



The **VISITOR**

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

September 2023

Issue 9

**WHEN THE
GOING
GETS TOUGH,
THE TOUGH
GET GOING**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Mother/Daughter Tea

PAGE 3 & 4

Pastor's Article

PAGE 5 & 6

St. Luke's Kids

PAGE 7 & 8

Wednesdays @ St. Luke's

PAGE 9

Mother's Day Out
What's Happening

PAGE 10

Fill The Backpack
St. Luke's Youth

PAGE 11 & 12

What you need to know

PAGE 13

Joys & Concerns

PAGE 14

September Calendar

BACK PAGE

Birthday Bash



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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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Tea Party

DON'T BE LATE FOR A
VERY IMPORTANT DATE!

Sunday
September 10
11:30am

Free Lunch
& Activities

Calling all mothers and grandmothers!

We, Just Among Moms (also known as JAM) will be hosting a grandmother/mother/daughter/granddaughter tea on September 10, 2023 just after the Traditional Worship Service. There will be a tea time with a light lunch followed by dress-up time and other activities. Feel free to come to the worship service first dressed up in your best dresses and fascinators (headpieces) and I will have a reserved section in the Sanctuary where we, and the rest of our families can all sit together. The location is a downtown Kilgore venue called Pollard and Payne Event Venue, and they specialize in events like tea parties. The address is 209 East Main Street. Please RSVP and let Celia Mooney know if you're coming so, we have enough seating, by calling or texting at 903-918-8299.

Let's get fancy!

THE CHOICE

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 2:23-24

I'm looking forward to our fall plans for Bible study, Wednesday gatherings for all ages, mission endeavors and so much more. I'm hoping to see everyone on campus for our Wednesday night programs and for Sunday morning worship and Sunday school. At the same time, I have seen in this, and in other congregations I've served, the common struggle to prioritize church worship and faith forming opportunities over sports, extracurricular lessons, hobbies, our own weariness, and the general demands of life. But I like the word **"heartily"** in the Colossians scripture above. It is a galvanizing word. We are reminded by Paul that we have the privilege to step forward into our faith life with excitement and gusto! You may not have thought about this, but the outside forces and opportunities of this life are in a race for your attention, and it is your job as a Christian to outpace their influence.

At the dawn of the Space Age it looked like the United States was losing the Space Race — and soundly. The Soviet Union had launched the first artificial satellite in 1957. In response the Vanguard rocket blew up on the pad.

Both nations then began to work on putting a human into space. The American Project Mercury was projected to put a man in orbit by late 1960, but delay after delay — sometimes out of caution and sometimes out of concerns for safety because the rockets continued to blow up, allowed the Soviets to put a man into orbit in April of 1961. The best the Americans could do, a month later, was to send astronaut Alan Shepherd on a fifteen-minute suborbital flight.

Yet on the basis of that suborbital flight, while American morale was low, President John F. Kennedy, at a Joint Session of Congress on May 25, 1961, committed the United States to landing a man on the moon by the end of the decade and bringing him back safely.

Some people questioned the sanity of this proposal. How could we talk about going to the moon when no American had even been into the orbit, and the Soviets seemed to be so far ahead?

Four months later, on September 17, with only one more suborbital flight to America's credit, and the first orbital flight still five months away, Kennedy spoke to an audience at Rice University and explained why this choice was so important. He said:

"We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too."

Did you hear that? **The president said that the reason for going was "not because they are easy, but because they are hard."**

Joshua, the great leader of Israel once made a profound rallying speech. He gathered his troops and their families before a second battle that would occur against a foreign power, the Amorites. **Joshua demonstrated the same vi-**



sion as our former president in pointing out that the real battle is one that occurs in our minds. To the Israelites, Joshua essentially challenged his nation to recalibrate their worldview: choose God and God's will only, not because it is easy, but because it is right.

If we are unclear as we look at all of the demands on our time, then let us focus: ***"choose this day" who and what you will serve, to paraphrase Joshua, chapter 24.***

I read this about the early life of the unmatched and world famous tenor, Luciano Pavarotti: "When I was a boy, my father, a baker, introduced me to the wonders of song," tenor Luciano Pavarotti relates. "He urged me to work very hard to develop my voice. Arrigo Pola, a professional tenor in my hometown of Modena, Italy, took me as a pupil. I also enrolled in a teachers college. On graduating, I asked my father, 'Shall I be a teacher or a singer?'"

