



# *The* **VISITOR**

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

May 2023

Issue 5



*You get  
what you  
give.*

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# STAYCONNECTED

Follow us on social media to stay up to date  
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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## You Get What You Give

People matter! In God's view, everyone has the same intrinsic value because we are all His creation. This is a demanding truth when we consider that much of the world doesn't believe in the very God who has literally made their life and provided for their culture, their resources, and their communities. From a biblical viewpoint, however, we see that God has shown love and given opportunities for redemption to the very ones who would snub their nose at God. Think of the evil Ninevites in the book of Jonah. God desired that they would repent and believe in Him, so reluctant Jonah was drafted into that divine mission. Consider the prophetic book of Hosea. In this curious story, we read about a man of God, Hosea, who God instructs to buy back his wife, Gomer, from another man (Hosea 3:1). In this scenario, Gomer is a metaphor for those not faithful to God's covenant. And Hosea's tolerance and efforts to redeem an unfaithful wife symbolize God's long and unrelenting reach toward his rebellious people. Finally, we think about Christ, the victim of an inconceivable display of human rebellion and sin against God. Even in the ultimate rejection of God, we see our Creator moving beyond our rejection to love us back into His fold.

The repetition of God's unfathomable love for humans in the midst of disobedience and rejection of the Divine should jolt us into the truth of God: He loves every person equally and expects us to do the same. In the face of this, we are confronted with the big question; how do we even BEGIN to follow this example of loving tolerance?

The Apostle Paul is a good place to begin. Studying Paul is in itself studying the actions and revelations of a first-generation Christian struggling to bring a diverse and often hostile world to Christ. And in his untiring effort to do so, Paul reveals one habit we can all work on emulating today. He addresses every person receiving his letters in love, valuing and appreciating personal supporters and ardent enemies alike:

- "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you" (Romans 1:8).
- "I always thank my God for you" (1 Corinthians 1:4).
- "Ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you" (Ephesians 1:15 – 16).
- "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Philippians 1:3).
- "I thank God . . . as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers, . . . I long to see you" (2 Timothy 1:3 – 4).

Paul wrote to every community as if all members were equally important and valuable. He wanted them to live into that reality and to experience a call toward God even if they were demonstrating disrespect and rebellion. Wouldn't it be a "new day" in our modern world if our social media, behind-the-scenes conversations, and interactions conveyed the same profound appreciation for others demonstrated by the Apostle above?

What holds us back? Do we revel in our sense of being right and accurate over the feelings of folks around us? Is it easier to be irritated and mad than overcome hatred with love? Are power and intimidation our chief aim over and against humility and concern for others? Whatever our reasons for "writing off" individuals or whole groups of people, we do ourselves no favors. In the end, the judgment we demonstrate becomes the same narrative applied to our lives as well. But the love we show will be the love that comes back to us. And that is GREAT NEWS!

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."



Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews  
Sr. Pastor



# ST. LUKE'S kids



Big thank you to the JAMS group for setting up and managing the Easter Egg-stravaganza. Look at those kids having a blast!  
See more pictures from the Egg-stravaganza on page 5.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR NURSING HOME VISIT

**Wednesday, May 10**

The Children's Choir will make a special visit to a local nursing home on May 10. The kids will be picked up from school like usual and will be transported by van to the nursing home to perform for the residents. The kids will return by 5:30pm for Wednesday Night Activities.

## LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

**Wednesday, May 10**

Sadly another school year is at its end. We have had a great time at Wednesday Night Dinner and Studies and Groups. May 10 will be the last night that dinner is served and groups meet. Enjoy summer break and come back in the fall ready for some great food, good friends, and fun times.

