



# *The* **VISITOR**

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

January 2024

Issue 1

## NEW DAY START

A new year is a great time to re-evaluate your life. What do you wish you could do differently, what healthy habit do you want to start? We believe in fresh starts and new beginnings - and a God who can help make this year the best one ever!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### PAGE 2

Pastors Article

### PAGE 3

St. Luke's Kids

### PAGE 4

St. Luke's MDO

### PAGE 5 & 6

What's Happening

### PAGE 7

St. Luke's Youth

### PAGE 7

For Your Information

### PAGE 9

Joys & Concerns

### PAGE 10

January Calendar

### BACK PAGE

New Years Eve Worship



# STAYCONNECTED

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

# ALWAYS BE PREPARED

My mother loved being the leader of the Camp Fire Girls' troop of which I was a member. She meticulously planned every week for our meetings.

We girls gloried in the fun of riding in the camper of my dad's old ford pick-up to Tyler State Park.

We were proud to choose our Indian names, which signified our particular characteristics.

We loved wearing our vests to school on the day we met.

We eagerly gathered in each other's homes after school to learn something new about being really great at life.

All of this functioned for a higher purpose. The program of Camp Fire Girls was meant to help us socialize, develop important skills, and become more practical and discerning. My mother KNEW, however, how helpful all of this could be. And so ...she PREPARED for our gatherings, like a good teacher does for every class. (And she was a former teacher and graduate of Rice University).

Patty Andrews wasn't perfect, but she was wise, painstakingly conscientious, and PREPARED. It follows quite logically, therefore, that she loved the motto, "Always Be Prepared." She recited it to our group like it was the national motto for the organization. It wasn't until I was well into adulthood that I realized Patty had **"pulled a fast one!"** She "appropriated" the Boy Scout motto, thinking what was good for the boys was just as well for the girls too! She could be savvy about life. Perhaps that is the biggest lesson here, learning to adapt and adjust.

As we enter 2024, I find that the lessons of my youth are still the things that are indispensable for moving forward, not only personally, but corporately as well. Mottos can seem simplistic and impossible to live up to all of the time, but still, they are a reminder, a goal, a plumb line, a course corrector.

As we navigate a new year, we will be challenged with looking for ways to work ahead of the needs of our church and the people around us. We will PREPARE, and yet know that part of that preparation is the ability and willingness to change course (adapt and adjust) when necessary - and cheerfully look for new and innovative ways to be an effective faith community, one in which the truth and love of Christ is abundant for all.

I don't know what your life "motto" is or will be. The seasons of your life might determine your priorities. Some of us will search for ways to be more productive and healthy, while others of us may be looking for peace and assurance. Whatever suits our situations in life and at St. Luke's Methodist Church, we know that PREPARATION IS AN INVITATION for God to be our guide and strength.

*"Seek His will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding." (Psalm 32:8)*

Are you fixed upon the command to be prepared for the coming of the Lord?

Are you ready to cast your tent where He leads you?

Are you willing to let your identity be found in his name?

Will you commit to learning more about your faith and the practice of it in life?





# ST. LUKE'S KIDS



## Parents Night Out

There will be NO parents Night Out in January.

The next Parents Night Out event will be Friday, February 2, 6:00pm-9:00pm.

Beginning in 2024 all PNO participants will need to pre-register using our online form. You are able to pre-pay at that time or pay at the door, but all participants must pre-register 24 hours in advance. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Debbie Nicholson or the church office.

Registration will open 2 weeks prior to the event. A QR code will be printed in the February newsletter



**Debbie Nicholson**  
Children's Ministry Director

We had a busy December at St. Luke's; the city Christmas Parade, Breakfast with Santa, the Children's Choir Musical. It was magical.



## MARK YOUR Calendar

### JANUARY

10 Wednesday Activities Resume

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

Dinner  
5:15pm-6:00pm

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

Please see the calendar on page 10 for a complete list of this month's events and meetings.







**Amanda  
Patton**  
MDO Director

We had a very busy December.

