



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, No. 3

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



The Meaning of Lent

It is hard to believe that we are about to enter the season of lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024 which is the same day as Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day is believed to have originated as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine. The day is recognized as a celebration of love and affection. It's a day to express appreciation for the people we love and care about, whether they be romantic partners, family members, or friends. It's an opportunity to show care and thoughtfulness through varieties of means, such as giving cards, flowers, dinner, or spending quality time together. Valentine's Day serves to remind us to express love and gratitude, and to strengthen and celebrate the bonds we share with others. Wednesday is Valentine's Day when people all over the world celebrate the gift of love.

In first Corinthians 13, Paul tells us that love as the highest of the spiritual gifts. Paul does not describe love as a feeling towards another person but as an action towards the one loved. Paul describes what love does and what love is. Paul describes a loving person's behaviors. For Paul love is an action verb. The way you can tell if you really love someone is by your behavior towards them. Love is patient. Think about someone you say you love. Are you patient and understanding with them or would they describe you as being impatient and judgmental towards them. Love is kind. Some people say they love each other but when you hear them speaking to each other they don't seem to be very kind to each other. A loving person is patient, a loving person is kind, and a loving person's love is eternal. A loving person demonstrates love by their actions. Love is... Happy Valentine's Day.

Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day that marks the beginning of Lent, a season of fasting, prayer, and repentance, reflections, and preparations leading us to Easter. It occurs 40 days before Easter Sunday and is observed by many Christian denominations, including Catholics, Anglicans, United Methodists, and Lutherans.

Ash Wednesday originated in the early centuries of Christianity, evolving from ancient Jewish practices of penance and mourning. The message and imposition of the ashes, in the shape of the cross, remind us of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our salvation. It is a reminder of his love, mercy, and the invitation to follow in his footsteps. It is a reminder of human frailty, mortality, the need for forgiveness, to seek reconciliation with God and others and an invitation to turn back to God and a renewed relationship with God. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. The reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection each Sunday.

Between now and then, take some time alone before God to plan your Lenten pilgrimage. Every one of us is in need of this special time of conversion. What a gift is our ability to understand the significance of Ash Wednesday, the meaning of Lent. Do not squander the gift. Take time, now, to map out your journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Nothing else is more important than this.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



The Community Table Food Pantry of North Texas has two Volunteer Positions Available

The Community Table Food Pantry is a unique farmer's market style pantry, where families shop for their groceries—including fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy, bakery and non-perishables. The need is continuing to grow exponentially in our area for our families, and we are seeking volunteers to assist with our mission.

Executive Director

This position is a voluntary position until the Community Table is financially able to support this position. This position is approximately 20 hours per week. Reports to the Board of Directors. The Executive Director will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for the North Texas Community Table food pantry, oversees financial management, develops policies and procedures in compliance with regulatory and legal requirements. The Executive Director will collaborate with the Board of Directors, developing strategic plans and representing the organization to the public. The Executive Director role is driving the organization's success and makes a positive impact in the community they serve.

Administrative Assistant

The Community Table Food Pantry is currently looking for an administrative assistant to volunteer approximately 5 hours per week, supporting the Executive Director and the Operations Director. This position is flexible to work remotely or on-site at the pantry, located at 3200 Denton Highway in Haltom City.

Anyone interested in volunteering or specifically in the Executive Director or Administrative Assistant role, please email us at communitytablenorthtexas@gmail.com or call us at 682/294-7397 by Friday, February 9, 2024.

There is always room at the table.



Ash Wednesday
Worship Service

February 14 † 6:30 p.m.



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study
 February 14 † Fellowship Hall
 Prayer Group † 9:00 a.m.
 Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.
 Book of Hebrews
We invite you to join us next Wednesday.



Our church is in need of nursery workers. Anyone who applies will need to take sexual abuse training which involves a video and a quiz. The process takes less than an hour to finish. If you or anyone you know would like to become a nursery worker, the job pays \$15 an hour. Anyone interested in becoming a nursery worker needs to contact Susan in the church office at 817/838-6834.

Thank you very much in helping us find someone to care for our children.



St. Luke UMC has launched
 a new website:
stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Roxie Waters
 1222 Borgfeld Road #2331
 Schertz TX 78154

This change of address is effective February 12.



