



The people of the United Methodist Church

E-MESSENGER

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2025, Number 11

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org



Dear Church Family and Friends,

This is the last time I will be writing a letter to you as your pastor. After 13 years it is a strange feeling to sit down to write knowing it is the final time. What should I say? I'm overwhelmed with the joy and sadness that comes from change. A flood of things come to mind.

I want to say a word of thanks to the church staff. They are wonderful people to work with day in and day out. They are a blessing to all of us, and especially to me. Their dedication, professionalism, love for their ministry, and love for Christ do much to further Christ's work. Thank you, Susan, Mark, Randy, Debbie, Ray, Anna, Alvin and Abel Ditu.

I also want to say few things about your new pastor, Rev. Todd Pick. Todd is capable, gifted, equipped, dedicated, exciting, visionary, loving, and young who will lead you to tremendous new heights in the mission and ministry of St. Luke United Methodist Church. I know he and his family will be a blessing to you, as you will be to them.

Todd is not me – that is, he will do many things differently! Many of those things you will like tremendously. Others you may not. Regardless, let him be himself, follow his leadership, encourage him, pray for him, help him succeed as you labor alongside with him. I recall what a warm welcome of Christian “radical hospitality” you extended to me when I arrived as the new pastor, welcome him with that same warmth.

I also want to remind you that I will no longer be your pastor after June 30. Please do not ask me to return for pastoral duties such as weddings and funerals. Those are for your new pastor to perform and officiate. Call on Todd and trust him, and allow him the privilege to minister to you. I will be going to First United Methodist Church Bedford to be their pastor (quarter time), so I will have plenty to do in retirement and my new ministry location. However, I do look forward to maintaining our friendship, and I will always be glad to hear from you.

We faced two major challenges in the life of our church during the years I have been with you: Covid-19, and the disaffiliation of many within our beloved United Methodist denomination. We poured out our love and care, and you were such a support during those tough times. I will never forget. I cannot begin to express how grateful I am.

Finally, and most of all, it has been a privilege to serve as your pastor. You are a great church and a wonderful people. We have accomplished many things together during my tenure with you and had set backs. I love you and will miss you. I will pray for you to continue to grow in faith, spiritual life, and service. You have a great future ahead of you and some wonderful things in the process of development. You have a tremendous influence for Christ in this community as you share His love. I will pray for all your ministries here as the people of God called St. Luke United Methodist Church. Remember dear church family that I love you all in Christ, and that my address may change, but my destination is still the same. To God be the Glory.

*In Christ's Service and Love,
Mel Bishara*

To Our Dear Mel,

We are so happy that you are able to retire at this time in your life and it is a time to celebrate!

We celebrate you and your ministry for you have loved St. Luke United Methodist Church with your whole heart, soul, and with all your strength. You have always been a loving and caring shepherd for all.

We celebrate the faithful ways you have lived out God's call to make disciples, to baptize, to teach, to lead, to comfort, not only our members, but everyone in their time of illness and distress. Your kind words and actions have always shown your strong faith in our Heavenly Father. To you, we give our love, our most sincere thanks, our deepest appreciation, our support and our prayers in this new chapter of your life.

Yes, we do celebrate you and your ministry, but we will miss our dear friend of thirteen years. You have been a very important part of many of our lives. You have helped us to be better Christians. You have welcomed all our families, baptized our babies and friends, counseled us in different ways, spent many hours at hospitals and buried our families. You will never be forgotten and always loved and appreciated.

We wish you and Susan the happiest retirement, dear friends. May you always continue to share your strong faith and love as you have with St. Luke United Methodist Church.

On behalf of our St. Luke UMC members, we send our love and God's Blessings,

*Mary Paris
Administrative Board Chair*



Holy Communion † Sunday, July 6, 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.


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




Congratulations to Ruby Lane and her family with the birth of Ruby's first great-granddaughter:

Raelyn June
Born June 16, 2025
8 lbs. 6 oz.
20 inches long



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK...

