



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2023, No. 38

Wednesday, December 20, 2023
Available at: www.st-luke-umc.net



The entire staff of St. Luke United Methodist Church wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rev. Mel Bishara, Pastor Abel Ditu,
Susan Briles, Mark Chandler, Randy Fox,
Stanislas Ndecky, Debbie Diviney,
Anna Allen, & Ray Savell



Congratulations to the Cox and Ellis families with the birth of Scarlett and Diana.

Scarlett Jade Cox

November 11, 2023 ♥ 11:06 am
7 lbs. 14 oz. ♥ 19.25"

Parents: Brennan & Cherice Cox
Big Sisters: Sawyer—5 1/2
Brooke & Saige—3 1/2
Grandmother: Dayna Cox

Diana March Ellis

December 8, 2023 ♥ 3:30 p.m.
7 lbs. 12 oz. ♥ 20 inches

Parents: Danielle & Derek Ellis
Grandparents: Debra Yocum
David & Janet Ellis

Great-Grandmothers: Mary Ruth Ellis & Jan Arnette



Join us Sunday evening,
December 24 at
6:00 p.m. for our
**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service.**



The church office will be closed
December 25, 26 & 27 and January 1 & 2.



St. Luke UMC New Website

St. Luke UMC is announcing the launch of our new website—stlukeumcaltomcity.org. We are still working on it, so please be patient while we continue to add content. We want to thank Bill Hoffman for the many hours he has spent working on the new site.



Holy Communion † Sunday, January 7, 2024

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.



Our next newsletter will be published January 10, 2024. Please submit any items by January 8. Thank you!



“You, St. Luke UMC, are a Great Church.”

As the year 2023 comes to an end and the 2024 year begins, I would like to remind us of an important fact about life. You and me would not be the persons that we are today without God’s grace and presence in our lives, without all the experiences, trials, and sufferings that we have encountered along life’s path. Just as steel gains its strength only after being processed through the fiery furnace, and just as coal turns into diamonds only after centuries of pressure and friction, so people can and do become stronger through the trials and testing of life.

Paul Harvey was asked his secret to success. Mr. Harvey replied, “Every time I fell down, I got up again!” The sooner we learn to get up after we fall, the better persons we will become. True greatness comes as a result of continually getting back up after we have been knocked down.

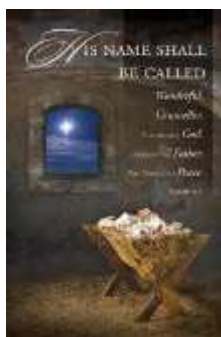
Niccolo Paganini was one of the most outstanding and beloved musicians of his time. His gift for music became apparent as a child. He made his first public appearance at the age of nine. It wasn’t long before his reputation began to spread throughout Europe. He became world renowned for his ability to play the violin. Huge audiences began to follow him wherever he played. At one very important concert, his true genius was especially demonstrated. As he carefully built his song to a thrilling climax, one of his violin’s strings snapped. The audience gasped, fearing that the concert would have to end. But the master continued to play. No sooner had the audience breathed a sigh of relief than a second string snapped. Amazingly, he continued to play. Finally, just before the piece was completed, the third string of the violin broke. Only one string remained. The audience sat in astonished disbelief as this true genius finished the concert with only one string left on his violin! The moment he finished, the audience gave him a standing ovation. They knew they had just witnessed a master in action.

There will be those moments during the coming year when you will be tempted to quit. All of your strings will have broken with the exception of just one. Play that string to the best of your God-given ability! No matter what happens, the show must go on. Get up and get back at it! It is always too soon to quit.

Thanks to you faithful members and friends of St. Luke United Methodist Church, we will end the year meeting all our financial obligations. When I began my ministry with you, I said: “You, St. Luke UMC, are a great church.” St. Luke is great because of her member’s faith and commitment. We will not abandon, we will not talk down our church, we will not gossip bad news, and we will not forget the vows of presence, prayers, gifts, service and witness. Our Lord depends on each of us to do our part.

What will you do help St. Luke Grow?
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God Bless.

In Christ’s service and love, Mel Bishara



2023 Christmas Cantata

We wish to thank Mark, Randy, the choir, orchestra, guest vocalists, Kelly, Sherry and Ray for the wonderful performance of *A Christmas Story* last Sunday. If you were unable to attend worship on Sunday, you can watch it on our Facebook page or You Tube—
SLUMC-Haltom City.



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; George & Karen Angle’s daughter-in-law, Kristine; Ruby Lane; Judy White; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Sandra Mason; Cathy Hicks; Mel & Susan Bishara’s family in Israel and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; Earline Vinnedge’s granddaughter; Peggy Fallin; Ronnie Phippen & family; Virgil Van Schuyver’s brother & sister; Raymond Hames; Kelly Henderson’s father, Joe; Bonnie Richards; Earline Vinnedge’s granddaughter & great-grandson, Lincoln

This Week’s Concerns: Linda Smith’s sister, Sandra Dunn; Art & Cathy Gordon; Raymond Hames; Dr. Martha Chapman; Sharon Friddle’s daughter, Amanda Govea; Rory Yocum; 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



*There’s
always room at
the table.*

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



This Sunday we spoke with the youth about putting our trust in God. Our text is found in the Book of Matthew 15:21-28. In this verse, the psalmist David is encouraging us to put our trust in the Lord because he is a strong tower for us. Life can be very challenging at times, but knowing that we have a strong tower where we can run to and have comfort and strength is a big blessing. My wife and I, have many times run toward this strong tower because we needed a refuge and he was there every time waiting on us. God never fails us, he never fails and he is a safe ear for his children, we can cry in his arms, we can tell him our deepest concerns and he will take good care of us. Amen.