## MARK YOUR Calendar

### MAY

- 5 NO Parents Night Out**
- 7 Children's Choir Spring Musical (6:00pm)**
- 10 Children's Choir will visit local nursing home.**
- Last Wednesday Night Meal & Studies**
- Mother's Day Out Graduation & the last day of class**
- 17 Children's Choir End-of-Year Party (3:15pm-5:15pm)**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Vacation Bible School

June 26-30  
9:30am-12:00pm  
Kids 4years-5th Grade  
Register NOW!!  
[stlukeskilgore.org](http://stlukeskilgore.org)

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

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR END-OF-YEAR PARTY

**Wednesday, May 17  
3:15pm-5:15pm**

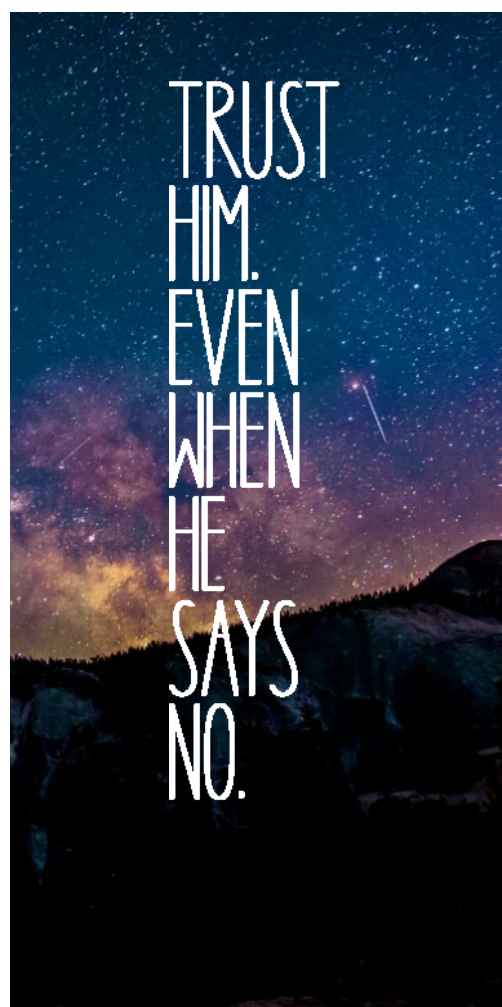
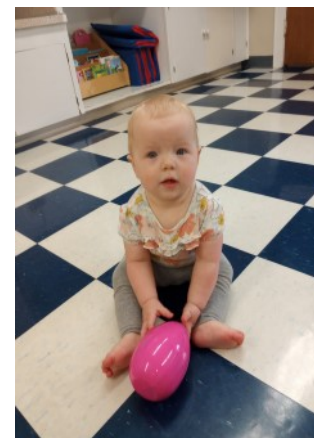
To cap off a great year the Children's Choir will have a party with snacks and games on May 17. The kids will be picked up from school like usual and will remain on campus for their activities. Pick-up will be at 5:15pm in the gym. We will not have Wednesday Night Dinner or Groups and Studies.





Our MDO kids had a great time celebrating Easter. We had a visit from the Easter bunny, they got to hunt for eggs, and each class had a party.

Next up is Pre-K graduation and End-of-Year parties. We would love to have you join us for our graduation on May 10. Our Pre-K class will be showing off all the amazing things they learned this year and our 4 year-olds will be receiving certificates before they head off for Kindergarten.





# ST. LUKE'S YOUTH



The Wednesday before Easter the youth enjoyed an egg hunt and a special message about what we should be searching for.

## CALLING ALL GRADUATING SENIORS!

We will be recognizing our graduating seniors on Sunday, May 21. You and your family are invited to attend the 10:30am worship service, where we will extend a blessing over you. Prior to worship we will host a breakfast in the Family Center so that our church family can stop by and visit with you.



*Thank you*  
SO MUCH

Big thank you to the youth and Janet Craver for their work creating the artwork that was used at the Good Friday Journey to the Cross Experience.



