



The **VISITOR**

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

July 2024

Issue 7



A Bigger STORY

Our current sermon series,
from the book of Ephesians

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STAYCONNECTED

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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/@st.lukesworship381>

Sign-up to receive our emails

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/newsletters/>

Watch Worship Live

<https://stlukeskilgore.org/watch-live/>

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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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.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know ...

St. Luke's collects food for Helping Hands?

Our church has had a long history of supporting helping hands in it's efforts to feed our community. Over the years, St. Luke's members have held leadership roles and board positions at Helping Hands including several directors of the program.

If you haven't seen it, we have a Helping Hands collection spot in the Family Center. Dan Brown built us an amazing wooden cart several years ago. This cart stands proudly in the Family Center hallway to collect any non-perishable food items that you would like to donate to the cause.

Beginning in July we will provide a monthly list of suggested items that can be donated to Helping Hands. All donations can be dropped off in the Helping Hands cart.

July Suggested food items

Peanut Butter
Instant Oatmeal Packets
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Cereal Bars
Shelf Stable Milk

Helping Hands is also in need of cardboard egg cartons.

Here's a little challenge for you:
Let's fill up the Helping Hands Cart in July.



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

APPLY DIRECT PRESSURE AS NEEDED

To the outsider, my dad might have seemed rough and unsmiling. One of the many attributes remembered at his memorial service was his dry humor. No one was immune. I remember the many times during my years of elementary and high school that my dad would put on a severe face when a friend was visiting and say to us something like "No laughing, no smiling, no having fun." It was hard to explain his brand of kidding to my friends. Many of them would feel rather terrified because his serious poker face never wavered.



Along the same lines, Duane Andrews loved to cause alarm by pulling an unexpected stunt. His main "move" was to sit on top of people and act like he didn't notice. If one protested, he would apply more pressure by burrowing more solidly into their lap. Above we see him in this trademark position on the lap of his 10-year-old grandson, William (who is now 24!)

The fascinating thing about my father's years of pretend severity and faux abuse is that we LOVED it! It was comforting! I would give almost anything to have him back for another sneak attack. It felt good to feel his direct pressure on you, knowing it was benign, and the temporary discomfort was sort of a "test" that you knew was not going to kill you.

This leads me to realize that we are a world intolerant of pressure. Somehow, we've become so fragile as a culture, our lack of patience will not allow direct pressure. We don't want, for instance, to be confronted on our versions of the truth, on our decisions about life, or regarding personal improvements we can make. We view pressure as oppositional, not challenging or productive.

St. Luke's has a mission inherent in its very existence. That mission is to demonstrate that direct pressure is an opportunity to reposition and improve that which may be fragile in us as a church and as individual believers. Recently, you received a letter from me stating a need for intentional tithing to the general budget. I have made my extra contribution, one that represented direct pressure to my budget. I hope you will join me in this act of support.

Beyond the direct pressure of maintaining our place of worship and ministry offerings, I hope we will all reposition and respond to the direct pressure of engaging in spiritual growth. When I speak to people about their greatest desire (when it comes to their faith), the overwhelming response is a concern for spiritual growth. In the Methodist world, we call this a movement toward holiness, or the process of sanctification. I think it is well and good to desire this. But will we respond to the opportunities ever before us, or dodge the direct pressure of the Holy Spirit moving us to walk more closely with God?

Sometimes we look to dodge commitment and pressure, opting for a short cut to our Christian maturity. We think that if we just understood the right truths or had a certain spiritual experience, we would then be a Christian, case closed. Indeed, we read in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone

is in Christ, he is a new creation.¹⁴ The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” We do well however to remember this as the beginning of spiritual maturity, not the end. The question many of us have is, “Where do we go from here”?

The Bible addresses spiritual growth using terms like sanctification and holiness. These terms are used to describe the life-long progression of each Christian toward spiritual maturity: ¹⁵ *but as he who called you is holy, you are also to be holy in all your conduct,* ¹⁶ *since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (I Peter 1:15-16)* There is no one-time experience that will make us a mature Christian. Those seeking such will experience at best oscillating spiritual maturity, and at worst discouragement, frustration, and loss of faith. We cannot become spiritually mature if we only drink spiritual milk... We must move on to the meat.

How do we progress toward spiritual maturity? God has given us several tools to grow up. I think everyone would agree that He has given us His word to build us up and that He has given us His Spirit to transform us. But where are we practicing obedience to His word? And where are we exercising the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit? It certainly doesn't happen at home in our favorite chair nestled under an afghan. God has given us other people, the Christian community, for the purpose of sharpening our understanding of God's word. God has given us the church as a place to employ the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit...

