



The people of the United Methodist Church

# E-MESSENGER

Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors

## Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2023, No. 36

Wednesday, November 22, 2023  
Available at: [www.st-luke-umc.net](http://www.st-luke-umc.net)



The church office will be closed November 22, 23 & 24 for the Thanksgiving holidays. All Wednesday activities have been cancelled except for our Bible Study.



### Service of Wholeness and Hope

Sunday, December 3  
5:00 p.m. † St. Luke UMC  
Combined service with  
New Riverside UMC  
with a Reception  
following the service.



### Advent Schedule

#### **Service of Wholeness & Hope held at St. Luke UMC**

Combined Service with New Riverside UMC  
with Reception following the service  
December 3 † 5:00 p.m.

#### **United Methodist Women Christmas Brunch**

Entertainment: Linda & Ray Savell  
December 5 † 10:00 a.m. † Fellowship Hall

#### **Rehearsal for Children's Program & Pizza Party**

December 9 † 10:00 a.m.

#### **Breakfast with Our Neighbors**

December 10 † 9:00 a.m. † Fellowship Hall

#### **Children's Christmas Program—Christmas Dreams**

December 10 † 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

#### **Children's Christmas Party**

December 10 † 12:00 p.m. † Fellowship Hall

#### **Christmas Caroling**

December 12 † 6:00 p.m.

#### **Chancel Choir Cantata**

December 17 † 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

#### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

December 24 † 6:00 p.m.

#### **French Congregation Christmas Day Service**

Chapel † 10:00 a.m.

#### **French Congregation New Year's Eve Service**

Chapel † 9:00 p.m.



The Annual United Methodist Women Christmas Brunch will be held Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All church members and friends (which includes men) are welcome to this festive holiday occasion with tasty Christmas treats and special music by Linda & Ray Savell!

UMW ladies, please plan on bringing your favorite Christmas dishes for the brunch. Please contact Barbara Blair, 817/656-4031 or Mary Paris, 817/688-2751 to help us plan for plenty of refreshments.

### Children's Program Rehearsal & Pizza Party Saturday, December 9 • 10:00 a.m.



### Children's Christmas Program and Party Sunday, December 10

Children's Christmas  
Program • 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Service  
*Christmas Dreams*  
written by  
Linda Schmidt

Children's Christmas  
Party • 12:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall  
A special guest has  
been invited to attend!



## A Season of Preparation, Anticipation and Expectations

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be entering into Thanksgiving and the Advent season. During this time of the year, most people are happy, joyous, loving, thoughtful, considerate, affirming, excited, caring, generous, and much, much more. We are reminded of the blessings of having our families, friends, work to do, homes above our heads, our church, and above all our God who is the giver of all that is good. We are also mindful of people for whom this season is very difficult because of illness, loss, health issues, separation, loneliness, and difficulties and are in need of God's comforting presence.

Giving thanks will not change the circumstances of our lives, but it will change what our circumstances do to us. Thanksgiving will not remove the obstacles we face, the disappointments and losses we experience, but it will heal our spirit. God asks us for our thanksgiving whether we feel like making it or not - so that we might experience the blessings it brings to us and to others. "... in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Look all around you will find that which is good, caring, kind, compassionate, healing, and forgiving and thank God for it and for the persons who are doing it. Remember, the true essence of Thanksgiving lies in cultivating an attitude of gratitude, fostering connections, and creating an atmosphere of love and appreciation.

Advent is the season that begins the liturgical year. It consists of four Sundays starting with the Sunday closest to November 30th. The word advent is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." In the societies of the Roman empire, the word *adventus* referred to the arrival of a person of dignity and great power -- a king, emperor, or even one of the gods.

"Advent can only be celebrated only by those whose souls give them no peace, who know that they are poor and incomplete, and who sense something of the greatness that is supposed to come. The Holy one himself, God is the Christ child in the manger. God is coming, the Lord Jesus Christ is coming, Christmas is coming. Rejoice Oh Christians Rejoice." Dietrich Bonhoefer from *God Is In The Manger*.

