



# *The* **VISITOR**

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

November 2023

Issue 11

**CELEBRATING**  
*150 Years*



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on all things St. Luke's

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#### 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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**Rev. Dr.  
Allison  
Andrews**  
Sr. Pastor

## AN ENDLESS LINE OF GOOD SHEPHERDS

*But we your people, the sheep of your pasture,  
will give thanks to you forever; from generation to genera-  
tion we will recount your praise.*

**Psalm 79:13**

Dear congregation. We are approaching a time of great joy as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our church's founding. I find myself thinking about the first pastor who presided here so many years ago, and I think of my grandfather who stood in a long line of pastors who were subsequently appointed to stand for this church. I have a picture of my grandfather, Jack Sparling, standing and holding me after my baptism here at St. Luke's. He never knew that on that day in 1966 that same infant would be appointed to the task of serving St. Luke's Methodist Church. As I think of Granddaddy standing here on this land prepared to do his best as a good shepherd caring for his flock, I wonder about myself and how I measure up? Even as I engage in that personal musing, I realize that each of us must question the importance and effectiveness of our presence at St. Luke's. For this church has never been a product of a single person in leadership, but most especially, it has remained as a symbol of dedicated Christians guiding and loving each other through the good and the less than ideal. Innumerable loving shepherds have led the flocks of this church and people of Kilgore to celebrate many great milestones, many anniversaries, a long legacy of faith.

Throughout the New Testament, we come across references to shepherds, flock, and lamb. Most of us are familiar with these references. I thought I'd share a brief account about a shepherd I read about. It comes from one of those long, seemingly endless Victorian novels set in the English countryside. While he slept, a shepherd named Gabriel loses his flock when a young, misguided sheepdog leads his herd over a cliff's edge. The sheep, so thoughtless in their obedience to the wayward pup, meet their doom, and it shatters Gabriel. He's left forlorn, in despair. He's lost his living but he is desolate at the senseless loss of the sheep.

Why would I share a tale of heartbreak with you at a time meant to be one of celebration? Because in the eyes of God, we are all sheep and shepherd. On the one hand, we are his sheep and it's to him we owe our obedience, our life, our purpose as a church, our achievements throughout the many years. Even though we are members of the Good shepherd's flock, we are his representatives in that same task to the world around. How easy is it to glibly or mistakenly lead others the wrong way, and how awful it is when someone has done the same to the extent that we wonder if we are about to leap metaphorically over that cliff's edge?

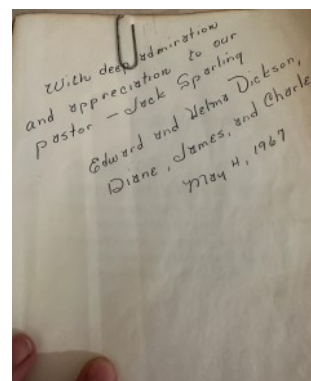
But we are not Gabriel's mindless sheep, and neither are we thoughtless and uncaring shepherds.

In fact, as we look at one another, we are each a Gabriel. We, as Christians, are long and caring shepherds. It is for us to keep an eye out for those sheep who become lost or led astray. We must abide by those practices Jesus taught us while he lived on this earth about tending to one another, about love and forgiveness.

Anniversaries are a time for celebration and a time for planning. What is your plan as a shepherd in the years ahead? How will you model Jesus, the perfect shepherd? I hope you will be inspired to lead by his example. As you model what it means to be a good Christian, you can continue the work that Christ did while he lived.



Needlepoint gifted to St. Luke's Parsonage. Created by Margaret Matlock, mother of Jo May March 1962.



The pulpit Hymnal and inscription that was given to Rev. Jack Sparling while he served at St. Luke's

## PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, November 3

6:00pm-9:00pm | Gym

\$15 per child

Hey Parents, we have some exciting changes in Parent's Night Out. In October we began dividing the kids by age for age-appropriate activities, games, & crafts. All the kids and adults had a fabulous night, so we are planning to keep this new structure.

