



The **VISITOR**

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

March 2023

Issue 3



**TRUTH
FOR
LIVING**

Lenten Sermon Series

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STAYCONNECTED

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on all things St. Luke's

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<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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Remind me How Lent Works Again?

Our Christian world has a lot of confusion about how to "do Lent."

I recently read this familiar story about Lent.

A Catholic priest working in an inner city was walking down an alley one evening on his way home when a young man came down the alley behind him and poked a knife against his back. "Give me your money," the young man said. The priest opened his jacket and reached into an inner pocket to remove his wallet, exposing his clerical collar.

"Oh, I'm sorry, Father," said the young man, "I didn't see your collar. I don't want your money." Trembling from the scare, the priest removed a cigar from his shirt pocket and offered it to the young man. "Here," he said. "Have a cigar."

"Oh, no, I can't do that," the young man replied, "I gave them up for Lent."

Yes, we have arrived at the season of Lent, that period of the church year in which people figure we are supposed to feel miserable. After all, just prior to Ash Wednesday, we run into Fat Tuesday — Mardi Gras in French — a time of joy and revelry, which stands in stark contrast to the observance that begins the next day. The fun stops. At least, that is the popular understanding.

Strange — the word "Lent" originally meant "springtime," not misery. Because the church season always fell at this time of year, the name also came to apply to the ecclesiastical observance. The Lenten observance has changed over the centuries. The early church celebrated Lent only for a few days before Easter. Over time, the length of the season grew until it was several weeks long. In the seventh century, the church set the period of Lent at forty days (excluding Sundays) to remind people of the duration of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

As we think about Christ and how he inaugurated his ministry through sacrifice in the desert and our salvation through his sacrifice on the cross, we know that we ought to act with intention. ***Jettison the things that distract you from God and take on the things that bring you nearer to Him.***

FROM THE PASTOR

Here are some ideas for sacrifice:

- * Give up looking at other people's worst points. Instead, concentrate on their best points. We all have faults. It is much easier to have people overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.
- * Give up speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Why not check that sharp tongue at the door?
- * Give up your hatred of anyone or anything! Instead, learn the discipline of love. "Love covers a multitude of sins."
- * Give up your worries and anxieties! Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about: like tomorrow! Live today and let God's grace be sufficient.
- * Give up screen time. Instead, visit some lonely or sick person. Some are isolated by illness or age. Why isolate yourself behind a smartphone? Give someone a precious gift — your real attention!
- * Take on corporate worship, Bible study, fasting, praying, and giving. The gifts you receive from the purification of your life will far outweigh the perceived extra effort.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you will have entered a time to remember the temptation, the suffering, and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Remember the admonition of the gospel lesson to do it right — "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness'... your piety... before men, to be seen by them." This is not showtime! It is a special time of prayer, reflection, confession, and self-sacrifice. Most of all, it is a time to ready ourselves for the sheer joy of Easter morning — it is a time to prepare ourselves to meet our risen Lord once again!



Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews

Sr. Pastor

ST. LUKE'S kids



Learning and growing at Wednesday Night Bible Study.

DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Friday, March 3

6:00pm

St. Luke's Family Center

Dads grab your daughters, grandfathers grab your granddaughters, uncles grab your nieces, and join us at the Daddy/Daughter Dance Friday, March 3rd from 6-8 in the Family Life Center. Girls from Pre-K through 8th grade are invited to spend an evening dressed up and ready to dance the night away. Fathers and Father figures please come join in and make this evening special for your girls.

RSVP NOW!!



MARK YOUR Calendar

MARCH

- 3** **Daddy Daughter Dance**
6:00pm-8:00pm
NO Parents Night Out this month
- 15** **NO Wednesday Activities**
KISD Spring Break

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
Cost: \$575 per camper.
** We are planning to pay a portion of this cost for our campers. If your students would like to attend camp please go ahead and register them through Lakeview and pay the \$10 deposit. We will have more information about the cost and scholarship information ASAP.



REGISTER NOW!!

SUMMER SLAM

July 12-14
Completed 3rd-5th

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

ST. LUKE'S MDO

The Mother's Day Out Program is an outreach ministry of St. Luke's Church dedicated to providing a Christian environment where young children can learn and grow in a loving, safe, and hands-on setting. We believe each child to be a unique gift of God. Our program is designed to provide developmentally appropriate learning activities that allow them to become the person God created them to be. MDO ensures each child's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical, social, and aesthetic growth is nurtured through activities that meet the high standards of early childhood education.