How can we welcome Christ, how can we enter the promised land with him, how can we open a room in our hearts for him? John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord by preparing the hearts of all who were willing to hear him. John called to the people to hear his message and to take action so that they would be able to greet the Messiah, and walk in his way. "Repent, and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, he cried out, for after me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie."

Repent. What does the word repent mean? Quite simply it means to "turn around" to change direction, to face a new way, and to begin to walk on that way, leaving the old way behind. Let us also turn our direction toward Christ's forgiveness, love, grace, and peace. In the midst of the intersections of our fears and hopes, let this season indeed be for us a season of turning around, of making room, of preparation, and of anticipation, and of expectations.

God bless all who are near and dear to you, and may you and your loved ones find the very presence of our God who never leaves us nor forsakes us. *In Christian love and grace, Mel*



### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

**Continued Prayer Concerns:** Jeanne Anne Pharis; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Pat Farmer; Jack & Jerrie Lucko; David & Kay Stapp; Sam & Ann Kiker; Byron Lechler; Betty Holshouser; Ovella Russell; Scott Paris; Burt & Marylou Moore; Barbara Jones; Charles & Pat Hooper; Alice Cook; Jo Wommack; Doris Crocker; Linda Smith; Melissa Lechler & her son, Lucas; Toni Hood's granddaughter-in-law, Christin; Buddy & DeeDee Hill grandson, Milo; Joe Crawford; Darren Isbell; Betty Ann Carter; Ed Baker; Bonnie Richards; George & Karen Angle's daughter-in-law, Kristine; Ruby Lane; Judy White; Lydia Acosta & her niece; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Sharon Friddle's daughter, Amanda Govea; Sandra Mason; Cathy Hicks; Mel & Susan Bishara's family in Israel and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; Art & Cathy Gordon; Mary Ross; family of Joan King; Michelle Paris & family with the loss of her mother, Penny Collins; family of Charlotte Pittman; Michael & Claudia Turner's daughters, Jeri & Brandi; Suzy Kasonga with the loss of her nephew; Earline Vinnege's granddaughter; Bill & Leslie Duncan with the loss of their cousin, Sally; Peggy Fallin

**This Week's Concerns:** Ronnie Phippen & family; Gail LaRue's husband, Gerry & his sister; Virgil Van Schuyver's brother & sister; Mel & Susan Bishara's friend, Tristan; Raymond Hames; Kelly Henderson's father, Joe; the people of the southern of Israel and Gaza; those affected by the shootings, hurricanes, floodings, earthquakes, & wildfires; isolation & loneliness; gun violence each day in our country; the people of Ukraine & the world; prayers for our nation

**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.*



**A message from Dr. Martha Chapman:** Our prayer group is getting smaller for many reasons and I feel it is a very important part of our church. I would like to invite others to join us. Prayer is for those with special needs and help from God. Please join us at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Be a part of a group that is upholding our promise when we joined the church. My phone number is 817/269-9654. The time can be changed. We meet at my house and at the home Jack & Lorna Bostick.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



**Breakfast with Our Neighbors**  
December 10 • 9:00 a.m.

All Sunday School Classes coming together to share breakfast.

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.*

**Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service

*We need volunteers to help serve & clean up the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall.*



## *Poinsettia Sales Taking Place in the North Foyer*

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 in the north foyer, you can call the church office at 817/838-6834 or email Susan at [office@st-luke-umc.com](mailto:office@st-luke-umc.com) to place an order.



## The Community Table Food Pantry Christmas Food Drive December 1-15



The Community Table Food Pantry will have a holiday drive for the Christmas season.

The food pantry is asking for several non-food items this year that the pantry does not supply for its clients.

