



The VISITOR

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

February 2025

Issue 2



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welcome

TO THE TEAM!

Welcome to Courtney Loper

We welcome our new Business Manager, Courtney Loper! Courtney began working with us on January 6, 2025. She brings experience from long-term employment with Dr. Jerry Ted Roberts at Kilgore Eye Care Center and experience with employment with Noble Roofing. Courtney has already demonstrated attention to detail, excellent note-taking, organizational skills, ability to work in QuickBooks, and a quick understanding of some of the differences involved with our church as a non-profit entity. We know she has the qualifications, skills, and outlook, that will make her a true asset to our staff. She has indeed hit the ground running and has eagerly accepted the challenges we have thrown her way. Courtney has a history with our church even before her employment here. She and her husband, Chad, were married in St. Luke's Methodist Church. Chad is a teacher/football coach with Kilgore High School. They have a son named C.J. and a daughter named Chloe.

Stop by, say hello, and welcome Courtney to the church family!



STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

office@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 984-3576

Rev. Glen Blackmon

Interim Sr. Pastor
pastor@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 521-3810

Lindsey Exline

Dir. of Nursery Care
children@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 985-1341

Courtney Loper

Business Manager
finance@stlukeskilgore.org

Jennifer Powell

Dir. of Communications
office@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 984-3576

Richelle Rathbun

Hospitality Coordinator
(903) 371-3499

James Vermillion

Music Dir.
music@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 241-1447

2025 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

The current board members will stay in place for a few extra months to help with the process of finding a new senior pastor.

1

When someone represents themselves in court, it's called "pro se" which means "for oneself" in Latin.

"He who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client" -, meaning that someone who represents themselves in legal matters is likely to make mistakes due to their lack of legal knowledge and could be considered foolish. While often attributed to Abraham Lincoln, the exact source is debated, with similar proverbs existing in other languages.

I cannot imagine myself acting pro se in God's court. While I may know many of the things that I do that separates me from the love and presence of God, in which I fall short of the glory of God. Not to mention those things I don't even know. I know there is one who represents me. One that knows all things, has lived life as I have lived, has been tempted as I have been tempted, and knows who I am, and all the things that I've done, and still yet chooses to represent me in God's court. In that representation then grace is offered is given. Jesus chose to represent me and you and served as grace given for all our misdoings.

How great and glorious it is for Christ to represent us and to offer grace. When we accept Christ, we accept the great and wonderful counselor who represents us before the throne. How thankful I am and how thankful we can be that God in Jesus Christ offers us grace and forgiveness so that we might be in a relationship with God in Christ.



REV. GLEN BLACKMON
INTERIM PASTOR



The PNO kids had a blast making snow and decorating snowflake cookies at the January event.



JESUS HEALS A PARALYZED MAN



MARK YOUR Calendar

Upcoming Children's
Ministry Events

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:30am

Arise Worship

9:30am

Future Leaders

10:30am

Traditional Worship

Wednesdays

3:30pm-5:30pm

Children's Choir

5:15pm-6:00pm

Dinner

6:00pm-7:00pm

Bible Study

FEBRUARY

1

Photo Spot Pop-Up

11:00am-6:00pm

7

Parents Night Out

6:00pm-9:00pm

28

Boots & Bows

6:00pm-8:00pm

SUMMER

Summer Slam

June 11-13

Vacation Bible School

June 23-27

Church Camp

June 30-July 4

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

FUTURE LEADERS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays @ 9:30am

We will begin a short-term combined Sunday School experience with all kids and youth, Kindergarten thru 12th Grade, starting February 2. We will meet in the Activity Center Cafe for games and activities.

