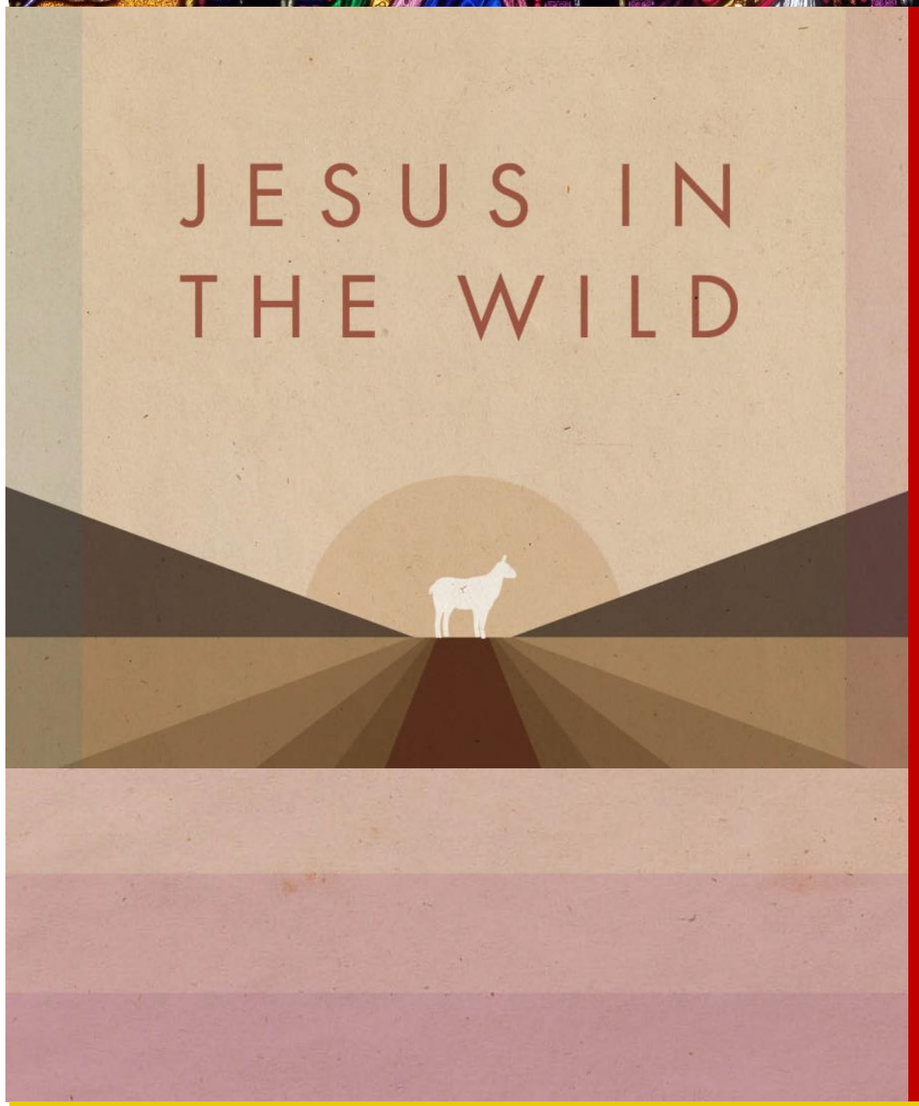
ISSUE 2 | February 2026

THE VISITOR

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



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STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

We want to help you get connected and become part of the St. Luke's family.

If you have any questions about a ministry opportunity or need assistance, we encourage you to contact a member of our staff.

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preparing for LENT

Mark your calendars for the following events as we prepare for the Lenten Season.

FEB 17

FAT TUESDAY GUMBO COOK-OFF (6:00pm)

FREE dinner & celebration
See the back page of the is newsletter for more information

FEB 18

ASHES AT WHATABURGER (7:00am)

Kick off the Lenten season with faith, fellowship, and maybe a honey butter chicken biscuit! We're inviting everyone to join us for **Ashes at Whataburger**.

