



The people of the United Methodist Church

# E-MESSENGER

Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors

## Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2025, Number 09

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

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



### *We Must Remember*

Memorial Day is a special holiday, a single day during which we honor the spirit of all those who died in service to our nation but whom we continue to remember and honor in our hearts. Memorial Day. It is a simple phrase that brings an avalanche of emotion from each of us. Each of us has our own set of memories, and on Memorial Day we remember those who risked their lives, and indeed in many cases gave their lives in order for us to have the freedom which we so enjoy. We remember the men and women who put on a uniform to serve our country. We remember those who have fought the good fight. We remember those who came home victorious, and grieve for those who never returned home at all.

We need to remember the men and women serving yet today in hostile environments, laying their lives on the line to serve their country. May God bless our troops home and abroad on the day of Remembrance and every day.

We must remember. We need to remember the times past; a time when God was the God of our land; a time when our trust was in God alone. We need to remember a time when our values were good, and our neighborhoods safe. We need to remember a time when families were together, and children were respectful.

For some, human life isn't worth a dime anymore. People lose their lives over something as trivial as a parking spot. There is a disregard for the laws of both humanity and God. Integrity means nothing, honesty belongs to a bygone era. Without God we would be like a ship without a sail, or sheep without a shepherd. Lewis Smedes in his article "Keep Hope Alive" said: "This nation was built by the power of hope. No painter ever set brush to canvas, no writer ever set pen to paper, no builder ever set brick on brick, no enterpriser ever built an enterprise without having hope that he or she could do what they were dreaming of doing. We have not begun to fathom the power of hope in creating better lives for ourselves and our children."

We can strengthen that hope with a strong foundation of Faith, and see great things begin to happen. Don't let the hope die out, let us turn our memories of old into present day realities. Let us look into the past and be faithful to the memories of those who have passed before us, but at the same time, learn from the lessons they are teaching us.

*In Christian love and grace, Mel*



*The church office will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. Please remember all of our veterans, especially those who are remembered bi-weekly in our newsletter and weekly in our bulletin:  
Ryan Kelly Hampton, Kyle Johnson, Krystal Calvert, Evan Hill, Nathaniel Hill, Alex Sullivan-Green, Harrison Lenox and Junior Chowe.*

*Remember those who are still with us and those who have passed away serving our country and in other countries around the world.*

## *Retirement* CELEBRATION

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE  
44 AMAZING YEARS IN MINISTRY

IN HONOR OF

*Reverend Mel Bishara*

JUNE 22ND AFTER SUNDAY SERVICES  
(NOONISH)  
ST. LUKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
3200 DENTON HIGHWAY  
HALTOM CITY, TEXAS 76117

HORS D'OEUVRES WILL BE SERVED





## Recognition of our 2024/2025 Graduates

### High School Graduate:

*Samuel Kasonga*

International Leadership of Texas High School  
Will attend Baylor University  
Parents: John & Suzy Kasonga

### University Graduate—December 2024:

*Marthe Ditu*

Bachelor's Degree in Cyber Security  
University of North Texas  
Husband: Rachidy Mukanda  
Parents: Abel & Esther Ditu

*We will honor these two graduates on Sunday, June 1  
at our 10:30 a.m. worship service.*



### **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 Stewart; 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; Roberta Reeves; Michael & Claudia Turner; family of Bill Henderson; family of Joe Crawford; Mary Ross' daughter, Pam Williamson; Gene Bibb; Melba Duncan with the loss of her brother, Don Pitts

**This Week's Concerns:** Ruby Lane; Tommie Martin; 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



### *Pentecost Sunday*

**June 8, 2025 • 10:30 a.m. Worship Service**  
*Come and worship in-person or online with us as we celebrate the birth of the early Christian Church.*



### **Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study**

May 28, 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 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:

The Emmanuel Class had nine members in attendance. Beverly Bradley led our lesson and it was so good to have her back in class. Prayer concerns: Ruby Lane and Tommie Martin.  
*Mary Ross*