The kids were super cute on their gingerbread themed float in the Liberty City Christmas Parade. They even had a special guest reindeer with them. Big thank you to the parents, teachers, and volunteers that helped us decorate the float.

The fun continued with special themed days at MDO. We had antlers, Christmas, PJs, a visit from Santa, and Whoville right here at St. Luke's.

A special thanks to the MDO board and Richelle for providing a hot chocolate bar and lunch for our teachers before the break.

We can't wait to see all the fun things in 2024!

**MARK YOUR  
Calendar**

**JANUARY**

8 MDO classes Resume  
9:00am-2:00pm

Please see the calendar on page 10  
for a complete list of this month's  
events and meetings.



## 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.

**All gatherings begin at 6:00pm**

**January 5**

Bodacious BBQ, Kilgore

**January 19**

Tia Juanita's, Longview

**February 2**

Dairy Queen, Kilgore

**February 16**

Pizza King, Longview

**March 8**

McKay's Ranch House, Kilgore

**March 22**

Pasadas, Longview

**April 5**

Denny's Kilgore

**April 19**

The Catch, Longview

**May 3**

The Back Porch, Kilgore

**May 17**

IHOP, Longview

**June 7**

Whataburger, Kilgore

**June 21**

Jason's Deli, Longview

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

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

**January 10**

BBQ Meatballs with Rice, Salad,  
Dessert, & a Drink

**January 17**

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

**January 24**

Hot Dog Wraps, Mac & Cheese,  
Salad, Dessert & Drink

**January 31**

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

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

Dinner is served every Wednesday  
during the School year, 5:15pm-6:00pm

\$6 for adults 12 & over | \$3 for kids

## SATURDAY BREAD

Mark your calendars for our 2024 Saturday Bread  
Schedule.

**January 13**

**April 6**

**June 29**

**September 21**

**December 14**

Make plans to join Brenda Culpepper and her team as they prepare and serve meals for Saturday Bread. This ministry of Kilgore First Presbyterian Church feeds elderly members of our community every Saturday. St. Luke's is proud to be able to support this ministry by providing volunteers several times a year.

For more information about how to volunteer contact  
the church office or Brenda Culpepper.

# METHODIST Women

**Tuesday, January 9  
6:00pm  
Family Center**

Calling ALL ladies! The best part of being in a church is the relationships you build. It's important to have people that can support and guide you in the hard times, and celebrate with you in the good times. Methodist Women is the place to meet other women in different walks of life and different places on the journey to help you grow and learn.

We hope you will join us in 2024 as we build new relationships and strengthen old ones.

Our next meeting will be January 9, at 6:00pm in the Family Center. Join us for Food, & Fellowship.

# MISSION TRIP

If you are interested in participating in a mission experience the week of April 8, you need to let the church office or Debbie Nicholson know.

The week will be spent in Baldwin, LA. At UMCOR Sager Brown. The cost will be \$140 for our room and \$140 for food for a total of \$280. You will also need money for supper Sunday night and Wednesday night and sight seeing Wednesday. Half of the cost is due by January 30.

You are never too old to do the work at Sager Brown. There is something for everyone. If you need more information, ask Kathy Brown or Debbie Nicholson. Hope many of you sign up. You will be blessed.

## ARE YOU LIVING LIKE A BUCKET OR A PIPE?

Are you living like a bucket or a pipe? This is a rather odd metaphorical question; yet, consider the purpose of each. A bucket is designed to hold things (liquids, dirt, etc.). A pipe is designed to convey things through it (water, gas, etc.). The bucket holds what it receives, while the pipe passes on what it receives. Let me ask: In regard to the material possessions that God has entrusted to you, are you living like a bucket or a pipe? Are you holding on or passing on?

