



The people of The United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2021, No. 46

Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Available at: www.st-luke-umc.net



Advent Schedule

Sunday, December 12

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Chancel Choir Cantata

Friday, December 24

6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 26

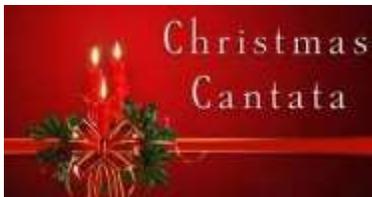
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
2:00 p.m. French Congregation
Christmas Worship Service

Friday, December 31

9:00 p.m. French Congregation
New Year's Eve Fellowship



Children's Christmas Program
Long Ago and Far Away
Sunday, December 12
10:30 a.m. Worship Service



St. Luke United Methodist Church
Chancel Choir Presents:

An Ordinary Night with Orchestra

December 19 • 10:30 a.m. Worship Service



It's A Wonderful Life

Every year, it becomes a tradition with me to watch the Christmas classic movie *It's A Wonderful Life*. Toward the end of the movie, George Bailey cries out, "I want to live again! I want to live again!" Immediately he's flashed from the previous scene and finds himself standing once more on the snow-covered iron bridge where earlier he had considered suicide: the dark swirling river below.

With help from Angel Second Class Clarence Oddbody, George had just discovered, to his horror, what life would be like had he never been born. Anyone who's watched this film can recall how without George Bailey the quaint town of Bedford Falls is reduced to Pottersville (ooh). It's a creepy place. Main street is suddenly a red-light district with loud music and the flashing of flesh-peddling neon signs. Life is dark. All because George had never been born.

Life without Jesus, without God, without the Holy Spirit is dark, gloomy, and is sad. God is the Source of all Life and things. Scripture is filled with stories reminding each other about God being the source of all gifts. When the people of God focus upon the Giver they unleash a dominant note of praise and celebration.

This third Sunday of Advent we will celebrate God's gift of Joy. Our children will present "Long Ago and Far Away" led by Mary Paris and Linda Schmidt. We will have a service of Holy Baptism for Kennedy Alice Yeatman, daughter of Chris and Danielle.

The United Methodist Women brought a great and compelling presentation of finding hope in the midst of tragedy, suffering, and death, by Holocaust survivor Paula Weissman.

The United Methodist Men are meeting again on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am at the Bluebonnet Café. They will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army bringing awareness to the plight of homelessness and poverty in our community.

My Prayer is that you will find and hang on to God's unbreakable gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Yes, life can and will be a wonderful life when lived in faith and in the way of Christ.

Thank you, St. Luke United Methodist Church, for your continued support of the mission and ministries of our church. Thank you for keeping your commitment to God and the church through your prayers, presence, gifts, services, and witness.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



The United Methodist Women held their Annual Christmas Brunch on December 7. They were honored to have as their guests, Paula Weissman, a Holocaust survivor and Kelvin Dilks who led the program. Pictured in the first photo is Paula Weissman and Mel Bishara and in the second photo is Mary Paris, Barbara Blair, Marcene Wadsworth, Ms. Weissman, Ruby Lane, Kelvin Dilks and Linda Schmidt.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

Continued Prayer Concerns: Jeanne Anne Pharis; Scott Paris; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Pat Farmer; Doris Mobley's son, Don; Marilyn Smith's cousin, Kim Masters; Jack & Jerrie Lucko; Vicki Kovar; Hilaire Lukalema; Lisel Richardson's Aunt Vicki; Leslie Duncan's aunt, Ruth Smith; Joyce Hejl's brother & sister-in-law, Mike & Marianne Hejl; Sam & Ann Kiker; Judy White; Ross & Betty Longeway; Howard & Kara Schwoppe & their family; Sandra Mason; Pastor Ditu's sisters, Ruth & Marie; Wynelle Hencke; Byron Lechler; Betty Holshouser; Bill & Roberta Reeves; Sarah Harris' husband, Tom; Lydia Acosta's daughter, Donna & her husband, Alfred; George Conant; Carolyn Hodge; Martha Smith; Jane West; Bill Worthington; George & Karen Angle's daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, George & Mary Paris' sister, Jackie; David & Kay Stapp; Bill & Toni Hood; Ron Pippen; Linda Smith; Tommie Martin's nephew, Scott Pashby & his family; Karan McDermed's sister & brother-in-law; Betty Holshouser's daughter, Lori; Loree Paris; Norm & Betty Turnage; Patty Tucker's sister; Lydia Acosta; Art & Cathy Gordon's granddaughter & great-grandson; Jim Long; Bill Worthington with the loss of his brother; Mickie Fletcher & family with the loss of her nephew; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan; Barbara Provenzano's sister, Patricia Wiles

