



Open hearts  
Open minds  
Open doors

The people of the United Methodist Church

## E-MESSENGER

Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Volume 2025, Number 13

Wednesday, July 23, 2025

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

### *A Message from Pastor Todd Pick*

Dear beautiful and beloved people of God,

As we get to know one another better in this time of new beginnings, one of the things you will learn about me is that **I love a good question!** Usually, a good question gives me something to ponder and think deeply about over time. Good questions help us practice the art of being curious. They also remind us that we never know too much to learn something new. And to me, asking a good, thought-provoking question is sometimes more important than finding a singular, right answer.

Like the rabbis of his time, asking questions was a common teaching method for Jesus. Many scholars have studied the insightful questions he asks in the gospels, more than 200 in all! Which means that Jesus also loved a good question and used them frequently to encourage self-reflection, to challenge, and even to build relationships.

Sometimes Jesus's questions were tough and confronted his hearers ("If you only love those who love you, what reward will you get?" "Do you want to get well?" "What do you want me to do for you?"). Other times, his questions were about deep and connective relationships ("Do you love me?" "Have I not chosen you?"). Often, they spoke to matters of the heart and our human condition ("Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your mind?" "Why are you so afraid?" "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to their life?"). Next time you're reading one of the Gospels, take note of the questions Jesus asks, as well as what they might be asking of you.

Some of you have already asked what plans I have for St. Luke. But visions, dreams, and plans for our future can really and truly only come from living into some big questions first... questions about who we are and who we are becoming naturally must sit side-by-side with questions of who our neighbor is and what shifts are happening in our community. Over the next few months, you will hear me ask **lots** of questions because they will help me get to know you, the church, and our community.

Listed below are just a few questions that I would love to hear your answers to! Feel free to ponder, to think and reflect...

- What do you love most about our church?
- What do we do well here?
- What do we value here at St. Luke? How are those core values shown by what we do?
- Did you know there are about a dozen other churches in our community? Looking at all of them, what makes our church unique?
- How has St. Luke helped you in your life?
- What are you most passionate about as you live out your calling to serve Christ here? What breaks your heart? What inspires you?
- What are you willing to invest (prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness) so we might grow? Who are you willing to invite?
- Who is our neighbor? What do our neighbors need?

Think about these questions and which ones speak to you. Then stop by the office, text, or call me to give me your thoughts and reflections. **I would love to share a cup of coffee and conversation with you!** As we pray for this time of new beginnings, maybe the biggest question I could ask is: what is the deepest prayer of your heart? And as you pray, what do you sense God might be calling us to in this new chapter in our church?

*Blessings, Pastor Todd*



United Women in Faith  
Meeting & Luncheon  
August 5 • 10:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Program:

**Come & Meet Pastor Todd Pick**

Lunch will be provided by Linda Schmidt.

Everyone is invited to meet Todd and have lunch.



*Roberta Reeves passed away  
July 21, 2025.*

*Funeral arrangements are  
pending.*

*Please keep her son, Gary Reeves  
and family in your thoughts and  
prayers.*



Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks



## Blessing of the Backpacks & Teacher Appreciation Sunday, August 10

### 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Our students, teachers and administrators  
will return back to school in the HEB &  
Birdville School Districts on August 13.  
Join us on this Sunday to bless our children  
with their backpacks and to celebrate our  
teachers, retired teachers and  
school administrators.

## 3rd Grade Bible Presentation and Honoring our Sunday School Teachers Sunday, August 24 10:30 a.m. Worship Service



We will honor our Sunday School teachers  
and present Bibles to the children who are  
entering the 3rd grade this  
school year.



### 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; Lydia  
Acosta & her husband; Peggy Fallin; Anita McCullar;  
Doris Crocker; Bonnie Richards; Burt & Marylou Moore;  
Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandsons, Milo & Levi; Betty  
Longeway; Roy & Joan Hudson's son, Richard;  
Marilyn Smith; Linda Smith; Ruby Lane's nephew,  
Dan Reynolds; Cathy & Art Gordon; David & Kay Stapp;  
Barbara Kimbrough & family with the loss of her  
daughter, Tarrie; Michael & Claudia Turner; Barbara  
Provenzano with the loss of her sister, Lynn Hindeling;  
family of Betty Holshouser

**This Week's Concerns:** family of Roberta Reeves; Bill  
& Deana Hoffman; those affected by the flooding in  
Central Texas; those affected by flooding nationwide;  
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](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:

We had ten in attendance and Beverly Bradley finished our lesson book. Everyone is invited to the Women in Faith meeting and luncheon on August 5 at 10:00 a.m. to meet Pastor Todd and have lunch provided by Linda Schmidt. Prayer concerns: James McDonald and Ruby Lane. Birthdays: Melba Duncan, 7/28 and Tommie Martin, 7/29. Mary Ross

