

# THE EPISTLE

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

## We Will Support the Church with our Prayers, Our Gifts, Our Service, and Our Witness.

A few of you asked me to share some of the focus points from our stewardship sermon series on the promises we make when we join the church.

**Prayers:** Remember the word ACTS. It is an acronym for: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. This pattern describes a movement and a flow in prayer. It is a great model to follow when you pray.

**Presence:** Can the church count on your attendance? Jesus Christ has proven we can count on Him to save us, forgive us, and establish a relationship with God. And in turn He asks us if He can count on us to give the church our allegiance and our presence.

**Gifts:** The widow challenges us to let our giving begin with humble acknowledgment that all we have and all we are comes from God. She challenges us to let our living grow out of our love for God. And she challenges us to respond with "thanksgiving". Giving that is made thankfully for God.

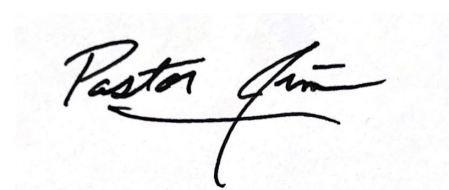
**Service:** We are called to serve others! Jesus says, "I didn't come to be served, I came to serve." There was once an Indian poet named Tagore. He wrote this short poem:

*"I slept and dreamt that life was joy; Then I awake up and realized that life was service. And then I went to work and, lo and behold I discovered that service is joy."*

**Witness:** We are called to be living, breathing evangelists. That's what it means to witness. St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." Our lives are theological statement and a Biblical witness of what we believe and in whom we believe.

St. Luke's, prayer is a witness. Our presence is a witness. Our gifts are a witness. Our service is a witness. Several years ago, a visitor to Calcutta asked Mother Teresa, "How do you possibly hope to feed the millions of hungry people in this country?" Mother Teresa simply said, "One mouth at a time". That's how we, too, will make a difference in this world- by being a witness to one person at a time.

Faithfully,



Pastor Jim



# ADVENT Services

**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT/  
HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE**  
DECEMBER 1ST, 10:30AM WORSHIP

**SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**  
DECEMBER 8TH, 10:30AM WORSHIP

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
DECEMBER 18TH, 6PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**  
DECEMBER 24TH, 5:30PM







Join us for our

# CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF *Lessons & Carols*

Sunday  
December 8th  
During Worship





# Cocoa & Carols

**December 8 at  
11:30 a.m.**



Join us on the front steps of  
the sanctuary for fun caroling  
to and with our neighbors.

Enjoy Cocoa, Cookies,  
Sandwiches and Christmas  
fun for all ages,







SLUMC CHILDREN

# HOLIDAY HOPE NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A JOLLY  
GOOD TIME!

DEC 13TH - 5:30-7:30 PM

480 S. HIGHLAND

## EVENT DETAILS:

Parents bring your kids for a night off during one of the busiest seasons of the year. We will feed your children, do crafts, watch a movie, and enjoy time together remembering the Reason for the Season! Just drop them off and leave the fun to us!

**HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE  
YOU THERE!**

901-826-3493

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# *SLUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES*



*Thanksgiving*

# FOOD DRIVE

***ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT THE FOOD PANTRY.***

***BRING DONATIONS ALL MONTH LONG!***

***WINNING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE END!***



# Day School News

Fall came in with a flurry of activity! We had Kidz Kountry Petting Zoo before Fall Break and a visit from the firetruck the week after! The kids (and teachers) loved it all!

We will have our JK Thanksgiving Feast on Friday, November 22. And before you know it, we will have our Preschool Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 18, 9:30 a.m. You are invited! Nothing gets you in the Christmas spirit like sweet children singing the songs of Christmas and acting out the nativity!

We could use 2 -4 volunteers at our Thanksgiving Feast on Friday, November 22. We serve a "child friendly" Thanksgiving lunch and always need help serving the families. The program begins at 10:30 and lunch will be served immediately after, around 11 a.m.m Contact Amy Pearson, [amy.pearson@stlukesumc.org](mailto:amy.pearson@stlukesumc.org), to help.

We will be on Thanksgiving Break, November 25-29, and Christmas Break, December 23 - January 3.





## The Fun Bunch Activities

- On November 20th at 11:00 am, we will have our annual Thanksgiving Feast. We will provide ham and turkey. Please sign up at the Hospitality desk to let us know what you're adding to our potluck celebration.
- On December 11th, we be hosting our annual Ornament Decorating Party. We will meet in the Craft Room. Bring your sack lunch. We will be sending this "St. Luke's Christmas Decorations" to our homebound members. Also, there will be a special game in memory of Ms. Alice Roberts.

We are busy planning adventures for the New Year. If you have suggestions please let us know.  
**Call Jim or Jeanne Debo 413-3341**



Every winter season St.Luke's in cooperation with Memphis RITI provides warm safe shelter for our Memphis homeless. This year our RITI season will be the third Saturday night of November thru March. We will shelter 10 women/children. We provide transportation from a downtown site to our church, a warm meal, hot showers, a safe clean bed for the night, breakfast and a snack bag. Sunday morning we transport our guests back downtown. November 16th will be our first night. We NEED volunteers to help with driving, setting up, providing supper, snack bags, overnight Shepards and cleaning up on Sunday mornings. Sign up lists will be at the desk in Hospitality Hall. We NEED your help for this mission project. Questions? Call Jonathan St.Gelais 901-508-7207 or Lisa St.Gelais 901-230-9174.