Food Items:

Peanut Butter  
Tea Bags  
Spices/Salt & Pepper  
Sugar/Flour  
Cookie & Cake Mixes  
Cooking Oil-Small Bottles  
Canned Protein

Non-Food Items:

Dish Soap  
Dishwasher Detergent  
Napkins  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper  
Can Openers

There will be a grocery cart in the narthex starting on Sunday, December 3 where you can leave your donations.

*Thank you in advance for your generosity.*



## *Hanging of the Greens*

Join us Monday, November 27 at 10:00 a.m. to help decorate the church for the Advent Season.



### GENESIS CLASS:

Thirteen in class as Susan and Dayna led us in our lesson. Next week we'll read chapter six, "Remember That Easter Has Good News for You." The month of December we will be using the study book Amy presented to us, *A Christmas Carol* - 4 week Bible Study for Advent. Amy is ordering copies. If you want one, let her know. We'll pick back up with the James Moore book in January. We should have two new babies by the end of the week. DeeDee's niece went into labor during Sunday School and Dayna's newest granddaughter is due Friday. Continue to keep the Turner family in your prayers and add Susan's friend's family. LNO Christmas party is coming up on December 7, 6 p.m. at the Savell's. Bring something snacky and a \$20-25 gift for exchange.

Doughnuts - 11/26 Angle's and 12/3 Hill's  
See y'all next Sunday.

*Anita Bookout*

### UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. On November 19 we had seven in attendance. It was good to have Virgil back with us. During our business meeting it was agreed that class members could take some of our class wall pictures home and those not taken would be placed in the Resale Shop. Ann updated us on the animals chosen for the Heifer Project. Our joys were for the fun time Ann and Virgil had on their camping trip. Prayer concerns are for Virgil's brother and sister and for Ronnie Pippen and his family. Gail asked for prayers for her husband, Gerry, and his sister as they travel to Nicaragua to finalize property matters. Dr. Martha gave our morning prayer asking that we do the Lord's will. Gloria Lechler gave our devotion on the 5 Essentials we need before thanking God. Virgil taught another great lesson from Matthew 10. Everyone have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Birthday: Gloria Lechler—11/27

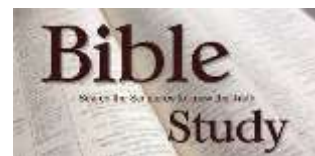
Resale Shop: \$305

Devotions/Refreshments: Earline and Cindy

Prayer Meeting: Cancelled due to Thanksgiving

Lesson: Matthew 10:40

*Gloria Lechler*



Wednesday Bible Study † Book of Hebrews  
November 29 † 10:00 a.m. † Fellowship Hall  
We invite you to join us.



## Receipts:

October 2023  
\$31,623



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 • 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](http://www.st-luke-umc.net)

**Sunday, November 26, 2023**

**Christ the King Sunday**

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

**Monday, November 27, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

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

**Wednesday, November 29, 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, November 30, 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, December 1, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Saturday, December 2, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

**1st Sunday of Advent**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service  
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service  
 5:00 p.m. Service of Wholeness & Hope

**Monday, December 4, 2023**

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023**

10:00 a.m. UMW Christmas Brunch  
 4:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution

**Wednesday, December 6, 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



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

***SLUMC—Haltom City***

***Sunday, November 26, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.***

***Christ the King Sunday***

***Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.***

***Weekly Attendance***

*Wednesday Bible Study • November 8—14*  
*Wednesday Night Youth Activities • November 8—7*  
*French Congregation Bible Study • November 8—12*  
*United Methodist Men Breakfast • November 9—6*

***Sunday, November 12, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.***

***Breakfast with Our Neighbors—45***

***In-Person Worship—54***

***Online Worship—225***

***French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—57***

***Weekly Attendance***

*Wednesday Bible Study • November 15—12*  
*Wednesday Night Youth Activities • November 15—7*  
*French Congregation Bible Study • November 15—11*  
*United Methodist Men Breakfast • November 16—5*

***Sunday, November 19, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.***

***Sunday School—56***

***In-Person Worship—50***

***Online Worship—90***

***French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—37***