



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2025, Number 08

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



No matter what you've been engaged in over the years, one question continues to linger: what does it truly mean to make a difference as you navigate this new chapter of life? Although people reassure us that our contributions still matter, their responses often falter when probed for specifics.

Let me clarify—I don't want to undermine the quiet dignity of feeling "irrelevant." Many of us have voiced our frustrations over endless meetings with finance committees, trustees, and Friday night wedding rehearsals.

Acknowledging that our society tends to measure everything by its utility, theologian Henri Nouwen arrived at the profound insight that questioning this mindset gives rise to genuine and impactful ministry. In **In the Name of Jesus** (Crossroad, 1992), he expressed, "I am deeply convinced that the Christian leader of the future is called to be completely irrelevant and to stand in this world with nothing to offer but his or her own vulnerable self. This is the way Jesus came to reveal God's love."

Nouwen's reflections on ministry underscore the importance of personal authenticity and vulnerability. Who would have thought that something as ordinary as retirement could lead us to this unexpected blessing of being "irrelevant"? Perhaps it is only when we cease all our striving, and activities become unfeasible, that we truly embrace our baptismal calling.

In every stage of life, our purpose remains the same: to make a difference for Christ's sake. Our faith tradition, rooted in John Wesley's teachings, emphasizes "doing good." At the heart of that "doing" is the willingness to welcome others—allowing them to greet us, visit us, befriend us, pray for us, and yes, even wash our feet when we can no longer bend down.

Over the thirteen years we've shared, we have likely encountered nearly every experience on this journey. I cherish the memories of baptisms, weddings, funerals, fellowship meals, Fall Festivals, mission trips, summer camps at Glen Lake, Advent studies, Christmas Eve

services, Lenten reflections, and vibrant music and prayer. I hold dear our moments of construction and deconstruction—ideas reshaped through disagreement and resolution, alongside remembrance and forgiveness.

We've gathered countless carloads of food and clothing for local food pantries and Major Cheney Elementary School, assembled sandwiches for the Presbyterian Night Shelter, supported missionaries, and delivered meals through Meals on Wheels. Together, we've laughed and cried, mourned and celebrated, indulged in too many desserts, and savored breakfast casseroles! We've said farewell to cherished members who have moved or transitioned to the church triumphant, while also welcoming new faces into our community. We've weathered fierce storms and enjoyed many sunlit days.

Through it all, we have bonded and grown in remarkable ways, immersed in a wealth of mercy, grace, joy, and love. The Lord has blessed us beyond measure. He has been with us, demonstrating that what we perceive as impossible, God transforms into possibility.

In Christian love and grace, Mel



Join us on Sunday, May 11 as we honor our Mothers during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.





Joe Ray Crawford
 August 7, 1925—April 5, 2025
 Memorial Service:
 St. Luke United Methodist
 Church
 May 14 • 10:30 a.m.

Please keep the family of Joe Crawford in your thoughts and prayers.



If you or someone in your family is graduating from college this year, please contact the church office at 817/838-6834 or email Susan at office@stlukeumchaltomcity.org and we will recognize them in our **May 21, 2025** newsletter.



**Second Chance Resale Shop
 Yard Sale • May 17 • 10 a.m.—3 p.m.**

INSIDE & OUTSIDE YARD SALE

Fill a bag (supermarket size) of clothes for \$3.

All clothes **INSIDE** 50% off.

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 AT ANY YARD SALE.



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study
 May 14, 2025
 Prayer Group † 9:30 a.m. • Bible Study † 10:00 a.m.
 Book of Exodus • Fellowship Hall
We invite you to join us.



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; Darren Isbell; Ed Baker; Sandra Mason; Bob Watkins & family; David Stapp; George & Karen Angle's daughter, Sarah & daughter-in-law, Kristine; Roy & Joan Hudson's son, Richard; Ann Kiker; Barbara Provenzano; sister, Lynn; Lydia Acosta & her husband; Jean P. Isbell; Peggy Fallin; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; Mary Steward; Burt Moore; Anita McCullar; Doris Crocker; Bonnie Richards; Betty Longeway; family of Lou Coursey; Dayna Cox's son, Brennan; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandsons; Milo & Levi; Roy Hudson; Art & Cathy Gordon; George Angle; Roberta Reeves; Michael & Claudia Turner; family of Bill Henderson; family of Joe Crawford

This Week's Concerns: Mary Ross' daughter, Pam Williamson; Gene Bibb; Melba Duncan with the loss of her brother, Don Pitts; those affected by the earthquake in Myanmar and southeast Asia; 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; 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. It was so good to have Beverly Bradley back in class this week. Prayer concerns: Betty Turnage and Mary Ross' daughter, Pam Williamson. *Mary Ross*

GENESIS CLASS:

We had 8 in class this week. It was good to have George and Art back with us. We'll finish up chapter 13 next week, picking up on page 155. LNO is this Thursday, 4:30 p.m. at Hoffbrau's or whenever you can get there. Look for a text as a reminder and so we can get some kind of headcount. Please keep these in your thoughts and prayers: Barbara Kimbrough, Gene Bibb and Roberta Reeves.

