



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, Number 15

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Do Your Best

This year, around 10,500 athletes from 200 countries are competing in the 2024 Paris Olympics Games, add to the number of participants coaches and team officials. The 2024 Paris Olympics Games attracted over 3 billion **unique viewers** across traditional TV and digital platforms. It's expected that by the end of the Games, at least half of the world's population will have tuned in or engaged with Olympic content on social media.

Sports did not get popular just recently. Long before the Dallas Cowboys and the Texas Rangers there were competitive games in ancient Greece. Track and field meets took place there four-six centuries before Christ. In St. Paul's day, the Isthmian Games at Corinth were second only to the Olympics in world significance. As it is today, competition was fierce! Those who won were awarded not medals, but garlands or green wreaths to go around their necks.

Did you know that more than 60 percent of the 200 nations competing in the Summer Olympic Games in Paris are not going to win a single medal? Not even one! Did you know that over 80 percent of the over 10,000 athletes won't place first, second or third in their events? They won't go home with a medal, a prize of any kind! Only one runner, one gymnast, one swimmer, one archer, one wrestler, one boxer, one volleyball, Rugby, or basketball team, can win the gold medal in each event!

I Corinthians 9:24 "Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it." In other words, **DO YOUR BEST!** Give it your best shot! Try your hardest in whatever competition or event or ministry you are in. Don't be content with mediocrity! It does not really matter if you win or not – "only one receives the prize" – **what matters is your effort!**

The Apostle Paul writes, "**Athletes exercise self-control in all things.**" The message is this: self-control is required for success in athletics, and also in the game of life. Self-control involves discipline, moderation, training and fitness. It is a basic lesson of life that we need control and discipline in our lives. There are no successful athletes, models, singers, performers or Christians who do not exercise self-control. Every mental health professional will tell you we all need a purpose, a core cause, a **raison d'être (French)**, a reason to get up in the morning, a motivation that drives us to hope and dream beyond ourselves and our needs and lives.

One of the best sports movies of all times is "Chariots of Fire." It won the Academy Award "Best Picture of the Year" honor in 1981 and was based on a true story – the story of a Christian athlete named Eric Liddell. He was a Scottish

runner who won the gold medal in the 400 meters in the 1924 Olympics in Paris. Liddell made the following statement to his sister Jenny who was against him going to the Olympics, "**God has made me for a purpose, but he has also made me fast.**" Every competing athlete has a purpose to do their best, to represent their country well, and to win a medal. We are put here on earth to travel life's way with a purpose.

Friends, for better or for worse, you and I are examples, we are models, we influence people every day by the way we live, the choices we make, the things we say, the things we do or don't do. Our Lord said, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

As we witnessed the 10,000 athletes from 200 nations compete in the 2024 Olympic games, let us, like them: 1) Do our best; 2) Exercise self-control; 3) Run with a purpose; and 4) Be a positive example to others as followers of Jesus Christ.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



A Celebration of Life Carol Jane Gilland

May 13, 1963—July 23, 2024

Saturday, August 10 † 11:00 a.m.
St. Luke United Methodist Church
With a Reception to follow the
Worship Service

*Please keep Dr. Martha, Carol's husband,
Garry, her son, Ian and their entire family
in your thoughts and prayers.*



The Administrative Board will meet
Sunday, September 8 at 12:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.



Upper Room Devotional

John 6:30-35

So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

From a distance of almost 2000 years, we may wonder why the people who saw Jesus up close seem so confused about his identity. We believe, don't we? And all we have to go on are other peoples' stories in scripture and tradition. We pledge our faithfulness at baptism or confirmation, make promises for our children, and reaffirm our faith in both liturgy and action in the world.

Had Jesus not given them signs already? He tells the truth about who he is. In John's Gospel he makes his claim more directly than in the other three. Jesus knows who he is. God knows who he is. Everyone should know who he is! Yet this crowd of people, who ate on the hillside and traveled across the water to find Jesus just in case he had more bread up his sleeve, want something more.

What do we imagine held them back from believing?

After the last several years on which people have argued and pushed division into every angle of our society by challenging things we have believed to be true, perhaps we can understand the people seeking and questioning Jesus that day. Living under Roman occupation for decades, ruled by kings and governors and generals chosen by a distant emperor, the people who crossed the Sea Galilee looking for Jesus wanted something they could trust. No wonder they were drawn to physical bread they could hold and taste.

When we have witnessed the unlikely, the astonishing, or the seemingly impossible, we interrogate rather than accept it. And we may, like the seekers in John 6, be shaken by the truth Jesus is telling us. The bread of life, the true bread that will sustain us always, comes from God.

Gracious God, you sent Jesus Christ to give life to the world. Give us this bread always. Amen.



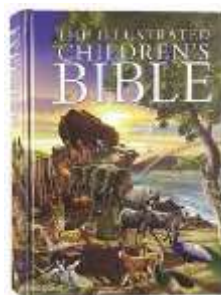
PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

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; Larea Phippen; 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; Byron Lechler; Patty Tucker; Barbara Kimbrough; Ann Kiker; Barbara Provenzano; sister, Lynn; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Kelly Roberts; Lydia Acosta & her husband; family of Raymond Hames; Buddy Hill

This Week's Concerns: the loss of Martha Chapman's daughter, Carol Gilland; Beverly Bradley's grandson; Art Gordon; 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

Teacher Appreciation Sunday 3rd Grade Bible Presentation Sunday, August 25 10:30 a.m. Worship Service



We will honor our teachers, administrators, and school employees for the upcoming school year and we will present Bibles to the children who are entering the 3rd grade this school year.



