



The **VISITOR**

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

April 2023

Issue 4



EASTER

HE IS RISEN

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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/>

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The Truth About Holy Week...
is that it is a mirror for the fickleness of humanity.

Let's think about Palm Sunday. It is a beautiful celebration. For centuries, however, the church has memorialized Palm Sunday as the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem while omitting the point that Palm Sunday has an underbelly of tragedy. We celebrate our Palm Sundays (here and everywhere) with the waving of palms, special music, and other significant elements of worship. Our hearts are warmed, and our spirits soar. While I LOVE Palm Sunday, I want desperately (as your pastor) to encourage you to come to St. Luke's to participate in the other events for worship and reflection during Holy Week as well: **Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00pm and the come and go "Journey to the Cross" on Good Friday between 10:30am and 12:30pm.** Reflecting on the events of the last week of Christ's life reminds us that we are BOTH sinful and saved. We see ourselves in the fickle excitement over Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, and we equally realize that our commitment to discipleship wanes so easily and quickly. "The Truth of Holy Week" is really the truth about our human failure to be faithful to Jesus in a world that is hostile and indifferent to such a faith commitment.

Back to Palm Sunday....The Gospel writers tell us a crowd gathered, gushing with excitement, and lined the road before Jesus as he slowly rode into the city. As he made his way, one step at a time by the beast of burden on which he sat, a carpet was sewn together ahead of him. Fresh, green palm branches, presumably picked from nearby trees, and thick, worn clothing, likely from the backs of the crowd, formed a tapestry of endearment toward Israel's long-awaited Messiah.

And according to the Pharisees, this was a problem.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that as Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people began rejoicing and praising God, shouting, Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! (Luke 19:38)

Some Pharisees try to get Jesus to make the crowd stop. They ask him to rebuke the people for what they're saying — the whole "Blessed is the King" bit. The Pharisees get it, you see. This isn't just any phrase. This is the welcome reserved for Israel's Savior. It's a phrase found in the Hebrew Scriptures, going back to Psalm 118, a psalm that rejoices in the Lord's triumph. So goes the shout, in the psalm, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! (Psalm 118:26)

The people wanted salvation and success, which means they wanted the Messiah to march into the city and do hard business with Rome. They wanted to be free from Gentile oppression, even if by force, threats, plagues, and a split sea, as they recounted so well in their history. They wanted another exodus, one that expelled the Romans. Instead, what they got by Friday morning was a bloodied has-been, a man in Roman custody, rejected by their leaders, standing next to an infamous criminal called Barabbas.

The sounds of the crowd this Sunday — this Palm Sunday — would later be betrayed by the sounds of their stony hearts. "Blessed is he!" would soon become "crucify him!"

We shouldn't expect that we'd have been any different. The Pharisees and the people had their problems, and so do we. If we know our hearts apart from grace, if we could listen in on this crowd, we'd hear our shouts along with theirs. We'd listen to our praise, hollow as it were, and then, by Friday, "ashamed we'd hear our mocking voice call out among the scoffers."

After all, it is not the righteous who Jesus came to save, but sinners. Sinners like us.



Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews
Sr. Pastor

ST. LUKE'S Kids

Our Daddy-Daughter Dance was a huge success. More than 75% of our attendees came from outside our church family, with the majority coming from MDO and invites from our MDO families. It was such a magical night made possible by some amazing decorators: Celia Mooney, Lauren and Ed Aguilar, Angela Middlebrooks, Gretchen McDaniels, and Missy Lovell. The Family Life Center was transformed into a beautiful red, white, and pink wonderland with a balloon arch picture area, a wonderful refreshment table, and a jewelry-making station where dads and daughters made countless necklaces and bracelets.

James Vermillion and Paul Caskey created a musical playlist that kept the evening going. The crowd enjoyed the Hokey Pokey, the Cotton Eyed Joe, the Chicken Dance, and many touching slow dances to sentimental songs about dads and their baby girls.