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” –Ephesians 4:11-16 (ESV)

The real question this article poses is in how you address your need for spiritual growth... Do you look for short cuts? Or will you allow yourself to feel the sacred pressure to move forward by practicing God's word and exercising God's Spirit with and through God's community, the church? I'm directly pressuring you to come to a Wednesday Night Worship at 5:30 in Knowles Chapel, or to Bible study following that 30 minute service, or to become part of a small group. I'm pressing you to take seriously the importance of coming to Sunday worship and keeping the Sabbath Holy. I want you to feel a little pushed by God's spirit to avail you, friends, and family to get connected with God and his church.

Yes, it is my job to try to get you to come to church and be involved in the activities. But that is not the point at all! It is God's direct and intentional will that you take your faith, and your family's faith, seriously enough to lead, encourage by example, and enable regular and first-hand experience in a spiritual and religious life, so that one day we may all be found holy, unblemished, and perfect in His sight.

Allison Andrews



When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

-Mark 10:14

MYMU: OPEN GYM

Sunday, July 14 | 1:00pm-3:00pm

3rd, 4th, & 5th Graders are invited to bring a friend and enjoy free time in the gym. Play some basketball or nine square, come up with a completely new game; you never know what will happen at open gym.



PARK PALOOZA

Friday, July 26 | 9:00am-11:30am

Join us for some fun in the sun to celebrate the end of VBS. We will have snow cones from Charlie's Snowballs and spend time at the splash pad.

*Parents are required to stay with their child.

POPSICLES IN THE PARK

Sunday, July 28 | 2:00pm-4:00pm

We will be giving out popsicles at the Kilgore City Park Splash pad from 2pm-4pm. Swing by and spend some time hanging out with other St. Luke's families while the kids enjoy the water.



MARK YOUR *Calendar* Upcoming Children's Ministry Events

JULY

- 1-5 Church Camp @ Lakeview**
- 14 MYMU: Open Gym**
1:00pm-3:00pm
- 17 Parents Day Out**
10:00am-1:00pm
See page 11 for more info
- 22-25 Vacation Bible School**
9:00am-11:30am
- 26 Park Palooza**
9:00am-11:30am
- 28 Popsicles in the Park**
2:00pm-4:00pm

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



NO PARENTS NIGHT OUT IN JULY

We will see you in August



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Thanks to your generous support we have raised \$9,300 for the church camp fund. Your donations have far exceeded our goal of paying half of each child's camp fee. With the final totals of giving and the number of campers, we were able to pay the full camp fee for all 14 Campers and 3 Adults to attend Church Camp at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center, in July.

GOAL



- \$7,000
- \$6,000
- \$5,000
- \$4,000
- \$3,000
- \$2,000
- \$1,000
- \$500

July 22-25 Vacation Bible School

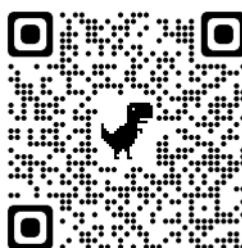
9:00am-11:30am

Students 4yrs-5th Grade

FREE

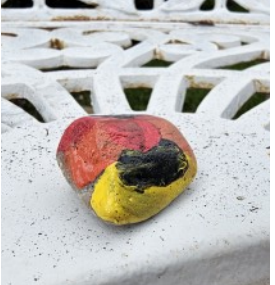
Surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills, Camp Firelight is the perfect location for every Camper's favorite summer activities! Our Campers will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name.

We will need lots of adult and youth volunteers to help make this a success.

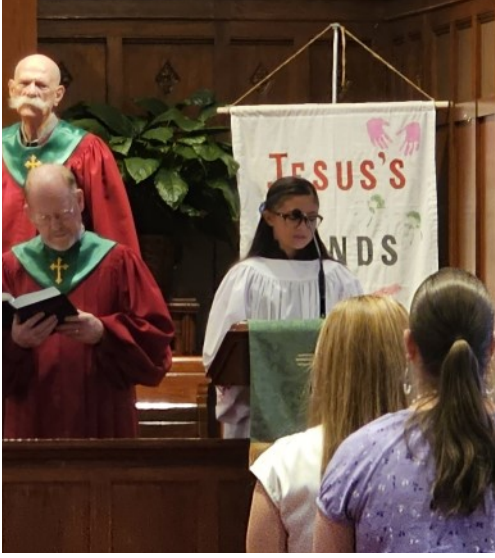


**Use the QR code to register
your child or volunteer NOW!**

We had 10 kids and 6 adults participate in the Summer Slam 2024. This short mission experience helps our 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders put their faith in action. This year's group completed many tasks, including: painting the benches in the children's courtyard, painting and hiding prayer rocks, washing the church bus, putting together goodie bags for father's day, delivering goodies to the police and fire department, and baking 300 cookies and taking them to the nursing homes. The group was rewarded for all their hard work with a day at the water park in Canton.