February Scripture

Mark 2:1-5

1 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. 3 and they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

PHOTO SPOT POP-UP

February 1 | 11:00am-6:00pm

It's time for Valentine's Day Pictures! The Children's Ministry team will host a photo spot pop-up in the Family Center on February 1. Stop by anytime between 11am and 6pm to have your pictures taken using our 6 Valentine's inspired backdrops. There will be a \$15 fee.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

February 7 | 6:00pm-9:00pm

\$15 per child

Love is in the air! The theme of this month's Parent's Night Out is "Lady & the Tramp." We will watch the movie and enjoy valentine themed crafts, snacks, and dinner.

Registration is required. Deadline is Thursday, February 6 at 5:00pm.



Register now!

RISE UP CHURCH CAMP

(Session 2) June 30-July 4

3rd-12th grade

This Summer we will be headed back to Lakeview for a week of fun, fellowship, and growing closer to God. This will be our first summer participating in camp led by the Global Methodist Church. Since there will only be two sessions of camp this summer, you will need to register quickly. Even if you are unsure that your child will be attending camp, go ahead and register to save your place. We will be sending out scholarship and fundraiser information at a later date.



Register now!

See back page for information about the "Boots & Bows" event.



welcome TO OUR family

We are excited to introduce the two tribes of St. Luke's, Amani & Echo. Our kids and youth have been sorted into two groups to help foster deeper relationships and grow a sense of family.

The students took turns drawing tribe names out of a hat to determine which group they would be representing, followed by team-building games to help them all get to know each other a little better.

The tribe of Amani is represented by the color red and a lion to symbolize strength. The tribe of Echo is represented by the color blue and a lamb to symbolize loyalty. The two groups will gather regularly for games and activities.



MARK YOUR Calendar

Upcoming Youth
Ministry Events

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:30am

Arise Worship

9:30am

Youth Sunday School

10:30am

Traditional Worship

4:00pm

Youth on Sundays

Wednesdays

4:00pm-5:15pm

Youth Afterschool

5:15pm-6:00pm

Dinner

6:00pm-7:00pm

Bible Study

FEBRUARY

3

Mid-Winter Retreat
Registration Deadline

14/16

Mid-Winter Retreat

SUMMER

Summer Slam

June 11-13

Vacation Bible School

June 23-27

Church Camp

June 30-July 4

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

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays @ 9:30am

We will begin a short-term combined Sunday School experience with all kids and youth, Kindergarten thru 12th Grade, starting February 2. We will meet in the Activity Center Cafe for games and activities.

When we can consistently have 4 or more youth in Sunday School will split from the kids and have a dedicated youth Sunday School class.

YOUTH ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Sundays, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Every Sunday beginning February 2, we will host a youth gathering with a snack supper, games, and other activities in the Activity Center/Gym.

If your family is interested in providing supper, please contact me in the church office. (903-984-35-76 or office@stlukeskilgore.org)

MID-WINTER RETREAT

February 14-16

All students, 6th-12th grade, are invited to join us for a weekend at Lakeview. This weekend retreat is a great way for our youth to build relationships with each other and meet other young people who are learning to love God together.

The cost is \$150. We are looking to secure sponsors to help cover 2/3 of the cost, so your child would only need to pay \$50.

Please use the link below to register and contact me in the church office so that I can add you to our list of participants. The deadline to register is Monday, February 3.



Register now!

RISE UP CHURCH CAMP

(Session 2) June 30-July 4

This Summer we will be headed back to Lakeview for a week of fun, fellowship, and growing closer to God. This will be our first summer participating in camp led by the Global Methodist Church. Since there will only be two sessions of camp this summer, you will need to register quickly. Even if you are unsure that your child will be attending camp, go ahead and register to save your place. We will be sending out scholarship and fundraiser information at a later date.



Register now!

6

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

February 7

Dairy Queen, Kilgore

February 21

Pizza King, Longview

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

February 5

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

February 12

Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo, Steamed Broccoli,
Garlic Toast, Dessert, & a Drink

February 19

Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, Dessert, & Drink

February 26

Mini Pizzas, Salad, Dessert, & Drink

\$3 for kids under 12
\$6 adults over 12

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

WAYS TO GIVE AT St. Luke's



IN PERSON

Drop your gift in one of the offering boxes at worship or in the offering plate.



