



The people of The United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2022, No. 36

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
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We Are the Children of God

Conflict in churches began with the disciples who walked with Jesus arguing over who would be first in the Kingdom of God and has been a constant throughout the centuries. The early church had many conflicts and problems with so many issues, among those issues were scriptural understanding, doctrine, personal relationships, power struggles, inclusivity, and justice issues, just to name a few. In spite of such problems, the one holy, catholic, and apostolic church has survived and even prospered. It has continued to grow and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and thereby influence the entire world through its work and through the transformed lives of individual believers. Other world religions notwithstanding, no other organization or institution can point to such a history as that of the Christian Church. That is the good news.

The bad news is that individual congregations have suffered and stagnated and sometimes died as a result of conflict poorly managed. Even in the 21st century, disagreement among church members about matters large and small is a given. We come from various religious, educational, and family backgrounds, and we have differing understandings and priorities about worship, music, Christian education, pastors, stewardship, mission, church properties, and church management. Individuals have been hurt and have left the church, and pastors and their families have suffered personal stress and failures.

Disagreement in the closet may seem harmless, but brought into the open it leads to conflict, and conflict can lead to criticism, negative campaigning, bitterness, hurt feelings, and separation. But these results are never good outcomes. The important thing is not to deal exclusively with bad outcomes on a crisis basis but rather to manage the disagreement and to prevent the bad outcomes.

What are the scriptural principles for conflict management that will most effectively lead to building up rather than destroying the Body of Christ and that seek to bring others into the Body of Christ?

Remembering the past: Certainly the Christian church has a history, one that is littered with huge mistakes and the high prices that have been paid for those mistakes. That same church is filled with success and great impact as mentioned above. Let us remember to focus on the greatness of God to us, how God has blessed us, and wants to heal us, restore us, and build us up. What is our objective when we confront a person we have a conflict with? Is it to destroy, to spread gossip (perceived to be true) to humiliate, to injure, to separate? Or is it to heal, to unite, to correct, to support, to affirm, and to build up?

Remember who we are and whose we are: We are the children of God. Let us look upon others as God sees them, built on God's grace and love to all, not just the few and the select. We all belong to God and to each other as the body of Christ. Let us not allow disagreement on monetary, social, political, and spiritual issues to destroy all we try and are called to do as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us avoid destructive controversy and work to create constructive solutions which stress timely and useful communication between the members, church leadership, and the pastor.

May our God grant us a heart big enough to include celebration, affirmation, encouragement, support and love in all the work we do. *In Christian love and grace, Mel*



FALL FEST • Saturday, November 5
10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

The Fall Fest Committee met last week to sort out the details for our annual Fall Fest this year.

Silent Auction • Fellowship Hall
Only new items are to be donated for the auction.
Sweet Shop & Crafts • Emmanuel Classroom
Lunch • Fellowship Hall • \$10
Three kinds of soup, cornbread, dessert,
tea & water.

Quilt • Chances will be sold for \$10 each
starting Sunday, October 23.

Set up for Fall Fest:
Thursday, November 3 • 6:00 p.m.
Friday, November 4 • 10:00 a.m.





Breakfast with Our Neighbors

Sunday, **October 9**, we will gather again for breakfast and invite the surrounding community to join us. We will have the same format with all Sunday School classes joining together to share breakfast. This includes all children, youth and adult classes. There is no cost for this meal, but donations are appreciated.

Starting this Sunday, **September 25**, sign-up sheets will be in each Sunday School class for everyone to make reservations and/or sign up to help cook, serve, greet or be a part of the clean-up crew along with a sign-up sheet in the north foyer.

Coming together with our community fits in exactly with what we are called to do - *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world* - and that often begins with a shared meal and a cup of coffee!

Schedule:

8:00 a.m. Start Cooking

9:00 a.m. Gathering & Coffee

9:15 a.m. Welcome from Mel Bishara

Immediately following, breakfast will be served

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service

Menu:

Egg Casserole, Hash Brown Casserole, Biscuits w/gravy, Waffles, Fruit, Milk, Orange Juice & Coffee

Questions??? or To Make Reservations, call the church office at 817/838-6834.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Gospel of John

September 28 • 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall • We invite you to join us.



St. Luke United Methodist Church Facebook Page
SLUMC-Haltom City

We are trying to increase our Facebook presence, please "Like" or "Share" our posts to increase our audience.

Thank you!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

Continued Prayer Concerns: Jeanne Anne Pharis; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Pat Farmer; Marilyn Smith's cousin, Kim Masters; Jack & Jerrie Lucko; Vicki Kovar; Lisel Richardson's Aunt Vicki; Sam & Ann Kiker; Ross & Betty Longeway; Sandra Mason; Byron Lechler; Sarah Harris' husband, Tom; David & Kay Stapp; Norm & Betty Turnage; Betty Holshouser; Ovella Russell; Lou Coursey; J. R. & Bettie Lennox; Scott Paris; Karen Angle's brother & sister-in-law, Jerry & Debbie Biles; Bill Henderson's daughter, Sandy; John Benson's son & daughter-in-law, Paul & Carolyn Benson; Burt & Marylou Moore; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's sister, Susan; Larea Pippen's sister, Lanette; Steve Johnson; Danny & Jerry Chism; Raymond Hames; Pastor Ditu's sister and brother-in-law; Bill & Pat Whisenant; Cathy & Art Gordon; Barbara Burnett's sister, Mary Neeb; Buddy & DeeDee Hills' daughter-in-law, Megan's father, Mike; Earline Vinnedge's daughter, Cindy; Ron & Larea Pippen's granddaughter, Kassie; Bill & Pat Whisenant's daughter-in-law, Sheila Brown; Gail LaRue's daughter, Maya and her son; Wanda Calvert; Don & Karen Carter; Patty Tucker; Pat Hooper; Barbara Provenzano with the loss of her sister, Patricia Wiles; Libby Conant

This Week's Concerns: Leslie Duncan & family with the loss of her Aunt Phyllis; those affected by isolation & loneliness; those affected by flooding and wild fires; those affected by gun violence each day in our country; the people of Ukraine & the world; prayers for our nation; those affected by COVID-19; our first responders, doctors, nurses, essential employees & frontline workers

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



The Community Table Food Pantry

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday & Thursday:
4:00—7:00 p.m.