Stanislas Ndecky

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had fifteen in attendance and it was good to see Joyce Seat and her daughter, Susan & Ruby Lane and her daughter, Barbie. What a wonderful Cantata we had Sunday. A big thank you to all those who made it a big success. We are going to lose our teacher, Roxie Waters, who is moving after the new year to be closer to her family. She has been a wonderful teacher for our class. We wish her the best.

Prayer Concerns: Raymond Hames

Birthdays: Betty Turnage—12/20; Doris Mobley—12/21;

Ruby Lane—12/23 and Cherryl Cantwell—12/29 *Mary Ross*

GENESIS CLASS:

What a great day at our annual Christmas Brunch. We had wonderful food and fellowship and two visitors. So good to see Cathy, broken bones and all. Prayers for a speedy recovery. The Chancel Choir Cantata was wonderful as always. Remember the candlelight service is Sunday night at 6:00 pm. That's always an inspiration for Christmas. Keep our travelers in your thoughts through the next couple of weeks. Remember these in your prayers: Cathy, Raymond Hames, Rory Yocum, Cookie Bryan, Gale Boyd and Dennis Clingman.

Doughnuts 12/24 - John Kasonga.

No one is signed up for December 31.

Y'all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Anita Bookout

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

The Upper Room Class wishes to send greetings of hope, joy, peace and love during this season of Christmastide. We had nine in attendance plus two visitors making our total eleven. We were so happy to have Cindy Lasiter back with us who has decided to let us make her an honorary member of the class. Also, we were joyed to have Rose Mascari with us for the first time. She has been attending the monthly breakfast and visited with us during Sunday School. Thank you Gail for the refreshments and your devotion titled "Humbled by His Birth" from *Manna for the Morning*. Our joys for the week are for Earline who recently held her first Great, great grandchild. As she held him, he looked up at her and smiled. What a beautiful joy here at Christmas. Another joy that I personally have is that our 14 year old grandson, Lucas, made it safely to Australia to spend Christmas with his father. This is his second time to fly that distance by himself. We are so thankful for his safe travel. Our prayer concerns are for Mandy Govea, Ronnie and Larea Pippen, Mary Vinnedge, Toni Hood, Byron Lechler, Lucas Lechler, Dr. Martha and Rose Marie Lopez. Jack delivered our morning prayer expressing thanks for the birth of Jesus and the many blessings He bestows upon us. Ann Van Schuyver shared her favorite Christmas verse with us from Isaiah 9:6: "For a child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." Thank you, Virgil, for another great lesson. We enjoy the neat discussions. Merry Christmas to all!

Resale Shop: \$286

Devotion/Refreshments: Jack and Lorna

Prayer Meeting: Dr. Martha 5:15 p.m.

Lesson for next time: Matthew 12:46 - Matthew 13

Gloria Lechler

2023 Christmas Caroling

On December 12 George & Karen Angle, Amy Bibb, Mel Bishara, Barbara Blair, Anita Bookout, George & Mary Paris, Mariah Paris and Tommie Martin visited several homes to sing to our homebound members.

They visited Mary Ruth Ellis, Bonnie Richards, Betty Turnage, Marylou & Burt Moore and Lou Coursey.





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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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



Building a Church for All
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Sunday, December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent † Christmas Eve

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
2:00 p.m. French Worship Service
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25, 2023

Christmas Day Holiday—Office Closed

10:00 a.m. French Congregation Christmas Day Worship Service

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Christmas Holiday—Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Christmas Holiday—Office Closed

No Wednesday Activities

Thursday, December 28, 2023

9:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast—Bluebonnet Café

5:15 p.m. Prayer Group

Friday, December 29, 2023

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, December 30, 2023

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, December 31, 2023

1st Sunday after Christmas

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
9:00 p.m. French Worship Service—New Year's Eve Celebration

Monday, January 1, 2024

New Year's Day Holiday—Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

New Year's Day Holiday—Office Closed

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

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
6:00 p.m. French Congregation Bible Study



*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 24, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent † Christmas Eve

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance

Wednesday Bible Study • December 6—16

Wednesday Night Youth Activities • December 6—10

French Congregation Bible Study • December 6—9

United Methodist Men Breakfast • December 7—5

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

Breakfast with Our Neighbors—65

In-Person Worship—64

Online Worship—220

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—38

Weekly Attendance

Wednesday Bible Study • December 13—14

Wednesday Night Youth Activities • December 13—6

French Congregation Bible Study • December 13—9

United Methodist Men Breakfast • December 14—6

Sunday, December 17, 2023 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—66

In-Person Worship—119

Online Worship—523

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—50