks, I can put aside and give it to the food pantry. We gather the fruits of the fast.

"It's not just writing a check, it's connected with our fasting and purifying ourselves. Fasting and abstinence needs to have the other side of the coin. What I deny myself, I have to give to somebody else."

4.

Why do we abstain from meat on Fridays and fast days?

In ancient tradition, different religions picked different days of the week to fast, so while Hebrews had Tuesdays and Thursdays, Christians fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays. That is where the customary observance for Fridays came from, and also connects to Good Friday.

As far as abstaining from meat goes, unlike modern society, meat was considered a luxury in the past, and only consumed on special occasions like a Feast day.

"It wasn't as available and more expensive, Pork, in European society, was a sign of prosperity because of the fat. So meat was connected to something that was not daily. Everything else was daily fare. In the time of Christ, what we would consider a hamburger and fries was a regular dinner, it would be salt and bread."

5.

Why is Easter on a different day each year?

The Lenten calendar changes each year, because tradition dictates that Easter should fall on the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. Because of this tradition, Easter will always fall between March 22 and April 25.

Once the date of Easter is decided, the Lenten calendar goes back 40 days (excluding Sundays) to determine Ash Wednesday. The 40 days tradition stems from the amount of time Jesus Christ spent wandering and

fasting in the Judean Desert. Excluding Sundays from Lenten fasting connects to Sundays celebrating the Resurrection of Christ, and, in modern parlance, gives Catholics a "cheat day" from their Lenten sacrifice.

MISSIONS

Highlight

Meals on Wheels

Did you know that St. Luke's volunteers for our local Meals on Wheels program? Two months a year, two of our members deliver food to local people in our community that are suffering from food insecurities. Many older adults struggling with health, mobility, or finances can receive small healthy meals five days a week because of Meals on Wheels.

Join the Mission Team

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this or any of our mission opportunities, please get in touch with the church office or join us at a Mission Team Meeting. We meet once a month to plan upcoming mission projects and programs, and we would love to have more people join our team. Our next meeting will be on February 27 at 6:00 pm in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome.

ST. LUKE'S Shout-Out

Big thank you to Michael Barnard and Don Nicholson. They have been instrumental in managing the Backpack Ministry this year. Michael is our leading volunteer, and he stays in contact with the schools to keep us up to date on their needs and helps to unload and sort our delivery from The East Texas Food Bank each month. Don Nicholson delivers the food to the schools for us each week and steps in any time we need a hand. Thank you both for all you do to support St. Luke's and our mission in the community.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR SERVE DAY?

We are always on the look out for opportunities to serve our community. If you have any suggestions or ideas please contact the church office so we can add them to our list.