Richelle Rathbun made delicious homemade treats to compliment her punch, and Bret Daigle assisted with the refreshments to ensure all the dancers had plenty of energy to continue dancing.

The end of the event was topped off with every girl selecting a centerpiece stuffed animal to take home as a souvenir reminder of their special evening. I think we are all looking forward to next year's dance.

-Danielle Caskey
Children's Ministry Director



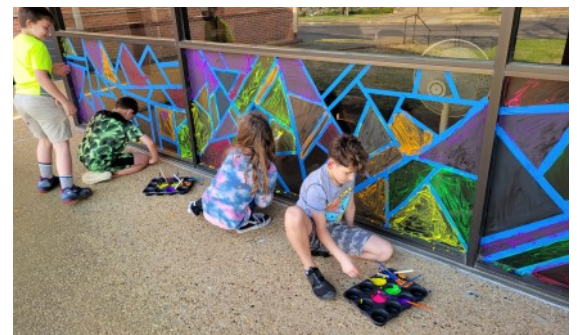
MARK YOUR Calendar

APRIL

- 1 Easter Egg-Stravaganza**
10:00am
- 2 Palm Sunday**
Palm Parade in both worship services
Children's Choir performs
at 10:30am worship
Chicken Spaghetti Fundraiser
Volunteers 9:30am
To-go Service 10:00am
Dine-in 11:30am
- 7 NO Parents Night Out**
due to Good Friday
- 9 Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt** 9:30am
Butterfly Release 10:15am

All families are encouraged to attend Holy Week & Easter events. See the complete list of events on pages 7 & 8.

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



Make sure to check out the Fireplace room windows decorated by our Children's choir Kids

ST. LUKE'S MDO

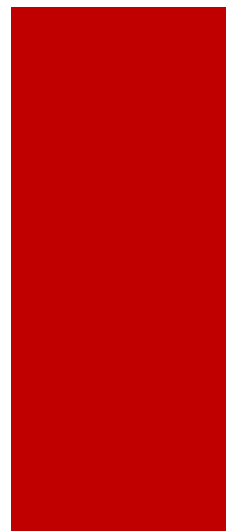
MDO has been enjoying the warmer weather with outdoor play after a very weird and wonky February. Our kids have been busy with their learning and their crafts. This month, the children are learning about spring, caterpillars, and butterflies. They are enjoying their new blocks and doctor kits during free play.

The Threes Class and Pre-K Class had a Mystery Reader stop by and read them a story. They enjoy their weekly chapel with Pastor Allison and music classes with Mr. James.

The Twos class has been experimenting with sensory play. They made moon sand and played with colored yogurt and colored rice.

Our Toddlers and infants have enjoyed their free play inside and outside, and you can always hear Christian songs from their rooms. Watching the big trucks tearing up the road is one of their favorite activities.

-Danielle Caskey
MDO Director



ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

On Wednesday, March 8, our youth led a worship time with the residents at Arabella. We offered music, scripture, prayer, and a message. Afterward, residents and St Luke's youth visited together. All the kids said they enjoyed it!



Exposing our young people to opportunities for leadership in accepting and less intimidating environments is key in impressing upon them their ability to lead, practice their faith publicly, and compassionately engage in their community.

MARK YOUR Calendar

APRIL

Volunteer & Fundraising Opportunities

- 1 **Easter Egg-stravaganza**
10:00am
- 2 **Chicken Spaghetti Fundraiser**
If you are helping please arrive by 9:30am
- 7 **Journey to the Cross**
If you are helping please arrive by 9:30am

Make sure to follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on any additional spring events & activities.

All youth are encouraged to attend Holy Week & Easter events. See the complete list of events on pages 7 & 8.

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



The youth had a special treat at Wednesday Night bible Study in March.

Youth & MYMU's had a great time at bowling & pizza on March 26.



