



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2025, Number 04

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Focusing on Jesus

When a church strays off course due to a lack of focus on Jesus and it's mission in the world, it can be challenging to guide it back in the right direction. Especially in today's context marked by divisive politics, social media overload, and conflicting messages, it is crucial for us, St. Luke United Methodist Church, to anchor ourselves in a shared, biblically-rooted mission centered around the cause of Christ.

Every aspect of church communication, from bulletins to social media presence to sermons, should consistently emphasize and celebrate the church's vision and mission. By integrating the teachings of Jesus and the essence of God's work, each church member is encouraged to pray, participate, give, and unite in pursuing the mission wholeheartedly.

Through worship, outreach, service, love, and growth, our church can embody a mission that remains steady and unwavering amidst the changing tides of society. This kind of mission that is focused on Jesus, not only unites and excites but also empowers us to make a meaningful impact in the world around us.

Let's keep our eyes on Jesus in all seasons:

- In this season of such divisive politics
- In a season where the constant diatribe seeks to pull people to the edges and not unite them
- In this season of social media frenzy
- In this season where so many voices seek to create anxiety to manipulate others
- In this season of great uncertainty and conflict
- In this season of 24-hour news
- In this season of a lack of knowledge of the Bible and many easily influenced by other faith traditions
- In this season where faith for many is a mile wide but an inch deep
- In this season of tremendous generational differences
- In this season of rapid and uncontrolled change
- In this season of pastoral retirement and the incoming of a new pastor.

May we continue to focus on Jesus.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service

March 5 • 6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday

April 13 • 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 17 • 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Worship Service

April 18 • 6:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 19 • 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday

April 20 • 10:30 a.m. Worship Service



meet & greet

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



Holy Communion † Sunday, March 2, 2025

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.



Financial Report: Receipts for January 2025: \$18,482



Administrative Board Meeting Summary February 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Mary Paris and George Angle gave the opening prayer.

George Angle gave a report on several issues concerning the church building:

- Winterizing the church building, getting estimates to re-strip the parking lot, having the carpets cleaned, lights fixed around the women's restroom by the choir room, red flame painted on the west side of the building, discussion to move trash dumpster, roof on resale shop, new pastor coming July 6, 2025, Pastor Mel moving out of parsonage March 1, having the Trustees going through the parsonage to see what needs to be done before new pastor arrives or making the decision to sell the parsonage. Dr. Martha Chapman seconded the motion and discussion followed. The motion passed.
- Mark Wright, our Endowment Consultant from Wells Fargo Bank presented a written report.
- Our District Superintendent, Rev. Philip Rhodes, addressed the group to discuss our future pastoral appointment. He asked for the qualities we need in our new pastor. He explained that we need to "Transmit the Faith" to everyone everywhere. We cannot reproduce our church from the past—we must build a new future for the present! We can't fall in love with the church—we must fall in love with Jesus. We should read the chapter of Acts again. Rev. Rhodes discussed our questions about housing, salary and accepting diversity in all areas of our church. He was very positive that St. Luke UMC has a great future. He stated that hiring a new youth director, Alvin Eclavea, is a wonderful step forward to address the need to get youth involved in the church and to build membership. The Staff Parish Relations Committee needs to meet with Rev. Rhodes in the next 10 days to continue the process of the pastor appointment. That meeting is scheduled for February 25.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm. These minutes were respectfully submitted by Mary Paris.



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; Marylou Moore's sister-in-law, Daisy; Darryl Miller; Betty Longeway; Anita Bookout's daughter-in-law, Jody's father passed away

This Week's Concerns: Lou Coursey; Kaylan & Devin Jones with the loss of the their daughter & sister; Jean Crenshaw; 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 another great lesson. Prayer concerns: Barbara Blair's friend, Lydia Acosta and Mary Paris.
Mary Ross

GENESIS CLASS:

Nice crowd of twelve to finish chapter 6 and discuss the meeting with our DS. I think that went well, too. We'll start chapter 7 next Sunday. We had seven at LNO Thursday. We missed those that couldn't make it. Hopefully next month more can attend. Keep Cathy's mom, Lou, in your thoughts as she hopefully gets some answers to feeling better with her gout. We will start meeting in our old classroom in the next couple of weeks. Thanks to those who cleaned it out so we can get back in there.

Doughnuts:

February 23—Dayna Cox

March 2—Art & Cathy Gordon

Stay warm and safe this week and we'll see ya Sunday.

Anita Bookout

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings to all. On Sunday, February 16 we had thirteen enthusiastic attendees and we give praise to God for the increase in our attendance. Little by little we are increasing our membership. We thank Darryl and Debbie for the delicious refreshments and Gloria for the devotion titled "Pray for Trump," by Franklin Graham. We should be praying for all our leaders in this country and around the world, that they will be making the right decisions that will help all of humanity. Our joys: the sun is shining, Christ's unending love for us, Virgil and Ann have their puppy back from behavioral school, Darryl is back with us after a few days in the hospital due to an infection (We thank the Lord for his rapid healing), our Chili Supper on February 27 at Ann and Virgil's home at 6:00 pm. Also, we rejoice over the fact that we have 16 confirmands gathering at our church for instructions before becoming members in the United Methodist Church. These youth are coming from Saginaw UMC, New Riverside UMC, and St. Luke UMC. We thank God for these new future members into the United Methodist Church and are blessed that we were able to be a part of their journey with the Lord.

Prayer Concerns: Ann's son, Linda Blackwood, Rylie, Ronnie Pippen's granddaughter-in-law (death in family), Byron and Tom.

We thank Ann for her beautiful morning prayer and Virgil for an informative study on Revelations.

Resale Shop: \$299

Devotion/Refreshments: Debbie Chapman/Gloria Lechler

Prayer Group: February 26 • 9:30 a.m. • Fellowship Hall

Lesson: Revelations 4:1
Gloria Lechler



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



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published
March 5 and all submissions need to be in the
church office by **March 3.** Thank you!



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

office@stlukeumchaltomcity.org



**Wednesday Morning Prayer Group
& Bible Study**

February 26, 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 23, 2025

7th 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 24, 2025

No Activities

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

5:00 p.m. SPRC Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth "Meet & Greet" with Alvin Eclavea
 6:00 p.m. French Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 27, 2025

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

Friday, February 28, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, March 1, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Transfiguration Sunday † Communion

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, March 3, 2025

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

No Activities

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Youth Activities
 6:00 p.m. French Bible Study



*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 23, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.
7th Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • February 5, 2025

Prayer Group—6
 Bible Study—16
 French Congregation Bible Study—12
 UMM Breakfast • January 9—5

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Sunday School—42
 In-Person Worship—42
 Online Worship—0
 French Congregation Sunday School—10
 French Worship Service—32

Weekly Attendance • February 12, 2025

Prayer Group—5
 Bible Study—13
 French Congregation Bible Study—9
 UMM Breakfast • January 30—5

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Sunday School—57
 In-Person Worship—75
 Online Worship—0
 French Congregation Sunday School—14
 French Worship Service—45