



The **VISITOR**

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

March 2025

Issue 3



LENT

PRAYER • FASTING • ALMSGIVING

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Prayer for Lent

Loving God,

As the season of Lent unfolds, you call us to return again and again.

As you invite us to reflect on your love made visible in the person of Jesus, align our lives more closely with you through prayer, fasting and generous giving.

Bless our desire to accompany Jesus' suffering here and now in the crucified people of our world.

With your grace, may we live Lent fully and move with transformed hearts into the abundant life of Easter morning.

Amen.

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

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.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

office@stlukeskilgore.org
(903) 984-3576

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Hospitality Coordinator
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James Vermillion

Music Dir.
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5 tips

To help you **live liturgically** this season

1

Do an **examination of conscience** to see how you can eliminate sin in your life.

2

Read or listen to **daily readings**. Take these words to heart.

3

Abstain from something that is keeping you away from God.

4

Stay close to the **sacraments!** Attend weekly worship & partake of Holy Communion.

5

Add something new to your prayer routine, like praying the **stations of the cross**.

ST. LUKE'S Kids

WE'RE HIRING!

We are looking for nursery workers to help care for our children on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and during meetings. If you are looking to earn a little extra cash and love kids, then we want to see you in the nursery. For more information or to apply, contact Lindsey Exline at children@stlukeskilgore.org.



Our children's Choir sounded great in worship in February. We can't wait to see what they have planned for the Spring Musical on May 4!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT *Kid's Bible Study*

Wednesdays @6:00pm

Our youngest church family has been learning about the Bible through an alphabet lesson series touching on word, people, and ideas representing each letter. This month they will be moving on to a new series as they begin to wrap up the end of the school year.

Fish Class (Pre-k): Esther, The Brave Queen

"When we listen to God, we can do great things"

Ostrich & Zebra Classes (Kinder-5th grade):

- March 5 Ash Wednesday worship
- March 12 Spring Break (No activities)
- March 19 Woman at the Well (Jesus satisfies our thirst for God)
- March 26 Jesus Heals the Blind Man (Glorifying God in everything)

MARK YOUR Calendar

Upcoming Children's
Ministry Events

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:30am

Arise Worship

9:30am

Future Leaders/Sunday School

10:30am

Traditional Worship

Wednesdays

3:30pm-5:30pm

Children's Choir

5:15pm-6:00pm

Dinner

6:00pm-7:00pm

Bible Study

MARCH

7 Parents Night Out
6:00pm-9:00pm

12 NO Wednesday Activities
Kilgore ISD Spring Break

29 Dad VS Son Basketball
Tournament
10:00am

SUMMER

Vacation Bible School
June 23-27

Church Camp
June 30-July 4

Summer Slam
July 15-18**

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

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

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

\$15 per child

The theme of this month's Parent's Night Out is "Finding Home". We will watch Finding Nemo and enjoy crafts, snacks, and dinner.



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

DAD VS. SON BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 29

Calling all Dad's & Sons! Join us for a 2-on-2 basketball tournament on Saturday, March 29. We will have different age-level brackets for a double elimination tournament. \$10 registration fee per team. Contact Lindsey Exline at children@stlukeskilgore.org to register your team.

KIDS KOLLABORATION

Tuesday, March 18 | 6:00pm

We want you to join us on the Kids Kollaboration Team. This is your opportunity to help us grow our children's ministry programs and help our children grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Lindsey Exline at children@stlukeskilgore.org, or drop in to our next meeting on March 18.

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.



