



# E-MESSENGER NEWSLETTER

Volume 2025, Number 16

September 1, 2025

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

## *A Message from Pastor Todd Pick:*

Dear beautiful and beloved people of God,

September's here... which means 2025 is going by all too quickly and the season of fall activities and pumpkin spiced coffee has arrived. Well, even if you're not a fan of fancy coffee drinks, it does seem to be that time of year when the calendar starts filling up. I hope that you're getting excited about putting church events like Bible Study (every Wednesday at 10 a.m.), Fall Fest (Saturday, November 15th), and the Chancel Choir Cantata (Sunday, December 21st) on your calendar! After praying our way through August, maybe you'll continue the habit by scheduling time each day to talk with God about your deepest cares as you lift them up alongside your deepest dreams.

In the life of the church, this Sunday marks the 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. That doesn't sound like much, but we have now reached the halfway point in the long liturgical season called "The Season After Pentecost" or "Ordinary Time." As I mentioned previously, this is the season that will take us through the end of November until Advent begins. The sense of "ordinary" here does *not* mean "humdrum" or "routine," but is a reminder of the invitation to take time to grow and mature in our faith within the ordinariness of everyday life. You'll even see the color green on the altar in the sanctuary because green best represents living, growing things.

Even though this season doesn't have the most exciting name, it's a time for putting our faith into practice; it's a time for living into the gifts the Spirit has given us to *be* the church in action! The same Spirit that breathed and blew the Church into existence on the day of Pentecost fills *us* and carries *us* in this season. And wherever the Spirit is, there will inevitably be dreams and visions brimming with new life (Acts 2:17-18). In this time where we focus on growing in our faith, I'm reminded that: "great faith inspires great dreams, and great dreams requires great faith."

This Season after Pentecost calls us to celebrate that *dreaming* and *visioning* and *imagining* are a part of who we are as a people of faith. We dream about who Jesus is calling us to become as well as what's possible with God. We dream about our individual place in God's story as well as St. Luke's place in the larger story of Love.

We dream about how our story meets the deepest needs of our community as well as what we can do in these "ordinary" days to further God's kingdom. And to dream is to have *hope*.

So as your calendar fills up with activities and as 2025 slips further away, remember to take time to allow for dreaming. What are your dreams for us as a church? With great faith, can we—will we—dare to dream great dreams together? Stop by the office for coffee (regular or flavored!) and conversation; or text or email me to let me know what dream the Spirit is whispering to you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Todd



As we head into September, the *E-Messenger Newsletter* will be published on a monthly basis. You will receive our monthly calendar and all the usual articles and announcements for church activities on the first of every month.

Moving forward, all newsletter submissions should be sent to Susan in the church office 3 days before the end of each month.

If you know someone who is not receiving our newsletter or if you have any questions about our new publication schedule, please contact the church office: 817/838-6834.



**Wednesday Morning  
Prayer Group & Bible Study  
Upper Room Classroom**



**Prayer Group  
9:30 a.m.**

**Starting September 3  
Bible Study  
1 Thessalonians**



*All are invited to join in this sacred time of prayer and study.*



**Women of Faith Meeting**  
October 14 • 10:00 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall  
Theme: Bring in Fall!

I am so excited to take over the reins from Barbara Blair, as the new President of our unit of Women of Faith for St. Luke United Methodist Church! Barbara Blair will be a hard act to follow! Thank you, Barbara your many years of leadership! Another BIG thank you goes to Barbara Burnett for her dedication as Treasurer and the keeper of the monies of Women of Faith. Thank you to Linda Savell, who will be taking over the job of Treasurer from Barbara Burnett, (another hard act to follow)!

Another thank you needs to go to Mary Paris for all her knowledge of United Methodist Women and their history!

We want to thank Pastor Todd, for a wonderful program at our August meeting! It was fun to get to know you and thank you, Linda Schmidt, for the yummy lunch!

Women of Faith's next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10 a.m.** Our theme will be Bring in Fall!

Linda Schmidt will have a "fallish" lunch of soup and sandwiches, and Linda Savell will lead us in making a fall craft!

PLEASE join us for time of fellowship, food and fun! All women are invited to join us!

A short business meeting and devotion will be at the beginning of the meeting. Blessings, Amy West

**Holy Communion † Sunday, September 7, 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.*



**Continued prayers for:** Jeanne Anne Pharis; French Congregation & the people of the Congo; Barbara Jones; Charles & Pat Hooper; Byron Lechler; Melissa Lechler & her son, Lucas; Christin Osborn; 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; Buddy & DeeDee Hill's grandsons, Milo & Levi; Betty Longeway; Marilyn Smith; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; David & Kay Stapp; Art Gordon; Sharon Friddle's daughter, Ragan Byron; Nathan Chandler; Bonnie Richards; Richard Redhead; Linda Smith; family of Barbara Kimbrough; family of Steve Johnson; Karen Hill Skoczlas; James McDonald; George Paris' sister, Vicki; Barbara Provenzano

**Special prayers this week for:** Pastor Ditu & his family with the loss of family members, Alain Lukusa Mpoyi & Frederick Kasonga Bamuanya; Jean P. Isbell with the loss of his son, Darren; Roy & Joan Hudson with the loss of their son, Richard; Burt & Marylou Moore; those affected by the shooting in Minneapolis; flood victims in Central Texas; people of Nazareth, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon & Syria; those isolation & loneliness, gun violence each day in our country; prayers for our nation; the people of Ukraine & the world

