



The **VISITOR**

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

August 2023

Issue 8



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Pastor's Article

PAGE 3

Associate Pastor's Article

PAGE 4

Summer Slam Recap

PAGE 5 & 6

What's Happening

PAGE 7 & 8

News You Need To Know

PAGE 9

Joys & Concerns

PAGE 10

August Calendar

BACK PAGE

Back to School Bash



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

Sr. Pastor
pastor@stlukeskilgore.org

Rev. Daniel Hicks

Associate Pastor
Associate@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



How do you articulate or address our Creator? Most of us tend to call the God of the Bible simply "God." In scripture, God has more than a few designations. Yahweh, *Jehovah*, or *the LORD*. *We remember also that Jesus called God Abba, Daddy.*

In the midst of these options for addressing our heavenly father, we know that we are referring to One who is unmatched and wholly other. God reveals his name on a personal level for the first time in Exodus 3, when He calls Moses to free the people of Israel from captivity in Egypt. You may remember when Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "***I am who I am.***" ***And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am' has sent me to you."*** That's an odd way to introduce yourself.

Matt Chandler of Village church wrote: "Now, when you're face to face with "I am who I am" — a God so powerful that pharaohs and kings don't stand a chance against him — ***the natural question that comes to mind is, "Who am I?" That's a question we ask ourselves a lot, especially when we're facing adverse circumstances.***" In Exodus 3:11, Moses asked God this question, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Now, If we were to judge Moses' resume, we might wonder why he considered himself a poor choice to deliver the Hebrews. He was in fact ideally suited for the job! He was fluent in Egyptian language, raised by the best tutors in Pharaoh's household, an expert on Egypt's culture and religion, and connected to the most powerful people in the land. He even had the blueprints of Pharaoh's house!

But God does not mention any of this. He doesn't give Moses a pep talk or assuage his fears with platitudes, "You're great Moses! You're a winner!" Instead, God tells Moses one thing: "***I will be with you.***" (Exod. 3:12) And we are further comforted when we read that earlier in the chapter, God told Moses "***I have seen the affliction of my people, heard their cry, and know their sufferings.***" God makes it clear that He had "come down to deliver them" (Exodus 3:7-8). The great promise of all of this is that "I am who I am" is with us. His presence is the answer to our anxieties and fears and the chaos of this world.

In the still heat of summer, when you sit and look at the vastness of our cosmos or the beauty of nature and wonder who you are within this framework of creation, remember that you are God's uniquely equipped child. You will be who you will be, within the grip of His guidance.

Be at peace,

Allison Andrews
Sr. Pastor



Hello
my name is

Hello
my name is

Hello
my name is

A name is just a name, right?

Speaking of names, one critical aspect of ministry is how we designate and describe what we are doing within the church. Our children's and youth ministry are being renamed—not simply because we're interested in having catchy words to excite people but because we want to capture the essence of what we want to accomplish in our young people's lives. Our young people are valuable members of our church; acolytes lead the ministers into our traditional service, our youth travel to other cities to help those in need, and all of our students are in various stages of their faith formation. As a church, we should recognize the needs that they have within their contexts and do our part to train them "in the way that they should go" (Proverbs 22:6). Our Children's Ministry is now IGNITION, and our Youth Ministry is BEDROCK.

IGNITION—In our church, we desire to see the seed of faith ignited within our children. Children's Church on Sundays at 10:45 is a great opportunity for developmentally appropriate spiritual formation. Each service will model our traditional service: kids will serve as acolytes, demonstrating the presence of Christ in His Church and the power of the Holy Spirit moving among believers; our leaders will teach them eternal truths appropriate for their lives; and they will begin to learn some of the key beliefs of the Church. Sunday school, Sundays at 9:30, is another excellent opportunity for our kids to enjoy an activity or craft and be instructed in the facts of our faith.

BEDROCK—After we've invested in the first several years of our kids' lives, they will move to our BEDROCK youth ministry. Here, we are laying and building upon the faith foundations that were ignited as children. Confirmation is the traditional bridge between children's and youth ministry—our youth are systematically taught the essential beliefs of the church and learn how to apply these beliefs to their personal lives. For our youth, we continue on Sunday mornings to train them in the Scriptures and doctrines, and Wednesday nights we enter into small group discussion so we can explore how we can impact our communities with Gospel truths. At St. Luke's we believe that the bedrock of the Christian faith for young people is (1) corporate worship with their parents or guardians in either the Arise or Traditional service, (2) being engaged with an element of fun, and, ultimately, (3) encountering the living God through sound biblical teaching.