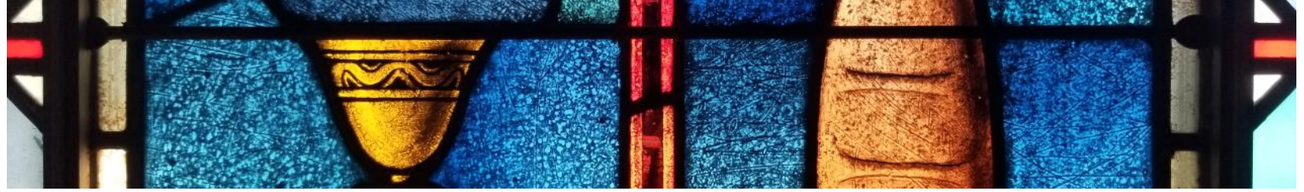
This is a unique opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes and join together in prayer as we begin our 40-day journey toward Easter.

FEB 18

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP (6:00pm)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season—a 40-day period of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal as we prepare our hearts for Easter. This contemplative service will include scripture, prayer, and the traditional **Imposition of Ashes**.

Whether you are a long-time member or visiting for the first time, all are welcome to enter into this season of grace and intentionality with us.



FROM THE PASTORS DESK

As February arrives, we find ourselves standing at the doorway of Lent—a season that invites us to slow down, pay attention, and walk with Jesus in places that aren't always comfortable or predictable.

This year, our Lenten focus is "Jesus in the Wild."

Before Jesus begins his public ministry…
Before the miracles…
Before the crowds and the cross…

Scripture tells us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

The wilderness—or the "wild"—is not just a place on a map. It is a place of testing, silence, temptation, and deep dependence on God. It's where distractions fall away and truth has a way of rising to the surface. And if we're honest, many of us know that place well. We've all had seasons where life felt uncertain, stretched thin, or out of control—times when faith was less about answers and more about trust.

Lent gives us permission to go there with Jesus.

Traditionally, Lent is a season when we look inward—examining our hearts and lives, naming the obstacles that keep us from fully receiving God's grace and love, and letting go of the things that distract or diminish our faith. That inward work matters deeply. But Lent is also a season when we are invited to add something life-giving—to take on practices that help shape us in holiness, deepen our love for God, and strengthen our love for others.

That's why this year we are inviting you to walk with Jesus in the Wild during Lent.

Throughout these forty days, we are encouraging participants to walk one mile a day—at your own pace, on your own path, and in your own time. As you walk, you'll meditate on a daily Scripture passage and reflect on what God may be stirring in your heart. This is not about speed, performance, or keeping up with anyone else. It's about creating space—space to pray, to listen, and to notice how God is forming your relationship with Him and with others.

You can walk individually or with a group. Some may choose quiet solitude; others may find encouragement and accountability in community. Along the way, we'll invite you to keep a walking log and a daily reflection, helping you mark not just the miles you walk, but the grace you notice as you go.

Lent is not about punishment or perfection. It is about formation—about allowing the Spirit to shape us more fully into the people God has called us to be. Step by step. Day by day.

One of the ways we'll continue this shared journey is through our Soup and Sermon series on Wednesdays during Lent. These simple midday gatherings—sharing a meal, hearing God's Word, and pausing together in the middle of busy weeks—are a reminder that faith is meant to be lived in community. We are nourished at the table, strengthened by Scripture, and encouraged by one another as we walk this road together.

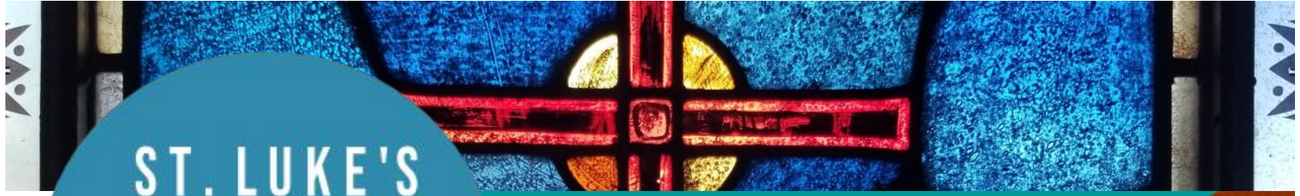
Whether Lent feels like familiar ground for you or something you're still learning your way into, please hear this clearly: you do not walk alone. The same Spirit who led Jesus into the wilderness walks with us still—and the same God who sustained him there promises to meet us in our own wild places with grace, strength, and hope.