## GENESIS CLASS:

## UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings. The Upper Room class had an attendance of fourteen. Thank you to Gail for the refreshments and our devotion titled "Don't Take Your Blessings for Granted" taken from *Manna in the Morning*. We are to treasure every gift and thank God for them. Joys: Continued good attendance; President's Party, noon on May 26, in the Fellowship Hall; Ronnie's granddaughter graduates, Earline's son, Wayne, is driving again; Earline has two grandsons that are graduating; successful Yard Sale, and Ronnie's daughter and her husband are taking a long awaited trip to Tahiti and Hawaii. Prayer Concerns: Darryl Miller, Gerry LaRue, Ronnie Phippen, Lynn, Susan Briles, Melissa Lechler and Byron Lechler. Birthdays: Mary Ruth Ellis—May 25  
Barbara Provenzano—May 27

Resale Shop and Yard Sale: \$729

Devotion/Refreshments: Gloria Lechler/Debbie Chapman  
Lesson: Rest and Sabbath. Genesis 2:2-3; Matthew 11:28; Exodus 20:8-10; Isaiah 40:29-31; Psalm 23:1-3; Mark 6:31; Hebrews 4:9-11; Philippians 4:6-7

*Gloria Lechler*



Article by Alvin Eclavea,  
Youth Director

Dear Church Family,

We wanted to give you a peek into what our youth have been learning in Sunday School recently. We've been focusing on the powerful idea that each of us is made in God's image. This core belief, from Genesis 1:27 ("So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them"), highlights the remarkable dignity and worth of every person. Our discussions have involved exploring the qualities within us that mirror God's character and, more importantly, how this understanding calls us to treat each other with love, respect, and compassion. It's truly inspiring to witness our young people engaging with these important ideas.

Please be aware that our Youth Group's end-of-school-year celebration, which was planned for May 28, will need to be postponed. We are currently working to set a new date and will update everyone as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

We are deeply grateful for the wonderful support and donations our youth group receives from our entire church family. Your commitment genuinely impacts the lives of our young people. As we move into the summer, we are prayerfully considering some exciting new changes and opportunities for our youth ministry.

If you have any items you'd still like to donate to the youth group, or if you're interested in volunteering your time to assist with our Wednesday evening youth meals, please feel free to reach out. Your ongoing partnership is so valuable as we support and guide the next generation in their faith journey.

*Warmly, Alvin*



The youth will meet again on **June 11**.

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



I want to say "Thank You" to all of the volunteers who worked for me while I was out of the office last week: Mary Paris, Carol Negozio, Amy West and Karen Angle. It made it so much easier for me to be out of the office knowing that all of you were there to take care of things.  
*Susan Briles*



This note is to thank all of the volunteers who worked at the Yard Sale, Saturday, May 17. There are not enough of words to express my thanks to all of you.

*Love, Martha Chapman*



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **June 4** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **June 2**. 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](http://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](http://www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org)

## Faith & Fellowship



### Sunday, May 25, 2025

#### **6th 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 26, 2025

Church Office Closed in observance of Memorial Day

### Tuesday, May 27, 2025

No Activities

### Wednesday, May 28, 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, May 29, 2025

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

### Friday, May 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

### Saturday, May 31, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

### Sunday, June 1, 2025

**7th Sunday of Easter † Communion Sunday  
 Graduation Sunday**

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

### Monday, June 2, 2025

9:00 a.m. Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

### Tuesday, June 3, 2025

No Activities

### Wednesday, June 4, 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 25, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.**

**6th Sunday of Easter**

**Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.**

**Weekly Attendance • May 7**

*Prayer Group—4*

*Bible Study—13*

*French Bible Study—8*

**UMM Breakfast • May 8—5**

**Sunday, May 11**

*Sunday School—68*

*In-Person Worship—59*

*Online Worship—343*

*French Sunday School—12*

*French Worship—50*

**Weekly Attendance • May 14**

*The Prayer Group and Bible Study did not meet  
 due to Joe Crawford's Memorial Service.*

*French Bible Study—9*

**UMM Breakfast • May 15—5**

**Sunday, May 18**

*Sunday School—53*

*In-Person Worship—61*

*Online Worship—246*

*French Sunday School—13*

*French Worship Service—25*