We hope to see your family at the next Parent's Night Out. Contact the church office or use the QR code to register and pre-pay.



# ST. LUKE'S Kids



**Debbie  
Nicholson**

Children's Ministry  
Director

**We need  
YOU!**



Children's Ministry needs YOUR help! You do not have to make a permanent commitment. Can you help in a Children's Sunday School Class once a quarter or once a month? Would you commit to help one Sunday quarter for Children's Church

during the 10:30am Worship Service? Or maybe working the first Friday of the month from 6:00pm-9:00pm for Parent's Night Out sounds like something you can do once or twice. How about being on the substitute list? The Lord wants all of us to help raise our church children to be strong Christians. Let Debbie Nicholson know where you can help.

## MARK YOUR Calendar

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Parent's Night Out**  
6:00pm-9:00pm
- 5 Children's Choir  
Speaking Part Rehearsal**  
2:00pm (Gym)
- 12 Children's Choir Sings in  
10:30am Worship**  
  
**Children's Choir  
Speaking Part Rehearsal**  
2:00pm (Gym)
- 19 Heritage Sunday**  
10:30am Combined Worship  
11:30am Lunch  
NO Sunday School
- 22 NO Wednesday Activities**  
Thanksgiving Break
- 26 Children's Choir  
Speaking Part Rehearsal**  
2:00pm (Gym)

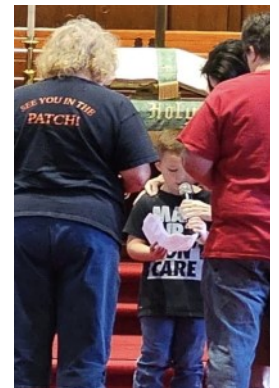
**Please see the calendar on page 14  
for a complete list of this month's  
events and meetings.**



**Tuesday, November 28**

**6:30pm | Downtown Kilgore**

Hey St. Luke's Kids we want to see you in the Christmas Parade. The JAM ladies will be decorating the float, but they need some kids to fill it up. All kids are invited to join us on the Children's Ministry float. Kids under 5 will need a parent to ride with them. Be on the look out for more information.



All of our kids did an amazing job helping to lead worship in October.



St. Luke's Children's Choir Kids help unload pumpkins and celebrate 25th Annual Pumpkin Patch Sunday.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING N MDO

The MDO kids have been having a blast in October. They visited Storytime in the Pumpkin Patch, had fall pictures made, got a visit from the Kilgore Fire Department, celebrated pajama day, and got to dress up for wacky sock day.

We are looking forward to all the fun that November will bring, including Thanksgiving Break and our annual Thanksgiving Feast. We have been providing our MDO families with a special Thanksgiving Lunch for many years and we know that it is something that everyone looks forward to. This year we are looking for families to sponsor the feast by providing financial support. All financial donations are welcome and appreciated. If you would like to make a donation to The St. Luke's MDO Thanksgiving Feast please contact the church office.

# ST. LUKE'S MDO



**Amanda  
Patton**  
MDO Director



## MARK YOUR Calendar

### NOVEMBER

**15 Thanksgiving Feast**

**20&22 NO School**  
Thanksgiving Holiday

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

# ST. LUKE'S YOUTH



**Rev. Wade  
Skinner**

Associate Pastor  
of Youth  
& Families



## MARK YOUR Calendar

### NOVEMBER

- 5** **Movie Night**  
5:00pm-7:00pm
- 19** **Heritage Sunday**  
10:30am Combined Worship  
11:30am Lunch
- Nerf Wars**  
4:00pm-6:30pm
- 22** **NO Wednesday Activities**  
Thanksgiving Break

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

# CELEBRATING

# 150 years

Between 1871 and 1873, a new congregation of Methodists and a new town in a new county with a new railroad and a new school came into being. Methodism was alive in the area, and under the leadership of Dr. Isaac Alexander, it became active in the new town of Kilgore, Texas.