My prayer is that this Lent will be a season where we are honest, open, and expectant—trusting that even in the wilderness, God is at work.

I hope you'll join us—on Sundays, on Wednesdays, and along the way—as we walk with Jesus in the Wild together.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Kelly J. Inman



ST. LUKE'S Youth

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:30am
Arise Worship

9:30am
Youth Sunday School

10:30am
Traditional Worship

4:00pm-6:00pm
Youth on Sundays

Wednesdays

4:00pm-5:15pm
Youth Afterschool

5:15pm-6:00pm
Dinner

6:00pm-7:00pm
Bible Study

SUNDAY PLANS

February 1
Sardines & Games in the Gym

February 8
Super Bowl Party (5:00pm)

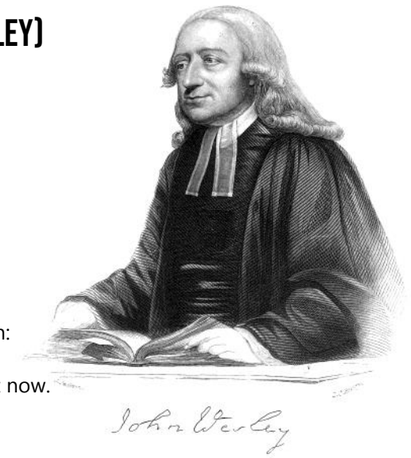
February 15
No meeting
(returning from Mid-Winter)

February 22
Lenten Bible Study-Week 1

THE "HOLY FIRE" QUOTE (JOHN WESLEY)

"I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions."

This quote from John Wesley captures the essence of why we want youth in the church: they aren't just "future leaders," but active participants in the "revival of holiness" right now.



ST. LUKE'S Kids

February reminds us that God's love is the greatest gift of all—let's share it with everyone we meet!

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:30am
Arise Worship

9:30am
Kids Sunday School

10:30am
Traditional Worship

4:00pm-6:00pm
Youth on Sundays

Wednesdays

3:30pm-5:30pm
Children's Choir

5:15pm-6:00pm
Dinner

6:00pm-7:00pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The book of Exodus tells the story of how God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. Through Moses, God showed His power, gave the Ten Commandments, and taught His people how to follow Him.

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent, a special time to get our hearts ready for Easter. At church, we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us that we belong to God and that His love makes us new - please join us in the sanctuary at 6p for this service!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have a Big, Big God who showed His power by working miracles for Moses. God parted the Red Sea, sent manna from heaven, and proved that nothing is too hard for Him!

Boots & Bows

Friday, February 20
6:00pm
Family Center

Dust off those cowboy boots and sparkle up those bows—it's time for our Boots & Bows Second Annual Daddy-Daughter Dance on February 16th from 6-8. Get ready for twirls, giggles, and unforgettable memories. Want to make the night even more special? Sponsor a table and join the fun in style! Table sponsors are $40/table and all of the money collected goes towards church camp for kids!

LENT at st. luke's

Mark your calendars for the following events during the Lenten Season.

FEB 19

MILE-A-DAY CHALLENGE BEGINS

Join our Walk a Mile-A-Day with Jesus challenge, whether you prefer the solitude of a solo stroll or the energy of a group. Enrich your journey by subscribing to receive daily scripture delivered straight to your inbox for reflection with every step.

FEB 22

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (4:00PM-6:00PM)

Sundays during Lent (Excludes March 8)

Following our 2026 Lenten sermon series, "Jesus in the Wild," this short-term Bible study invites you to dive deeper into the stories of a Savior who defied expectations and broke boundaries. Together, we'll explore what it means to follow a Jesus who is as challenging as he is compassionate.