## GENESIS CLASS:

We had a great day of discussion for our lesson led by George. We'll pick up on chapter 5 of Revelation this week. Cathy is home. We met our new pastor and his family last week. Welcome, Pastor Todd Pick, Jenn and Andrew. The choir did an exceptional job. Big things do come from small ones. Doughnuts: 7/27 - Dayna, 8/3 - Anita, 8/10 - Amy W. Y'all stay safe and cool this week. See ya Sunday. Anita Bookout

## UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Greetings from the Upper Room Class. Our attendance Sunday was ten. Thank you to Gail Larue for the refreshments and to Gloria Lechler for our music. Joys: Gail LaRue was glad to be back home after her trip to Georgia to see family; Melissa Lechler and Darryl Miller are doing better. Praises to God for that. Prayer Concerns: family of Betty Holshouser; Sharon's daughter, Ragan and her sister, Linda, Rose; Ronnie Pippen, Byron Lechler, the flood victims and the volunteers and first responders. Our morning prayer was delivered by Ann Van Schuyver asking God to be with our country and lift up our concerns for those facing health problems. Gail delivered our morning devotion titled "Grace in Troubled Times" and "Lord, Heal our Land." Both devotions were taken from *Manna in the Morning*. Our class voted to give a donation to the church in memory of Betty Holshouser. Upcoming Birthday: Debbie Chapman—7/28.

Resale Shop: \$301

Refreshments/Devotion: Debbie/Gloria

Lesson: "Evangelism in Everyday Life" Mark 16:15, 1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 10:14-15, John 4:28-30, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:20, Colossians 4:5-6

Gloria Lechler



Article by Alvin Eclavea,  
Youth Director

We want to extend another heartfelt welcome to our new **Pastor Todd!** We're truly excited to continue getting to know him better and officially welcome him into our St. Luke family. We look forward to the journey ahead with his guidance and leadership.

In Sunday School, we've embarked on a fascinating journey through the **Book of James**, taking it one chapter at a time each week. This past week, our discussions centered on **James Chapter 2**. We delved into the powerful message about faith and works, exploring how true faith is always demonstrated through our actions. It's not enough to simply say we believe; our lives should reflect that belief through the way we treat others and live out our convictions. This chapter truly challenged us to consider what our faith looks like in practice.

Our hearts and prayers have been with the victims and community of Kerrville recently. As a youth group, we've been thinking and praying hard about how we can best contribute and offer support. For now, we are focusing on a tangible way to express our solidarity: we are writing **handwritten letters** to the congregations of First United Methodist and St. Paul United Methodist churches in Kerrville. We want to send our love and prayers directly to the families affected, knowing that even small gestures can offer comfort. This effort is rooted in the spirit of **Matthew 5:4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."** We hope these letters convey our deepest sympathies and show them they are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**BIG NEWS** for our youth group meetings! Starting **August 3rd**, we'll be moving to a new consistent schedule. We'll now meet **each week every Sunday from 4 - 5 PM**. As we get back into the swing of the school year, we believe this regularity and consistency will really help our youth group grow and thrive. We can't wait to see everyone there!

Alvin



The next *E-Messenger* Newsletter will be published **August 6** and all submissions need to be in the church office by **August 4**.



James McDonald  
now resides at  
Brookdale Westover Hills  
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#1221  
Fort Worth TX 76116

Please send his mail to:  
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*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.  
 French Worship Service • 2:00 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:

[www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org](http://www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org)

## Faith & Fellowship



### Sunday, July 27, 2025

#### **7th Sunday after Pentecost**

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

### Monday, July 28, 2025

No Church Activities

### Tuesday, July 29, 2025

No Church Activities

### Wednesday, July 30, 2025

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

### Thursday, July 31, 2025

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

### Friday, August 1, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

### Saturday, August 2, 2025

10:00 a.m. Second Chance Resale Shop

### Sunday, August 3, 2025

#### **8th Sunday after Pentecost † Communion Sunday**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Service  
 2:00 p.m. French Worship Service  
 4:00 p.m. Youth Group Activities

### Monday, August 4, 2025

9:00 Newsletter Submission DEADLINE

### Tuesday, August 5, 2025

10:00 a.m. Women of Faith Meeting & Luncheon

### Wednesday, August 6, 2025

9:30 a.m. Prayer Group  
 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: St. Luke UMC Haltom City**

**Sunday, July 27, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.  
 7th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Sunday School • 9:15 a.m.**

**Weekly Attendance • July 9**  
 Prayer Group—4  
 French Bible Study—9  
 UMM Breakfast • July 10—7

**Sunday • July 13**  
 Sunday School—62  
 In-Person Worship—92  
 Online Worship—570

*Both congregations came together to worship for Pastor Todd's first Sunday.*

**Weekly Attendance • July 16**  
 Prayer Group—5  
 Youth Group Activities—4  
 French Bible Study—11  
 UMM Breakfast • July 17—8

**Sunday • July 20**  
 Sunday School—49  
 In-Person Worship—57  
 French Worship Service—55