



The **VISITOR**

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

April 2024

Issue 4



EASTER

— HE IS RISEN —

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<https://www.instagram.com/stlukeskilgore/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesyouthkilgore>

St. Luke's Kids

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukeskilgorekids>

St. Luke's MDO

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesmdo>

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<https://www.youtube.com/@st.lukesworship381>

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

UP FROM THE GRAVE!

"Greetings and Happy Easter!" As your pastor it is often important to try to buoy our congregation with words of joy and hope. This is especially true in our post-Easter season. I would remind you of one of my favorite triumphant Easter Hymns today, "Up from the Grave He Arose!" I love this refrain:

Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose)
He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose

Our sights have been set on the incontrovertible truth that victory is ours. And now it is our goal to maintain that faith and hope. Sometimes, however, I must admit that my mood doesn't always fit the season, and I bet you would confess the same can be true for you on occasion. Today as I write, I have, in fact, felt a cloud over my spirit and had the notion to cry. I realize it's been almost a year since my mother succumbed to an unexpected illness. And today, I spoke with a church friend who was teary and pale. She too was struggling to overcome the grief of losing her best friend in life. Some days are okay, and others are just awful.

As we carry grief, consciously or subconsciously, we become more vulnerable to the unexpected daily sadnesses which come our way. Today, an acquaintance posted a terrible incident on FB which was the "emotional last straw for me." She produced pictures of a deceased and bloody female pit bull, presumably raised for dog fighting because the poor animal's face was completely macerated. I'm constantly horrified and angered by the sin and callousness which leads humans to neglect and torture innocent animals, aren't you? People can be inexplicably cruel, and life is hard.

In spite of grief, sin and brokenness, EASTER COMES ANYWAY AND EVERY DAY. Jesus rose from the dead, IN SPITE OF AND BECAUSE OF all of this sadness. The "grand audacity" of our Messiah refuses to let a sad and often perverse world have the last word. This glorious fact helps us to see that Easter is really rather a "divine scandal" reminding evil that it has no lasting hold on the things of God. Aren't we joyous to have a God who doesn't bend to the rules of our brokenness? Whether you are on a personal high or low, whether you have recently experienced something awful or wonderful, the point is this: both your highs and lows, and everything in between, are covered by Christ's willingness to be one with us, even to an unimaginable death. Max Lucado, famous Christian author and speaker wrote:

"Why is the cross the symbol of our faith? To find the answer look no farther than the cross itself. Its design couldn't be simpler. One beam horizontal—the other vertical. One reaches out—like God's love to a failing world. The other reaches up—as does God's holiness. One represents the width of his love in the midst of our humanness; the other reflects the height of his holiness. The cross is the intersection. The cross is where God forgave his children without lowering his standards".

One more word about the pit bull. After the poor dog was hastily buried by those who initially discovered her, they returned the next day to finish the job. But what they found was shocking. She was sitting up, on top of the soft dirt of her new grave, wagging her tail! And the rest of the story is a very happy one that you can read about on the FB pages of Nicholas' Pet Haven. And if you do that, make sure you read again about how Jesus did the same.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11: 25



Growing
His Kingdom
one tiny heart
at a time

ST. LUKE'S KIDS



Fun, Food, and
Fellowship + date night
for mom and dad.



Parents Night Out

Friday, April 5
6:00pm-9:00pm
St. Luke's Gym
\$15 each child

Registration is required

MYMU: WAFFLE WELCOME

Sunday, April 14
4:00pm-6:00pm | Gym
Kids 3rd-5th Grade

We are excited to be bringing back MYMU's. Methodist Youth moving Up is a program that provides fellowship opportunities for our 3rd-5th Graders as they prepare to move up to the youth program.

Our first event will be Waffle Welcome. Join us for a waffle bar and icebreaker games as we get to know each other and our new Children's Ministry Director, Lindsey Exline.

NERF & NACHOS

Sunday, April 21
3:00pm-5:00pm | Gym
Moms VS Sons

It's time for a show down, moms vs sons. All moms and their boys are invited to join us for a nerf war. Bring your nerf gun (labeled with your name so it doesn't get lost) and an empty stomach to Nerf & Nachos on April 21. We will meet in the gym from 3:00pm-5:00pm. This is a FREE event, invite a friend and join us for the fun!

Please do not bring nerf darts, we will provide them for you.