Our youth and kids did a great job leading worship on National Kids day. They ended the day with watermelon and water games on the Activity Lot.





Our next generation
leaders should walk in
our footsteps,
not in our shadow.



Pastor Wade and our youth participated in Mission Week at Marvin Methodist church in Tyler. The bad weather we had that week interfered with some of their plans, but it didn't keep our youth from working hard to be a blessing in our community. The youth helped separate and organize items for distribution.

MARK YOUR Calendar

Upcoming Youth
Ministry Events

JULY

1-5 Church Camp @ Lakeview

22-25 Vacation Bible School

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



Thank You

SO MUCH

Big thank you to everyone that came out to the Putt-Putt fundraiser. We had 4 teams of 4 participate in the tournament. Congratulations to Lindsey Exline and her team for being the big winners!

We raised \$560 Thanks to your support.

See the church camp report on page 6 to see how this year's church camp fund ended up.



Rev. Wade Skinner

Associate Pastor of Youth
& Families

associatepastor@stlukeskilgore.org

THE CHRIST-CENTERED HOME

What does a Christ-centered home look like? I have often asked this question, and at different times in my life, I have arrived at different answers. When I was a young parent, I thought it meant that as a Father I had to lead my family in worship each day. This dream, however, did not match with reality. My family was bored and unaffected, and I was discouraged and disappointed.

Too often, we as parents place burdens on ourselves that the Lord never placed on us, and we end up feeling guilty and ashamed when we do not meet those standards. It is true that fathers specifically are charged by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians with bringing up our children “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (6:4). Paul is careful to leave the command broad. What does bringing one’s children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord look like? He does not say that parents must conduct family worship with their children each night at 7:00 pm and that two Psalms must be sung and a passage from the Old Testament and New Testament must be read. There is nothing wrong with an organized family worship time each day. But, when we create prescriptions such as that and treat them as laws, we diminish the power of the Gospel in our home by relegating the Spirit to one moment in the day, instead of seeing him present in every moment of life.

Lately, I have been thinking deeply about what this passage means for my family, and I have concluded that the manner in which I raise up my daughter “in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” will probably look different for me than it does for other parents. And that is perfectly okay! I like to couple Paul’s command with the charge in Deuteronomy: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deut. 6:5-9).

From this passage, I conclude that a Christ-centered home begins with a Christ-centered parent whose heart has been changed by the Gospel and who is so consumed with a passionate and zealous love for the Lord that he/she sees Christ in every moment! Whether it be sitting, walking, lying down, getting up, working with one’s hands, this parent cannot shut up about the goodness of Jesus! Parents, if you want to see your child’s heart transformed by the Gospel, you must first show him/her a heart and a life transformed by God’s word. The parent described in Deuteronomy views all of life (“frontlets between your eyes”) through the lenses of God’s word and lives a consistent life of faithfulness at home (“the doorposts of your house”), just as he does in public (“and on your gates”). This kind of “teaching” is not restricted to the classroom. It is all of life. As the parent, you are God’s chief representative to your children. In you, they see and hear the Lord. What a grand opportunity we have as parents. God help us not to waste it!

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

July 5

Wendy's, Kilgore

July 19

Hupei's, Longview

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

PARENTS DAY OUT

Wednesday, July 17

10:00am-1:00pm

Kids 2years-11years

\$30 per child

Calling all kids! Join us for a day of crafts, movies, and games.

Use the QR code to register



TRIVIA NIGHT

Tuesday, July 9

6:00pm

Family Center

You have been challenged to join a team for Trivia Night. Bring some food to share and let's see who's the biggest know it-all.

ENDOWMENT *Report*

The endowment committee has been hard at work this year overseeing the investing and use of St. Luke's endowment funds. I would like to give you some perspective of how these funds are being used. Not only do we have funds to provide for college scholarships, ministry development, and repair and maintenance for our organ, just to name a few, but we also have two very important funds that have contributed to our overall operating costs over the last several years.

To give you a glimpse into the impact of the Ballard and Maintenance accounts, I first want to say that we have limits on the percentage of the income produced from these investments. These limits are never exceeded. However, we have come close to using the upper parameters of these restrictions of use due to the church's financial needs in 2024. Looking at the usage of these funds since 2009, I see that we are on track for withdrawing from these funds more wisely than before with a peak in 2022 and a drop after that in 2023 of \$50,000. The Board of Stewards, Finance Support Team, and Endowment committee have been meeting diligently this year to keep a close eye on our finances and the usage of St. Luke's endowment funds.

