



The people of the United Methodist Church

# E-MESSENGER

Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors

## Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2024, Number 16

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Available at: [stlukeumchaltomcity.org](http://stlukeumchaltomcity.org)



### *The Wideness of God's Mercy*

I enjoy reading Anne Lamott. I read *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* which is a follow up to her first book on her conversion called *Travelling Mercies*, the book that made me admire her brutal honesty. She does not keep hidden thoughts from being published. I'm not sure how we would get along in person, because I represent a variety of views that she would find repulsive and even offensive. But the reason I like reading her essays raw with hatred for George Bush, right wing politics, and the occasional f-bomb is that it forces me to grapple with the wideness of God's mercy... for me.

As I said earlier there are no unwritten thoughts with Anne Lamott. Many of those thoughts are hilarious, many are touching, and some are downright offensive. But all are open for evaluation, scrutiny by the readers, and reproof and correction by the gospel. She honestly and humorously records the way the gospel demands her to love George Bush as a fellow Christian, flag-waving haired Republicans on a cruise ship, the woman who thoughtlessly left her dog's poop for Anne to step in, the man who abandoned her and her child, the perfectionistic mother who wounded her soul, her dread locks, her fifty year old body, and her anxiety-ridden self. Lamott's book is a book of confessions and no chapter fails to point and turn you to Christ.

Anne Lamott forces me to remember that all of my thoughts are spoken before God. While I would never have the courage to write them down as Lamott dares to do, they are permanently recorded in God's mind. My hateful, judgmental, coarse, covetous, thieving, conniving, manipulative, murderous, disrespectful, self-condemning, unbelieving thoughts are immediately before God even if they are never formed on my lips. And here is the scandalous truth—God loves me. God does not view me directly in terms of my thoughts—God views me through the record of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Lamott's book may not be for everyone. But anyone who has ever hated a parent or a politician, anyone who has ever had a panic attack over their teenager's future, anyone who has loathed self, a single mom angry at her situation, or anyone who hates ham and loves chocolate this book could be for you.

Her final reflections leave readers like me with a sense of hope, urging them to live authentically, maintain faith, and embrace resilience as they journey through the unpredictable landscape of existence. The following are few quotes from her book that you might find helpful.

"We begin to find and become ourselves when we notice how we are already found, already held, and we learn to manage our damage."

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

"Life is significantly better when you are not consumed by anxiety."

"You can either practice being right or practice being kind."

"Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come."

There is a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea...wider even than...you name it.

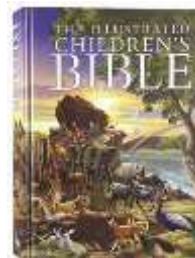
*In Christian love and grace, Mel*



Dear wonderful members of St. Luke United Methodist Church,

There is no way to catch each person who contributed to Carol's Memorial Service. First of all, I thank Mel for his healing words in the service. Thank you everyone who sent flowers and brought food. Most of all for showing your love for Carol and her accomplishments.

I pray that each of you have wonderful memories of Carol because she loved you all. *Love, Martha Chapman*



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.



**Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, September 1, 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.*



The church office will be closed on September 2, 2024 in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.



**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**FALL FEST • OCTOBER 26, 2024**

This is the time of year to start planning what you want to contribute to this year's Silent Auction or what items to bake for the Sweet Shop. More details to follow next month.



**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; 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; Kelly Roberts; Lydia Acosta & her husband; family of Raymond Hames; Buddy Hill; the loss of Martha Chapman's daughter, Carol Gilland; Beverly Bradley's grandson-in-law

**This Week's Concerns:** Clifford Smith; Jean P. Isbell; Amy Bibb's daughter; Art & Cathy Gordon; Roy Hudson; 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



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](http://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

## EMMANUEL CLASS:

We had nine in attendance and we enjoyed our lesson given by Beverly Bradley. Also, Beverly received good news concerning her grandson-in-law's health. Happy Birthday to Lydia Acosta, 8/20 and Mary Ross on 8/26. Prayer concerns: Joe Crawford, Karen Carter, Tommie Martin's niece and Barbara Blair. *Mary Ross*

## GENESIS CLASS:

We had lots of discussion with another smallish group. Man, can we talk. Thank you Amy B and George for your continued efforts to lead us through these lessons. We'll pick up next week on page 113, new chapter, "Share." Keep in your thoughts and prayers Cathy and Art, Dayna's daughter-in-law, and Amy Bibb's daughter. Prayers were answered that Susan's neck and back injuries were not as severe as originally predicted. Hopefully, with therapy, she'll be as good as new soon.