"'Luciano,' my father replied, 'if you try to sit on two chairs, you will fall between them. For life, you must choose one chair.'"

"I chose one. It took seven years of study and frustration before I made my first professional appearance. It took another seven to reach the Metropolitan Opera. And now I think whether it's laying bricks, writing a book--whatever we choose--we should give ourselves to it. Commitment, that's the key. **Choose one chair.**"

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the

other." *Matthew 6:24 There is urgency, and everything is at stake every day!*

We don't like to think it, but our daily choices and seemingly insignificant choices DO have eternal significance.

The famous Christian author, C.S. Lewis wrote this about the final days of this life,

"When the author walks onto the stage, the play is over. God is going to invade, all right; but what is the good of saying you are on His side then, when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream and something else comes crashing in? This time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side. That will not be the time for choosing; It will be the time when we discover which side we really have chosen, whether we realized it before or not. " Today and every day is our chance to choose the right side.

I'll see you at church!

Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews
Sr. Pastor



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, September 1

6:00pm-9:00pm | Gym

\$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.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Resumes September 6

3:15pm-5:30pm

Calling all singers! We are excited to announce that Children's Choir Registration is now open for kids 4yrs-5th grade.

Join us for an incredible musical adventure starting on September 6th, as we meet every Wednesday from 3:15pm-5:30pm. We provide transportation from Kilgore ISD schools and everyone is invited to family dinner at 5:30pm each week. Use the QR code to register your child and to download the Transportation Form. The Transportation Form should be filled out and returned to the church office. If you have any questions or need assistance with registration please contact James Vermillion or the church office.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for your child to develop their vocal talents and make lifelong friends.



Registration form



Transportation form

PUMPKIN UNLOAD

Wednesday, September 27

5:00pm | Activity Lot

It's almost time for Pumpkin Patch. That means we need you and your child to join us for the Great Pumpkin Unload. Children's Choir will end a little early on this day and the kids will be brought down to the Activity Lot to help us unload the many boxes of pumpkins that will be delivered. If your child is not participating in Children's Choir, that is ok, they are still encouraged to join us for the fun. We hope to see you there!

MARK YOUR Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Parents Night Out**
6:00pm-9:00pm
\$15 per child
[Register NOW!](#)
- 6 Children's Choir Resumes**
3:15pm-5:30pm
[Register NOW!](#)
- Wednesday Night Dinner**
5:15pm-6:00pm
See the September menu and ways to pre-pay on page 8
- Wednesday Night Studies & Groups**
6:00pm-7:00pm
- 27 Pumpkin Unload**
5:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Checkout

**These pictures from
Back-To-School Sunday.**

ST. LUKE'S *Shout-Out*

A big thank you to the amazing volunteers that have continued to keep our Children's Ministry programs running this summer. Anna Rohde, Debra Maloch, and Karen Wilson have been leading our volunteers as they provide Sunday School, Children's Church, Vacation Bible School, Summer Slam, Nursery Care, and Parents Night Out for the Kids of St. Luke's.. We are grateful for the time, energy, and love they have given to help support our kids learning and growing in God's Word.



WEDNESDAYS @St. Luke's

St. Luke's Groups provide a place for people to belong, so they can become who God has called them to be. Going from "rows" on Sunday morning to "circles" during the week helps us create relationships, allows us the opportunity to "do life" together, and move from where we are to where God wants us to be. Wednesdays at St. Luke's are designed to provide small and large group opportunities for people of all ages.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Beginning September 6

3:15pm-5:30pm Children's Choir

4yrs-5th Grade

\$10 snack fee

See page 5 for more information



*register your
child NOW!*

Additional transportation form should be filled out and returned to the church office.

3:15pm-7:00pm Youth

6th -12th Grade

See page 10 for more information



*register your
student NOW!*

Contact Pastor Daniel to be added to the Van Pick-up list.

5:15pm-6:00pm Dinner

\$5 for adults & \$3 for kids under 12

Prepay for the entire semester

\$55 for Adults

\$33 for kids under 12



*Scan the code
to pre-pay for the semester*

6:00pm-7:00pm Bible Studies & Groups

Nursery Care (birth-3yrs)

Kids Bible Study (4yrs-5th Grade)

Youth Bible Study (6th-12th Grade)

Adult Bible Study

JAMS (Just Among Moms)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

WEDNESDAY

NIGHT MEALS

September 6

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

September 13

Chicken Nuggets, Waffle Fries,
Veggies with Ranch, Dessert & a Drink

September 20

Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans,
Rolls, Dessert & a Drink

September 27

Mini Pizzas, Salad, Dessert, & a Drink

Use the QR code on the opposite page to pre-pay
for the entire semester. Cash, Check, and Credit
Cards will be accepted at dinner.