For too long and in too many churches, student ministries have been purely dedicated to educating children. In igniting and building on the bedrock of our kids' faith, we are also *empowering them to take hold of their faith and become leaders. In this, we believe we will see our students become full, faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, willing to "Love God; Live His Word; and Share His Grace."* So, we are not just changing the name of our ministries. We are changing the nature of our ministries—reorienting them to reflect the historic church's desire to fully incorporate and utilize every single soul in Christ's body, the Church.

Daniel Hicks
Associate Pastor



SUMMER SLAM

Summer Slam is an opportunity for our children to participate in mission projects. This year the children did mission mixed with learning and fun. They prepared blessing bags to be offered to people in need, baked cookies for our friends at Arabella Nursing Home (the residents loved them), and worked on making prayer bead rosaries (soon to be available to our church members). All along with touring local museums, trying out some karate moves, playing ukuleles, scavenger hunts, and more. Whew! God is good!



METHODIST *Women*

Next Meeting: August 1

The Methodist Women's group will meet on August 1, at 6:00pm. Join us in the parlor for dinner and a devotional provided by Brenda Culpepper. All Ladies are invited and encouraged to bring a friend.

Fall Round up: September 17

Save the date for our Fall Round-up event. Sunday, September 17 we will host a ladies luncheon at 11:30am, in the Family Center. This is a great time to make new friends and fellowship with old ones.

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.

August 4

6:00pm

The New Pier, White Oak

August 18

6:00pm

Hupei's, Longview

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



UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

August 6, 13, & 20

Have you ever wondered how grammar and popular phrases relate to our faith life? Well, you can find out how in our next sermon series, Grammarly. We've all heard people misuse popular phrases like: Doggy Dog world, irregardless, or "I could care less." Pastor Allison and Pastor Daniel will explore (and correct these misused phrases and find how they can teach us to establish proper priorities, persevere despite tough circumstances, and extend grace to others because of God's empowering grace.

ON THE 3'S

Sunday, August 13

9:30am | Family Center

New members and guests are invited to join us to get connected on the Third Sunday every three months. Our first gathering will be, Sunday,

August 13 at 9:30am in the Family Center. Have coffee with the pastors and spend a little time getting to know St. Luke's

Congratulations **REV. DANIEL HICKS**



We are excited to announce that Pastor Daniel is officially a reverend. He was ordained as a deacon in the Global Methodist Church at Annual Conference on July 22. We can't wait to see all the great things you do!

ST. LUKE'S KIDS



Parents Night Out

Friday, August 4 | 6:00pm-9:00pm | \$15 per child

Calling all Kids, invite a friend and join us for a night of pizza, crafts, games, and fun! Parents this is a great time to spend a little time for yourselves, we'll watch the kids. Contact the church office or use the QR code to register and pre-pay.





BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

Friday, August 11 | 6:00pm-7:30pm

Activity Center

FREE community Event

Let's have one last big BASH before we head back to school.

Everyone, young or old, is invited to help us celebrate the end of summer with food, prizes, and Silent Disco. Silent Disco is a unique party experience where all guests are wearing specially designed wireless glowing headphones.

Three live DJ's are battling for the attention of the party-goers. The ability to switch between the different DJ's makes the party every changing.

Invite a friend and join us for the fun.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL *Sunday*

August 13

During 8:30am & 10:30am Worship

Calling all teachers, school staff, administrators, and especially students. We want to take a minute and give you a special blessing before you head back to school. Make sure to join us for worship on Sunday, August 13. We will have a moment during both worship services where students are invited to have their backpacks blessed for the upcoming school year and educators will be given a small gift and will be prayed for.

**Here's to the beginning
of another great school year!**



MISSIONS

Report

Garage Sale

The garage Sale was a huge success. WE sold a ton of stuff and had a lot of fun. In total we made over \$3,000. A portion of the funds will be donated back to the Youth Program to help with the cost of new furniture in the youth rooms, since they were kind enough to donate some of theirs. The remainder of the funds will be used to support mission projects, such as feeding at Newgate and the UMCOR trip scheduled for the Spring.

We want to say a special thank you to all the amazing volunteers who stepped up and worked hard to prepare for the sale and worked the sale. We couldn't have done it without you.

NEXT Serve Opportunity Newgate Mission August 26 | 7:00am

We are excited to be able to begin serving again at Newgate Mission in Longview. Newgate serves the homeless, low-income, and marginalized. If you would like to volunteer to help cook and Serve on August 26, please contact Debbie Nicholson or the church office. We will meet at the mission at 7:00am and begin serving at 8:00am.