SUMMER @ ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH



Youth Mission Camp

Completed 5th-12th Grade

June 17-22

Cost: \$135

Vacation Bible School

Completed Pre-K-5th grade

June 26th-30th

9:30am-12:00pm

**Volunteers needed!*



Lakeview Church Camp

Completed 2nd- 12th grade

July 3-7

Register at www.iheartlakeview.com

Cost: \$575



Summer Slam

Completed 3rd - 4th grade

July 12 -14

Summer mission Camp.

Cost: \$135

Back-to-School Bash

August 11

Community event to celebrate
the end of summer.

For more information visit our website,
stlukeskilgore.org/summer
or contact the church office

CELEBRATE EASTER AT ST. LUKE'S KILGORE

Easter Egg-stravaganza

April 1 | 10:00am | Activity Lot

Join us for a morning of fun, faith, and fellowship. Pastor Allison will be hosting story time with the Easter Bunny. There will be a photo booth, crafts, games, food, prizes, & an egg hunt.

Palm Sunday

April 2 | 8:30am & 10:30am

All kids are invited to join us for a Palm Parade during worship to celebrate and remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Hosanna!

Kids will be invited to the narthex prior to the parade and will return to the congregation following the parade. Children's choir kids will be participating in the Parade before they sing during the 10:30am service.

Maundy Thursday

April 6 | 7:00pm | Sanctuary

"In the Final Week"

**presented by the St. Luke's Chancel Choir
& Chamber Orchestra**

Maundy Thursday recalls the day that Jesus led his disciples in the Last Supper. Our response to Christ's love will be the center of our service as we celebrate communion. The moving cantata, *In the Final Week*, by John Purifoy, presented by the Chancel Choir and chamber orchestra, will help prepare our hearts as we journey toward Easter's resurrection celebration.

Good Friday

April 7 | 10:30am-12:30pm | Family Center

Journey to the Cross

Come & Go Experience

Come experience a self-guided journey through Jesus' last days. As we prepare for the joy of the resurrection, we must make time to experience the weight of Jesus' last steps as he made his way to the cross.

Living Cross (Come & Go Devotion)

April 8 | 9:00am-4:00pm

Stop by the church during the day to participate in the Living Cross Devotion Time. Bring flowers to add to the cross that will be set-up in the Sanctuary Courtyard. Spend some time in a short devotion and add your flowers to the Living Cross that will be part of our Easter Sunday Worship.

Easter Sunday

April 9

Celebrate the Risen Christ with Us!!

Community Easter Service

8:30am | Kilgore City Park

Join us as we continue the tradition of rising early to celebrate the resurrection! This community wide service is an opportunity of all those in Kilgore to come together and celebrate the Resurrection!

Make sure to bring a chair.

Whataburger of Kilgore will be providing to-go style breakfast for everyone.

Breakfast & Egg Hunt

9:30am | Family Center

Join us for a continental breakfast in the Family Center and an egg hunt on the playground.

Butterfly Release

10:15am | Sanctuary Courtyard

Following the Kids Easter Egg Hunt everyone is invited for a butterfly release in the Sanctuary Courtyard. We will have live butterflies and we need you to help us set them free.

Traditional Worship

10:30am | Sanctuary

Our regular traditional service will be in the Sanctuary at 10:30am with some special additions for the celebration. The Handbell Choir will perform and the Chancel choir will have special music.

Come & Go Communion

11:30am | Knowles Chapel

Many people look forward to communion on Easter Sunday. For those wishing to partake of the elements we will have come & go communion in Knowles Chapel following the worship service.

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



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.

April 14
6:00pm
Denny's, Kilgore

April 21
6:00pm
The Catch, 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.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Wedding Shower
HONORING

Carmen Vermillion
&
Joshua Sanders

Sunday, April 23
11:30am-1:30pm
Parlor



**PRAYER
GROUP**

Tuesdays
8:00am
Knowles Chapel

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

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

Single Adult Meal-\$6.00

Single Child's Meal-\$3.00

APRIL MENUS

April 5

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

April 12

BBQ Chicken,
Mac & Cheese, Veggies,
Dessert, & Drink

April 19

Beef Spaghetti, Salad,
Garlic Bread,
Dessert, & Drink

April 26

Mini Pizzas, Veggies with
Ranch, Dessert, & Drink

METHODIST WOMEN

The Pam Besser Circle of our Methodist Women's group will meet on April 4 at 6:00pm in the Family Center. Debbie Nicholson and Kathy Brown will provide supper. Our lesson will be service project: creating blessing bags. All women are invited to join us for a great night of fellowship—and spiritual growth.

