



The people of the United Methodist Church

# E-MESSENGER

Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors

## Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2023, No. 37

Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
Available at: [www.st-luke-umc.net](http://www.st-luke-umc.net)



### Advent Schedule

**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.



### 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!



*Christmas Caroling*  
Tuesday, December 12 † 6:00 p.m.

Join us for caroling to our home bound members...  
*St. Luke UMC spreading the joy of Christmas!*



**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.*

*We are asking each class to bring your favorite holiday  
dishes to share at our breakfast.*

**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.*



St. Luke United Methodist Church Chancel Choir  
presents their *Christmas Cantata* with Orchestra

### *A Christmas Story*

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



*May your Christmas be an end and a beginning...*

God is the Source of all Things. Scripture is filled with stories reminding each other about God being the source of all gifts. (Psalms: 24, 50, 8, 116) When the people of God focus upon the Giver they unleash a dominant note of praise and celebration.

God's generosity is a reason for celebration! It is reason for giving and recognition of grace.

May we all celebrate and respond to God's goodness, God's love, and God's grace to us, throughout this season of Christmas and beyond.

I remember the words of my late friend Bill Ward: "Christmas is generally most joyous to those who are joyfully most generous. Christmas is most lovely to those who are most loving of heart. Christmas is most meaningful to those who are magnanimous of soul."

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. May your Christmas be an end and a beginning. An end of fear and doubt; the beginning of faith, hope and acceptance. An end of sadness, sorrow, and gloom; the beginning of joy, gladness, and happiness. An end to emptiness, confusion, and aimlessness, and the beginning of purpose, clarity, and blessings. An end of pessimism, criticism, and cynicism; the beginning of faith, and complete trust in God. When we make room for Christ to enter into our hearts, we can have ending and beginning.

*In Christ's service and love, Mel Bishara*



**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; Earline Vinnedge's granddaughter; Bill & Leslie Duncan with the loss of their cousin, Sally; Peggy Fallin; Ronnie Phippen & family; Gail LaRue's husband, Gerry & his sister; Virgil Van Schuyver's brother & sister; Raymond Hames; Kelly Henderson's father, Joe

**This Week's Concerns:** Bonnie Richards; Earline Vinnedge's great-grandson, Lincoln; 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

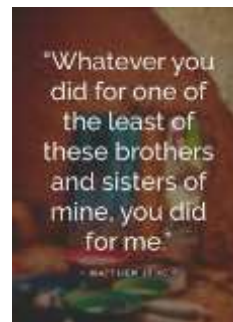
*There's always room at the table.*



**Receipts:**  
**November 2023**  
**\$16,214**



**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.



**Community Table Food Pantry Thanksgiving Holiday Donations**

Dear members of St. Luke UMC, Through your generous donations the Community Table Food Pantry was able to feed 500 families for the Thanksgiving holiday. That rounds out to be approximately 2250 family members in our surrounding communities. *Thank you for having a generous and giving spirit!*

*There's always room at the table.*



## 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, 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 3—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  
Brownie Mix  
Canned Frosting  
Cooking Oil-Small Bottles  
Canned Protein  
Canned Green Beans  
Canned Peas  
Canned Corn  
Instant Potatoes  
Canned Fruit (Peaches, Applesauce, etc.)  
Canned Cranberries  
Baked Beans

### Non-Food Items:

Dish Soap  
Dishwasher Detergent  
Napkins  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper  
Can Openers

There will be a grocery cart in the narthex where you can leave your donations.

*Thank you in advance for your generosity.*



This Sunday we shared with the youth on how the hand of God is long enough to deliver us from our problems and his ears are not closed to our prayers. Our verse is found in the Bible in the Book of Psalms 139:7-10. Many times we ask ourselves when we face a difficult time, where is God, can he hear me? Can he deliver me? But in these verses, David is telling us that the hand of God is not short, there is no situation in which we find ourselves that God can not deliver us. There is no prayer we can pray that God did not hear. The only thing why sometimes we are not seeing the result of our prayers is that, God can tell us no my child, this is not good for you, or yes my child, I will give you what you want or wait my child, I will give it to you in due time. The love of God is always with us and surrounds us at all times. Amen.

