



E-MESSENGER NEWSLETTER

Volume 2025, Number 17

October 1, 2025

Available at: stlukeumchaltomcity.org

A Message from Pastor Todd Pick:

Dear beautiful and beloved people of God, I am currently sitting outside, and it's just before dawn on Lake Texoma. The sky is a canvas ablaze with color—too many to name or count!—bringing delight to the eye and an unspeakable joy to the soul. There are crickets chirping, crows cawing, a loon calling, and a heron searching for food among lapping waves on sandy shoreline. And it feels like heaven.

Part of why I'm here in this place, is to lead and facilitate a week of spiritual renewal for clergy and laity from across our Horizon Texas Conference. In this time apart, we enter a monastic rhythm of prayer and worship at appointed hours throughout the day. We also have time set aside for learning and for intentional listening, for Holy Communion and for searching out the holy within the ordinary, for stillness and silence. It's amazing how easy it is to feel the rhythm of the cosmos and the gentle movement of the Spirit when some of the noise of daily life is filtered out and you live by a set pattern of spiritual formation!

As October dawns, I give thanks for settling into a rhythm of life with you here at St. Luke. From Sunday worship to prayer meeting, Bible study, and choir rehearsal on Wednesdays to United Methodist Men's breakfast on Thursdays... all of that provides a weekly pattern. Some of us now have the monthly rhythm of mentoring at Spicer Elementary. In addition, there's even a certain annual rhythm to our church with Fall Fest and Advent pageants and choir cantatas. We have a way of life that keep us grounded and invites us to live from a spiritual center that's rooted in God. We have places for prayer and fellowship, times to be filled up in spirit, and opportunities to learn and to serve.

And *all of that* is God shaping us and growing us by grace, so we can do our part to offer more grace to a weary, wounded world. And this life together in the Spirit is what sustains us for the journey. But this life together takes intentionality. It takes presence. It takes vulnerability. It takes open eyes to see and ears to hear. It takes mindfulness to a life that is true. It takes the practice of paying prayerful attention in the present moment to God's abundant life. And when we walk together, we find it a little easier to have these as we live out this precious thing we call our faith.

If I were to describe my first 90 days with you, it would be an energetic, exuberant blur! I'm so thankful for each of you and for all that we have accomplished in such a short time. As we now look ahead to fall and Advent, I hope that we will hold on to that energy and passion as we continue to walk together and grow together; as we take time to listen for needs and opportunities within our community; as we live more deeply into our faith so that we become an invitation for others to know Christ's deep love for us.

As always, I would love to hear more about what you might need to let your spirit grow more in grace. What might we offer here that could help others to find hope and abundant life? Text, call, email or stop by the office to share your thoughts... by now you know that there's a cup of coffee waiting! I look forward to walking and growing together, with and in great faith we have here at St. Luke!

Blessings, Pastor Todd

Faith & Fellowship

Wednesday Morning Prayer Group & Bible Study



Prayer Group
9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Bible Study
10:00 a.m.
Upper Room Class



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



Edwin "Ed" Baker

October 22, 1929—September 18, 2025

We are not aware of any funeral arrangements at this time.

Please keep Ed's family in your thoughts and prayers



St. Luke United Methodist Church
Resale Shop Yard Sale
Saturday, October 11
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

OUTSIDE YARD SALE

Fill a bag (supermarket size) of clothes for \$3 on tables and racks.

Free toys for Kids.

Discounted pocketbooks, purses, wall pictures and Christmas decorations.

INSIDE STORE:

50% off all clothes.

Everything priced as marked.

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, chips & a small bottled water for \$3 and \$1.50 for a hotdog only.

PUNCH CARDS ARE NOT ACCEPTED



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; 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; Ruby Lane's nephew, Dan Reynolds; David & Kay Stapp; Nathan Chandler; Bonnie Richards; Richard Redhead; Linda Smith; Karen Hill Skoczlas; James McDonald; George Paris' sister, Vicki; Barbara Provenzano; Sharon Friddle's daughters, Amanda Govea & Ragan Byron

Special prayers this week for: Leslie Duncan; Bill Harris; family of Ed Baker; Kelly & Lesha Henderson; Burt & Marylou Moore; 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; Alex Sullivan-



United Women of Faith Meeting

October 14 • 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Theme: Bring in Fall!