ONLINE

at

stlukeskilgore.org



TEXT

"give" to



BY MAIL

St. Luke's MC
401 E. Main St

7



The Trustee Team has been working hard to maintain and improve our facilities.

The latest project was replacing the lighting in the lobby of Knowles Chapel to highlight our beautiful stained glass windows. Make sure to stop and admire this unique feature of our campus next time you are at the church after dark.

FEBRUARY 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).

February 1

Robert Holder

February 2

Bob Cantu
Lainey Middlebrooks
SyRena Witt

February 5

Lynn Holt

February 6

Sally Holder

February

Barbara Johnson
Jeff Stephens

February 12

Joe White

February 13

Kaylie Watkins

February 15

Jo Hancock

February 16

Milton Frazier
Elizabeth Lovell

February 17

Carter Boone

February 19

Lee Briers

February 21

Elaine Kirksey

February 25

Sharon McCann

February 26

Milton Hattaway
David Mason

February 28

Mickey Smith

JOYS & CONCERNS

Please use the "Prayer" cards in the pews to keep us updated on your loved ones.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Roberta Boggs	Gregg Caraway	Jack & Sharry Christopher
Tommy Freeman	Jo Hancock	Milton Hattaway
Pat Haynes	Carolyn Holcombe	Sam Holley

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

The families displaced by the wildfires in California

Melody Bagwell.....wife of Mark Bagwell
Jenny Ballard Family.....friends of Art & Pat Morchat
Sherri Bennett & Family.....friend of Karen L. Wilson
Linda Brooks.....mother of Donna Barnard
Lindsey McClain Castro.....former member and friend to many
Lizz Collins.....wife of Mike Kerr
Nancy Daugherty.....aunt of Mikki Ellis
Richard & Holly Davis.....Jim & Alana Williams
Sandra Dingler.....family member of Laura Farnham
Jack Ellis.....father of Dennis Ellis
Zach Hartfiel.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Don Hedrick.....friend of Karen L. Wilson
Brandy Holman.....daughter of Tommy & Laura Farnham
Humberto Isassi.....brother-in-law of Bob & Hope Cantu
Sandra Melville.....sister of Milton Hattaway
Katherine Mooney.....mother of James & Matt Mooney
Brenda Oakley.....friend of Sharon McCann
Linda Poulter.....friend of Toby Monday
Sherri Pilcher & Family.....
French Sturrock.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland
Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway
Buddy & Selena Simmerman.....friends of Rhonda & Jack Dickey
Vivan Sharp.....friend of Art & Pat Morchat
Bob Sullivan.....friend of Art & Pat Morchat
Kay-Lee Tarbutton.....family of Bob & Hope Cantu
Heather Thompson & daughter.....friend of Tracey Varvel
Amanda Urban.....friend of Becky & Joe Wallace
Amber Watson.....friend of Glenda Cochran
Harold Wiese.....father of Emily Mason
Sharri Wix.....in-law of T. J & Amanda Gillen-Hall
Julie Brogoitti Woods & Randy Brogoitti.....friends of Bill & Carolina Bryant

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name

Date

Jimmy & Dee Arbuckle

2/4/1979

Rhett & Anna Rohde

2/5/1983

February 2025

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

						1 Photo-Booth Pop-up 11:00am-6:00pm
2	3	4	5	6	7 Parents Night Out 6:00pm-9:00pm Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Youth: Mid-Winter Retreat	15 Youth: Mid-Winter Retreat
16 Youth: Mid-Winter Retreat	17	18	19	20	21 Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Boots & Bows 6:00pm-8:00pm	

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-2:30pm | Mother's Day Out
- 6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

The
VISITOR

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE



All dads, stepdads, grandpas, uncles, and father figures are invited for a night of dancing, games, and refreshments with their "little girls."

Friday, February 28, 2025

6:00pm-8:00pm

St. Luke's Family Center