Why Join a Bible Study?

Deeper Connection: Move beyond the Sunday message through guided discussion.

Community: Share the Lenten journey with others in a supportive, casual environment.

Spiritual Growth: Discover how the "Jesus in the Wild" calls us to live more courageously today.

What you need to know!

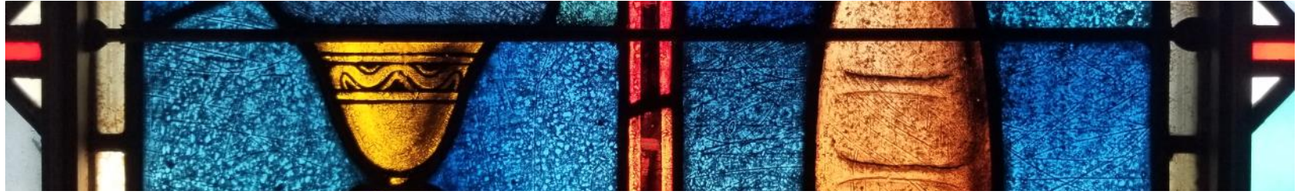
Date: Sundays during Lent (Excludes March 8: Kilgore ISD Spring Break)

Time: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Family Center

Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner at the beginning of each Gathering.

Ready to start the journey?
Use the QR code to register and order your book.



FEB
24

TUESDAY LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (11:45am)

Every Tuesday
Pastor Kelly's Tuesday Bible Study will be participating in our Lenten Bible study, "Jesus in the Wild" If you are a current member of this group please use the QR code to order your book.

If you are not currently a member of this group, but would like to join for this short-term study, please use the QR code to register and order your book. Use the QR code to register and
order your book.

SOUP & SERMON

Wednesdays During Lent (Excludes March 11)
Take a break from the busyness of your week to share a warm meal and a brief, meaningful devotion. It's the perfect opportunity to connect with your community and dwell on the Lenten message in a relaxed, casual setting.

This is great opportunity to invite a friend to St. Luke's. Pick up a couple of "Invite" cards from the church office, the welcome desk, or the Family Center Welcome Wall.

SPEAKERS

FEB 25	Rev. Dr. Jayson Galler
MAR 4	Jonathan Latham
MAR 1	Rev. Jeneille LaGrone
MAR 25	TBA

what is LENT?

In the Methodist tradition, **Lent** is observed as a sacred 40-day season of preparation, beginning on Ash Wednesday and culminating in the celebration of Easter. Drawing on our Wesleyan heritage of "searching the scriptures" and practicing spiritual disciplines, this period mirrors Jesus' forty days of fasting in the wilderness. It is a time for intentional "holy living," where we invitationally strip away the distractions of the world to focus more clearly on our dependence on God. Through the traditional pillars of fasting, prayer, and acts of charity, we seek to cultivate a deeper "heart holiness" that aligns our desires with the will of Christ.

Lent is vital to our congregation because it serves as a spiritual "spring cleaning" for the soul. It provides a necessary rhythm of repentance and self-reflection, allowing us to honestly confront the brokenness in our lives and our need for a Savior. By walking the path of the Cross during these weeks, the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday becomes even more profound and transformative. For Global Methodists, Lent isn't just about giving something up; it is about taking up the life of Christ more fully, ensuring that we do not enter the celebration of the Empty Tomb without first understanding the cost of our redemption.

Wednesday NIGHT MEALS

Join us for food and fellowship every Wednesday during the school year.

5:15pm-6:00pm
Family Center

February 4
Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert & Drink

February 11
Beef Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert & Drink

February 18
Chicken Pitas, Salad, Dessert, & Drink

February 25
BBQ Meatballs with Rice, Mac & Cheese, Veggies with Ranch, Dessert, & Drink

$3 for kids under 12
$6 adults over 12

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

Boots & Bows

SPONSOR A TABLE FOR BOOTS & BOWS!

We are looking for 6–8 sponsors to help make this year's Boots & Bows Daddy-Daughter Dance truly unforgettable. For a sponsorship of $40, you'll have the opportunity to claim a table and make it your own!