If you or someone you know is in need of food, the food pantry offers the following:
Dairy Products, Meat, Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, Bread Products, Canned Vegetables, and Non-Perishables

There's always room at the table.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had thirteen in attendance to hear George's lesson. It was good to see Lydia Acosta, Cherryl Cantwell and Susan Bishara. Happy Anniversary to Art and Cathy Gordon who celebrated nine years together on September 16.

Mary Ross & James McDonald

GENESIS CLASS:

We heard a great lesson from George and we are looking forward for more to come. We had a small group in class. Keep Cathy and Art's friend in your prayers as he is recovering from surgery. We missed Linda's birthday on September 9. Happy Birthday! The Gordons celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary on September 16. Happy Anniversary! Have a safe and blessed week. See ya Sunday.

Anita Bookout

NEW COVENANT CLASS:

We had eight in attendance on this gorgeous September morning. Karen couldn't make it today, but texted Elizabeth with an update on Don. There is still no clear path on his upcoming care. Pray for their family. Steve is recovering well from his gall bladder surgery. He's still sore but looked really well. Amazing how fast this surgery is now. Leslie's Aunt Phyllis who was 100 this past May passed away on September 12. There will be a memorial planned later. Session 6 of our lesson was a retelling of the prodigal son. However, told from the point of the people who were in the crowd listening to it. This whole series is about being a disciple of Christ and how we should love others as Jesus did. Never thought about when you say or feel, "They'll get what's coming to them" or other thoughts of righteous indignation are really signs that YOU are an angry Christian. Yet again, another example of the tension in being a disciple. Hating the decisions that result in sin, but still so, so hard to love the person. Challenges we all face every day, trying to follow in His footsteps. Prayers for each and every one of us as we struggle though this next week. Hope to see everyone next Sunday.

Leslie Duncan

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We had 8 in attendance on this beautiful Sunday morning. We were happy to see Mel come by for a visit. He gave us an update on Libby Conant who had successful hip surgery last Friday and is now home. We pray for her complete healing. Bill Whisenant delivered our morning prayer suggesting that the Lord's people maintain a closer walk with our Savior. Toni Hood gave us an inspiring devotion about an elderly lady who had dementia and for a brief moment was back to normal recognizing and conversing with a passing neighbor. Gloria Lechler summarized the Fall Fest Committee's meeting that was held last Thursday. Emphasis was placed on pushing for more contributions from each classroom for the Sweet Shop, Crafts and the Silent Auction. Our prayers this week are for Libby Conant, Ronnie, Larea Pippen and family, Bill and Pat Whisenant, Gail LaRue and family and Byron Lechler. Remaining birthdays for September are Suzanne Nickel, 9/27 and Toni Hood, 9/30.

Resale Shop: \$230

Prayer Meeting: Dr. Martha—5:15 p.m.

Devotion/Refreshments: Jack and Lorna Bostick

Scripture Lesson: Psalms 7:1

Gloria Lechler

Youth News:



This Sunday we shared with the youth about self-contentment in Christ. The author in the Book of 2 Corinthians 12:10 is saying that: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." Sometimes, in life, we can have the feeling of failure in our lives, when we face challenges that we can't help. It could be a career failure, the loss of a loved one, or any other things that bother us in which we don't have satisfaction. We tend to blame ourselves. And sometimes, our common enemy, the accuser will accuse us of past mistakes or past failures and when that happens, we close ourselves in a shell. But here, the author of the Book of Hebrews reminds us that our failures are not a failure in Christ. Because he is the one that leads our paths, and when those thoughts comes to accuse us, we shall rise and say, "It is when I am weak, that I am strong in Christ because our weakness is made perfect in Christ." Our past mistakes, our past failures, made me strong today and made me a better person today. That is why Christ is our Lord and Savior, we have all in him in perfection. Amen.

Stanislas Ndecky



Please continue your financial support of St. Luke United Methodist Church. There are several ways to contribute that include mailing your offering to the church office or giving online through our website, st-luke-umc.net.

You may also use your banking online payment services to make your contributions every month.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Luke United Methodist Church!



Second Chance Resale Shop Needs Volunteers!

The Resale Shop is in need of volunteers to work Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. to help with pricing and moving merchandise.

We also need volunteers to work Friday and Saturday!



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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Central Texas Conference website: www.ctcumc.org

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.

Community Table Food Pantry Open Tuesday & Thursday • 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:

www.st-luke-umc.net

Sunday, September 25, 2022

16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, September 26, 2022

9:00 a.m. Newsletter DEADLINE

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 29, 2022

9:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast - Bluebonnet Café
 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution
 5:15 p.m. Prayer Group

Friday, September 30, 2022

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, October 1, 2022

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, October 2, 2022

17th Sunday after Pentecost † Communion Sunday

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



Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
 for In-Person Worship or via our
Facebook page & You Tube:

SLUMC—Haltom City

Sunday, September 25, 2022

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance

Wednesday Night Youth Activities • September 14—7

Wednesday Bible Study • September 14—12

United Methodist Men Breakfast • September 15—8

Sunday, September 18, 2022

St. Luke UMC • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—61

In-Person Worship—53

Online Worship—361

French Worship Service

In-Person Worship—22