By the end of 1872, most of the people from the Danville area moved into Kilgore, which posed a problem for the Rev. Isaac Alexander. He had been hired as principal at the New Danville Masonic Female Academy so the daughters of the Danville residents could receive a "finishing course," which would equal the advantages of the schools "back east."

Most of his pupils and patrons were now living in Kilgore, but his building was in Danville. Alexander reached out to Kilgore Methodists, who, with the help of other residents, raised \$10,000 to build a new building in Kilgore. It was completed by the fall of 1873, renamed the Alexander Institute, and changed to a coeducational high school. It was located just one block from the present Methodist Church. Rev. Alexander continued to preach for the local congregation just as he had at Danville, and his services were held at the institute.

In 1904, the deed to the Alexander Institute was transferred to Kilgore School Community and was used as Kilgore's Public High School until 1913. At the time of the deed transfer, the chapel attached to the end of the Institute building was separated from the main structure and moved to the location now occupied by Citizens Bank. The chapel became the first house of worship owned by Kilgore Methodists and served as their meeting place until 1915. The building was old and damaged from the move, and the women of the church took on planning a new building. Under the leadership of Mrs. J. A. Knowles, a new building was erected that year.

The new building was a one-story white frame structure of Akron architectural style. When it was finished, the congregation was the proud owner of the largest church building in town.

Then came the day the churches burned down: Sunday, Aug. 23, 1931. Those fires were thought to have been set by disgruntled oilfield workers, but never proven. The fire destroyed the Methodist Church, and the congregation met in the City Hall until the rock sanctuary was built. The Building Committee chose a brown flagstone from Arkansas that became stronger as the years passed. By this time, the congregation was large enough to be separated from the circuit, consisting of five congregations. It was then the name "St. Luke's" was chosen for the Kilgore Methodist Church.

St. Luke's has continued to meet the needs of a growing and changing community ever since that time.

The children's educational building, Knowles Chapel, and the current offices were added in 1956. The Family Center, housing classrooms, a large meeting room, and a modern kitchen were completed in 1980. Playgrounds and much of the campus facility was renovated in 2002.

St. Luke's is always positioned for growth in ministry outreach. In 2004, an Activity Center was completed with a gymnasium, additional space for meetings, youth and children ministries, and multiple other uses. This new facility continues our commitment to strong ministries to our congregation and the Kilgore community as we reach out in the name of Christ.

We are well aware that buildings do not make churches – PEOPLE DO!

The many leaders, volunteers, church families, and pastors who have served St. Luke's are credited for continually building and changing to serve the community and families of Kilgore better.

Join us in celebrating 150 years of ministry and service in our community.

St. Luke's Methodist Church is excited  
to be celebrating 150 years of  
ministry & service in Kilgore.

**Join us for the celebration.**

**Sunday, November 19**

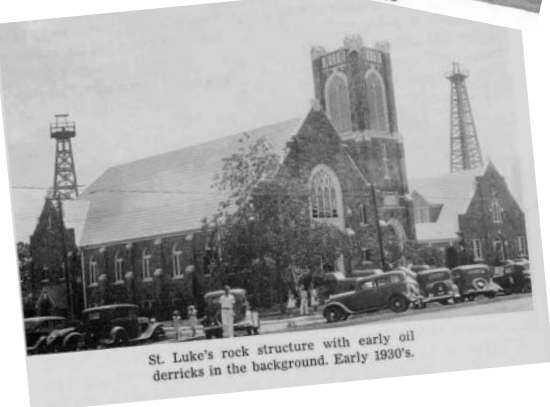
**10:30am** Worship in the Sanctuary

Guest pastor Michael Schutz

Followed by the recreation of the  
1940 image in front of the Sanctuary

**11:30am** Lunch on the grounds

If you would like to have an  
invitation sent to a former  
member please contact  
the church office.