Doughnuts:

8/25—Amy West

9/1—Art & Cathy Gordon

9/8—Anita Bookout

9/15—Buddy & DeeDee Hill.

Stay cool and hydrated. See y'all Sunday. *Anita Bookout*

## UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We had eleven enthusiastic attendees. Prayer concerns: Alice Cook, Billy Fisher, Toni Hood, Rose Mascari, Elian and Rim, friends of Gail LaRue, and Byron Lechler. Joys: J. D. Lasiter, Cindy Lasiter's grandson, is off to college in Oklahoma beginning his pre-med program. Virgil and Ann took their maiden trip in their new motor home to Hillsboro, TX. Doris Crocker is doing better with her new pain management apparatus, and Jack and Lorna are celebrating their anniversary on August 18. Also, we praise God for helping Maggie find a new job. Earline delivered our morning prayer asking God to heal our sick class members and bring peace to our broken world. Gail brought our devotion taken from Luke 22:39-46 telling us to always trust in our Lord's heart. Thanks to Virgil for another great lesson in John.

Resale Shop: \$255

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

Devotion/Refreshments: Debbie/Gloria

Lesson: John 6:22

*Gloria Lechler*

## Youth News:



We shared with the youth on the importance of letting God rule our lives. Our Bible verse is found in the Book of Matthew 14:13. In this passage we see that Jesus fed the crowd. The crowd was following Jesus not knowing that it will be at a time where they would be hungry, but Jesus prayed and their needs were met.

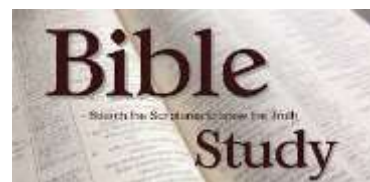
I wanted to let us know children of God, that when we pray, God answers our prayers. Even if our prayers are not answered like we wanted, we know that nothing happens to us that God is not in control of. This is a word to encourage us to relax in God, because we know that we have a Father who cares. Amen.

*Stanislas Ndecky*



I wish to express my thanks to the volunteers who covered the office while I was on vacation last week. Thank you to Mary Paris, Carol Negrozio, Leslie Duncan, Claudia Turner, Karen Rockett and Tommie Martin. I appreciate your kindness and willingness to work in the office!

*Susan Briles*



## Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study

August 28, September 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2024

Fellowship Hall † Book of Exodus

Prayer Group † 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.

*We invite you to join us each week.*



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **September 11** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **September 9**. Thank you!



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



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.

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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](http://www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org)



**Sunday, August 25, 2024**

***14th 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 26, 2024**

No Activities

**Tuesday, August 27, 2023**

No Activities

**Wednesday, August 28, 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 29, 2024**

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

**Friday, August 30, 2024**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Saturday, August 31, 2024**

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

**Sunday, September 1, 2024**

***15th Sunday after Pentecost † Communion Sunday***

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, September 2, 2024**

Church Office Closed—Labor Day Observance

**Tuesday, September 3, 2024**

No Activities

**Wednesday, September 4, 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 25, 2024 • 10:30 a.m.  
 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

***Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.***

***Weekly Attendance • August 7, 2024***

*Prayer Group: 7*

*Bible Study: 15*

*Youth Activities—10*

*French Congregation Bible Study—9*

*UMM Breakfast • August 8—5*

***Sunday, August 11, 2024***

*Sunday School—61*

*In-Person Worship—56*

*Online Worship—148*

*French Worship Service—46*

***Weekly Attendance • August 14, 2024***

*Prayer Group—6*

*Wednesday Bible Study—16*

*Youth Activities—11*

*French Congregation Bible Study—9*

*UMM Breakfast • August 15—5*

***Sunday, August 18, 2024***

*Sunday School—55*

*In-Person Worship—44*

*Online Worship—238*

*French Worship Service—43*