**Prayer for those serving in the 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:

The Emmanuel Class will be reading James M. Moore's book, *Have You Ever Seen a Hearse Pulling a Trailer?* We have read several of his books this year. Since combining the Emmanuel Class and the Partners in Faith Class and adding new members, we now have sixteen new members on the roll. This last Sunday we had twelve in Sunday School and twelve attending the church service. We are looking forward to fall and learning more about what God's plan are for us.  
September Birthday: Bonnie Harter—09/09

*Beverly Bradley & Mary Ross*

## UPPER ROOM CLASS:

Average attendance for August: 11

Fall Fest Business meeting: Our class plans to help out in the Country Store this year by making pecan tarts and crafts. We need volunteers from the congregation to help with baking tarts, pies, cakes, candies, jams, homemade pickles and handmade crafts, etc. Thank you for any contribution. Please let Gloria Lechler or Debbie Chapman know if you are making the tarts so we can order the tart shells for you.

Joys: Sharon Friddle's granddaughter gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl. Congratulations, Great-Grandmother. What a nice blessing.

Prayer concerns: Ragan, Rose, Bruce, Bonnie, Byron and Melissa.

Birthdays: Suzanne Nickel, 9/27.

The Resale Shop made \$1369 for the month of August. The shop is a real blessing to our church and community.

*Gloria Lechler*



## FALL FEST - SAVE the DATE!

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**with a Fish Fry Lunch** from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Our annual Fall Fest is coming and you won't want to miss it! We'll have a "Country Store" with sweetshop and crafts, chances to win the Fall Fest Quilt, LOTS of unique items up for auction, a booth with kids activities, and a delicious fish fry luncheon at \$10/plate (and free hotdogs for kids 12 and under)!

### What can you do to help:

- Start planning now what handcrafts or baked goods you might make to be sold in the Country Store
- Volunteer to help bake pecan tarts (see Gloria Lechler)
- Volunteer to plate lunches and serve as part of the kitchen crew (see Linda Schmidt)
- Donate new items, goods or services to the Silent/Live auctions (see Bonnie Harter or Mary Steward for the silent auction and Cathy Gordon for the live auction)
- Volunteer to set up the week of November 10th
- Invite all your friends and family to come with you on November 15th for a day of food, fun, and fellowship at St. Luke!
- Pray for God to bless our event and allow many hands to make light work

**New items for auction can be brought to church** on Sundays and we will store them in a locked room. The week of Fall Fest, you can deliver items to the church on Thursday, November 13th, from noon to 5 p.m. or Friday, November 14th, from noon to 7 p.m. Because they need to be cataloged, no auction items can be accepted the day of the event.

**Our next meeting is Sunday, October 5th** at 4 p.m. in the Partners in Faith classroom. Join us for more info and to see how your gifts and abilities can be put to use!



I am in the process of updating the church directory. Please contact me with any change in your address, phone number or email address. You can send your changes to [office@stlukeumchaltomcity.org](mailto:office@stlukeumchaltomcity.org) or call the church office at 817-838-6834.

Thanks! *Susan*



## Loss of Family Members

### **Pastor Abel Ditu's family members:**

*Alain Lukusa Mpoi—August 15*

*Frederick Kasonga Bamuanya—August 19*

### **Roy & Joan Hudson's son:**

*Richard Hudson—August 26*

*Funeral Service: September 4 • 10:00 a.m.*

*Gateway Church, Southlake*

### **Jean Paul Isbell's son:**

*Darren Isbell—August 26*



St. Luke United Methodist Church  
 3200 Denton Highway  
 Haltom City, TX 76117  
*Open hearts, open minds, open doors...*

The *E-Messenger* newsletter is published once a month online. Deadline for submission of articles is three days prior to the first day of the month. 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.**  
**Youth Group Activities • 4:00 p.m.**

**Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Friday 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Horizon Texas Conference website & phone: [htcumc.org](http://htcumc.org) • 817/877-5222

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:

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



**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 School • 9:15 a.m.**

**Weekly Attendance • August 20**

Prayer Group—10

French Bible Study—9

UMM Breakfast • August 21—7

**Sunday • August 24**

Sunday School—71

In-Person Worship—87

Online Worship—39

French Worship Service—31

**Weekly Attendance • August 27**

Prayer Group—7

French Bible Study—10

UMM Breakfast • August 28—7

**Sunday • August 31**

Sunday School—70

In-Person Worship—76

Online Worship—26

French Sunday School—16

French Worship Service—33

Youth Group Activities—8



**Article by Alvin Eclavea,**  
**Youth Director**

Dear Church Family,

In Sunday School, we've begun a new study on the Book of Philippians, and this past week, we dove into the powerful message of **Philippians Chapter 2**. Our discussion centered on the theme of **humility**, and we explored what it means to truly have the mind of Christ. We talked about how we can apply this principle in our day-to-day lives by putting the needs of others before our own and acting with genuine love and respect. It was an inspiring look at how we are called to serve one another with a humble heart.

A quick reminder that our youth group continues to meet every **Sunday from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM**. You can find us in the youth group room, which has been aptly named "The Fishbowl"! We love our new consistent schedule and the opportunity to gather each week.

We've received some great suggestions for service projects, and we're so excited to get started on them! Please continue to reach out to me with any more ideas you have—the youth group is always ready and willing to take on new ways to serve our church and community.

Lastly, we are definitely excited to welcome new members to our youth group, and we are also thrilled to have long-time members returning! Please know that all youth are welcome and wanted here. We'd love for you to share this message with any young people in your life.

In His Grace,  
 Alvin