



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2025, Number 03

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Reflecting on Your Life

As you reach a milestone in your life and reflect on the time you've had, you might find yourself wishing you had done more, been more. Here are some things that may not matter to you when looking back:

1. Prioritizing safety and practicality - You won't be focused on how prudent you were but rather on missed opportunities for excitement and fulfillment, like starting a dream business, traveling, or engaging in meaningful ventures. Being overly cautious may not bring the satisfaction of taking risks and exploring new paths.

2. Avoiding embarrassment - The relief of avoiding potential embarrassment won't hold as much value when reflecting on your life. Embracing out-of-the-box ideas and taking bold steps could have brought greater rewards and personal growth, outweighing momentary discomfort.

3. Keeping up with others - The opinions of people you didn't truly care for won't have lasting significance. Constantly comparing yourself to others may lead to feelings of inadequacy and disappointment, distracting you from pursuing what truly matters to you.

During life, we often get caught up in these concerns, losing sight of what truly holds meaning. To counter this, consider living each day as if it were your last:

1. Engage in activities you enjoy and be creative - Find joy and fulfillment in what brings you passion, whether it be writing, painting, or any other creative outlet. Embrace the present moment to savor the experience and express yourself fully.

2. Live in the present moment - Shift your focus from worrying about the future to appreciating the beauty and joy of the present. Treasure everyday interactions, unexpected moments, and the simple pleasures life offers.

3. Make a meaningful impact and leave a positive legacy - Strive to create a lasting impact by serving others, spreading love, and making the world a better place. Aim to be remembered for the kindness and positivity you shared with those around you.

4. Cultivate goodness and positivity - Leave behind a trail of positive energy by treating others with kindness, understanding, and compassion. Your legacy can be one of warmth and goodwill.

5. Practice letting go and accepting change - Embrace the liberating power of letting go of control over outcomes and circumstances. Accept that some things are beyond your influence and focus on adapting and growing through life's changes.

6. Maintain faith and gratitude - Keep trust in your beliefs and stay grateful for every moment and experience, acknowledging the blessings and challenges that shape your journey. Through faith and gratitude, find strength and peace in all circumstances.

I'm not perfect, but I'm aware, and I'm confident and "I know who I have believed, and I am persuaded that God is able to keep that which I have committed unto him until that day."

In Christian love and grace, Mel

Youth News:



"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Like the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament, I recently heard a quiet, but persistent calling. And like Isaiah, I felt my heart respond, "Here I am. Send me! (Isaiah 6:8, NIV).

If you don't know the story of Isaiah and his experience at the temple; Isaiah was more than overwhelmed. He encountered God, and was made aware of his imperfections. It was in this moment that God extended his grace and forgiveness, symbolized by the burning coal touching Isaiah's lips. This purified him, and then he heard and answered God's Call with a resounding "Yes!"

For the past three years, my family and I have called St. Luke United Methodist Church home. Coming from a Catholic background, I've been deeply moved by the warmth and genuine spirit of this community. We've fallen in love with the families here and found ourselves connecting deeply with John Wesley's guiding principles: Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. These principles resonate within me, and I feel a strong sense of belonging here.

Just as Isaiah felt called to serve, I feel called to serve the youth of St. Luke. I believe that our young people are the present and the future of the church, and I am incredibly excited to walk alongside them in their faith journeys. I'm eager to get to know each of them, to listen to their stories, and to create a safe and nurturing space where they can explore their relationships with God and with one another.

Youth News continued on the next page...

Youth News continued:

I'm thrilled to join the St. Luke family as your new Youth Director. I look forward to connecting with you all and building a vibrant and thriving youth ministry. I believe that God has called me here for a purpose, and I am ready to answer His call with joy and dedication. Please keep an eye out for upcoming events and opportunities to connect!

Alvin Eclavea



We are inviting all youth to come and meet Alvin Eclavea Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m. for a "Meet & Greet" to find out what Alvin has planned for the youth of St. Luke UMC.



Alvin Eclavea Biography

Alvin Eclavea, originally from Harker Heights, Texas, joined St. Luke United Methodist Church – Haltom City in 2022. Growing up in a traditional Filipino Catholic household, Alvin was taught early to love and cherish his relationship with God.

He graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a Bachelors in Music (2009), and Masters in Music in Saxophone Performance (2012). In 2012, Alvin moved to DFW and has since worked as a private music teacher; working independently and with several Private and Parochial schools. He has had multiple All-State Ensembles and Soloists that have earned Superior Ratings.

Beyond the church, Alvin currently works for Music & Arts since 2018 as a School Services Representative. He works directly with Educators and Administrators, to help with Recruiting, Rentals, Repair, Retention; anything a music program needs to be successful.

Alvin and his wife, Kelli Eclavea, live in Watauga, Texas. They have three amazing children, Benjamin, Trudy, and Ronnie. Alvin enjoys reading, running, coffee, and playing saxophone in church as much as possible.