This Week's Concerns: Patty Tucker; Judy White; Joe & Betty Crawford; George Angle's brother, Jim; Jack Bostick; American missionaries in Haiti; the people of Haiti and Afghanistan; those affected by wildfires and flooding; prayers for our nation; all of those affected by COVID-19; our first responders, doctors, nurses, essential employees & frontline workers

Military: Ryan Kelly Hampton; Kyle Johnson; Sam Burnett; Krystal Calvert; Evan Hill; Matt Miller; Nathaniel Hill; Alex Sullivan-Green; Harrison Lenox



Thank You for Sharing Your Gifts of Food for Our Community

Thank you to our St. Luke UMC family for participating in mission for our community by bringing food for N.E.E.D. during the month of November. St. Luke volunteers loaded the food weekly and delivered it to the distribution center on Broadway Avenue.

Many thanks from the Mission Committee



Congratulations to Serge Ditu for graduating from Texas Wesleyan University with a degree in Business Administration! Serge is the son of Pastor Abel & Esther Ditu.



November 2021
Receipts
\$27,563



The church office will be closed December 24, 27, 31 and January 3 for the Christmas holidays.

The church newsletter will not be published December 29, but will resume January 5, 2022.



*Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Book of Ephesians
December 15 • 10:00 a.m. • Fellowship Hall
We invite you to join us.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We were twelve strong to listen to Roxie explain the Holy Spirit to us. Her analogy of using an egg to explain all three is the best. Please remember our class concerns:

Betty Crawford is in the hospital with pneumonia and Joe is home recuperating from a stay in the hospital. Also, remember all those who haven't been able to join us in class. Don't forget our class party December 9 at noon at the Bluebonnet Cafe. Have a blessed week and we will see you next week.

GENESIS CLASS:

This week, we want to wish the Kasonga's a Happy Anniversary on Friday. Ladies, remember that our LNO Christmas Party has been rescheduled for this Thursday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Linda Savell's. We are glad that the Savell's made it back in town after their vehicle issues and thankful that Linda wanted to try to reschedule our evening. We are hoping that many who were planning to come will be able to make it this week. For those planning to attend, don't forget to bring your favorite appetizer as well as a gift for our fun gift exchange. We enjoyed seeing the pictures from Gary's company Christmas Party. All in attendance certainly were all dressed up and having a festive time. Kelly and Charlie Roberts were enjoying "Christmas on Broadway" with their daughter and her family. Charlie looked like he was having the time of his life riding in the train with his grands. Cathy and Art will be traveling to HSV to check on everything this next weekend. Sadly, they have to attend a funeral in Longview. We keep them in our prayers for safe travels as they head to the funeral and then on to HSV. The Kasonga's got to spend almost a full week with Suzy's family in Boston. Several pictures were posted of special times with family and friends. Keep George Angle's brother in our prayers as he suffered several broken ribs after a fall that happened right before he came to spend Thanksgiving with George and Karen. DeeDee asked for prayers as a high school classmate of her's passed away. During this holiday time, let's keep all of our family and friends in our prayers. While we try to adjust to our new normal, we also remember all those loved ones who are not with us, struggling with issues of their own, or those facing difficult days ahead. Lord hear all of our prayers.

PARTNERS IN FAITH CLASS:

Good news! Twelve members were present to share food and fellowship. Thanks to Linda for coffee cake, cookies and fruit. Missing were Mary, Martha, Carolyn, Jackie, Beverly and the Lucko's. Hoping all are doing okay. Today was Levi's first day in the nursery. He adapted very well. Keep Judy White in your prayers. She fell and has several broken or dislocated toes and a swollen foot. Ouch! Congratulations to Serge, the Ditu's son, on graduating from Texas Wesleyan with a degree in Business Administration. Our studies on *Mysteries of the Bible* are coming to an end with just two more sessions. Today's lesson was on God's destruction of two sinful cities and on Lott's wife disobeying the Angel and turning to look back, thereby becoming a pillar of salt she was warned about. Don't forget next Sunday, December 12 is our class pot luck breakfast so get out your favorite recipes to make and share.