Living like a bucket occurs when we ignore the inherent limit of only gathering things to ourselves. The phrase, "the one who dies with the most toys wins" is humorous, but sadly, all too descriptive for many of us. We are warned against this in Psalm 49:

*"Do not be overawed when others grow rich [when he has a big bucket and it is full], when the splendor of their houses increases; for they will take nothing with him when they die, their splendor will not descend with them."*

We will ironically and sadly find ourselves with nothing in the end if our ultimate goal is simply to gain everything for ourselves only.

As we orient ourselves toward being good caregivers of our church and its ministry, let us remember that in God's economy, a pipe is infinitely more useful to Him than a bucket! He created us to be conduits and not receptacles of His blessings. What happens if a pipe gets confused and starts thinking it is a bucket? Things get stuck, the pipe gets clogged, and the only solution is for the pipe to be "roto-rooted" so it can go back to doing what it was made to do—let things flow through it, not just to it.

We will soon complete a season in which so many things flowed toward us and our families, and yet ironically, we will feel empty and impoverished because of the money and resources we spent on ourselves. Regardless of this, January and February will be a time in which we will look at how to be open and generous conduits for supporting St. Luke's financially and in all other ways. We will have to figure out how to unclog our pipes!

*"Instruct those who are rich in this present world [high capacity pipes] not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share [let it flow freely], storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed." (1 Timothy 6: 17-19)*

-Pastor Allison



# ST. LUKE'S YOUTH



**Rev. Wade Skinner**  
Associate Pastor  
of Youth  
& Families

## MARK YOUR Calendar

### JANUARY

10 Wednesday Activities Resume

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

Dinner  
5:15pm-6:00pm

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

**Please see the calendar on page 10  
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events and meetings.**

THEY'RE  
**NOT**  
"JUST KIDS"  
THEY'RE  
**FUTURE**  
**LEADERS**

@mikejohnson

# 3 PURPOSES OF YOUTH MINISTRY

The heart of youth ministry is to help students grow in their relationship with Christ. We do activities and events to help students grow closer to Christ. It can be easy to lose sight of our goal by focusing on entertaining and getting students to come to youth group. We must walk a fine line between what we do to attract students and what is our ultimate goal of having them in youth group.

## **PURPOSE # 1** **BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS**

Youth groups exist to establish meaningful relationships between mature adult believers and students for the purpose of helping the student grow in their relationship with the Lord. Students want to learn from people who care about them; they want to be discovered and known. When youth ministries create opportunities for students to step into meaningful relationships with adult believers, they lay a foundation for both evangelism and discipleship.

## **PURPOSE #2** **DISCIPLESHIP**

Most youth workers would agree that youth ministries exist for the purpose of discipleship. Discipleship as multiplication through relationships. Through relationships we make disciples who, in turn, build relationships and make more disciples. Youth ministries that focus on and prioritize discipleship help students walk in obedience to the commands of Christ through a Christ-centered relationship with a mature believer. Rather than settling for shallow faith, they prepare students to make a commitment to faith in Christ, feed themselves spiritually, and consistently live out their faith at church and in the world. In a healthy youth ministry, transformation is valued over attendance numbers. And there are always more adult volunteers who are focused on building Christ-centered relationships with students for the purpose of discipleship, than adult volunteers who are helping with logistics.

## **PURPOSE #3** **STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

Youth Ministries can't just have programs for students. They need programs that allow students to have a ministry to their world. When students see themselves as participants, they will pick and choose what they like at church. But when students see themselves as leaders, they will invest in the ministry of the church and become lifelong owners of the church. As Christians, we have a responsibility to God to develop ourselves as leaders in order to be of the most use in the Kingdom. We also have a responsibility to hand off the reigns of leadership to those on the path behind us. In light of this, student leadership development is not only a good idea, it is essential for building God's Kingdom.