SERVE

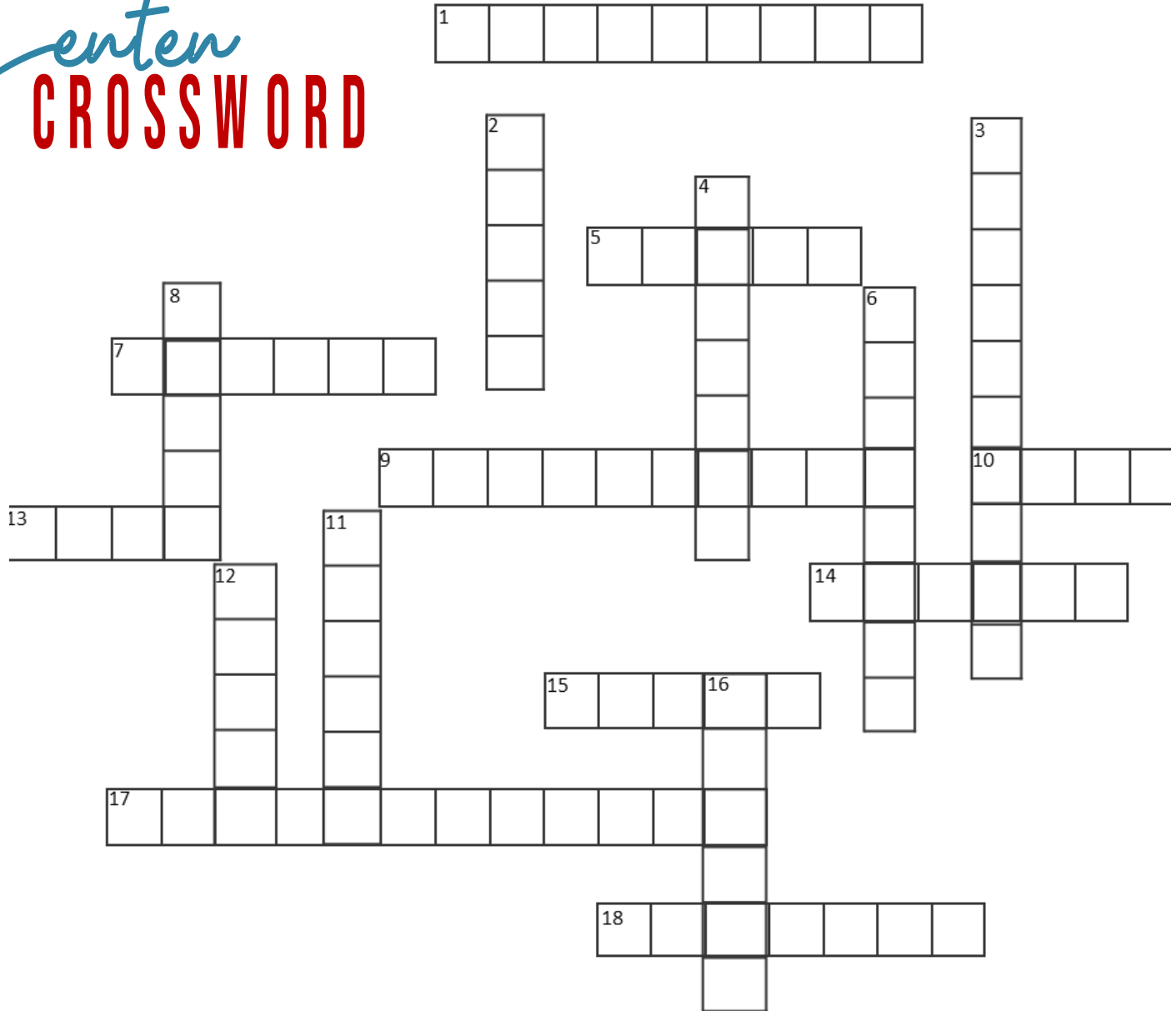
SERVE DAY

Saturday, February 11

9:00am-12:00pm

Join us for a day of serving our community. We will have Random Acts of Kindness, outdoor projects, indoor projects, projects for kids, and projects for adults. There is always a way to serve at St. Luke's

Lenten CROSSWORD



Across

1. Ash _____
5. The Christian holy book
7. Jesus entered Jerusalem on this animal
9. Day in Lent recalling Jesus' death (2 words)
10. Branches waved at Jesus upon his entry into Jerusalem
13. Was with Jesus at the cross
14. Jesus prayed for 40 days here
15. What Jesus died upon
17. We spend Lent preparing for Jesus death and _____
18. Giving to _____ is a good Lenten practice

Down

2. What Jesus shed for our sins
3. Holy Communion started after this
4. To go without
6. The final week of lent (2 words)
8. number of days in Lent
11. Season after Lent
12. Disciple who betrayed Jesus
16. Palm _____



ASH

WEDNESDAY

February 22

7:00am
Ashes at Whataburger

6:00pm
Evening Worship

CALENDARS ON SALE

We have a limited number of St. Luke's 2023 Calendar on sale in the church office. These calendars feature 12 unique images of St. Luke's. Images include the interior and exterior of our historic sanctuary. Calendars are \$10 each and can be purchased in the Church office beginning February 1.



Our stewardship Campaign will be kicking off on February 5. This campaign will include a sermon series, information on our ministries, ways to celebrate our strengths, and opportunities to share new ideas for ministry.

The campaign will conclude on February 19, with a breakfast in the Family Center and the opportunity to commit your pledge to St. Luke's for 2023.

Stewardship Breakfast
February 19
9:30am

Bible STUDY News

LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 11:45am | Family Center

The Tuesday Bible Study is a great opportunity to fellowship with other believers and grow your faith. The group is currently studying the book of Acts. It is never too late to jump in and join us.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays | 6:00pm | Family Center

The Wednesday Night Bible Study group has a new leader and a new topic. Anna Rohde will be leading the group in a study about the miracles in the Old and New testament.

Come see what God can do in your life!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

5:15pm-6:00pm | Family Center

Single Adult Meal-\$6.00

Single Child's Meal-\$3.00

FEBRUARY MENUS

February 1

BBQ Meatballs & Rice,
Broccoli with Cheese
Sauce, Dessert
& Drink

February 8

Baked Potatoes
(Regular or Sweet)
with fixings, Salad,
Dessert & Drink

February 15

Beef Spaghetti, Salad,
Garlic Bread,
Drink & Dessert

February 22

Mini Pizzas,
Veggies with Ranch,
Dessert & Drink

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.

February 3

6:00pm

Dairy Queen, Kilgore

February 17

6:00pm

Posada's Longview

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

HAVE YOU GOTTEN CONNECTED YET?

Are you new to St. Luke's? Maybe you've been coming for a while but still haven't found your fit. Let us know. We want to ensure everyone has a place where they belong and a group of people that helps keep them accountable and supported.

Contact the church office, a board member, or a staff member so we can help you get connected today!