Because of the blessings of our endowments, we would not be able to cover the expenses of our church. As the general cost of maintaining the facility rises, as it has in all our households, it is more important than ever to give as robustly as we can to the general operating fund of the church. As a congregation, we need to reclaim responsibility in giving so we don't exceed our recommended withdrawal limits on endowments. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me. I would be glad to help you.

Celia Mooney
St. Luke's Endowment Chairperson

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 was generated using the March 2024 Profit & Loss Statement. Copies of the Profit & Loss Statement can be obtained from the Business Office upon request.

MAY GIVING

May 5	\$10,535.00
May 12	\$4,829.25
May 19	\$4,163.00
May 26	\$5,334.24

Total Giving for May **\$24,861.49**

This does not include electronic giving, designated giving, or endowments.

JULY 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).

July 2

Kraig DeKoker

July 3

Sherry Ellis

July 4

Joe Wallace

July 5

Mickea Smith

July 7

Glenda Cochran
Tommy Freeman
Vernie Kunkel

July 8

Robert Johnson
Gunner Patton

July 10

Tommy Farnham
Colby Thompson

July 11

Noah McClammy

July 12

Mike Kerr

July 13

Sara Lugeanbeal

July 14

Brenda Ellis
Gene Harville

July 16

Janel Brown

July 20

Pat Morchat
David Morgan

July 21

Bill Clarke

July 22

Joe Johnson
Dalton Mason

July 23

Sharry Christopher

July 24

Karen S. Wilson

July 29

Sheryl Caraway

July 30

Rick Huey
Colette Jones

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

Jo Hancock

Sam Holley

Ludie Courtney

Tommy Freeman

Pat Haynes

Noah McClammy

Jerry Exline

Cindy Frederick

Carolyn Holcombe

Roberta Boggs

Jack & Sharry Christopher

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Baby Linden.....cousin of Caylee Clark
Sandra Akers.....mother of Patrick Akers
Robert Adams.....friend to many
Cindy Allen.....sister of Sharon McCann
Dhe Belden.....neighbor of Sheryl Caraway
David Bridges.....friend of Michael & Lisa McClammy
Bobbie Bryant.....friend of Dan & Shelia Cross
Kay Clavenna.....friend of Rhett & Anna Rohde
Collins Coulter.....friend of Art & Pat Morchat
Margret Dozier.....Friend of David & Karen Wilson
Roy Duckworth.....friend of Barbara Francisco
Elaine Hall.....mother of Karen S. Wilson
Nick Hanewald.....neighbor of Jim & Sharon McCann
Richard Hansen.....brother-in-law of Jack & Ronda Dickey
Zach Hartfiel.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Judy Issacs.....friend of David & Karen Wilson
Klint McCown.....friend of Lindsey Exline
Jason Moore.....friend of Dan & Sheila Cross
French Sturrock.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway
Geri Gholson (Wink).....friend of many
Peggy Hutchins.....sister of Jow White
G.W. Wright.....friend of David & Karen Wilson

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

Rev. Dr. Allison Andrews on the passing of her father,
Dr. Duane Andrews.

Audrey Whitten on the passing of her husband, Joe Whitten.

WE SHARE JOY WITH...

Cayman Lightfoot, who is doing well and can be removed from the prayer list.

Baby Linden gained 1lb. Keep the prayers coming.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Leon & Ludie Courtney	7/4/1964
Larry & Richelle Rathbun	7/16/1983
Bob & Cindy Lindley	7/17/1981

July 2024

	1 Church Camp	2 Church Camp Endowment Meeting 6:00pm	3 Church Camp	4 Church Camp Independence Day Office Closed	5 Church Camp NO PNO Holy Huddler 6:00pm	6
7	8	9 Trivia Night 6:00pm	10	11	12	13
14 MYMU 1:00pm-3:00pm	15	16	17 Parents Day Out 10:00am-1:00pm	18	19 Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	20
21 VBS Set-up	22 Vacation Bible School 9am-11:30am	23 Vacation Bible School 9am-11:30am	24 Vacation Bible School 9am-11:30am	25 Vacation Bible School 9am-11:30am	26 Park Palooza 9am-11:30am	27
28 Popsicles in the Park 2:00pm-4:00pm	29	30	31	<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)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

5:30pm | Wednesday Worship (Knowles Chapel)
6:00pm | Wednesday Bible Study*
(Conference Room)

Thursday

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

The
VISITOR

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE



ANNUAL
*Red, White
& Blue*
CELEBRATION

Join us for worship & a light lunch
as we celebrate
Independence Day

Featuring patriotic music,
a recognition of our veterans,
and homemade Ice cream.

SUNDAY
JUNE 30, 2024
10:30am Worship
11:30am Lunch

NO 8:30am Worship or Sunday School