Our children have opportunities to create memories at MDO through weekly chapel, music classes, and arts and crafts activities. We expose our children to Biblical songs, stories, and lessons. For some of our children, MDO is the only place they learn about Jesus, pray, and hear the word of God from a Pastor during chapel time. The families at MDO are invited to the church events every month through the MDO newsletter and reminded of children's events on the MDO Facebook page with the hope that families without a church home will find a home at St. Luke's.

MDO prides itself on keeping tuition affordable to the average family. However, some families need help to meet the financial requirements before enrolling or become unable to continue with care due to a life event. Thankfully, we can help some of these families with scholarships. Some families receive a full scholarship, while others receive a partial one.

Behind the scenes, MDO runs smoothly due to the amazing staff members who receive CPR and First Aid training before the beginning of the school year. We ensure classrooms are fully stocked with cleaning supplies, disinfectant spray, baby wipes, tissues, paper towels, and snacks. This helps to keep our kids and teachers healthy. We are truly blessed to have a wonderful supply room full of paint, construction paper, glue sticks, glitter, pipe cleaners, cotton balls, and just about anything you can imagine you would need for a child's art project.

This year, MDO purchased changing tables for the Toddler and Twos Room because teachers were changing kids on the floor. We also purchased new age-appropriate blocks for all the classes, walking ropes for classes to move safely from one area of the church to another, a bottle warmer for the nursery, and two CD players to play music during naptime and Bible songs during inside centers. These items enhance the classroom environment for the children and make the day run smoothly for the children and teachers.

St. Luke's MDO is a blessing to the families we serve by giving them ten hours a week to work, run errands, or have some free time. The families are blessing St. Luke's by sharing their children with us so we can teach them about God's amazing love for them.



ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

A GLIMPSE INTO OUR 9:30 YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parents and youth, Debbie Nicholson along with rotating teachers and volunteers, is providing great fodder for Biblical knowledge as it relates to daily spiritual growth. The mission of Sunday school with youth is to help them grow toward becoming true disciples armed with knowledge and ideas for living out their faith.

Debbie Nicholson and Michael Adams finished a section on applying the fruit of the Spirit to daily living. In the next month or so, an emphasis will be placed on looking deeply at 1 Corinthians 13 and reflecting on what loving Christ's way means practically. Don't let your young ones miss out! Come at 9:30 for open discussion, learning, and DONUTS!

WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR YOUTH ON WEDNESDAY?

We continue to provide avenues for artistic expression as related to Biblical themes. Our youth requested that their next focus be "Miracles in the Bible." It's been fun and interesting. Whether we are painting Ash Wednesday crosses on canvas and learning about God's miracle of creating man out of dust, or whether we are creating scenes related to the season of Lent, God's love and care is shining through. We have new participants and a whole group of sharp and smart youth!

Coming soon: we look forward to creating the scenes for the Church's Good Friday experiential event, "Journey to the Cross." More will be revealed later! Don't let your youth miss out on the fun, the relaxed moments, and the spiritually deep offerings.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Allison for questions or to participate in our youth program.

LUNCH & BOWLING

Sunday, March 26
11:30am



MARK YOUR Calendar

MARCH

- 15 NO Wednesday Activities
KISD Spring Break
26 Lunch & Bowling
11:30am

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 grade-12th grade
Cost: \$575 per camper.

** We are planning to pay a portion of this cost for our campers. If your students would like to attend camp please go ahead and register them through Lakeview and pay the \$10 deposit. We will have more information about the cost and scholarship information ASAP.



Register NOW!!

Our youth have been preparing for Lent by painting the sign of the cross with artistic expression. We discussed what Ash Wednesday meant and learned what it means to come from dust and return to dust in the Christian tradition. Wednesday youth activities will continue to be creative, interactive, and focusing on Lent while studying the miracles in the Bible. New friends are joining the group, and it's a great time to be together! The imposition of ashes on ash Wednesday morning at Whataburger will kick off Arlington service projects to the community. Stay tuned for more information, and check your announcements on the Remind app. And look at Facebook for updates about Youth Ministry.