ADULT STUDIES & GROUPS

WEDNESDAYS | 6:00PM-7:00PM

Adult Bible Study

Parlor

The Adult Bible Study Group covers several different short-term studies during the school year. Join us in September as we begin learning and growing together.

JAM (Just Among Moms)

Seekers Classroom

Mom's of little ones need a little extra support and care. This group meets weekly during the school year to help moms grow in their faith and in fellowship with other ladies that are experiencing life together.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Caring Christians Classroom

If you like to knit or crochet, then we want to see you in the Prayer Shawl Group. This group meets weekly during the school year to create prayer shawls that are given to people in our community that are in need or prayer. Come be in ministry and in fellowship with us.

GET CONNECTED

St. Luke's Groups provide a place for people to belong, so they can become who God has called them to be. Going from "rows" on Sunday morning to "circles" during the week helps us create relationships, allows us the opportunity to "do life" together, and move from where we are to where God wants us to be. Groups are comprised of men and women from all generations who meet throughout the week. They are a place for those who desire to grow, ask questions and be encouraged when life gets tough. More than just a group of friends, our groups exist to demonstrate and share the love of Jesus by serving our community and to encourage personal spiritual growth.

As you learn and serve with others, our hope is that you will gain a loving faith community and experience spiritual growth. Each of us is on a pathway, and we want to walk together.

LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

This group meets weekly during the school year and follows the same study guides as the Wednesday Evening Adult Bible Study.

The Lunchtime Bible Study Group will resume in September. The exact date and time is still to be determined. Be on the lookout for more information about this group.



ST. LUKE'S MDO

The MDO Board is excited to announce that Sheryl Caraway has been named the interim MDO Director. Sheryl is a long-time member of St. Luke's and is currently serving on the Board of Stewards. She began last school year as an MDO substitute teacher and ended up stepping in to lead the 3year old class in the middle of the year. We are excited to see the amazing things that she can do as she helps to lead our little ones to learn and grow in God's Word.



MARK YOUR Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 6** MDO resumes
9:00am-2:00pm
- 25** NO MDO
Kilgore ISD holiday

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

METHODIST Women

Next Meeting: September 5

The Methodist Women's group will meet on August 5, at 6:00pm. Join us in the parlor for dinner and a devotional. All Ladies are invited and encouraged to bring a friend.

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.

September 1

6:00pm
Chili's, Kilgore

September 15

6:00pm
Olive Garden, Longview

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

PUMPKIN Patch

Decorate the Patch

Saturday, September 24

9:00am-12:00pm

Join us as we get the pumpkin patch ready for our pumpkin delivery. We will need lots of hands to help us get all of the decorations out of storage and placed on the Activity Lot. We hope to see you there.

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. Each week St. Luke's provides 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.

We are half way there!
As of August 16 we have raised
or have a commitment for a
total of \$5,163.

Keep the good work going.
 Use the QR to make your
 donation, or contact the
 church office for more information.



\$10,000
 \$9,000
 \$8,000
 \$7,000
 \$6,000
 \$5,000
 \$4,000
 \$3,000
 \$2,000

ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Resumes September 6

3:15pm-5:15 | Afterschool Activities

5:15pm-6:00pm | Dinner

6:00pm-7:00pm | Bible Study

It's back to school and that means back to our weekly activities. If your student is planning to ride the van to the church on Wednesday afternoons, please make sure to fill out a permission form and contact Pastor Daniel to get on the Van Pick-up List. Use the QR Code to get your student Registered today!



MARK YOUR *Calendar*

SEPTEMBER

6 Wednesday Activities

Resume

Afterschool Activities

3:15pm-5:15pm

Dinner

5:15pm-6:00pm

See the September menu and ways to pre-pay on page 8

Bible Study

6:00pm-7:00pm

27 Pumpkin Unload

5:00pm

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

ST. LUKE'S PUMPKIN PATCH

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST



Help us design our 2023 Pumpkin Patch t-shirts! Email your design ideas to Jennifer Powell at office@stlukeskilgore.org. All submissions must be made by August 28.