SUMMER SLAM

July 15-18

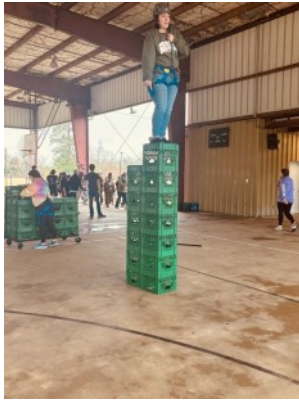
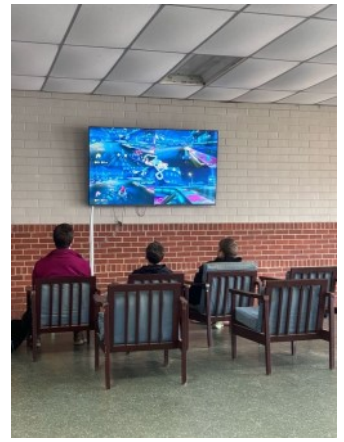
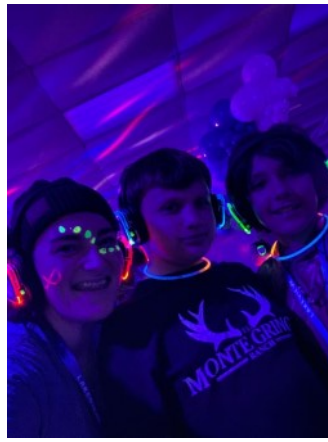
Completed 3rd-5th Grades

Summer Slam is a great opportunity to do good in the world. Students who have completed 3rd-5th Grade are invited to join us for a Mission Retreat where they will complete several mission projects in our community. The kids will stay over night at the church and participate in worship and activities led by Lindsey Exline. There is a \$40 registration fee.



Use the QR Code to register your student NOW!

** note: this event was moved from June to July to accommodate other events at the church.**



Colby Thompson was the lone camper that we sent to Mid-Winter at Lakeview in February. Colby, and the adult counselors, Jennifer Powell & Lindsey Exline, had a blast. From Smore's and night time Zipline, to axe throwing, worship, and a polar plunge, it was a great weekend!



We had a blast in February:
Games on Wednesday Night

Sardines on Sunday

Canned food Scavenger Hunt
We collected 137 items for
Helping Hands

Cross craft on Wednesday Night

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

MARCH

5

Ashes @ Whataburger

7:00am

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NO Wednesday Activities

Kilgore ISD Spring Break

SUMMER

Big House Mission Camp

June 11-15

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.

ASHES @ WHATABURGER

Wednesday, March 5 | 7:00am

We will be meeting at Whataburger before school on Wednesday, March 5, for fellowship and the imposition of ashes as we mark the beginning of the Lenten Season. The church vans will be taking students to Kilgore Middle School & High School following breakfast. We will be providing a honey butter chicken biscuit and drink for each student.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays @ 9:30am

We are excited to be able to bring back Youth Sunday School. Beginning in March students 6th-12th Grade will meet for a Bible Lesson during the 9:30am Sunday School Hour. Students will gather upstairs in the Gym. Bring a friend and join us as we learn and grow in the Word of God!

YOUTH ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Sundays, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Every Sunday we 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 Jennifer Powell in the church office. (903-984-3576 or office@stlukeskilgore.org)

March Schedule

March 2	Group Games
March 9	Mission Project
March 16	Movie Night
March 23	Scavenger Hunt

BIG HOUSE MISSION CAMP

June 11-15

\$100 Registration Fee

This Summer we will be headed to Big House, a four day Mission Camp for youth who completed 6th-12th Grades. This is a great opportunity for our youth to serve others, build relationships with other students, and grow closer as a group. If your student is interested in participating please contact Jennifer Powell in the church office. (903-984-3576 or office@stlukeskilgore.org)

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.



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JINGLE *Jam*

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers for helping at the Jingle Jam Winter Festival. We didn't have a big turn out, but our volunteers were ready to help and made the best of it. Anytime we can fellowship with other believers and build relationships, is a good thing.



SOUP & Pie Luncheon



Big thank you to all the volunteers that made our return to Soup & Pie a roaring success. Setting up, prepping, cooking, delivering, serving, cleaning, and everything in between.

It was great fun to see our community in fellowship enjoying warm soup and the company of our friends. We can't wait to do it again next year!



Wednesday, March 5

Worship and the imposition of ashes is an important part of our liturgical year. It marks the beginning of Lent and the preparation for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We will be providing two opportunities for your family to receive your ashes:

Ashes At Whataburger

7:00am

Meet us at the Kilgore Whataburger for fellowship and to receive your ashes before you head in to work or school.