MARK YOUR Calendar

Upcoming Children's
Ministry Events

APRIL

- 5 **Parents Night Out**
6:00pm-9:00pm
- 14 **MYMU Waffle Welcome**
4:00pm-6:00pm
- 21 **Nerf & Nachos**
3:00pm-5:00pm

MAY

- 5 **Children's Choir Spring Musical**
6:00pm

JUNE

- 10-12 **Summer Slam**
More info to come

JULY

- 1-5 **Church Camp @ Lakeview**
- 22-25 **Vacation Bible School**
More info to come

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



Lindsey Exline

Children's Ministry Director
children@stlukeskilgore.org

MEET OUR NEW

Children's Ministry Director

Welcome to St. Luke's Kids! I'm Lindsey Exline, and I'm honored and blessed to be leading and teaching God to the children of St. Luke's. This will be my first year as director, but by no means am I a newbie to Children's Ministry. I have been volunteering with the children of our church for almost 18 years now, give or take a few! I prayed over and opened my heart to where God was leading me for my next adventure and I cannot wait to see the surprises he has in store for me in this new position. I'm also a lead RN in surgical service, I've been married for almost three years to my supportive Husband Jerry. We have our beautiful daughter, Mailee Jo as well as two dogs, Moose & Millie, and three cats, Brix, Rooster, & Callie, that bring the perfect mix of chaos to our home. In my spare time, I love to spend time with my family and those I consider extended family, drinking coffee on my Yea Yea's swing, dancing with my daughter in the kitchen, and working out in my free time.



**Here are some ways
you can get connected
in Children's Ministry**

Lead Sunday School
Help Lead Children's Church
Sub in at Wednesday Night Group

Contact Lindsey Exline to volunteer

CHURCH CAMP

July 1-5

\$575 per camper

Scholarships available

It's time to start planning your summer, and Church Camp is the best part.

Kids who have completed 1st-12th grade are invited to attend Church Camp at Lakeview Methodist conference Center in Palestine, TX. We will leave as a group on July 1 and return on July 5.

Use the QR code to register NOW!

Contact Pastor Wade for more information about Camp and scholarship opportunities.





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MARK YOUR Calendar

Upcoming Youth
Ministry Events

APRIL

14 Youth Event TBA

JUNE

1-7 **Mission Week At Marvin**
More info to come

JULY

1-5 **Church Camp @ Lakeview**

22-25 **Vacation Bible School**
More info to come

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



Rev. Wade Skinner

Associate Pastor of Youth & Families
associatepastor@stlukeskilgore.org

Big Thank you to Janet Craver for helping the youth create banners for our Easter worship services.

6 REASONS TO send your kid to CAMP

1

TIME TO GET AWAY

At camp kids get out of their normal routines and can get away from distractions and the chaos of life. They get to take advantage of the retreat aspect of camp. Sometimes when kids are away, they just tend to hear things in a new way. Camp allows them to just have fun with new friends and to focus on God.

DEVELOP HEALTHY CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS

Campers are surrounded by some of the most caring, loving Christian people for an entire week. Their smiles and loving attitudes are sure to rub off on the children by the end of the week. The kids will have many opportunities to spend quality time with their passionate leaders and other kids. They can visit over meals, walk and talk around the beautiful camp, and have meaningful late-night conversations.

3

LEAVE THEIR COMFORT ZONES

Sleeping in a bunk room and many other aspects of camp, push kids out of their comfort zones and teach them new things about themselves and life. This brings healthy growth for kids and can lead to great ministry opportunities.

4

5

NATURE

Spending time in God's creation is another inspiring part of camp. There is nothing like being in the woods away from the sounds of the city, listening to the birds and the bugs in the trees, and breathing the fresh air. Nature helps us all better appreciate our Creator!

6

LEARN SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

In the week of camp, kids will learn a lot from their leaders. They are learning and forming associations with spiritual truths even when they aren't in a "teaching time." They'll learn by what leaders say, the attitudes they display, and by the way they model their own spiritual lives in front of them.

BIBLE TIME

2

Most importantly kids get to saturate their minds and hearts with God's word. Most young people come back from camp on a "spiritual high", because they have tasted the greatness of God and His word. Spending hours every day studying His word, hearing Bible lessons, and singing praises to God will do that to you! Since their homes are a very different and a far less spiritual environment, we pray that their relationship with God will continue to grow and thrive throughout their lives. This time away from mom and dad also allows the children to form their own identity with Christ and to develop their own faith.

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

April 5

Denny's, Kilgore

April 19

The Catch, Longview

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

Thank You
SO MUCH

People of God at St. Luke's Methodist Church,

Thank you all for your kindness and love to April; not just during her illness but always! She loved ya'll so much. She prayed for you diligently and so enjoyed serving alongside you to the people of God and His Church as well as to the lost looking for their Savior.

Your prayers and presence made such a difference and was/is deeply appreciated by her family. You truly exemplify what it means to come alongside and walk with those who are weak and hurting.

It's still not quite real to live in a world where there is no April, we are praying for you as your hearts heal and continue on in service unto our Lord. He still has plans for us to serve Him or we would be joining Him too. May God give you strength and courage as you seek to do His will on earth as it is in heaven.

Keep running the race and know that you are making a difference in the hearts and lives He touches through you!