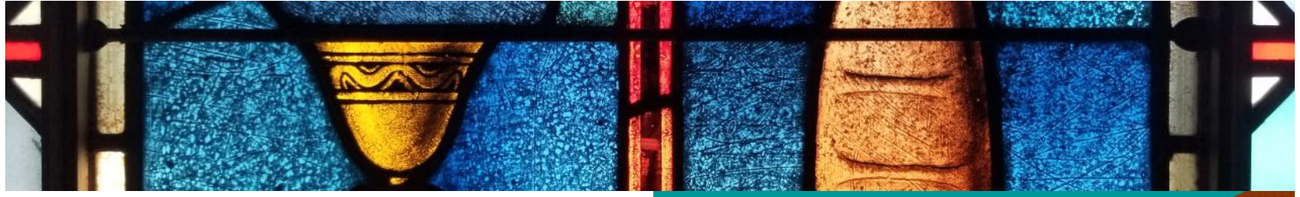
Sponsors are encouraged to get creative with decorations and include a framed photo or note sharing a special daddy/daughter memory to inspire the guests. Best of all, 100% of the sponsorship funds go directly to our Church Camp Fund, helping our youth experience life-changing moments at camp this summer. It's a wonderful way to honor your own family legacy while supporting the next generation!

METHODIST Women

Tuesday, February 3
6:00pm | Family Center

Calling all ladies! You are warmly invited to join us for our next Methodist Women's Monthly Meeting. This is a wonderful time to step away from the busyness of daily life to nourish your soul and strengthen your bonds with sisters in Christ. We will enjoy a time of delicious food and fellowship, followed by an uplifting devotional to center our hearts on God's Word.

As we look toward the year ahead, we will also be sharing and discussing our exciting plans for 2026. Whether you've been a part of this group for years or are looking to join us for the first time, your voice and presence are so valuable as we dream about how to serve our church and community together. We can't wait to see you there!



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 6
Dairy Queen, Kilgore

February 20
Pizza King, Longview

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

OFFICE UPDATE:

Please take note of the following updates regarding our office schedule and upcoming meetings:

- **President's Day Closure:** The church office will be **closed on Monday, February 16**, in observance of President's Day. We will resume normal business hours on Tuesday.

- **February Board Meeting:** Due to the January holiday and our recent bout of icy weather, the February Board Meeting has been rescheduled. It will now take place on **Monday, February 9**.

We appreciate your flexibility as we adjust our calendar to stay on track after the winter disruptions. Stay warm and safe!

Why watch the biggest game of the year on a tiny TV when you can catch every tackle, touchdown, and star-studded commercial on the **Big Screen**?

We're hosting the ultimate **Super Bowl Watch Party**, and you're invited to experience the stadium atmosphere. BYOC, Bring your own chair and join us for the fun.

Join us in the gym at 5:00pm and bring a snack to share.

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Start your week with purpose and peace by joining us for our weekly prayer meeting every **Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM, in Knowles Chapel**. We gather together to lift up our community, our church, and our neighbors in a dedicated time of intercession and fellowship.

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	Mac Lee
Kay McKinley	Ann & Joe White	