We had a SUPER time at the parsonage for our YOUTH Super Bowl party! Retro games were a big hit! Prizes were given for the best guess at half-time for the score! We rated our favorite commercials and raided the extensive Candy Bar. Many thanks to the Ellises for help with chaperoning and to those who donated food!



Michael Adams was restored to his first profession as a youth director when he and Pastor Allison began leading the youth in December. Though it's been many years, he still has that knack. The kiddos seem to think he's cooler than Pastor Allison. Here, he's finishing up the banners made by our youth group. (It helps that Michael is an actual artist!) He makes us all look more skilled.

"I Love My Church" banners painted (mostly) by St Luke's Youth group and finished up for use in the sanctuary.



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.

March 3
6:00pm
Huddle House, Kilgore

March 17
6:00pm
Jason's Deli, Longview

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

Look at that crew.
You know you want to hang out with the cool kids.

METHODIST WOMEN

The Pam Besser Circle of our Methodist Women's group will meet on March 7 at 6:00pm in the Family Center. Anna Rohde will present our program, a Lenten Focus, and she will provide our dinner for the evening. All women are invited to join us for a great night of fellowship—and spiritual growth.

Tuesday, March 7
6:00pm
Family Center

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!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

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

Single Adult Meal-\$6.00

Single Child's Meal-\$3.00

MARCH MENUS

March 1

Ham, Cheesy Potatoes,
Green Beans, Roll,
Dessert & Drink

March 8

Chicken Pitas, Salad,
Dessert & Drink

March 22

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

March 29

Chicken Nuggets,
Waffle Fries, Veggies with
Ranch, Fruit & Drink

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!

SOUP & Sermon

Join us for our Lenten Soup & Sermon Series. This is an opportunity for fellowship, food, and study as we journey from Ash Wednesday to the Easter Celebration. We will provide a FREE soup lunch each week and host a local pastor or community speaker.

11:45am
Family Center

March 1
Dr. Glenn Young
From Kilgore First Baptist Church

March 8
Rev. Will Wilson
From Kilgore First Presbyterian Church

March 22
Dr. Allison Cambre
Retired UMC Pastor

Pick up an invite card from the
Welcome Desk at Church on Sunday
and use it to invite a friend.

WELCOME *New Members*



Brenda Ellis



Tim & Tonia Belk



Paul & Danielle Caskey



Dennis Wheeler

**Make time
to welcome
our newest
members to
St. Luke's
Methodist
Church.**



Jared & Missy Lovell
Samantha & Jared
New Baby Elizabeth born
February 16

TOWN HALL *Meeting*

Thursday, March 2
5:30pm
Knowles Chapel

This is a time to ask questions and provide feedback about everything happening at St. Luke's.



easter *at St. Luke's*

Community Easter Egg-stravaganza

April 1 | 10:00am

Palm Sunday

April 2

Palm Precession in 10:30am worship
Chicken Spaghetti Fundraiser

Maundy Thursday

April 6 | Worship 6:00pm

Good Friday

April 7

Journey to the Cross Experience
10:30am-12:30am

Easter Sunday

April 8

8:30am
Community Worship
at Kilgore City Park

9:30am
Easter Egg Hunt

10:30am
Traditional Worship

***note* we will not have a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday**

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

If you are planning to attend college or trade school in the fall, we encourage you to apply for the St. Luke's Scholarship. The St. Luke's Scholarship Endowment was formed to help our church family achieve their dreams of higher education and furthering their careers.

To be eligible the student must...

- **be an active member of St. Luke's or of the St. Luke's youth organization, and/or the student's immediate family must be active supporting members of the St. Luke's church family.**
- **be registered for at least 12 hours of coursework.**
- **maintain at least a 2.5 GPA**

Applications are available on our website, stlukeskilgore.org. Or use the QR codes below.

If you would like your scholarship to be announced at your high school's awards assembly, the deadline for the return of the application is **April 15, 2023**. Otherwise, please return it by **July 1, 2023**.



FIRST TIME APPLICANT



SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

WE NEED
Candy!

We need unopened bags of individually wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 1. Donations can be dropped off in the church office during the week or in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

easter
Lilies

Now is the time to order and pay for memorial or honorary flowers for our Easter worship services.

Please fill out the form below, make your check payable to St. Luke's MC, drop off your order to the church office, or mail to St. Luke's, 401 E. Main St., Kilgore, TX 75662.