**How are you supporting the youth of St. Luke's? We are always in need of more volunteers to help us build relationships and grow faith leaders. Contact the church office or Wade Skinner for more information about how you can help.**



## 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

### Board Chair

Amanda Gillen-Hall

### Staff Parish Relations

Carol Grimes

### Endowments

Celia Mooney

### Lay Leader

Anna Rohde

### Trustees

Bill Bryant

### Class of 2024

Bill Bryant  
Milton Hattaway  
Paula Hooks  
Jim McCann  
Susan Moore  
Cody Sprayberry

### Class of 2025

Kathy Brown  
Alan Clark  
Carol Grimes  
Dean Miller

### Class of 2026

Danny Harrison  
Janet Craver  
Joe Wallace  
Annette Morgan

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

Tammy Ackers & Family	Sam Holley
Michael Barnard	Angela Thompson
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Cindy Venable
Tommy Freeman	April Watson
Cindy Frederick	Josh Watson
Jo Hancock	Jim Williams
Jessica Hatt	Joe White
Pat Haynes	
Carolyn Holcombe	

## PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Renate Albus.....friend of Pat & Art Morchat  
 Cindy Allen.....sister of Sharon McCann  
 Debra Bridges  
 Brianna Burgess.....granddaughter of Bob & Hope Cantu  
 Cecilia & Byron Castleberry.....friends of Rhett & Anna Rohde  
 Mac Cervantes.....friend of Louise Fielding  
 Karen Chelf.....friend of Polly Green  
 George Clark.....friend of Louise Fielding  
 Bill Decker.....friend of Shery Caraway  
 Josha Fielding.....daughter of Louise Fielding  
 Alpha Hanks.....friend of Laura Farnham  
 Jacob Hankins.....grandson of Bob & Hope Cantu  
 Danny Henry.....friend of Sheryl Caraway  
 Bruce Huther.....brother-in-law of Sharon & Jim McCann  
 Judy Issacs.....Friend of David & Karen Wilson  
 Cecilia Mitchel.....friend to many  
 Charles Osborne.....brother of Mikki Ellis  
 Mrs. Robinson.....friend of Louise Fielding  
 Gina Romero.....niece of Bob & Hope Cantu  
 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

## JANUARY 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).**

<b>January 2</b> Ed Aguilar Danny Harrison	<b>January 15</b> Patrick Akers
<b>January 3</b> Shelia Cross	<b>January 16</b> Tracey Varvel
<b>January 6</b> Gretchen McDaniel	<b>January 18</b> Rachel Holder
<b>January 7</b> Jennifer Powell	<b>January 19</b> Amanda Gillen-Hall Debra Maloch
<b>January 8</b> Bob Lindley	<b>January 20</b> Peggy Ferebee
<b>January 9</b> Kay McKinley	<b>January 24</b> Missy Lovell
<b>January 11</b> Michael McClammy	<b>January 25</b> Clay Mooney
<b>January 12</b> E.J. Chowdhury	<b>January 26</b> Ginny Anderson Paul Johnston
<b>January 13</b> Maurine Witt	<b>January 29</b> Celia Mooney
<b>January 14</b> Lorelai Aguilar	<b>January 30</b> Mikki Ellis

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Dan & Janel Brown	1/5/1963
Robert & Sherry Ellis	1/7/1980
Michael & Donna Barnard	1/7/2005
Paul & Laura Johnston	1/11/2014
E.J. & Nkik Chowdhury	1/17/1998
Dean & Kathe Miller	1/30/1965
David & Annette Morgan	1/31/1981





# January 2024

	<b>1</b> New Years Day Office Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> MDO resumes	<b>9</b> Methodist Women 6:00pm**	<b>10</b> Wednesday Activities Resume	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 3 on the 3's 9:30am  1st Sunday of Stewardship	<b>22</b> Board of Stewards Meeting 6:00pm**	<b>23</b> Worship Team Meeting 6:00pm**	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 2nd Sunday of Stewardship	<b>29</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
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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Web Site: [www.stlukeskilgore.org](http://www.stlukeskilgore.org)

*The*  
**VISITOR**

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# NEW YEARS EVE WORSHIP

Sunday, December 31

9:30am Breakfast

10:30am Combined Worship

**\*\*NO 8:30am worship or Sunday School\*\***