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ricky Beets.....friend of Jack & Susan Moore
Greg Compton.....family of Laura Farnham
Miles Ellis.....grandson of Dennis & Mikki Ellis
Hunter Falco.....grandson of Eliane Kirksey
Isa Fonesca.....cousin of Hope Cantu
Cindy Garcia.....sister of Ronda Dickey
Gayle & Kerry Hargrave.....friends of Chuck & Vernie Kunkel
Keith Henderson.....friend of Beverly Gray
Bruce Huther.....brother-in-law of Jim & Sharon McCann
Lucy Inman.....daughter-in-law of Rev. Kelly & Keri Inman
Norma Isassi.....sister of Bob Cantu
Mike & Shelly Gribble.....friend of Tracey Varvel
Betty Johnson.....family of Barbara & Joe Johnson
Diana Johnston.....sister of James Hanshaw
Maureen Martin.....family of Joe & Barbara Johnson
Josie McDaniel.....friend of Lindsey Exline
Chris McLeod.....friend of Tonia & Tim Belk
Sandra Melville.....sister-in-law of Jan Hattaway
Nelda Morgan.....St. Luke's Custodian
Shawna Neeley.....friend of Sally Holder
Kelly Ramsey.....cousin of Ludie Courtney
Judy Randolph.....close family friend of Jack & Susan Moore
Judy Sanders.....friend of Leon & Ludie Courtney
Patty Schleusner.....niece of Barbara & Joe Johnson
Dale & Lawana Sistrunk.....friend of Chuck & Vernie Kunkel
Terri Smith.....friend of Jan Hattaway
Kathy Spencer.....cousin of Sheryl Caraway & Susan Moore
Daryl Warren.....family of Rhett Rohde
Stephanie Watson.....family of Amy Hill (MDO teacher)
Bobby Williams.....son of Debra Maloch
Jeff Williams.....brother-in-law of Billy & Billie Sue Mims
Jerod Williamson.....friend of Dean & Kathe Miller

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 4
Hannah Holmgren

February 5
Lynn Holt

February 6
Sally Holder

February 7
Barbara Johnson
Jeff Stephens

February 12
Joe White

February 15
Jo Hancock

February 16
Milton Frazier
Elizabeth Lovell

February 17
Carter Boone

February 21
Elaine Kirksey

February 25
Sharon McCann

February 26
David Mason

February 28
Mickey Smith

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Date
Jimmy & Dee Arbuckle	2/4/1979
Rhett & Anna Rohde	2/5/1983

February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 **Methodist Women** 6:00pm	4	5	6 **Holy Huddlers** 6:00pm	7
8 **Superbowl Party** 5:00pm	9 **Board of Stewards Meeting** 6:00pm	10	11	12	13 **Youth: Mid-Winter**	14 **Valentine's Day** **Youth: Mid-Winter**
15 **Transfiguration Sunday** **Youth: Mid-Winter**	16 **President's Day**	17 **Fat Tuesday Gumbo Cook-off** 6:00pm	18 **Ashes At Whataburger** 7:00am **Ash Wednesday Worship** 6:00pm	19	20 **Holy Huddlers** 6:00pm **Boots & Bows** 6:00pm	21
22 **Lent Bible Study** 4:00pm-6:00pm	23	24	25 **Soup & Sermon** 11:45am	26	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

Tuesday
8:00am | Prayer Group** (Knowles Chapel)
9:30am-10:30am | Exercise Group (Gym)

Wednesday
9:00am-2:30pm | Mother's Day Out
3:15pm-5:30pm | Children's Choir/Youth
5:15pm | Wednesday Night Dinner (Family Center)
6:00pm-7:00pm | Wednesday Bible Study & Groups
| Chancel Choir Rehearsal* (Sanctuary)

Thursday
9:30am-10:30am | Exercise Group (Gym)
6:30pm | Arise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE

GUMBO
GUMBO
GUMBO
GUMBO
COOK OFF

Fat Tuesday Celebration
Tuesday, February 17
6:00pm | Family Center

Grab your beads and bring your appetite! You are cordially invited to our **Annual Fat Tuesday Celebration** on **Tuesday, February 17th, at 6:00 PM**. It's going to be a night of flavor, fun, and fellowship as we prepare our hearts (and stomachs) for the season of Lent.

Whether you're a Cajun connoisseur or just looking for a fun family night out, we have something for everyone:

- **The Great Gumbo Cook-Off:** Sample a variety of authentic gumbos and help us crown this year's champion.
- **Pancake Station:** A special treat just for the kids (and the kids at heart)!
- **Festivities:** Enjoy music, exciting games, and plenty of prizes throughout the evening.

ENTER THE COMPETITION!

Think your gumbo has what it takes to win? We are looking for contestants to bring their best pot to the table! If you'd like to compete for the "Golden Ladle" and ultimate bragging rights, please **contact Richelle Rathbun** to sign up and get the competition details.

Come hungry, bring the family, and let's make some memories before the Lenten season begins!