Ash Wednesday Worship

5:15pm (Dinner)

6:00pm (Worship)

Join us for Wednesday Night Dinner followed by worship & the imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary.

SOUP & Sermon

Invite a friend and join us as we journey through the wilderness as we make our way to the Cross of Easter morning. We will meet each Wednesday during the Lenten Season for a soup lunch and a short devotional brought to us by different pastors in our community.

This is a great opportunity to spend a little time apart during the week to get your heart ready for the joy of Easter Sunday. It is also a chance to introduce someone you know to our church and our God.

We hope to see you there!

Wednesdays @ 11:45am St. Luke's Family Center

March 12

Rev. Gene Evans

Pastor of Youth & Young Adults
Grace Crossing Methodist church, Longview

March 19

Rev. Dr. Jason Galler

Pilgrim Lutheran Church of Kilgore

March 26

Rev. Fred Parsons

Frist Methodist Church of Overton

April 2

Rev. Sam Steele

Cross Roads Community Methodist Church

April 9

Rev. Jeneille LaGrone

First Christian Church of Kilgore

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As a church family we would like for you to join us for a Daily Lenten Reading Challenge.

Lenten

Bible Reading Plan

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1 Matthew 21:1-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 21 John 13:1-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2 John 12:1-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 22 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3 John 12:12-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 23 John 13:18-38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4 Mark 11:12-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 24 Luke 22:24-38 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5 Matthew 21:23-32 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 25 Matthew 26:31-35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6 Mark 12:1-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 26 John 14:1-31 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 7 Matthew 22:1-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 27 John 15:1-27, John 16:1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 8 Luke 20:9-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 28 John 16:5-33 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 9 Luke 20:27-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 29 John 17:1-26 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 10 Matthew 22:34-46 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 30 Matthew 26:36-56 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 11 Matthew 23:1-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 31 John 18:1-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 12 Mark 12:41-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 32 Mark 14:32-72 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 13 Mark 13:1-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 33 Luke 22:39-62 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 14 Matthew 24:15-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 34 John 18:19-40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 15 Matthew 24:36-51 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 35 John 19:1-16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 16 Matthew 25:1-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 36 Matthew 27:27-44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 17 Matthew 25:14-30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 37 Luke 23:26-49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 18 Matthew 25:31-46 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 38 John 19:16-27 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 19 John 12:20-50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 39 John 19:28-42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 20 Mark 14:12-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 40 John 20:1-31 |

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

March 7

McKay's Ranch House, Kilgore

March 21

Posados, Longview

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

March 5

Chicken Pitas, Salad, Dessert, & a Drink

March 12

NO Wednesday Night Activities
Kilgore ISD Spring Break

March 19

Enchiladas, Nachos, Rice & Beans, Chips & Salsa, Dessert, & Drink

March 26

Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Veggies W/ Ranch, Dessert, & Drink

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

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

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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

METHODIST *Women*

Tuesday, March 4

6:00pm

This month the Methodist Women will be using their gathering time to help host our annual Fat Tuesday Celebration. All Women are invited to come help us welcome guests and serve gumbo.

Remember, the first Tuesday of each month is our regular gathering time. We would love to have you join us for fellowship and spiritual growth.

VENDORS *needed*

Easter Egg-Stravaganza & Spring Market

Saturday, April 12

10:00am-2:00pm

We are currently looking for artists, crafters, and small business owners to be vendors at our 1st annual Spring Market. This family-friendly spring celebration is the perfect opportunity to showcase your products, and connect with the community. 10' X 10' indoor booth space is available for a \$40 registration fee. Contact Lindsey Exline or Jennifer Powell to get registered TODAY!



SCHOLARSIP

Towards a Bright Future

St. Luke's is proud to be able to support our young people as they further their educational future.

If you have a student that will be graduating from high school this spring they are invited to complete the St. Luke's Scholarship Application using the QR code.

To be eligible, the student must...