The winner will receive a \$50 gift card and a free t-shirt.

UPCOMING

EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| OCT 1 | Pumpkin Patch Sunday
Chili Cook-Off |
| OCT 3 | Party in the Patch |
| OCT 6 | Parents Night Out |
| OCT 8 | Children's Sunday |
| OCT 11 | NO Wednesday Activities |
| OCT 18 | Pumpkin Carving Contest |
| OCT 21 | Family Fun Night |
| OCT 25 | Trunk or Treat |
| OCT 29 | Pumpkin Patch Lunch |

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| NOV 3 | Parents Night Out |
| NOV 19 | Heritage Sunday:
150th Celebration |
| NOV 22 | NO Wednesday Night Activities |
| DEC 1 | Parents Night Out |
| DEC 10 | Choir & Arise Band Christmas
Cantata |
| | Children's Choir Christmas
Musical |
| DEC 13 | Children's Choir Christmas Party |
| DEC 24 | Christmas Eve |

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	Carolyn Holcombe
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Sam Holley
Kraig DeKoker	Angela Thompson
Cindy Frederick	Cindy Venable
Jessica Hatt	April Watson
Pat Haynes	Joe White

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Renate Albus.....friend of Pat & Art Morchat
George Clark.....Louise Fielding
Brenda Frazier.....sister of Belynda Holley
Gary Don Holley.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Madison Holman.....
.....granddaughter of Tommy & Laura Farnham
Nelda Morgan.....St. Luke's Custodian
J.T. Roberts.....friend of Jack & Susan Moore
French Sturrock.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Bob Sullivan & Family.....friends of Pat & Art Morchat

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES & SHUT-INS

Judy Burns
Louise Cammack
Alma Casey
Lynne Cross
Dot Denham
Jean Gray
Edith Williams
Wilbur Yates

SEPTEMBER 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).

September 4
Carol Grimes

September 6
Misty Lewis

September 8
Lindley Thurston

September 9
Troy Jones
Samantha Lovell
Richelle Rathbun

September 10
Rhett Rohde

September 11
Emily Mason

September 12
Joan Smith

September 13
Lily Chowdhury
Sarah Gillen-Hall

September 15
Billie Sue Mims
Jordan Stephens
Ann White

September 16
Presley Thompson

September 17
Barbara Francisco
Ryder Konczak

September 18
Keith Hooks
Isabell Witt

September 19
Lisa McClammy
Billy Mims

September 20
Barbara Boyd
Susan Moore

September 21
Jeff Beck
Anna Gillen-Hall

September 22
Cheyanne Jones

September 25
Pat Thompson

September 26
Laura Farnham

September 29
Jana Castaneda

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Art & Pat Morchat	9/4/1977
James & Celia Mooney	9/8/2001
Tony & SyRena Witt	9/16/1995
Cody & Veronica Sprayberry	9/17/2015
Rick & Marcy Huey	9/18/1999

September 2023

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

					1 Parents Night Out 6:00pm Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	2
3	4 Labor Day Church Office Closed	5 Evangelism Team 6:00pm** Methodist Women 6:00pm**	6 MDO resumes 9:00am Wednesday Night Activities begin*	7	8	9
10 JAM Mother Daughter Tea	11	12	13	14	15 Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	16
17 Methodist Women's Birthday Bash 11:30am	18 Board of Stewards 6:00pm**	19 Mission Team 6:00pm**	20	21	22	23 Decorate the Patch 9:00am
24	25	26 Worship Team 6:00pm**	27 Pumpkin Unload 5:00pm	28 Pumpkin Patch Opens 10:00am	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

Tuesday

8:00am | Prayer Group** (Knowles Chapel)

Wednesday

9:00am-2:00pm | Mother's Day Out
 3:15pm-5:30pm | Children's Choir
 5:15pm-6:00pm | Dinner (Family Center)
 6:00pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)
 Bible Studies & Groups*

Thursday

6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)

The
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Birthday Bash

All St. Luke's Ladies are invited to join us for a Birthday Lunch.
We will be celebrating all of our ladies and their unique gifts that
they bring to our church family.

This free event is a great opportunity to get to know other ladies
in our church and begin building relationships to help you
through the tough times.

Sunday, September 17
11:30am
Family Center

We hope to see you there!