



The people of The United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2023, No. 28

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

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The Essence of Christianity

The essence of Christianity lies not only in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ but also in belonging to a vibrant and caring church community. Church fellowship is a powerful expression of our faith, where believers come together to support, encourage, and grow with one another.

From the beginning, God emphasized the importance of community, stating that "it is not good for man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). The nature of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in perfect community reflects the unity and diversity we find within the church (2 Corinthians 13:14). Just as the human body has diverse parts functioning together, so does the church with its members having unique roles and gifts (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

Church community provides an environment for learning, studying the Bible, and sharing insights that contribute to personal and collective spiritual growth (Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 10:24-25). In times of trials and joys, the church community stands ready to provide comfort, support, and encouragement (Galatians 6:2, Romans 12:15). A loving church community helps individuals remain accountable to their faith and nurtures a culture of discipleship (Matthew 18:20).

Engaging in church activities, small groups, and ministries fosters deeper connections with church members (Acts 2:42-47). Embracing vulnerability and authenticity in relationships allows for genuine connections (James 5:16). Partnering with others in prayer strengthens bonds and supports one another in their spiritual journeys (Philippians 1:3-6).

Practicing forgiveness and extending grace enables healing and reconciliation when conflicts arise (Colossians 3:13). Valuing diversity in backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives creates a richer and more inclusive church community (Galatians 3:28). Putting others' needs before our own and serving selflessly fosters a culture of love and unity (Philippians 2:3-4).

A united and caring church community becomes a compelling witness to non-believers, drawing them to Christ (John 13:35). Engaging in community service and initiatives addresses societal needs, reflecting Christ's love to the world (Matthew 5:16).

Church community and fellowship are essential aspects of the Christian walk, allowing believers to grow spiritually, find support and encouragement, and impact the world for Christ. As we actively participate in church life, cultivate authentic relationships, and overcome challenges with grace and love, we become a testament to the transformative power of Christ's presence within us. Let us cherish and invest in our church community, demonstrating to the world that the love of Christ unites us as one family.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



Our Deepest Sympathies

Funeral Service:

William "Bill" Worthington

*Friday, August 4, 2023
10:00 a.m.*

St. Luke United Methodist Church

*Visitation: Mount Olivet Funeral Home
Thursday, August 3 • 6:00—8:00 p.m.*

*Burial will follow immediately after
the service at Bluebonnet Hills
Memorial Park in Colleyville.*



Blessing of the Backpacks
Sunday, August 6
10:30 a.m. Worship Service



Holy Communion † Sunday, August 6, 2023

Communion will be served during our in-person worship service. We will invite all who are able to come to the altar to receive communion. As usual during our online worship service we will invite you to participate in communion by having your own elements ready.



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!



Please be in prayer for all of our children, school administrators, teachers, and essential employees as the new school year begins!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

Continued Prayer Concerns: Jeanne Anne Pharis; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Ben & Pat Burt; Pat Farmer; Jack & Jerrie Lucko; Vicki Kovar; Sandra Mason; Byron Lechler; Sarah Harris' husband, Tom; Betty Holshouser; Ovella Russell; J. R. & Bettie Lennox; Scott Paris; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's sister, Karen; Raymond Hames; Burt & Marylou Moore; Amy Bibb's daughter, Lindsay Wright; DeeDee Hill's stepmother; Charlie & Pat Hooper; Barbara Jones; Linda Wills; Alice Cook; Gail LaRue's family; Dr. Martha Chapman; Bill Whisenant; Gary Wommack; Sam & Ann Kiker; Doris Crocker; Bob Watkins; David & Kay Stapp; Linda Smith; Melissa Lechler and her son, Lucas; Patsy Sullivan's grandson, Matthew Sullivan-Green; Barbara Wiles' cousin, Robert; Toni Hood's granddaughter-in-law, Christin; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandson, Milo; Joe Crawford; Ruby Lane's friend, Marcene; Ronnie & Larea Pippen; Gail LaRue's mother; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Bill Whisenant's grandson; Darren Isbell; Michael & Claudia Turner's daughter, Jeri with the loss of her husband, Jason; Mary Ruth Ellis; Betty Ann Carter; Ed Baker; Bill Reeves; George & Karen Angle & family with the loss of her brother, Jerry Biles; Cathy Gordon; Beverly Bradley's son, Mike; Lydia Acosta's niece; Bonnie Richards; George & Karen Angle's daughter-in-law, Kristine; Dena Hughes

