



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, No. 11

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Walking with Jesus

In his recent address to the clergy session, Bishop Saenz delved significant time on metaphors of the Christian life. Some of the metaphors he talked about were journey, branches, seeds, body of Christ, brick, and walk. I want to emphasize the metaphor Walk for this article.

Jesus exemplified this metaphor through his earthly ministry, covering approximately 3150 miles (5000 KM) on foot. His journey was not one of comfort or luxury; he eschewed lavish accommodations and often lacked a proper place to rest His head. The disciples who joined Him faced a challenging path, symbolizing the trials and obstacles that come with being a follower of Christ.

Jesus walked alongside His disciples in various regions, including Galilee, Judea, and Samaria. He accompanied two disciples on the road to Emmaus and showed unwavering companionship to the marginalized, the poor, the untouchable, the destitute, and the outcasts of society. His purposeful steps were marked by the restoration of broken lives, touching the lepers who were left in miserable situations and isolated places, away from family and community, the healing touch extended to the suffering, and the restoration of sight to those blind to God's grace.

Additionally, Jesus's actions at the wedding in Cana of Galilee showcased his compassion and willingness to prevent embarrassment, performing his first miracle to aid the hosts. He fearlessly ventured into hostile territories where accusations and challenges awaited him, highlighting his commitment to confronting injustice and standing up against abuse of power and position. He faced constant scrutiny from the critics, who closely watched his every move, ready to ensnare him. As he ventured into the core of the temple, he courageously disrupted the status quo, flipping tables and defying the religious institution that impeded people's ability to worship freely.

Jesus's walk was characterized by both intentional agendas and spontaneous interactions with people, embodying an active lifestyle centered on service and love. To walk with Jesus entails a transformative journey that prompts a change in direction, attitude, and perspective. As Bishop Saenz aptly stated, "Walking with Jesus amazes us and terrifies us," encapsulating the profound impact and challenges of following in His footsteps.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



A Celebration of Life for Jane West, sister of Sherry Chandler will be at St. Luke United Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 15 with a reception to follow the service.

Please keep Sherry and the Chandler/Henderson/West families in your thoughts and prayers.



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!



Upper Room Devotional

Read Psalm 139:1-6

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Mark 2:23-28

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grain fields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Holy humility is what the Pharisees lack as they try to trip up Jesus with their questions about the Sabbath. When they harangue him about harvesting and healing on the day of rest, they seem to be speaking out of a deep human vulnerability: the need to manage the Mystery with rules that ironically obstruct their experience of the living God.

It's understandable. Jesus rearranges people in ways that disorient and reorient them all at once. Those of us whose clay jar experiences are need, oppression, and bodily woe are more likely to abandon ourselves to the kingdom of God. Those of us who are clinging to illusions of control, preferring mastery over Mystery, show us another human vulnerability: a kind of jug-headed arrogance born of fear. Psychological comfort-seeking isn't evil. It's just an anxious safety need, located a tiny bit higher on Maslov's hierarchy, right above basic physiological needs like food and shelter.

That fear leads to a real problem, though: imagining that following religious rules ensures righteousness. Jesus challenges those rules with his iconoclastic truth telling: "Sabbath is made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath." How weighty is that thought! Such knowledge is too wonderful—because it means ordinary people count more than lofty rituals.

The psalmist shows us that we have a treasure in our mud-molded minds that helps us respond to such disorientation. That treasure is simply awe. Our not-knowing shows that we know very well how to relate with God. Awe can pour out of us in poetry, in action, in silence, in the acquiescence to rule-breaking love, in gratitude and compassion—even for ourselves.

Loving God, it is hard to be human! Restore us to sacred awe. Forgive our small-minded fear, and help us have compassion for ourselves. Show us how to release the drive to know it all and to simply trust you. Amen.



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; Betty Holshouser; Scott Paris; Burt & Marylou Moore; Barbara Jones; Charles & Pat Hooper; Alice Cook; Melissa Lechler & her son, Lucas; Toni Hood's granddaughter -in-law, Christin; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandson, Milo; Darren Isbell; Ed Baker; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Sandra Mason; Mel & Susan Bishara's family in Israel and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; Peggy Fallin; Rory Yocum; Art & Cathy Gordon; Larea Pippen; Ovella Russell; David Stapp; Joe Crawford; George & Karen Angle's daughter, Sarah & daughter-in-law, Kristine; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; Roy & Joan Hudson's son, Richard; Tommie Martin; Byron Lechler; Martha Chapman's daughter, Carol Gillan; Sherry Chandler & family with the loss of her sister, Jane West; family of Jo Wommack; Patty Tucker; Barbara Kimbrough; Maggie Khoury; Ann Kiker

This Week's Concerns: Raymond Hames; Walter Pegg with the loss of his wife, Sherry; the people of the southern of Israel and Gaza; those affected by flooding; 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 2024 Church Directory is now available in the church office.

Cost: One Book: \$3 • Two Books: \$5

Or a donation to help cover printing costs.