- be an active member of St. Luke's or of the St. Luke's youth organization, and/or the student's immediate family must be active supporting members of the St. Luke's church family.
- be registered for at least 12 hours of coursework. (proof of registration is not required at the time of submission, but will be required prior to the release of any funds)
- maintain at least a 2.5 GPA



If you would like your scholarship to be announced at your high school's awards assembly, the deadline for submitting the application is **April 15, 2025**. Otherwise, please submit by **July 1, 2025**.

If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Powell in the church office.

(903-984-3576 or office@stlukeskilgore.org)

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MARCH 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).

March 1

Polly Green

March 17

Garry Mount

March 2

Cindy Venable

March 18

Preston Branch

March 6

TJ Gillen-Hall

March 21

Joyce Morris

March 7

Randy Holder
Art Morchat

March 24

Leah Gillen-Hall
Denise Reinert

March 8

Cody Sprayberry

March 25

Hollie Boone

March 9

Bret Daigle
Lydia Rathbun

March 26

Becky Wallace

March 10

Billie Barton
Ben Middlebrooks

March 27

Kathy Brown

March 11

Hope Cantu
Mailee Jo Exline

March 28

Gabriel Reinert

March 29

Sam Witt

March 13

David Reeves
Angela Thompson

March 31

Joel Vermillion

March 14

Amanda Patton
Dylan Venable

March 16

Anna Rohde
Laura Vermillion

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

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

Brandy Holman.....daughter of Tommy & Laura Farnham

Humberto Isassi.....brother-in-law of Bob & Hope Cantu

Sandra Melville.....sister-in-law of Jan Hattaway

Brenda Oakley.....friend of Sharon McCann

Sherri Pilcher & Family.....

Jessica Salinas.....friend of Toby Monday

French Sturrock.....friend of Jamie Haynes & Robert Poland

Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway

Buddy & Selena Simmerman.....friends of Rhonda & Jack Dickey

Vivian Sharp.....friend of Art & Pat Morchat

Bob Sullivan.....friend of Art & Pat Morchat

Kay-Lee Tarbutton.....family of Bob & Hope Cantu

Amber Watson.....friend of Glenda Cochran

Julie Brogoitti Woods & Randy Brogoitti.....friends of Bill & Carolina Bryant

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO...

Matt & James Mooney on the death of their mother, Kathrine Mooney.

Lindsey Exline, Leslie & William Bennett on the death of their grandfather,

Cris Shafer.

Carolyn Holcombe on the death of her brother.

The family of Milton Hattaway.

WE SHARE JOY WITH...

Don Hedrick, who has been removed from the prayer list, as he is Cancer free!

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Name

Date

Garry & Cathy Mount

3/2/1979

Pat & Angela Thompson

3/10/2012

Keith & Paula Hooks

3/18/1978

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March 2025

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

						1
2	3	4 Fat Tuesday Celebration 6:00pm	5 Ashes At Whataburger 7:00am Ash Wednesday Worship 6:00pm	6	7 Parents Night Out 6:00pm-9:00pm Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	8
9	10	11	12 Soup & Sermon Week 1 11:45am NO Wednesday Activities	13	14	15
16	17	18 Kids Kollaboration Team 6:00pm	19 Soup & Sermon Week 2 11:45am	20	21 Holy Huddlers 6:00pm	22
23	24	25 Worship Team 1:30pm	26 Soup & Sermon Week 3 11:45am	27	28	

RECURRING WEEKLY:

Sunday

- 8:30am | Arise Worship* (Sanctuary)
- 9:30am | Sunday School*
- 10:30am | Traditional Worship * (Sanctuary)
- 11:30am | Handbell Choir (Handbell Room)
- 4:00pm-6:00pm | Youth on Sundays (Gym)

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
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"The Visitor" Published Monthly by:
St. Luke's Methodist Church
401 E. Main St., Kilgore, TX 75662-5905

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Kilgore, Texas
Permit No. 202

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE



Calling all Cooks!

Do you have an amazing Gumbo recipe?

Make a big pot and join us for the Fat Tuesday Celebration Gumbo Cook-off.

We will be awarding the Golden Paddle to the crowd favorite, along with a gift basket full of goodies. The event will also feature games, prizes, and music. Please contact Richelle Rathbun if you would like to enter the contest.

**we will be serving pancakes for those that do not eat gumbo