Lunch: Fall soup & sandwich

This month we will make a fall craft for you to keep or share.

Join us for a great time of fun, food and fellowship!



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!

Holy Communion † Sunday, October 5, 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.



Our Relationship with Spicer Elementary School

We are a church that values children and their place in the kingdom of God. We also say that we are a congregation where young families can come and grow together in faith. So, if we *say* those things, then we must *show it* by the mission and ministries in which we engage. Which is why it is wonderful to have begun a relationship with Spicer Elementary School!

Our work initially began in September with **Academy 4**. And what great work it is! The kids are so anxious for one-on-one time with an adult who encourages and cheers them on. But out of our willingness to help in this new initiative, we received a call to help out a new teacher who had come from overseas. We were able to respond in just the short span of a weekend... meeting needs and building trust: this is what relationship building and community partnership looks like!

The counselor at Spicer has now provided a longer list of things that would help out teachers and students. We are **currently collecting masking tape, white card stock, and disinfecting wipes** that we will deliver in October. Please bring in these supplies as you are able and leave them in the foyer.

Another piece we are working on is teacher and staff appreciation. We will be **hosting a breakfast for the staff on Friday, October 10th**. Are you able to bake muffins, banana bread, or coffee cake? If so, please contact Claudia Turner, who is coordinating this breakfast. Claudia is also planning on putting together **simple treat bags** for holidays throughout the year for the staff and would also appreciate your help.

The school is also in need of **volunteers** to come and make copies or help teachers prepare. This is work that can be done according to your schedule, on your time. If you're interested in volunteering, you can contact Claudia Turner or Pastor Todd.

I am thankful for a church that is in the community, for the community, sharing the love of Jesus! *Pastor Todd*



The United Methodist Men meet every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. at the Blue Bonnet Café located at 2223-A Haltom Road in Haltom City. They enjoy food, fellowship and prayer.



FALL FEST - SAVE the DATE!
November 15th 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!



Fall Fest Committee Meeting has been changed from October 5 to October 12

4:00 p.m. • PIF Classroom



**Financial Report:
Receipts for
September 2025:
\$17,589**



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 • 817/877-5222

NEWSLETTER ONLINE AT:

www.stlukeumchaltomcity.org



*Article by Alvin Eclavea,
 Youth Director*

Dear Church Family,
 In Sunday School, we've started a new study in the Book of Ephesians, exploring the deep truths presented there. Last week, however, we focused on a pivotal verse that speaks powerfully to the lives of our youth today: **Romans 12:2, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

We had an open and honest discussion about the **pressures** they feel in this day and age—the temptation to fall into negative patterns, unhealthy habits, or spend time with people who lead them astray. We then shifted our focus to the incredible promise of the second half of the verse, talking about what **God's good, pleasing, and perfect will and plan** is for each of them. We discussed how God writes His law on our hearts and how our **natural benevolence** (our desire to do good) coupled with **consistent prayer** should guide our choices day-to-day, helping us to be transformed instead of conformed. It was a challenging, yet very encouraging, time of learning!

We are excited to share some of the **service projects** the youth group is taking on! Our current routine includes a **monthly Sanctuary pew clean up** and a **monthly grounds clean up**. We are also looking forward to helping out a local **food bank** in the near future. We are always open for other service projects

Youth Article continued...

around the church, so please let us know how we can help!

Finally, the youth group will be deeply involved in **Fall Fest** this year! We are planning to host an **arts & crafts table** for our young kids, **assist with the live auction**, and help **serve lunch**. We're looking forward to serving the church and the community at this fun event.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

In His Grace, *Alvin*



Worship with us on YouTube!

You can now watch our 10:30 a.m. worship service on YouTube. When you open the YouTube streaming service, go to search (look for the hourglass) and enter:

SLUMC—HALTOM CITY