### OCTOBER 2024 MEMORIALS:

#### Memorials:

**In Memory of Bettye Jo Masters from Miller Delgadilo, Rorie Read, Carolyn Galloway, Hal and Betty Padgett, Janie Hendrix, Dot Dickey, Mary Palmer, Karen Kinney, Mary Lou Cushing, Sarah Jordan, Allen Bolen, David and Virginia Wages, Rita Richardson, Denton and Aryn Pearson, Seekers Sunday School Class, Harry and Bette Colter**

**In Memory of Michael Neenan from Miller Delgadilo, Sarah Jordan, Dot Dickey, Mary Palmer, Rita Richardson, Denton and Amy Pearson**



St. Luke's Family,

I love this book so much! It reminds me of the love and kindness you all give to the Sherwood Elementary Students every year. Let's continue keeping the students warm and cozy again this winter. Please place your gifts of mittens, scarves, socks, coats, and hats on the Mitten Tree next to the elevator by the Hospitality room. Thank you!! Please email [mtkaler1111@gmail.com](mailto:mtkaler1111@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Melinda Kaler   Barbara Simpson

Jacki Romey   Bette Colter

## The Mitten Tree



Candace Christiansen

On a snowy day, Sarah notices that a little boy at the bus stop does not have any mittens. Worried that he couldn't join in the winter fun, Sarah knits mittens for the little boy, placing them on a tree at the bus stop the next day. Each day thereafter, the children look for new mittens, and every day Sarah knits new ones. One morning she covers every branch with bright new mittens for the children. Though she has used up all her yarn, Sarah returns home with a full heart and discovers a wonderful surprise waiting on her porch.

### The Seeker's Class

As we continue our study of Judges, we've met major and minor Judges, one woman Judge and one "would be King". Join us for the remaining five Sunday sessions on how God speaks to us through this book. The teachers are class members learning along with us. Join us!



*Join Us for Sweet Sunday on November 24th, 2023*

*The fourth Sunday of each month, we have a time of sweet treats and sweet fellowship between Sunday School and Church. Join us for our next Sweet Sunday in Hospitality Hall on November 24th, from 10 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. Treats and Coffee will be there. We just need you to come share a little sweetness.*






# Children's Ministry



In October we had our second annual Trunk or Treat and the event was another great success! We had so many families present and the upperlot was almost completely full of cars! We even had a special guest from Monster Mini Golf come set up a trunk to let kids play putt putt and win prizes! An extra special thank you to everyone who donated candy, their time, or decorated a trunk. The St. Luke's volunteers who showed up certainly showed out with some of the most amazing trunks I have ever seen! They were so creative and fun for the kids. We also had a bounce house and a popcorn machine running! The families loved the trunk or treat and the bounce house area became a gathering spot for so many families to sit and fellowship with one another in a safe environment, while their children bounced or played on the playground. One family said on their way out at the end of the night, "thank you so much for this. The kids had such a great time and we felt so safe." This is why we do what we do; for families and kids to have a place they know they can come, feel accepted, have fun, and always be safe. If you did not get to join the fun this year, make sure you come next year because it is a blast for all involved!

Parents go ahead and get your kids excited and prepare your pantries, because we will be bringing back our canned food drive competition the whole month of November! This was a hit last year and is such a great way to teach empathy, compassion, and generosity to our young ones. Our Sunday school classes will get the chance to make Manna bags as well, which is another way to learn service and compassion in November so make sure you're on time for Sunday school! In December there will be Cocoa & Carols as well as another Holiday Hope Night on December 13th. We are also looking at having a small program where the kids can sing for the congregation one Sunday morning in Advent so parents stay tuned for more information on that as well!





# Scout News

Scouts in Pack 40, Troop 40B and Troop 40G have been busy selling popcorn. We are wrapping up the popcorn fundraiser, and we have sold over \$15,000 so far! Thank you to all those who have supported us. Several scouts enjoyed attending Scouts Day at the University of Memphis Football Game on Saturday September 28th. Several Scouts attended the Nascar Races down at Talladega SuperSpeedway in Talladega, AL on October 5th & 6th.

A total of 15 scouts and adults attended Operation Delta, which was a camping trip to Camp McCain down in Grenada, MS. The Mississippi National Guard hosted the event having activities such as archery, bb guns, knife throwing, egg toss, spam toss and many more.

We plan on showing our support to local Veterans on Monday November 11th, by holding up signs on the NorthWest corner of Poplar and Highland, from 4:30pm-6pm. Please come join us.





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Dear St. Luke's United Methodist Church,

I want to personally thank you for your donation to Golden Cross Senior Ministries. We're honored you would bless us with your generosity. Donations like yours makes a big difference in the work our ministry is doing in the community.

Your contribution is making a meaningful difference and helping us build a stronger sense of community care. Your support shows that when we come together, we can make a positive impact on the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your inspiring example of kindness. Your actions are truly motivating and encourage all of us to keep striving to make a difference for our seniors in our community.

With sincere gratitude

Bianca Smith

GOLDEN CROSS Senior Ministries

Operations Manager

Golden Cross Senior Ministries is a 501 (c) (30) non-profit. Tax ID #58-1871974

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No goods or services were received in connection with your gift

📞 901-213-1930

📍 1615 Appling Road, Cordova, Tennessee 38016

🌐 [www.goldencross.org](http://www.goldencross.org)

👍 Golden Cross Senior Ministries Memphis