**Rev. Wade Skinner**

Associate Pastor  
of Youth  
& Families

I have been thinking a great deal about the topic of prayer over the past several weeks, thanks to the small group Bible Study that I lead on Tuesdays, which focuses on that topic. I have to admit that this group, for so many reasons, continues to be a highlight of my week here at St. Luke's. I have tried hard to figure out what makes this time each week so momentous. It's not just the amazing group of Jesus-loving church members who comprise this study and faithfully attend that make this time joyful; it is equally enjoyable because of the topic. Since embarking on this study, I have been painfully aware of how much I need prayer. I need more of it and prayers that are deeper and more intimate with my Creator. One of the signs that you are a child of God is that you yearn to talk with your Heavenly Father, and when your prayer life is waning, you desire to speak with him more frequently and more deeply. Tim Keller defines prayer as "a personal, communicative response to the knowledge of God." According to Scripture, our relationship with God is about knowing him and being known by God. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul says that he keeps asking "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better" (Ep. 1:15-9). Friends, this is my prayer for you. If you earnestly desire a better knowledge of God, begin with his Word and the Word (Jesus Christ) and let that understanding of who God is flow into a robust encounter with Him in prayer.



In honor of our 25th annual Pumpkin Patch, here are a few photos from the vault.



Pumpkin Patch Storytime hosted over 500 students from local schools and daycare centers.

Big Thank You to all the volunteers who read stories , organized snacks, and welcome these students into our church.



Congratulations to Pastor Allison & Celia Mooney. These two ladies won the Pumpkin Patch Chili Cook-off.

# WEDNESDAY

## NIGHT MEALS

### November 1

BBQ Chicken, Green Beans, Mac & Cheese, Dessert, & a Drink

### November 8

Mini Pizzas, Veggies With Ranch, Dessert & a Drink

### November 15

Chicken Nuggets, Waffle Fries, Dessert & a Drink

### November 22

NO Wednesday Night Activities  
Thanksgiving Break

### November 29

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

Cash, Check, and Credit Cards  
will be accepted at dinner.

## 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.

### November 3

6:00pm  
Jalapeno Tree, Kilgore

### November 17

6:00pm  
Cotton Patch, Longview

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

# Mission MINISTRY

## SERVE DAY

**Saturday, November 4**

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

Now that the hot weather has passed, we are excited to resume hosting Serve Days. Our next Serve Day opportunity will be on Saturday, November 4. We will have several service projects to complete, including lawn care and a building project at Rahab's Retreat, games at the nursing home, card making and crafts at the church, and replenishing our Blessing Bag supply.

Everyone is invited to come and be a part of serving our community. If you have project ideas or suggestions, please get in touch with the church office.

## ST. LUKE'S SERVES AT NEWGATE

**Saturday, November 25**

**8:00am**

The St. Luke's Mission Team will serve breakfast at Newgate Mission in Longview on Saturday, November 25. Thanksgiving weekend is a challenging time for the mission to find volunteers; we hope you will use the holiday to show how grateful you are for all you have. We need help cooking and serving food. It only takes a couple of hours. If you can volunteer, please get in touch with Debbie or Don Nicholson.

Mark your calendars for the next Newgate opportunity on December 30.

## UMCOR MISSION TRIP

**April 7-12**

It's time to get back to hosting mission trips. We are excited to be planning a trip to the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. We have gone to Sager Brown numerous times and have always enjoyed it. The dates are April 7-April 12. If you would like more information, contact Debbie Nicholson or Kathy Brown. Let's serve the Lord by serving others.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Did you know that St. Luke's has a team of ladies that help deliver Meals on Wheels twice a year? For about a month, twice a year, a group of ladies take time to deliver meals daily to members of our community that are elderly and struggle from food insecurity. This September they delivered about 90 meals in our community.

Remember that a little time and effort can change someone's life. How are you changing the world?

## PRAYER BEAD ROSARY

Sally holder and the Methodist Women have been making Prayer Bead Rosary's to be given out to those in need of prayer. Each rosary comes with a prayer card to help the recipient understand how to use the rosary in their prayer time.

Prayer Bead Rosary's are available to everyone and can be picked from the Welcome desks in the sanctuary building. These are free to all, but donations are welcome. Grab yours this Sunday at worship.