Doughnuts:

May 11—Anita Bookout

May 18—George & Karen Angle

May 25—Amy West

Have a safe week and see ya there. *Anita Bookout*

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings to all. Our class had eleven in attendance. Our joys: Garry's sisters, Delisa and Debbie are both doing better; Darryl Miller is making good progress with the healing of his foot; the National Day of Prayer has been brought back, and the wonderful spring rains and cool weather. Prayer concerns: Rose Mascari, Byron Lechler, the LaRue family and Virgil Van Schuyver. We pray, "Lord be with all our members who are now having health issues." Debbie delivered our morning praying asking Him to be with those members who are or were unable to attend Sunday School. Thank you Ronnie for the deliciously prepared refreshments, and for the wonderful devotion on National Day of Prayer based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 and Romans 15:14. Our way back to a more civil nation is through prayer taken from "The Way Back", in the devotional book, *Manna in the Morning*.

Business Meeting: The officers nominating committee met and have chosen Ronnie Pippen for President, Ann Van Schuyver for Vice President, Gloria Lechler for Secretary and Debbie Chapman for Treasurer. All were accepted. Our out going President's Party will be May 26 (Memorial Day) at noon in Fellowship Hall next to the kitchen. The menu will be hot dogs, baked beans, chips and dips, candied apples, cookies and root beer floats. Other business was the clarification of the per cent our class would be giving to the church monthly. After Debbie gave the treasurer's report and we were clear on how much we would be giving each month, we were more assured of the proposal.

Anniversary: Gail and Gerry LaRue 5/11. Birthdays: Mary Ruth Ellis 5/25 and Barbara Provenzano 5/27

Resale Shop: \$394 (Of which we are thankful.)

Devotion/Refreshments: Sharon, Linda and Gloria

Lesson: "Overcoming Anxiety and Fear Through Faith"

Philippians 4:6, Isaiah 41:13, Matthew 6:25-34, 2 Timothy 1:7, Isaiah 26:3, John 14:27, Psalm 34:4, Romans 8:31

Yard Sale: May 17 • 10 am to 3 pm *Gloria Lechler*



Article by Alvin Eclavea,
Youth Director

Hello St. Luke Family,

We're seeing slow but steady growth in our youth group's Sunday School and Wednesday gatherings! Just as the resurrection brought new life and hope, we're excited about the energy and familiar faces participating. Please continue to invite any youth you know to be a part of this vibrant group.

As 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" We see this spirit of new beginnings in our growing youth ministry.

Thank you for your generous donations to the youth room! We're now seeking more volunteers to help provide Wednesday evening meals – please reach out if you're interested in supporting our youth in this way.

Mark your calendars! We're planning an End-of-School Year Celebration for our youth at the end of May. More details to come soon as we celebrate their achievements and look forward to the summer ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for our youth ministry.

In gratitude, Alvin Eclavea



The youth will meet on
May 14 & 28.

The youth meet the 2nd
and 4th Wednesdays of
each month.



Financial Report:
Receipts for April 2025:
\$25,297



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **May 21** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **May 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.

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Horizon Texas Conference website & phone: htcumc.org • 817/877-5222

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



Faith & Fellowship



Sunday, May 11, 2025

4th Sunday of Easter † Mother's Day

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

Monday, May 12, 2025

No Activities

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

No Activities

Wednesday, May 14, 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
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 15, 2025

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

Friday, May 16, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, May 17, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, May 18, 2025

5th Sunday of Easter

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

Monday, May 19, 2025

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

No Activities

Wednesday, May 21, 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



*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, May 11, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.
4th Sunday of Easter † Mother's Day
Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • April 23

Prayer Group—2
 Bible Study—12
 Youth—6
 French Bible Study—9
 UMM Breakfast • April 24—3

Sunday, April 27

Sunday School—52
 In-Person Worship—49
 Online Worship—285
 French Sunday School—12
 French Worship—47

Weekly Attendance • April 30

Prayer Group—5
 Bible Study—12
 French Bible Study—9
 UMM Breakfast • May 1—5

Sunday, May 4

Sunday School—49
 In-Person Worship—49
 Online Worship—201
 French Sunday School—13
 French Worship Service—38