This Week's Concerns: Ruby Lane; family of Bill Worthington; Jerry & Gail LaRue with the loss of his mother; those affected by the conflict in Sudan; those affected by isolation & loneliness; 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 and 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.

There's always room at the table.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had eight members present to hear Roxie's lesson on the Crowns in Heaven. Prayer Concerns: Please keep Anita Bookout, David Coursey and their family in your prayers this week; Ruby Lane. *Mary Ross*

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We had ten in attendance on another warm Sunday morning. It was so nice having Ronnie and Larea Phippen and Sharon Friddle back with us. Ronnie gave us a good health report and thanked us for all the prayers, cards and telephone calls. We praise God for His healing and good health. Our prayer concerns go out to Betty Carter, Alice Cook, Doris Crocker, Mary Ruth Ellis, Betty Holshouser, Toni Hood, Pat and Charlie Hooper, Sam and Ann Kiker, Anita McCullar, Bonnie Richards, Gail LeRue's family, Merel and David and Byron, Melissa and Lucas Lechler. Our devotion was given by Gloria Lechler titled "Seeking God" from *The Upper Room* devotional magazine. When we seek God with all our hearts, God lovingly bends down and, with great delight, draws us close. We thank Debbie Chapman for the lovely and tasty dessert. Virgil presented another great lesson on Matthew 4:1-23. We had a lengthy discussion on why 40 days is used so often in the Bible. We finally concluded through our discussion that it meant a time for reflection and seeking a right relationship with God.

August Birthdays: Ann Blackwell, 8/2, Lorna Bostick, 8/5, Byron Lechler, 8/7, Doris Crocker, 8/15, Anita McCullar, 8/16, Maggie Khoury and Wendy Slaughter, 8/20

Anniversaries: Jack and Lorna Bostick, 8/18

Resale Shop: \$276

Prayer Meeting: Jack and Lorna Bostick 5:15 p.m.

Devotion/Refreshments: Gail LaRue

Lesson: Matthew 4:23-25 and Matthew 5:1-47

Gloria Lechler

Youth News:



Last Sunday we shared with the youth about the beauty of creation. Our Bible verse is found in the book of Psalms 104:24-30.

In these verses, the author David is explaining how great God is. He explains how God provides food for all animals over the face of the earth, and he is also taking care of all humans needs. Even the smallest flower that is planted today and dies tomorrow, God is taking care of it. How much more won't he take care of me? This reminds me that we serve a great God, and that in his presence, there is fullness of joy, diversity, and grace. Amen. *Stanislas Ndecky*



*Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Gospel of John
August 9 • 10:00 a.m.
We invite you to join us.*



**SAVE THE DATE!
MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!
FALL FEST WILL BE HELD
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28.**



The Resale Shop is in need of volunteers to work Thursdays to help with pricing and moving merchandise. We also need volunteers to work Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm!



**Receipts:
July 2023
\$26,541**



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 • 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, August 6, 2023

10th Sunday after Pentecost † Communion Sunday

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

Monday, August 7, 2023

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

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

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

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

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

Thursday, August 10, 2023

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

Friday, August 11, 2023

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, August 12, 2023

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, August 13, 2023

11th Sunday after Pentecost

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, August 6, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.
 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost † Communion Sunday
 Blessing of the Backpacks***

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance

***Wednesday Bible Study • July 26—0
 Wednesday Night Youth Activities • July 26—11
 United Methodist Men Breakfast • July 27—6***

July 30, 2023 • St. Luke UMC • 10:30 a.m.

***Sunday School—63
 In-Person Worship—53
 Online Worship—99***

***French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—48
 French Congregation Bible Study—14***