## MARK YOUR Calendar

### MAY

- 10** Last Wednesday Night Meal & Studies
- 17** Youth End-of-Year Party (3:15pm-5:15pm)
- 21** Senior Sunday  
Breakfast 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am

### UPCOMING EVENTS

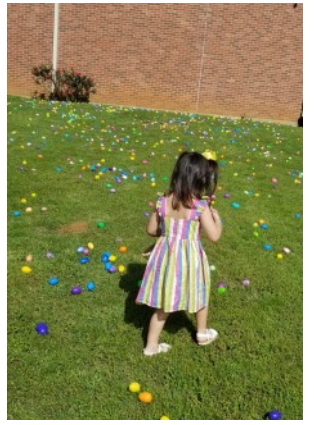
**Summer Mission Camp**  
June 17-21  
Tyler, TX  
\$135  
**Register NOW!**  
[stlukeskilgore.org](http://stlukeskilgore.org)

**Lakeview Church Camp**  
July 3-7  
\$575  
**Register NOW!**  
[iheartlakeview.com](http://iheartlakeview.com)

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

*Checkout*  
these pictures from the  
Easter Egg-stravaganza







# Checkout

these pictures from the  
Maundy Thursday service  
presented by the Chancel  
choir and featuring guest  
instrumentalists









## 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.

**May 5**

6:00pm

The Back Porch, Kilgore

**May 19**

6:00pm

Jersey Mike's, Longview

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

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

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

Single Adult Meal-\$6.00

Single Child's Meal-\$3.00

### MAY MENUS

**May 3**

Chicken Pitas,  
Dessert, & Drink

**May 10**

Baked Potatoes,  
Dessert, & Drink

## 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.

# Julee Rachels

CEO & Founder of  
Heartisans Marketplace  
of Longview

Guest speaker at the next  
Methodist Women's Meeting

May 2, 2023

6:00pm | Parlor



## What is Methodist Women?

"Methodist Women" provides women with an opportunity to study God's word, serve others, and give and receive biblically sound support. Simply put, "Methodist Women" is women connecting with women and encouraging their walk with Christ.





**ST. LUKE'S  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRESENTS  
O Chicken of Little Faith**

**May 7 at 6:00pm  
Activity Center, Gym**

Do you need a great pick-me-up?  
Need a good word from the  
upcoming generation to give you  
hope for the future?  
Our kids are looking forward to  
sharing the music and lessons they  
have learned from the musical they  
are presenting on May 7. It will be a  
night of mutual encouragement!



Here is a short synopsis of the story.

Sometimes fears and anxieties can make us feel like the sky is falling! On her last day on grandma's farm, Faith falls into an afternoon nap after a busy day of playing and into a dream where she thinks she has fallen asleep at night and forgotten to lock grandma's chickens safely in the coop. In a panic, she looks for them and quickly finds them — now human-sized chickens wearing party hats, celebrating their "freedom" from the coop. Concerned to get them back home safely, she discovers they must cross the Pit of Fear, the Mountain of Expectations, and the Forest of the Unknown — exaggerated "dream versions" of things she is dealing with back home in real life. While facing these dangers (along with an unending stream of chicken jokes and puns), Faith is reminded of all she has learned from God's Word, which arms her, and her new poultry-pals to trust God no matter what the fear or anxiety.

## 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

## SATURDAY BREAD

**Saturday, May 6 | 8:30am**

### First Presbyterian Church

Have you known someone that struggles with mobility? Many people struggling to get around face the fear of figuring out how to get a healthy meal. Being unable to move around on steady feet means being unable to go to the grocery store or stand to cook. Saturday Bread helps provide nutritious meals for elderly members of our community. Once a quarter St. Luke's provides volunteers to help cook, package, and deliver these meals.

Saturday, May 6 is our next opportunity to help support this ministry and Share God's Grace. If you are able to help contact Brenda Culpepper or the church office.

## WHY IS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL IMPORTANT?

### 1. Help people grow in their love for Jesus and His Word.

Sunday School isn't just a time to learn facts or listen to someone talk. That knowledge that you receive should be transferred from head to heart to hands.

### 2. Help people identify, invite, and connect with other adults to create an ongoing Bible study experience.

Even if people aren't able to consistently come to your Sunday School class, they should still feel connected to the group and desiring to pour into those relationships.

### 3. Help believers find a way to serve Christ.

When we get people on the giving end of serving, that's a win. The heartbeat of your Sunday School class should be equipping your people to go out and serve.

### 4. Send your people out.

It hurts to see people in your Sunday School class leave, but if they're doing so to put into practice what they have learned and to multiply the church, then that's a win!