Congratulations!



Ruby Lane's latest great-grandchild, Rose Elizabeth was born on January 1.

Parents: Dustin & Lexie Lane
Congratulations to the entire Lane Family!!



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; Barbara Jones; Charles & Pat Hooper; Melissa Lechler & her son, Lucas; Christin Osborn; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandson, Milo; Darren Isbell; Ed Baker; Sandra Mason; Mel & Susan Bishara's family in Nazareth and their nephew, Jimmy; Bob Watkins & family; David Stapp; Joe Crawford; George & Karen Angle's daughter, Sarah & daughter-in-law, Kristine; Roy & Joan Hudson's son, Richard; Ann Kiker; Barbara Provenzano; sister, Lynn; Kelly Roberts; Lydia Acosta & her husband; Jean P. Isbell; Peggy Fallin; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; Mary Steward; Mel & Susan's friend, Lisa Hart; Burt Moore; Art & Cathy Gordon; family of Toni Hood; Anita McCullar; Doris Crocker; Bonnie Richards; Clifford & Marilyn Smith; Art Gordon's brother; Byron & Gloria Lechler; Marylou Moore's sister-in-law, Daisy; Darryl Miller;

This Week's Concerns: Betty Longeway; Anita Bookout's daughter-in-law, Jody's father passed away; those affected by the fires in California; those affected by Hurricane Helene & Milton; the people of the Nazareth, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon & Syria; 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.

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 ten in attendance and enjoyed a wonderful lesson.

Mary Ross

GENESIS CLASS:

We didn't have a big group but had a great lesson, thank you Carol Negrozio. Prayers for Anita and her family with the passing of her daughter-in-law, Jody's dad, Tommy. Dayna's friend, Angie's husband had his second surgery to remove a cancerous tumor on his head. Susan's friend, Lisa finished radiation treatment.

Doughnuts:

February 9—George & Karen Angle

February 16—Anita Bookout

February 23—Dayna Cox

Have a Blessed Week!

Amy West

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings to all! We had 10 in attendance for February 2. Our joys were that Gary Gilland's sister had completed her surgery and is doing well. Maya, Gail's daughter celebrated her 35th birthday, and for the beautiful weather. Prayer concerns are for Darryl Miller; Gail's brother, Bruce; Barbara Provenzano's cousin's friend named Tony; Ann's friend, Michelle; Ann for the family of Eugene Bostick and for those victims of the fires in California. Gary Gilland offered our morning prayer asking God for help and direction in doing the Lord's work. Virgil delivered our devotion entitled "And then there is Winter," describing ageing with which we are all too familiar.

Resale Shop: \$281

Devotion/Refreshments: Lorna & Jack Bostick

Lesson: Revelations 2:18

Gloria Lechler

THANK YOU!
thank you!

Thanks to everyone for your prayers and calls following my back surgeries. I really appreciate Mel's presence at the hospital and waiting with Marilyn during the surgeries.

Clifford Smith

Newsletter

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



The church office has a new email address, please update your contact info for Susan:

office@stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Second Chance Resale Shop

Yard Sale • March 22

10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

*In case of rain, the sale will take place **March 29**.*

INSIDE & OUTSIDE YARD SALE

Fill a bag (supermarket size) of clothes for \$1.

All items in the kitchen, books and puzzles are priced 50% off.

The yard sale does not include jewelry, the curio cabinet, fixtures, or furniture.

Selling grilled hotdogs & a small bottled water for \$2 and a bag of chips for 50¢.

PUNCH CARDS ARE NOT ACCEPTED



Administrative Board Meeting:

February 16 • 12:00 p.m. • Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be provided.

We will be meeting with our District Superintendent, Philip Rhodes to start discussions and visioning for the upcoming new pastor starting July 1, 2025.

All are welcome to attend this meeting, please call the church office to make reservations for lunch.



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study

February 12, 2025

Prayer Group † 9:30 a.m. • Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.

Book of Exodus • Fellowship Hall

We invite you to join us.



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



Faith & Fellowship



Sunday, February 9, 2025

5th Sunday after the Epiphany
 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, February 10, 2025

No Activities

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

No Activities

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. French Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 13, 2025

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

Friday, February 14, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, February 15, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, February 16, 2025

6th Sunday after the Epiphany
 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, February 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

No Activities

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. French Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
 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: SLUMC—Haltom City*

Sunday, February 9, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.
5th Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • January 22, 2025

Prayer Group—6

Bible Study—14

French Congregation Bible Study—7

UMM Breakfast • January 9—5

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Sunday School—59

In-Person Worship—63

Online Worship—245

French Congregation Sunday School—2

French Worship Service—20

Weekly Attendance • January 29, 2025

Prayer Group—5

Bible Study—14

French Congregation Bible Study—8

UMM Breakfast • January 30—5

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Sunday School—52

In-Person Worship—63

Online Worship—226

French Congregation Sunday School—10

French Worship Service—37