

# THE EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

## Getting Out of the Muck

**Luke 15: 15-19**

*"So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."*

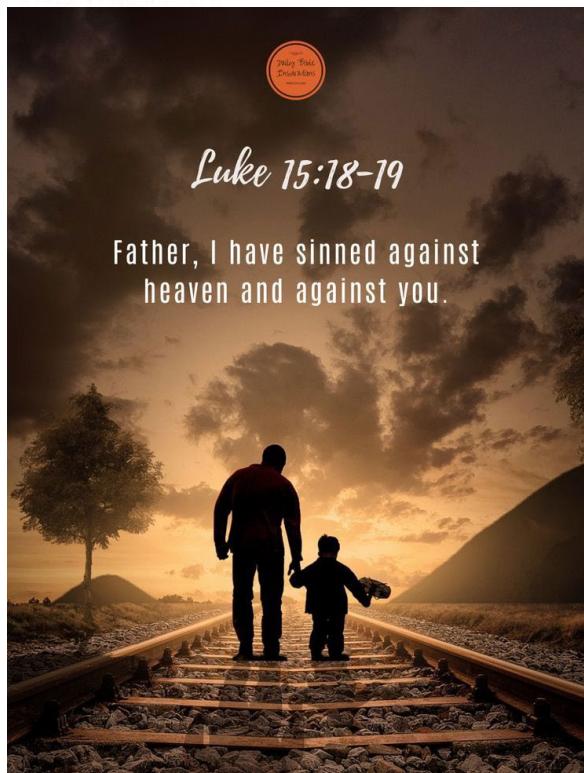
**With which son in this story do you best relate?**

- Have you ever been lost and now found?
- Were you adrift splurging away your life and focused only on selfish fulfillment?
- Or have you been steady and faithful, always focused on doing what is right and expected of you?
- Because of this, have you developed an air of self-righteousness?
- Which son has traveled farther from God?
- Does returning from a home built of self-righteousness and self-importance require just as much washing as coming from the pig-pens and dung-heaps of the world?

St. Luke's, the parable of the Prodigal Son provides an ample supply of material for discussion and self-reflection. Regardless of where we find ourselves in life, this story can lead us back into the arms of God. We are very good at drifting and straying.

We may purposely run into the world to indulge in whatever pleasure we seek, or we can slowly slide along in our fog of self-righteousness. Either way, at some point we need to come to our senses. When we do and when we take the necessary steps to set aside our self-centered focus and repent, then we are received in God's open arms. He does not punish or chastise. He does not even take the time to see if the lessons have been learned or that penitence has been paid. **What He does do is celebrate and rejoice!**

Faithfully,



## The Fun Bunch Activities

**August 14th:** Grease at Theatre Memphis- 7pm -Sold Out

**September 11th:** Come paint with us at 11am in the Craft Room. Bring your sack lunch-we will provide paint and canvas.

**October 2nd:** Senior Safari at the Memphis Zoo-Our bus will leave St. Luke's at 9:30a. Admission will be free.

**November 20th:** Our annual Thanksgiving Feast- We will provide ham and turkey. Please sign up at Hospitality desk to let us know what you will be adding to our celebration. Time: 11:00am

**December 11th:** Our annual Ornament Decorating party- Our celebration will begin at 11AM in the Craft Room. Please bring your sack lunch. We will play a special game in memory of Ms. Alice Roberts.

## JULY 2024 HONORIUMS AND MEMORIALS:

### Memorials:

**In Memory of Barbara Caldwell from Betty and Hal Padgett, Sue Gray, Barbara Simpson, Rorie**

**Read, Maury Miller, Kevin Oroark**

**In Memory of Stephanie Anderson from Hal and Betty Padgett**

**In Memory of Mary Kirkpatrick from Carol Feisal, Mary Lou Cushing, Amy Pearson**

# **SUMMER ARTS INTEGRATION & LEADERSHIP**

St. Luke's hosted 32 local 9th, 10th and 11th grade students in June to focus on homeless outreach and discuss how they might become agents for change in their community.

-Participants attended Tuesday Burrito Ministry with church members Jim Deboe & Sheridan Harris for a behind the scenes look at the kitchen, clothes closet and interaction with patrons of the ministry.

SAIL students also assembled 80 manna bags & 15 small flower bouquets for a local long-term nursing facility.

The SAIL program is facilitated by our community partner,  
University High.

# Tutoring

St. Luke's Challengers will serve as tutoring hub for Campus Elementary students. Our staff member, Mimi Brown, is a licensed teacher and has established a relationship with many of our current students. We hope this will help parents with scheduling and ease of transportation. If any church family or friends are interested in booking, please contact her at [mbrow.bee01@gmail.com](mailto:mbrow.bee01@gmail.com)



CAMP

WILDFIRE

# **Junior COUNSELORS CHALLENGERS**

WE ARE THRILLED TO SHARE WITH YOU THE LATEST ADDITION TO OUR CHALLENGERS SUMMER CAMP: A TALENTED GROUP OF JUNIOR COUNSELORS WHO ARE NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAM BUT ARE ALSO GAINING INVALUABLE HANDS-ON JOB TRAINING FOR THEIR BRIGHT FUTURES!

THESE REMARKABLE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IN GRADES 7-10 AND COMMIT TO ASSISTING STAFF EACH DAY WITH THINGS LIKE CRAFTS, SNACK SET-UP, GAMES, ETC. THEY BRING ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM, AND A SUPPORTIVE HAND TO OUR CAMP ACTIVITIES, HELPING TO ENRICH CAMPERS LIVES AND STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY.

OUR JUNIOR COUNSELORS ARE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PART OF THE CHALLENGERS FAMILY. THEY ARE LEADERS IN THE MAKING, WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES AND CONTRIBUTING TO A FUN AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE CAMP EXPERIENCE;

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE VIBRANT FUTURE THEY ARE CREATING FOR THEMSELVES AND THE CHILDREN THEY MENTOR. HERE'S TO OUR JUNIOR COUNSELORS,

SAM, ELLA, GUS, ZOE, JOSSLYN, KNOX



The United Women in Faith is continuing to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month through December. August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10 Christmas Party. Our program focus is The Kingdom is Among You. Please join us at 6 pm in the Lounge.

## **UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE - NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS-**

Join us for a three-session class to help you make your holiday celebrations more spiritual and meaningful. Practical discussions, such as shopping lists, holiday recipes, and family activities, will meld with conversations about deeper issues, such as how to teach children that Christmas is more than a present or how to find meaning in the holiday when you're not especially religious. If you have ever felt the Christmas Crazies, this is the class for you as the best time to make changes is now, before the holiday rush begins. The class will be led by Amy Pearson and Jane Pate.

**Dates - Aug 11, 18 and 25**

**Room - Lounge**

## **DAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Professional Development begins Monday, July 28 and students return August 5! We are so excited about a new year for our students, teachers and families! If any church members would like to volunteer, contact Amy Pearson, [amy.pearson@stlukesumc.org](mailto:amy.pearson@stlukesumc.org).



# PUTTING ON THE RITZ

Talent Show & Potluck Lunch  
**September 15 | 11:30am**

Benefits St. Luke's Music Program  
To perform in the show, text or call  
Lynne McAlexander at 550-3091

**All types of acts welcome.**

For reservations, call 452-6262 or  
sign up online at [stlukesumc.org](http://stlukesumc.org)  
\$10 per person - family max of \$30  
Plan now to join the fun!