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; 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; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Sandra Mason; Cathy Hicks; Mel & Susan Bishara's family in Israel and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; Peggy Fallin; Ronnie Pippen & family; Raymond Hames; Bonnie Richards; Sharon Friddle's daughter, Amanda Govea; Rory Yocum; Doris Crocker; Sandra Whittenburg; David Stapp; Rose Maseari & her son; Judy White

This Week's Concerns: Art & Cathy Gordon; Gloria Lechler; Mickie Fletcher; the people of the southern of Israel and Gaza; those affected by flooding, 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; Junior Chowe



**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.*



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, stlukeumchaltomcity.org.

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

GENESIS CLASS:

We had another good group Sunday morning with lots of discussion. We have one more week in the *Christmas Carol Bible Study*, Stave IV. Read it in preparation for next week's lesson then we'll go back and continue the James Moore book, *When the World Takes the Wind Out of Your Sails*. We're trying something new with LNO, so this Thursday, February 8 we'll be going back for seconds at Sweetie Pies at 5:30 pm. Always nice to try something different on the menu. An email will be sent. Please remember to "respond to all" so we have an accurate head count. Keep Mickie Fletcher in you thoughts and prayers as she recovers from surgery.

Doughnuts: 2/11-Carol N; 2/18-Anita.

Have a blessed week. See you Thursday and/or Sunday.

Anita Bookout



We shared with the youth on the importance of keeping our mind pure in Christ. Our Bible verse is found in the Book of Philippians 4:4-9. We live in times and days where we can find ourselves busy from morning to evening. And sometimes, our business can lead us into many worries. But through these verses that we read, the Apostle Phillippe is reminding us to keep our mind pure, which means that no matter the things we face, we can relax, thinking on how God loves us and how he cares about us and how he fights for us everyday. Amen.

Stanislas Ndecky



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!



The contribution statements for 2023 have been prepared and you can pick up your statement in the north foyer. For all of our home bound members, your statements were mailed to your home.



Upper Room Devotional

Psalm 50:1-2

The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

As the psalm opens, the psalmist declares praise for the God of Israel. "Praise" may call to mind light and upbeat music, pure happiness and joy. But to offer praise, particularly in a mixed theological setting such as was present in ancient Israel and in many places today, takes risk, specifically three risks. First, in praising we acknowledge a distinct authority—God. Second, in praising we acknowledge ourselves vulnerable. And third, in praising we express a commitment to the One who is being praised. These risks give praise its power.

To praise is to express a vertical relationship with a higher power in and over our lives. We are telling the world who we love, appreciate, honor, and on whom we rely. Now, as then, many authorities compete for our loyalty, and adherence to the dominant authority can offer safety. The ancient Hebrews were aware of the risk they were taking by saying God alone is God and worthy of praise. Yet they still proclaimed the power and authority of Yahweh, the one God.

In praise, we accept vulnerability. Hold the image of someone you love in your mind and feel the warmth of love in your heart. Would it be possible not to express this feeling? Yet, is it ever possible to express it fully? Still we must try. How much more, then, must we express our delight and joy in our ultimate Love, our God, even though it makes us vulnerable to do so? We leave ourselves exposed as we attempt to fully express our praise for God.

Finally, when we lift a psalm of praise, we communicate that we stand in the goodness, grace, and mercy of God. And yet to fully receive these good gifts, our commitment to our relationship with God is necessary. We express this commitment through our loving obedience to God's word and will for our lives.

Great God, no matter the cost, we praise you! Amen.



Receipts:
January 2024
\$25,218



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published February 21 and all submissions need to be in the church office by February 19. Thank you!



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



Sunday, February 11, 2024

Transfiguration Sunday

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

Monday, February 12, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, February 13, 2023

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

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

9:00 a.m. Prayer Group
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. Ash Wednesday Worship Service
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 15, 2024

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

Friday, February 16, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, February 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, February 18, 2024

1st Sunday in Lent

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

Monday, February 19, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

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

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

9:00 a.m. Prayer Group
10:00 a.m. Wednesday 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, February 11, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Transfiguration Sunday

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • January 24

Wednesday Bible Study—13

Wednesday Night Youth Activities—6

French Congregation Bible Study—9

United Methodist Men Breakfast • January 4—5

Sunday, January 28, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—55

In-Person Worship—54

Online Worship—144

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—33

Weekly Attendance • January 31

Prayer Group—9

Wednesday Bible Study—14

Youth Activities—5

French Bible Study—8

United Methodist Men Breakfast • February 1—3

Sunday, February 4, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School—56

In-Person Worship—55

Online Worship—111

French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.—48