METHODIST WOMEN

Ladies: It is time to reconnect and refresh ourselves in His Word...together. Hebrews 10:25 tells us not to give up meeting together and to encourage one another all the more as [we] see the day approaching! You are CHOSEN, my dear sister...to glorify Him no matter what season, age, challenge or crisis you might find yourself in!

Join us for our monthly gathering and find a place where you belong

Tuesday, February 7

6:00pm

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 longer, 903-984-3576.

Please use the pink Prayer cards in the pew backs and at the welcome desk to update us on your prayer needs. Prayer Requests can also be made by emailing or calling the church office.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Jack & Sharry Christopher
Cindy Frederick
Gary Gray
Angela Thompson
Cindy Venable
April Watson

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Denise Shellman.....sister of Jack Moore

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

the family of **Nell King**. Nell passed away on January 16. A private graveside service was held on January 21.

FEBRUARY PRAYER FOCUS

McDavid, McKinley, Monday Sunday School Class
Sabine ISD
New Birth Fellowship Church
Democratic Republic of the Congo

FEBRUARY 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).

February 1

Randy Crocker
Robert Holder

February 15

Jo Hancock

February 2

Bob Cantu
Lainey Middlebrooks
SyRena Witt

February 18

Cindy Frederick

February 19

Dylan Fuller

February 5

Lynn Holt

February 21

Elaine Kirksey

February 6

Sally Holder

February 25

Sharon McCann

February 7

Barbara Johnson
Jeff Stephens

February 26

Milton Hattaway
David Mason

February 12

Joe White

February 28

Mickey Smith

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name

Date

Rhett & Anna Rohde

2/5/1983

WAYS TO GIVE AT *St. Luke's*



BY MAIL

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



ONLINE

at
stlukeskilgore.org



BY TEXT

Text "give" to
903-833-3576

February 2023

			1	2	3 Parents Night Out 6:00pm-9:00pm Holy Huddlers at Dairy Queen, Kilgore 6:00pm	4
5	6	7 Methodist Women 6:00pm	8	9	10	11 Serve Day 9:00am-12:00pm Saturday Bread 8:30am
12 Scout Sunday Youth Super Bowl Party 5:00pm	13	14	15	16	17 Kids Glow-in-the-Dark Games** 6:00pm Holy Huddlers at Posadas, Longview 6:00pm	18
19 Stewardship Breakfast 9:30am	20 Board of Stewards ** 6:00pm	21 Fat Tuesday Celebration 6:00pm	22 Ashes at Whataburger 7:00am Ash Wednesday Worship* 6:00pm	23	24	25
26 Children's Choir performs in worship 8:30am	27 Mission Team 6:00pm	28 Worship Team 6:00pm	<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

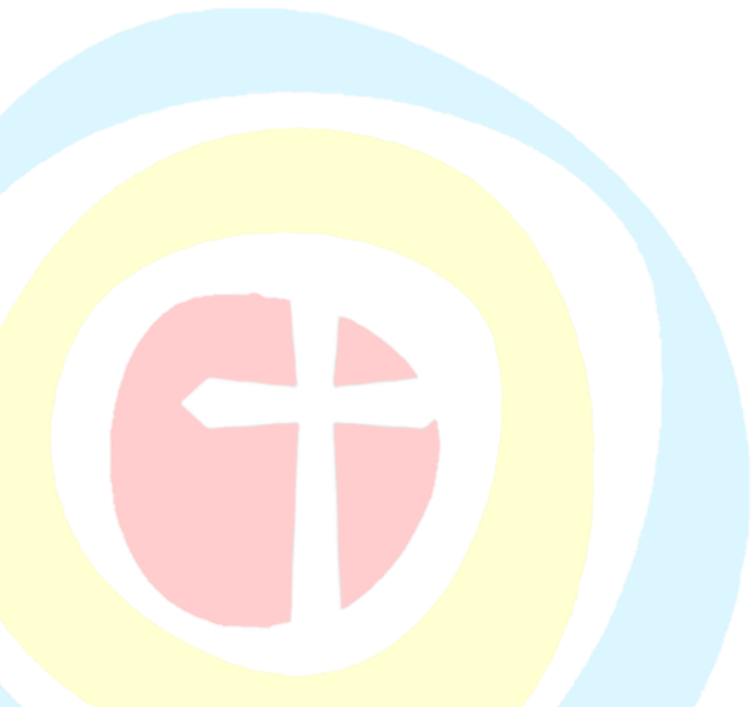
6:30pm	Arise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
--------	----------------------------------

The
VISITOR

"The Visitor" Published Monthly by:
St. Luke's 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



FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

& Gumbo Cook-off
February 21 | 6:00pm

If you have a famous gumbo recipe we want you to make a pot and join us for a little friendly competition and a whole lot of fun.

Even if you don't join the competition we want you to grab a friend and come have some fun and fellowship with us.