## 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](https://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
Peggy Bennett	Angela Thompson
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Cindy Venable
Cindy Frederick	April Watson
Jessica Hatt	Josh Watson
Pat Haynes	Joe White
Carolyn Holcombe	

## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Renate Albus.....friend of Pat & Art Morchat  
 Cindy Allen.....sister of Sharon McCann  
 Cecilia & Byron Castleberry.....friends of Rhett & Anna Rohde  
 Joy Carr.....friend of Hope Cantu  
 George Clark.....Louise Fielding  
 Jayce Hankins.....grandson of Bob & Hope Cantu  
 Danny Henry.....friend of Sheryl Caraway  
 Holly Morchat.....daughter of Art & Pat Morchat  
 Charles Osborne.....brother of Mikki Ellis  
 J.T. Roberts.....friend of Jack & Susan Moore  
 French Sturrock.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland  
 Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway  
 Bob Sullivan & Family.....friends of Pat & Art Morchat  
 Gene Thrash.....friend of Milton Hattaway  
 Daryl & Julie Warren.....friends of Rhett & Anna Rohde  
 Teri Yandle.....friend of Susan Moore

## WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

**Tammy Akers** on the death of her mother, **Sandra Behr**.

The family of **Louise Cammack**. Louise was a longtime member of St. Luke's. Graveside services were held on October 23.



## NOVEMBER 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).**

### November 1

Carson Lovell

### November 15

Michael Barnard  
 Luke Weathers

### November 2

Alex Mathis  
 Harrison Weathers

### November 16

Cason Castaneda

### November 3

Ashleigh Branch

### November 18

Matt Patton

### November 5

Cathy Geese  
 Tina King  
 Don Nicholson

### November 19

Dan Cross  
 Suzie Gibson

### November 7

Amy Bruyere  
 Dorothy Denham

### November 26

Joy Tate

### November 9

James Hanshaw

### November 27

Ezra Branch  
 Tamara Dean

### November 11

Cathy Mount

### November 29

Carolina Bryant

### November 12

Emma Reinert

### November 30

Cason Middlebrooks  
 Pat Sers

### November 14

Bob Davis  
 Amanda Patton

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Bo & Amy Bruyere	11/10/2018
Randy & Sally Holder	11/12/1988
Robert & Joan Smith	11/15/1985
Tommy & Laura Farnham	11/19/2001
Randy & Tina King	11/26/1977
Gregg & Sheryl Caraway	11/28/1987

# November 2023

			1	2	3 <b>Parents Night Out</b> 6:00pm-9:00pm  <b>Holy Huddlers</b> 6:00pm	4 <b>Serve Day</b> 9:00am-12:00pm
5	6	7 <b>Methodist Women Friendsgiving</b> 6:00pm*	8	9	10	11
12 <b>Children's Choir sings in worship</b> 10:30am	13	14	15	16	17 <b>Holy Huddlers</b> 6:00pm	18
19 <b>Heritage Sunday</b> 10:30am Combined Worship  11:30am Lunch	20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>Serve at Newgate</b> 8:00am
26	27	28 <b>Kilgore Christmas Parade</b> 6:30pm	28	30	<p>* Nursery provided for this event. ** Nursery can be arranged for this event. Call the church office, 903-984-3576</p>	

## 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
9:05am-9:20am	First Day Focus

### Tuesday

8:00am	Prayer Group** (Knowles Chapel)
11:45am	Tuesday Lunch Bunch (Family Center)

### 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)
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*The*  
**VISITOR**

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**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

*Friends  
giving*

St. Luke's Methodist Women and the J.A.M. (Just Among Moms) group will have a Friendsgiving Dinner at our regular November meeting on Tuesday, November 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Center. All women are invited and asked to bring their favorite dish. The church will provide ham and turkey. Childcare will be available.

Members will also put together Christmas boxes for our Samaritan's Purse project. Contact Anna Rohde for more information at 903-522-0490

**Tuesday, November 7  
6:00pm | Family Center**