Tuesday, April 4
6:00pm
Family Center

NOT ABLE TO MAKE IT TO WORSHIP?



Use the QR code 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.

MISSIONS

Highlight

Newgate

St. Luke's has a long history of supporting Newgate Mission in Longview. For many years we volunteered to supply a meal once a quarter to feed clients. With Covid, we could not continue our regular volunteer opportunities at Newgate. I am excited to announce that we are back on schedule and ready to begin a regular rotation with this vital ministry.

Debbie & Don Nicholson will be heading up the Newgate Volunteer team. They will be looking for groups to cover the cost of food and individuals to volunteer on our assigned dates. Be on the lookout for your chance to support Newgate.

Upcoming Dates:

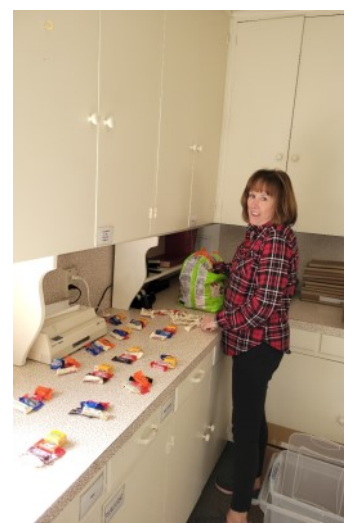
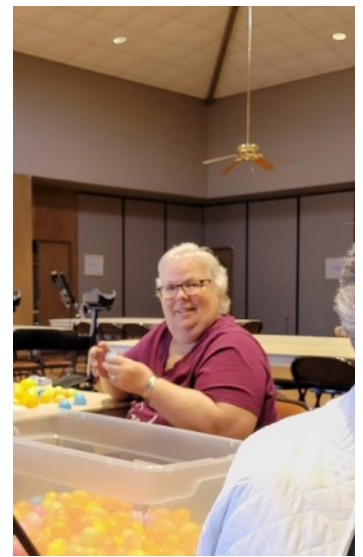
August 26

November 25

December 30

UMCOR Mission Trip

We are hoping to get a group together to go to the UMCOR warehouse in Louisiana this Fall. Be on the lookout for more information about this opportunity



WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity.

Big thank you to all the volunteers at last months Serve Day. We put together eggs and goodie bags for the Easter Egg Hunt, spread over 80 bags of mulch, planted flowers, cleaned up mud, visited with nursing home residents, and painted egg hunt signs. It was a really productive day. We hope to see you at our next Serve Day on May 20.

4 REASONS TO GIVE TO THE CHURCH

1. Gratitude for Jesus' Sacrifice
2. Sharing with Those in Need
3. The Mission of the Church
4. Following Apostolic Teaching

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

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

Carolyn Holcombe

Elizabeth Lovell

Angela Thompson

Cindy Venable

April Watson

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Eleanor Brumley.....friend of Jamie Poland

Jerry David.....**family of Debra Maloch**

Meredith Dawes.....family of Danielle Caskey

Brenda Frazier.....sister of Belynda Holley

Isaac Hoberecht.....**son of Brian & Tara Hoberecht**

Gary Don Holley.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland

Kristina McWhorter.....**friend of Debra Maloch**

Jodie Phifer.....friend of Laura Farnham

Billy Rachal.....friend of David & Karen Wilson

Kenneth "Shorty" Ray.....friend

Terri Smith.....**friend of Jan Hattaway**

Kristina Stewart.....**co-worker of**

Amy Bruyere & Laura Johnston

French Sturrock.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland

Gene Thrash.....**friend of Milton Hattaway**

Oscar Torrez.....friend of David & Karen Wilson

Brett Walker.....**anonymous**

G.W. Wright.....friend of David & Karen Wilson

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

Bob Davis on the death of his father Robert Davis Sr.