### 5. Help the church discover new workers.

You, as a Sunday School leader, can identify people that God is working in their lives and encourage them to pursue positions in the church that would allow them to serve best.

# Mother's Day

## BREAKFAST

**Hey mom's, we want to treat you!**

**Stop by the Family Center during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, May 14, to grab a bite to eat and a little treat from us.**

**Everyone is invited!**



## CHURCH WORK DAY

**Saturday, May 20**

**9:00am-12:00pm**

It's time for some Spring Cleaning! Join us for a church work day on Saturday, May 20, 9:00am-12:00pm. We will have indoor and outdoor jobs for all ages and skill levels.

Painting, yard work, cleaning, organizing: every job you can imagine. Be on the look out for more information and a list of specific projects.

# WHAT IS PENTECOST?



On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church. The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry. Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Have questions? We have answers!

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday." The Season after Pentecost is the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

**We will be celebrating Pentecost on May 28.  
We hope to see you at worship as we experience  
the coming of the Holy Spirit.**

# WELCOME

New Members



**Patrick & Tammy Akers  
Preston & Ashleigh Branch and  
their children.**



**Joe & Becky Wallace**



## 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 Prayer cards in the pew backs and at the welcome desk to update us on your prayer needs.

## 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

Duane & Patty Andrews.....parents of Allison Andrews  
Eleanor Brumley.....friend of Jamie Poland  
Jerry David.....family of Debra Maloch  
Brenda Frazier.....sister of Belynda Holley  
Lisa Gillespie.....daughter of Jack & Sharry Christopher  
Isaac Hoberecht.....son of Brian & Tara Hoberecht  
Gary Don Holley.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland  
Kelly Jackson.....daughter of Debra Maloch  
Kristina McWhorter.....friend of Debra Maloch  
Robert "Sparky" Meyer....brother-in-law of Bob & Hope Cantu  
Jodie Phifer.....friend of Laura Farnham  
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  
Doyle Thomas.....brother-in-law of Jack & Susan Moore  
Gene Thrash.....friend of Milton Hattaway  
Brett Walker.....anonymous

## MAY 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).**

### May 3

Jeannie Allison

### May 4

Addilyn DeKoker  
Jacob Mooney

### May 5

Sloan Berger

### May 7

Leon Courtney

### May 8

Bill Bryant  
Dennis Ellis  
Robert Smith

### May 9

Veronica Sprayberry

### May 10

Alma Casey  
Cade Clark  
Cora Mooney

### May 11

Charlotte Reynolds

### May 12

Hadley Middlebrooks

### May 19

Cameron Stephens

### May 21

Jack Christopher

### May 22

Janet Craver

### May 23

Jetson Russ

### May 27

Madden Ridge

### May 30

Janie Sweeney

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Jim & Sharon McCann	5/4/1968
Dan & Shelia Cross	5/7/1979
Jeff & Cassie Stephens	5/18/1997
Kraig & Tonya DeKoker	5/22/2004
Bill & Peggy Clarke	5/20/1978
Joe & Becky Wallace	5/20/1978

# May 2023

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Evangelism Team</b> 6:00pm  <b>Methodist Women</b> 6:00pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Holy Huddlers at The Back Porch</b> 6:00pm	<b>6</b> <b>Saturday Bread</b> 8:30am
<b>7</b> <b>Children's Choir Spring Musical</b> 6:00pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Last Wednesday Night Activities</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Board of Stewards</b> 6:00pm	<b>16</b> <b>Mission Team</b> 6:00pm	<b>17</b> <b>Children's &amp; Youth End-of-year parties</b> 3:15pm-5:15pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Holy Huddlers at Jersey Mike's</b> 6:00pm	<b>20</b> <b>Church Work Day</b> 9:00am
<b>21</b> <b>Senior Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Worship Team</b> 6:00pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<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*  
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# WAYS TO GIVE

<sup>AT</sup>  
*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](http://stlukeskilgore.org)  
or use the QR Code



## BY TEXT

Text "give" to  
903-833-3576