*Stanislas Ndecky*

# SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

## GENESIS CLASS:

We had a pretty good group considering how many were otherwise deterred. We decided to put the Christmas Carol Bible study on hold until January. There is a lot of reading that needs to be done before hand (homework?) for this to work, but it will be worthwhile. In the meantime, we'll continue with the James Moore book. However, this Sunday is the Community Breakfast (no Sunday school), December 17 is our brunch (no lesson), with Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve the next two Sundays. We'll wing it on the Eves. Ladies, our Christmas party is this Thursday, December 7 at the Savell's, 6:00 p.m., bring a snack and a gift to exchange. We always have such a good time. This Sunday is the Children's Christmas program during the 10:30 a.m. service followed by the Christmas party with a special guest expected. Tuesday, December 12 is Christmas Caroling, 6:00 p.m.. The Choir Cantata is Sunday, December 17 during the church service. It's a full schedule. Hoping you will attend as much as possible. See ya Thursday and Sunday (hopefully).  
*Anita Bookout*

## UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. Our attendance was eight members and one visitor with a total of nine. We so appreciate Cindy Lasiter bringing Earline and her contributions to our lessons. Our joys were for the safe return of Gerry LaRue and his sister from Nicaragua and Byron was having a good day. Please pray for Bonnie Richards who had successful oral surgery and is recovering and for Lincoln, Cindy's grandson. Also, continue to pray for Pat and Charlie Hooper, Doris Crocker, and Ronnie Pippen. Morning prayer was delivered by Toni Hood asking the Lord for strength and thanking Him for the blessing of the ability to continue to be in church for worship. Thank you Virgil for your devotion taken from Isaiah 53:4, "Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows." Our business discussions included the upcoming Christmas party. It will be December 15 at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The food will be provided. Just bring a gift for the Chinese gift exchange. Other business was receiving names of children who attend Cheney Hills Elementary. We will help bring Christmas for these children. Remember Jack Bostick's birthday on December 31.

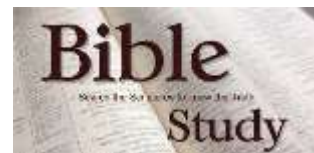
Resale Shop: \$406

Prayer Meeting: Jack and Lorna's 5:15 p.m.

Devotion/Refreshments: Church-wide Breakfast

No Sunday School, but be prepared for Matthew 12:33 on December 17.

*Blessings to all, Gloria Lechler*



Wednesday Bible Study † Book of Hebrews  
December 13 † 10:00 a.m. † Fellowship Hall  
We invite you to join us.



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

The *E-Messenger* newsletter is published bi-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, December 10, 2023**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Breakfast with Our Neighbors  
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service—Children's Christmas Program  
12:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Party  
2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

**Monday, December 11, 2023**

No Activities

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

4:00 p.m. Community Table Food Pantry Distribution  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling

**Wednesday, December 13, 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, December 14, 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 15, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop  
12:00 p.m. Upper Room Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 16, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**

**1st Sunday of Advent**

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

**Monday, December 18, 2023**

No Activities

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

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

**Wednesday, December 20, 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 & You Tube:*

**SLUMC—Haltom City**

**Sunday, December 10, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.**

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.**

**Weekly Attendance**

*Wednesday Bible Study • November 22—16  
Wednesday Night Youth Activities • November 22—0  
French Congregation Bible Study • November 8—0  
United Methodist Men Breakfast • November 9—0*

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

*Breakfast with Our Neighbors—65*

*In-Person Worship—55*

*Online Worship—133*

*French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—24*

**Weekly Attendance**

*Wednesday Bible Study • November 29—17  
Wednesday Night Youth Activities • November 15—6  
French Congregation Bible Study • November 15—9  
United Methodist Men Breakfast • November 16—7*

**Sunday, December 3, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.**

*Sunday School—66*

*In-Person Worship—64*

*Online Worship—100*

*Service of Wholeness & Hope—In-person—20 • Online—279*

*French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—24*