Continued Prayer Concerns: Jeanne Anne Pharis; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Betty Holshouser; Barbara Jones; Charles & Pat Hooper; Byron Lechler; Melissa Lechler & her son, Lucas; Christin Osborn; Darren Isbell; Ed Baker; Sandra Mason; Bob Watkins & family; George & Karen Angle's daughter, Sarah & daughter-in-law, Kristine; Barbara Provenzano's sister, Lynn Hindeling; Lydia Acosta & her husband; Peggy Fallin; Mary Steward; Anita McCullar; Doris Crocker; Bonnie Richards; Burt & Marylou Moore; Mel & Susan's friend, Lisa Hall; Dayna Cox's son, Brennan; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandsons, Milo & Levi; Claudia & Michael Turner; Roy Hudson; Betty Longeway; Roy & Joan Hudson's son, Richard; Marilyn Smith; Esther Ditu; Linda Smith; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds

This Week's Concerns: Cathy & Art Gordon; Roberta Reeves; Amy & Gene Bibb with the loss of his brother; family of Ann Kiker; Pastor Abel Ditu; David & Kay Stapp; Anna Allen; people of Nazareth, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon & Syria; those affected by flooding; isolation & loneliness; gun violence each day in our country; the people of Ukraine & the world; prayers for our nation

Our Military: Ryan Kelly Hampton; 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 fifteen present in class this past Sunday. We had five visitors for the Presenting of the Stone Ceremony that we have when one of our members passes away. Ruby Lane presented the stone for Joe Crawford. We had the ceremony on Sunday and our visitors were Sondi & Bill Mateja, Art & Cathy Gordon and Mel. Our lesson was provided by Bill Mateja. Please keep Anna Allen in your prayers. Mary Steward celebrated her birthday on June 16. Remember that Sunday, June 22 is Mel's las Sunday and there will be a reception for him and Susan following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. *Mary Ross*

GENESIS CLASS:

We had a small group this week, but good discussions. We'll start on lesson one next week. Remember this is Mel's last Sunday to preach with a reception afterwards. Keep the Bibb's in your prayers after the loss of Gene's brother.

Doughnuts:

June 22—Anita Bookout

June 29—Open

July 6—George & Karen Angle

See y'all Sunday.

Anita Bookout

UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. We had nine attendees and missed those who were unable to be with us. We had a good discussion on the Trinity. Thank you to Jack for the nice refreshments and his self written devotion titled "Our Father." The Bible promises us longevity if we continue to honor our father and mother. Our joys: honoring Father's Day, the sweet rain, Jack honoring the oldest retired fireman and Ann & Virgil visiting with family. Prayer concerns: Lynn, Melissa, Byron, Rose and family, Lucas Lechler in his travels to and from England to visit his father and a world in chaos. Ann Kiker's funeral will be Friday, June 20 at 11:00 a.m. at the Birdville Cemetery, 6100 Cemetery Road, Haltom City. Graveside service only.

Resale Shop: \$219

Devotion/Refreshments: Ronnie Pippen

Lesson: "Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself"

Matthew 22:39-40; Romans 13:8; John 13:34-35;

1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 4:7-8; Leviticus 19:18;

Luke 6:27-31; Philippians 2:3-4

Gloria Lechler



The youth are invited to the
After School/Beginning of Summer
Bowling Party
Alley Cats Bowling
609 Northeast Loop 820, Hurst, Texas
Wednesday, June 25 • 6:00 p.m.
We will enjoy bowling, pizza and soda.



Our youth meets the 2nd
and 4th Wednesday of
each month. This month
the youth will meet
July 9 & 23.



St. Luke UMC Prayer Group

Our prayer group will continue to meet every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Once our new pastor, Todd Pick gets settled in, he will continue our Wednesday Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **July 9** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **July 7**. Thank you!



St. Luke United Methodist Church
 3200 Denton Highway
 Haltom City, TX 76117
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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.

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, June 22, 2025

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service
 12:00 p.m. Retirement Reception for Mel & Susan Bishara

Monday, June 23, 2025

No Church Activities

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

No Church Activities

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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

Thursday, June 26, 2025

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

Friday, June 27, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Saturday, June 28, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

Sunday, June 29, 2025

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

Monday, June 30, 2025

No Church Activities

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

No Church Activities

Wednesday, July 2, 2025

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group
 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, June 22, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.

Weekly Attendance • June 4

Prayer Group—6

Bible Study—14

French Bible Study—12

UMM Breakfast • June 5—3

Sunday, June 8

Sunday School—54

In-Person Worship—52

Online Worship—332

French Sunday School—10

French Worship—42

Weekly Attendance • June 11

Prayer Group: 4

Bible Study: 12

French Bible Study—9

UMM Breakfast • June 12—3

Sunday, June 15

Sunday School—53

In-Person Worship—66

Online Worship—401

French Sunday School—11

French Worship Service—21