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

We were disappointed in our attendance with only thirteen members present. We completed Colossians and will continue with Thessalonians, chapter one next Sunday. Jack Bostick is still having a bad cold-related problem, so we continue to pray for his recovery and any others with health issues. Reservations were taken for our Upper Room Class Christmas Party, but we need more to attend. It will be on Wednesday, December 15, starting at 11:30 am. A meal will be served and bring a gift for our gift exchange. Call Libby to make a reservation, 817/284-3348.

Devotional: Van Schuyver's

Refreshments: Gail LaRue



United Methodist Men Poinsettia Sales

The United Methodist Men are taking orders for Poinsettia plants to decorate our Sanctuary for the Advent Season. The cost is \$20 per plant. If you would like to order a poinsettia, you can purchase your poinsettia on Sunday mornings or you can call the church office, 817/838-6834 or email Susan at office@st-luke-umc.com to place an order. You can pick up your plant after the Christmas Eve Service or donate it to one of our shut-ins.



*Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
for In-Person Worship or via our
Facebook page or YouTube.com:
SLUMC—Haltom City*

*Sunday, December 12, 2021
3rd Sunday of Advent*

Children, Youth & Adult Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance

*Adult Bible Study • December 1—10
United Methodist Men Breakfast • December 2—7*

*Sunday, December 5, 2021
St. Luke UMC—10:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School—88
In-Person Worship—68
Online Worship—271*

*French Worship Service—2:00 p.m.
In-person Worship—34
Online Worship—20*



St. Luke United Methodist Church
 3200 Denton Highway
 Haltom City, TX 76117
Open hearts, open minds, open doors

The *E-Messenger* newsletter is published weekly online. Deadline for submission of articles is 9:00 a.m. every Monday. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

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Sunday Services: Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

In-person and Online Worship • 10:30 a.m.

French Worship Service: In-person and Online Worship • 2:00 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

NEWS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU:

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:

www.st-luke-umc.net



Sunday, December 12, 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 9:15 a.m. PIF Class Christmas Brunch
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

Monday, December 13, 2021

9:00 a.m. Newsletter **DEADLINE**

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

No Activities Scheduled

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

10:00 a.m. Bible Study
 11:30 a.m. Upper Room Christmas Party
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 16, 2021

9:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast - Bluebonnet Café
 5:30 p.m. Prayer Group

Friday, December 17, 2021

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, December 18, 2021

8:00 a.m. Orchestra Rehearsal for Cantata
 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal
 10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, December 19, 2021

4th Sunday of Advent

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service



Youth News:



Dear parents and youth, our study continues with the youth, and this Sunday, we shared the importance of obeying God. One of the greatest sins that led humanity to its declining position today was caused by the sin of disobeying God. Adam disobeyed God in the garden of Eden. When God told him not to eat the forbidden fruit, he ate it. That act of disobedience led him to chaos. Later in the Bible, we can see the redemption plan of God for humanity, but disobeying to God does not please him. As a young man or a young woman, how can we obey God? We can obey God first by having a personal relationship with him, where we can know what his commandments are for us and secondly by listening and obeying to our parents. The Lord told Joshua: "these words should not depart from you if you want to succeed in all you do." He said the people of Israel to have his word written on the table of their hearts. That is why we can see some traditions even today that practice the hanging of some bible verses around their neck. But what message do we want to take from this? For a child of God, success in life comes from a deep relationship with the father. And that is what he wants for us. We should also listen to our parents and our religious leaders as they all play their part in growing in the Lord. And when we do not obey him, we will reap the consequences of our choices, which could be harmful. A friend of mine told me one time that he used to be a good Christian until he got into trouble because he wanted to follow his friends using marijuana. He was in bad shape until ten years later, he was tired and called out to the Lord. The Lord came and visited him, and he was transformed. He said he now sees how his life is going a hundred miles an hour with the Lord and that the Lord is restoring him with everything he lost in the past ten years. He said, "What if I obeyed God and stayed with him all these ten years? I would be very, very far with success in Christ. Let us think about it, even Jesus, our Lord, when everything was hard for him, chose to obey God and went to the cross. That is why today, we can have Christmas. All because of obedience. I encourage us all to obey God.

Stanislas Ndecky