UMCOR Mission Trip April 8-12, 2024

We have 8 spots reserved for a trip to the UMCOR warehouse in Baldwin, Louisiana. Be on the look out for more information.

FILL THE

Backpack

Did you know that one in five Texas children live in poverty? The numbers are staggering and hunger is a reality for thousands of children in East Texas.

The Backpack Ministry allows our congregation to be in ministry with families in our community that may never know our names or step foot in our sanctuary, but are transformed by the love that we share.

Each week we provide non-perishable food items for children identified by school personnel to be at risk for food insecurity. On average we provide 50 meals a week during the school year, to students at Kilgore Primary School, Chandler Elementary, and Kilgore Intermediate School. That comes to over 2,000 meal kits each year at a cost of almost \$10,000. That comes out to about \$200 per child.

This ministry is important to our community and to our church. Being able to help without recognition and without reward, helps us to truly Share God's Grace. This year we are challenging our congregation and our community to help us Fill The Backpack, so that we can continue to provide food for kids in need. Each Sunday in the month of August we will be collecting funds and watching our Backpack fill up.

Help us reach our goal of \$10,000.

Use the QR Code to make a one-time donation or set-up a recurring gift to support Backpack Ministry.



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.

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

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.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Please use the "Prayer" cards in the pews to 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.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Michael Barnard	Sam Holley
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Angela Thompson
Cindy Frederick	Cindy Venable
Pat Haynes	April Watson
Carolyn Holcombe	

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Robert Adams.....former member of St. Luke's
Roger Best.....family friend of Dan & Shelia Cross
Kay Edney.....friend of David & Karen Wilson
Melanie Ford.....friend of David & Karen Wilson
Brenda Frazier.....sister of Belynda Holley
Geri Gholson.....friend to many
Gary Don Holley.....
.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Kelly Jackson.....daughter of Debra Maloch
Kenneth Jackson.....friend of Roy Brown
Kristina McWhorter.....friend of Debra Maloch
Nelda Morgan.....St. Luke's Custodian
J.T. Roberts.....friend of Jack & Susan Moore
Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway
French Sturrock.....
.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Elaine Sullivan.....friend of many
Doyle Thomas.....brother-in-law of Jack & Susan Moore
Gene Thrash.....friend of Milton Hattaway
Sammy Jo Wise.....niece of April Watson

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO

SyRena Witt on the death of her mother,
Tommie Jack Perry

AUGUST 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).

August 2
Louise Cammack

August 16
Jerry Medford

August 5
Roy Brown

August 17
Niki Chowdhury

August 9
Phillip Haynes
Becci Thurston

August 20
Heather Holder

August 11
Gabriel Mathis
Karen L. Wilson

August 23
Gus Witt

August 12
Sydney Chowdhury

August 24
Tony Witt

August 13
Tonia Belk

August 28
Alan Clark

August 15
Lindsey Exline

August 30
Brenda Culpepper
Jan Hattaway

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Mark & Barbara Francisco	8/1/1997
Jack & Sharry Christopher	8/2/1983
Jerry & Peggy Medford	8/7/1971
Danny & Kalynn Harrison	8/9/1980
Ernie & Pat Sers	8/11/1967
Ann & Joe White	8/24/1968
James & Emilee Hanshaw	8/26/1978
James & Laura Vermillion	8/26/2000

August 2023

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

		1 Methodist Women 6:00pm**	2	3	4 Parents Night Out 6:00pm-9:00pm Holy Huddlers at The New Pier, White Oak 6:00pm	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Back-to-School Bash 6:00pm-7:30pm	12
13 Back-to-School Sunday	14	15 Mission Team 6:00pm**	16	17	18 Holy Huddlers at Hupei's, Longview 6:00pm	19
20 On The 3's 9:30am	21 Board of Stewards 6:00pm**	22 Worship Team 6:00pm** Evangelism Team 6:00pm**	23	24	25	26 Serve at Newgate 7:00am
27	28	29	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)

Tuesday

8:00am | Prayer Group (Knowles Chapel)

Wednesday

6:00pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday

6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

E-Mail: office@stlukeskilgore.org

Office: 903-984-3576

Web Site: www.stlukeskilgore.org

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

The poster features a vibrant yellow background with a purple abstract shape on the left. A blue and red backpack is the central focus, surrounded by various school and space-themed icons: a rocket, a planet, a paper airplane, a cube, a pair of scissors, a notebook, a triangle, and a pencil. The text is in bold, dark blue font.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

Food - Prizes - Silent Disco
FREE Community Event

Friday, August 11
6:00pm-7:30pm