APRIL 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).

April 2

Roberta Boggs

April 5

Cindy Lindley

April 7

Ally Venable

April 10

Richard Greene
Carolyn Holcombe
James McCann

April 11

Cynthia Mathis

April 15

Freddie Lollie
Autumn McDaniel
Madison McDaniel

April 16

Laura Johnston

April 18

Josie Johnston

April 20

Bobby Wheeley

April 21

Pat Haynes

April 23

Carol Hinton
April Watson

April 27

Brantley Slayton

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Billy & Billie Sue Mims	4/3/1982
Steffen & Collette Jones	4/5/1997
Milton & Jan Hattaway	4/6/1965
Dennis Mikki Ellis	4/8/1989
Bobby & Debra Wheeley	4/16/1977
David & Emily Mason	4/28/2001

April 2023

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

1
Easter Egg Hunt
10:00am

2 Palm Sunday Children's Choir perform 10:30am Chicken Spaghetti Lunch 11:30am	3	4 Methodist Women 6:00pm ** Evangelism Team 6:00pm **	5	6 Maundy Thursday Choir Cantata 7:00pm*	7 Good Friday Journey to the Cross 10:30am-12:30pm	8
9 Easter Sunday See page??for a complete list of events	10 MDO Board 6:00pm **	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Board of Stewards 6:00pm**	18 Mission Team 6:00pm **	19	20	21	22
23 Wedding shower for Carmen Vermillion 11:30am-1:30pm	24	25 Worship Team 6:00pm **	26	27	28	29
30						

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

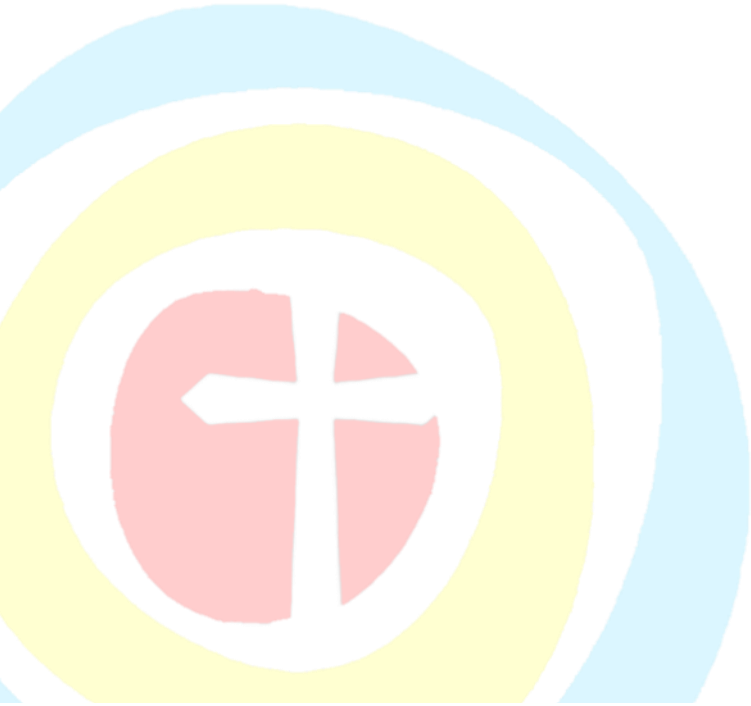
6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

The
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CHICKEN SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

Sunday, April 2

Pick-up begins at 10:00am

**Dine-in begins at
11:30am**

\$8 per plate

*Macaroni & Cheese
will also be available for kids

All proceeds go to the
Summer Camp Fund
to help send our children
& youth to Church Camp
and on Mission Trips.