The deadline to order is April 3, 2023

In Honor of

In Memory of

Given By

Name on Order

Phone Number/email address

Payment information

Number of lilies _____ @15.00 ea. = _____

Make payments to St. Luke's MC and mark "Easter Lilies" in the memo line.

Orders can also be place online using the QR code below



MISSIONS

Highlight

Saturday Bread

Did you know that St. Luke's volunteers for Saturday Bread at Kilgore First Presbyterian Church? Once a quarter, Brenda Culpepper leads a very loyal group of volunteers as they take their turn supporting this amazing ministry in our community. Saturday Bread provides hot meals every weekend for our elderly community members facing food insecurity. The teams prepare the food, box it up, and deliver it.

Our next volunteer dates are:

May 6

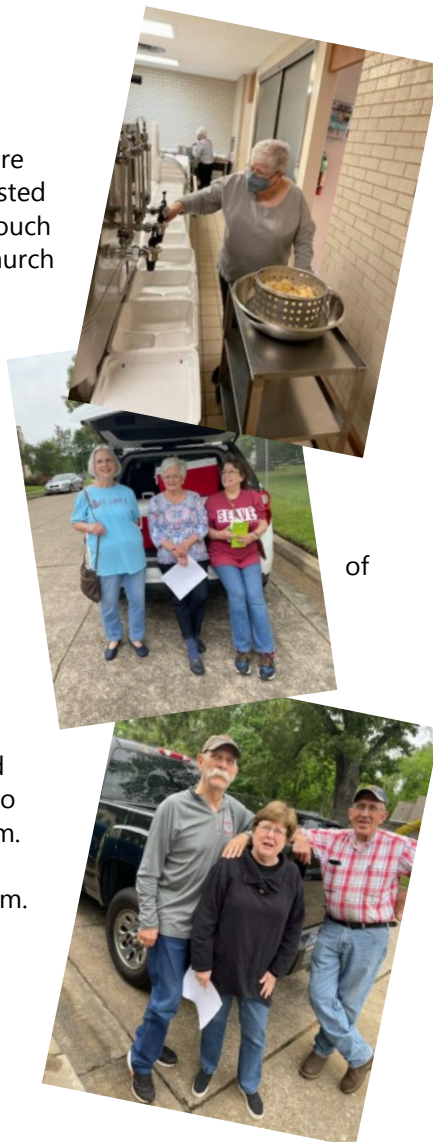
July 29

October 21

This team could always use more hands to help. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with Brenda Culpepper or the church office for more information.

Join the Mission Team

If you want to volunteer or learn more about this or any of our mission opportunities, don't hesitate to contact 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 in the Parlor on February 27 at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.



of

SERVE DAY

Saturday, March 25

9:00am-12:00pm

Thank you to everyone that joined us for Serve Day last month. With the March calendar being a little bare and the April calendar being full, we decided to host another Serve Day in March.

We already have plans to do a little spring cleaning here at the church and visit with clients at a local nursing home.

If you have any suggestions for Serve Day or know someone in our community that could use some assistance, please contact the church office.

NOT ABLE TO MAKE IT TO WORSHIP?

Use the QR code below to visit our website and watch worship live .

You can even view past services.



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.



February 2-4, the Hattaways, the Hooks, and the Rohde's went with Pastor Allison to the first Convening for the Eastern Texas General Conference.

Bishop Jones and President Pro Tempore, Rev. Jim Welch, presided over this landmark Conference at Christ Church in College Station.

We attended enriching sessions on evangelism, Wesleyan small group discipleship, Catechism within the church, and vibrant worship.

Our delegation was inspired by the spirit-filled worship services and the ordaining of 90 persons as Elders in full connection.



Susan Andrews Hageman, sister of Pastor Allison, realized her life long desire to be ordained an Elder. She has supported her husband (Randy) as a Licensed Local Pastor for 25 years in Grand Saline, Hallsville, and pastor for women's ministry at Gateway in Clearlake (Houston). A fun fact is that she filled in for the Crossroads/Danville circuit in the 1990's. She says her claim to fame is that she persuaded Danville Methodist to install a sprinkler system. No wonder the church grounds look so well kept to this day!

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
Pat Haynes	Angela Thompson
Cindy Venable	April Watson

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Eleanor Brumley.....friend of Jamie Poland
Meredith Dawes.....family of Danielle Caskey
Brenda Frasier.....sister of Belynda Holley
Jodie Phifer.....friend of Laura Farnham
Billy Rachal.....friend of David & Karen Wilson
Kenneth "Shorty" Ray.....friend
Oscar Torrez.....friend of David & Karen Wilson
G.W. Wright.....friend of David & Karen Wilson

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

Jack Moore on the death of his sister, **Denise Shellman**.