**Much love,
the Family of April Watson**

WEDNESDAY

NIGHT MEALS

April 3

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

April 10

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

April 17

Baked Potatoes, salad, Dessert & Drink

April 24

Chicken Pitas, Salad, 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

METHODIST

Women

Tuesday, April 2
6:00pm | Parlor

Ladies, if you are still looking for a place to connect with other women and begin building relationships that will strengthen your faith, we want to see you at the next Methodist Women's meeting.

St. Luke's Methodist Women will meet in the parlor of the Family Center at 6:00 pm on April 2, 2024. A light meal will be provided by Mikki Ellis and Paula Hooks. On going projects and the beautification of Mrs. Kerr's garden spot in front of the Family Center will be discussed.

All women of the church are invited to attend.

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

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
or use the QR Code



BY TEXT

Text "give" to
903-833-3576

FINANCE REPORT

This report reflects giving for February 2024

Approved 2024 Budget \$695,573.30

Weekly Giving

February 4, 2024 \$24,653.00

February 11, 2024 \$3,534.00

February 18, 2024 \$8,774.86

February 25, 2024 \$4,869.12

Other giving \$821.24

Total giving for February 2024 \$42,652.22

Needed Income Year-to-Date \$160,516.92

Actual Income Year-to-Date* \$142,196.97

*Excludes Endowments and other out of pocket giving

Difference \$-18,379.95

*this report does not reflect income received from endowments, reimbursements from Mother's Day Out, designated giving, or other out of pocket giving. It is strictly the tithes and donations given each week.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Please say a prayer for our church family on their special day.

April 2

Roberta Boggs

April 16

Laura Johnston

April 3

Evie Hatt

April 17

Sara-Catherine Patton

April 4

Sarah Fabritz

April 18

Josie Johnston

April 5

Cindy Lindley

April 19

Jessica Hatt

April 7

Ally Venable

April 20

Bobby Wheeley

April 10

Richard Greene
Carolyn Holcombe
Jim McCann

April 21

Pat Haynes

April 23

Carol Hinton

April 11

Cynthia Mathis

April 27

Brantley Slayton

April 15

Freddie Lollie
Autumn McDaniel
Madison McDaniel

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

Roberta Boggs	Pat Haynes
Jack & Sharry Christopher	Carolyn Holcombe
Tommy Freeman	Sam Holley
Cindy Frederick	George Jones
Jo Hancock	

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Cindy Allen.....sister of Sharon McCann
Dhe Belden.....neighbor of Sheryl Caraway
Kay Clavenna.....friend of Rhett & Anna Rohde
Mac Cervantes.....friend of Louise Fielding
Karen Chelf.....friend of Polly Green
George Clark.....friend of Louise Fielding
Collins Coulter....friend of Art & Pat Morchat
Bill Decker.....friend of Shery Caraway
Danny Henry.....friend of Sheryl Caraway
Mason Holman.....
.....grandson of Tommy & Laura Farnham
Heather Howard.....
.....friend of Tommy & Laura Farnham
Nick Hanewald.....
.....neighbor of Jim & Sharon McCann
Peggy Hutchings.....sister of Joe White
Bruce Huther.....
.....brother-in-law of Sharon & Jim McCann
Judy Issacs.....friend of David & Karen Wilson
Pat Lewis.....aunt of Brett Daigle
Cayman Lightfoot.....
.....friend of Jim & Sharon McCann
Jason Moore.....friend of Dan & Sheila Cross
Mrs. Robinson.....friend of Louise Fielding
French Sturrock.....
.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway
John David Walker.....friend of Carol Grimes
G.W. Wright.....friend of David & Karen Wilson

WE EXTEND SYMPATHY TO...

Misti Ingersoll & Sadie Tuck on the death of their son & brother, Rayce Tuck on February 20.

The family of Perry Johnston, who passed away on February 21.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Milton & Jan Hattaway	4/6/1965
Bobby & Debra Wheeley	4/16/1977
Billy & Billie Sue Mims	4/3/1982
Dennis & Mikki Ellis	4/8/1989
Steffen & Colette Jones	4/5/1997
David & Emily Mason	4/28/2001

April 2024

1	2 Endowment Board Meeting 6:00pm** Methodist Women 6:00pm**	3	4	5 Parents Night Out 6:00pm-9:00pm Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	6 Saturday Bread 8:00am-1:00pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14 3 on the 3's 9:30am MYMU: Waffle Welcome 4:00pm-6:00pm	15 Board of Stewards 6:00pm**	16	17	18	19 Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	20
21 Kids: Nerf & Nachos 3:00pm-5:00pm	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	<div style="border: 2px solid yellow; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <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)

The
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE



GOAL

HELP US SEND KIDS TO CAMP



Our goal is to provide half of the camp fee for each camper headed to Lakeview in July. We estimate that we need at least \$7,000 to reach this goal. Use the QR code to make a donation or contact the church office for more information