July 2024
Receipts:
\$39,068

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had eleven present Sunday to enjoy Bonnie Harter's lesson with lots of input from class members. It was good to see Lydia again, she and her husband recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Prayer concerns:

Dr. Martha's family, Beverly Bradley and Joe Crawford. Happy Birthday to Judy White who celebrated her 90th birthday on August 1. Congratulations Judy!! Upcoming birthdays: Joe Crawford (8/07); Lydia Acosta (8/20); Mary Ross (8/26) *Mary Ross*

GENESIS CLASS:

We had a nice little group with a lot of discussion. We'll start on page 96 next week. Thank you Amy Bibb for trying to lead us (like children, we're easily sidetracked). Keep these in your thoughts and prayers: Buddy; Michael's great nephew, Parker; Carol Wood's friends, the Gill family; Susan Bishara; and Dr. Martha in the loss of her daughter, Carol. LNO is this Thursday. Forgot to discuss it in class. Look for an email from Amy West with details. Y'all have a great week and we'll see ya next Sunday.

Doughnuts:

August 11—George & Karen Angle

August 18—Dayna Cox

August 25—Amy West

Anita Bookout

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. Attendance this week was ten. Prayer concerns: Rose Mascari, Sam and Kimberly, Gateway Church, Chico, Byron's best buddy other than Gloria, his real next best, Toni Hood, Doris Crocker, Bonnie Richards and for Ann and Virgil in their first trip in their new motorhome to the Hill Country. Thanks to Jim Levine for the refreshments and to Gloria for the devotion taken from Paul Harvey's radio show titled, "If I WERE the Devil." This was broadcasted in 1968 and he predicted everything that is going wrong in our country and world today. He hits the nail on the head. Our morning prayer was delivered by Cindy Lassiter asking our Lord that we be bearers and doers of His Word. It takes action to show we really stand up for Him. The Chapman family has requested that attendees to Carol's Memorial Service wear teal blue or cheery colors. Birthdays: 8/5 Lorna; 8/7 Byron; 8/15 Doris; 8/16 Anita; 8/20 Maggie; 8/20 Wendy Slaughter. Anniversary: Jack and Lorna Bostick—8/18

Resale Shop: \$85

Prayer Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday/Fellowship Hall

Devotion/Refreshments: Jack/Lorna

Lesson: John 5:1

Gloria Lechler

Youth News:

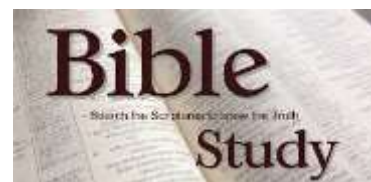


We spoke with the youth on the importance of forgiving ourselves. Our Bible verse is found in the book of Isaiah 43:18-19. In these verses, the prophet Isaiah is reminding us the word of the LORD which said that he will put a new way in the wilderness. I have seen before what a wilderness looks like, it is a very big, dry land full of sand. The weather can be extremely hot, or extremely cold. It is easy to get lost in the wilderness. Sometimes we find ourselves in those situations where we are lost in our problems, not knowing where to start to get better. But here, the Lord is promising to the children of Israel that he will put a way in the wilderness. What a relief! Can we identify today with these verses and believe God, that no matter the situation we find ourselves in today, we know that God will make a way in the wilderness? Could it be a diagnosis from the doctor? Could it be losing something dear to us? Let us believe the Word of God today. Amen. *Stanislas Ndecky*



Jack & Jerrie Lucko have moved to assisted living and their new address is:

1043 Bailey Ranch
Road #109
Aledo TX 76008



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study

August 14, 2024 † Fellowship Hall

Prayer Group † 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.

Book of Exodus

We invite you to join us next Wednesday.



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 **August 21** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **August 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. Monday. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Mel Bishara
 Phone: 817/838-6834
 Website: stlukeumchaltomcity.org

Editor: Susan Briles
 Fax: 817/838-7631
 E-mail: office@st-luke-umc.com

Central Texas Conference website & phone: www.ctcumc.org • 817/877-5222

Sunday Services: Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.
 In-person and Online Worship • 10:30 a.m.
 Expansion Hispanic Church Service • 1:30 p.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, August 11, 2024
12th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, August 12, 2024

No Activities

Tuesday, August 13, 2023

No Activities

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

9:30 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

Thursday, August 15, 2024

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

Friday, August 16, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, August 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, August 18, 2024

13th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, August 19, 2024

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

No Activities

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

9:30 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 & You Tube:
 SLUMC—Haltom City*

Sunday, August 11, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • July 24, 2024

Prayer Group: 5

Bible Study: 14

Youth Activities—13

French Bible Study—9

UMM Breakfast • July 11—6

Sunday, July 28, 2024

Sunday School—53

In-Person Worship—55

Online Worship—188

French Worship Service—37

Weekly Attendance • July 31, 2024

Prayer Group: 6

Wednesday Bible Study—13

Youth Activities—12

French Bible Study—9

UMM Breakfast • August 1—8

Sunday, August 4, 2024

Sunday School—64

In-Person Worship—82

Online Worship—206

French Worship Service—0

Both congregations met on this first Sunday of August to share communion and worship.