The family of **Gary Gray**. Gary passed away on February 12 and funeral services were held on February 16.

MARCH 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).

March 2
Cindy Venable

March 6
TJ Gillen-Hall

March 7
Randy Holder
Art Morchat

March 8
Cody Sprayberry

March 9
Bret Daigle

March 10
Ben Middlebrooks

March 11
Hope Cantu
Mailee Jo Exline

March 13
David Reeves
Angela Thompson

March 14
Dylan Venable

March 16
Anna Rohde
Laura Vermillion

March 17
Brian Hoberecht
Garry Mount

March 18
Preston Branch

March 21
Jay Dean

March 24
Leah Gillen-Hall
Denise Reinert

March 27
Kathy Brown

March 28
Gabriel Reinert
Cassie Stephens

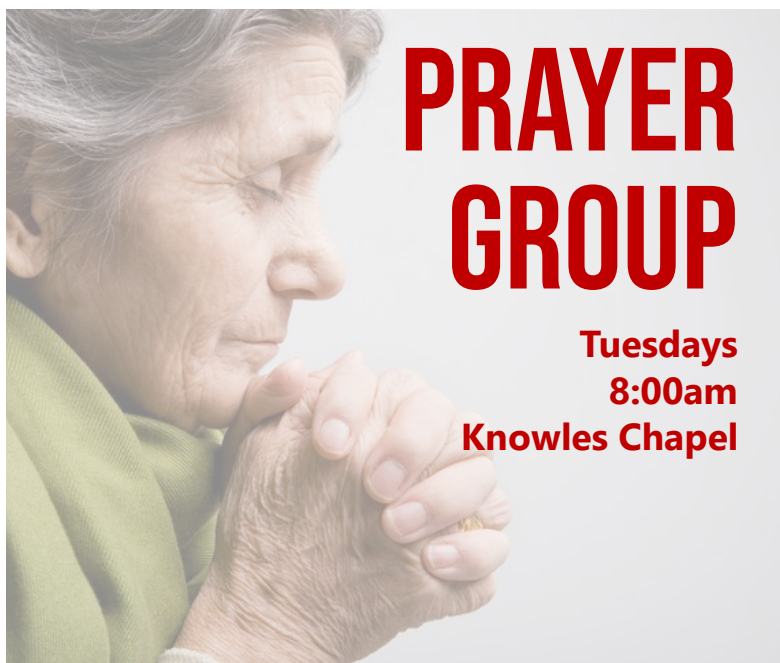
March 29
Sam Witt

March 30
Robbie Thurston

March 31
Joel Vermillion

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Garry & Cathy Mount	3/2/1979
Pat & Angela Thompson	3/10/2012
Keith & Paula Hooks	3/18/1978
Brian & Tara Hoberecht	3/24/2011



March 2023

<p>* Nursery provided for this event. ** Nursery can be arranged for this event. Call the church office, 903-984-3576</p>			1 Soup & Sermon 11:45am	2 Town Hall Meeting 5:30pm	3 Daddy Daughter Dance 6:00pm-8:00pm Holy Huddlers at Huddle House, Kilgore 6:00pm	4
5	6	7 Methodist Women 6:00pm	8 Soup & Sermon 11:45am	9	10	11 Serve Day 9:00am-12:00pm
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins	13	14	15 NO Wednesday Activities KISD Spring Break	16	17 Holy Huddlers at Jason's Deli, Longview 6:00pm	18
19	20 Board of Stewards ** 6:00pm	21 Mission Team 6:00pm	22 Soup & Sermon 11:45am	23	24	25 Serve Day 9:00am-12:00pm
26 Youth: Lunch & Bowling 11:30am	27	28 Worship Team 6:00pm	29 Soup & Sermon 11:45am	30	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)

The
VISITOR

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



WAYS TO GIVE

^{AT}
St. Luke's



IN PERSON

In the offering plate
or in the offering boxes
at the entrance to the
sanctuary



BY MAIL

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



ONLINE

at stlukeskilgore.org
or use the QR Code



BY TEXT

Text "give" to
903-833-3576