May 2024
Receipts:
\$16,718

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had twelve present on Sunday which included four members from the PIF Class. We enjoyed a good lesson on the Holy Spirit with lots of class input. Happy Birthday to James McDonald on June 9. Please keep Joe Crawford in your prayers.
Mary Ross

GENESIS CLASS:

Even though we had a very small group, we had a great discussion for our lesson. Thank you Amy Bibb. We'll finish up chapter one next week. Read pages 31-38. George will start chapter 2 the next week. We're asking for any donations for the books we are using. Ladies Night Out is Thursday, June 13 at Mi Pueblo's at 5:30 pm. We (Amy West or I) will send out an email or text as a reminder. Keep these in your thoughts and prayers: Art and Cathy; Buddy-hip issues; Karen (knee) & DeeDee (heel) doctor appointments; George and Sarah are traveling; Mel is traveling later this month.

Doughnuts:

June 9—Amy Bibb

June 16—Amy West

June 23—Open

Have a wonderful week and we'll see you soon.

Anita Bookout

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

We had 10 present on this beautiful Lord's day. Our joys and blessings for the week are for Jack and Lorna's safe return from their cruise, the LaRue family who will soon be having a gathering in Atlanta, Virgil and Ann for an upcoming camping trip with the Methodist Campers, Rose Mascari for a successful move, Megan and her husband's safe return home during a flooding downpour from taking their daughter to church camp (Megan is Earline's granddaughter) and for the nourishing spring rains. Our prayer concerns are for Israel, all the hurting families who were victims of the tornadoes, Larea and Ronnie Pippen, Carol (Dr. Martha's daughter), Byron Lechler, Rose and her brother, John, Rev. Mel Bishara on his travels to Israel, Doris Crocker, Bonnie Richards, Pat and Charlie Hooper, Cindy Lasiter, Maggie Khoury, Earline Vinnedge and Ann Kiker. Many thanks to Jack and Gloria for the refreshments and devotion. Our devotion was from *Our Daily Bread*, "God in the Past and Present" based on Jeremiah 28 and 29. God is telling us, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart and I will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile, but in my timing." We, like the Israelites, must repent if we expect God to bring us back out of this exile we are in today. So, read the Word, keep the faith and have hope that in Christ all things can be made better. Thank you, Virgil for another good lesson from Matthew. Birthdays for June are: Larea Pippen—6/8 and Betty Longeway—6/10. Anniversary: Larea and Ronnie Pippen—6/11.

Resale Shop: 5/26—\$184; 6/2—\$230

Prayer Meeting: Thursday, 5:30 p.m. at Dr. Martha's

Devotion/Refreshments: Jack & Lorna

Lesson: Matthew 26:36

Gloria Lechler

Youth News:



We shared with the youth about our unfailing God. Our verse is found in Psalms 34:19. In this verse, King David is reminding to us that we can count on God. He said that many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord will deliver him. This life is made of problems and difficulties especially when you are a child of God and trying to live a righteous life, it seems as one is just going from one problem to another one, but the Lord is saying that we can approach his throne of Grace through prayers and that he will help us. Amen.
Stanislas Ndecky



Prayer Group

June 6 & 13 † 5:30 p.m.

At the home of Martha Chapman
6201 McCullar Street, Haltom City
We invite you to join us every Thursday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Dr. Martha is asking for volunteers to work in the OLD Resale Shop to go through bags and boxes to get merchandise ready for sale. Call Dr. Martha at 817/269-9654 to schedule a time to work.



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **June 17** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **June 19**. Thank you!



St. Luke United Methodist Church
 3200 Denton Highway
 Haltom City, TX 76117
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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.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:
www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Sunday, June 9, 2024

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
- 1:30 p.m. Expansion Church
- 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

Monday, June 10, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, June 11, 2023

No Activities

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

- 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
- 6:00 p.m. French Congregation Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 13, 2024

- 9:00 a.m. UMM Breakfast—Bluebonnet Café
- 5:30 p.m. Prayer Group—at the home of Martha Chapman

Friday, June 14, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, June 15, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, June 16, 2024

4th Sunday after Pentecost † Father's Day

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
- 1:30 p.m. Expansion Church
- 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service

Monday, June 17, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

No Activities

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

- 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, June 9, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • May 22, 2024

- Prayer Group—8*
- Wednesday Bible Study—14*
- Youth Activities—8*
- French Bible Study—8*
- UMM Breakfast • May 23—7*

Sunday, May 26, 2024

- Sunday School—58*
- In-Person Worship—61*
- Online Worship—223*
- French Worship Service—37*

Weekly Attendance • May 28

- Prayer Group—4*
- Wednesday Bible Study—14*
- Youth Activities—6*
- French Bible Study—10*
- UMM Breakfast • May 16—6*

Sunday, June 2, 2024

- Sunday School—57*
- In-Person Worship—67*
- Online Worship—225*
- French Worship Service—38*