



LOVE, NOT JUDGEMENT, IS FOUND HERE.

DECEMBER 2019

# “FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN” – ISAIAH 9:6



Have you noticed the Black Friday sales are no longer on the Friday after Thanksgiving? There used to be a calm before the storm where you at least had a good nap to let your turkey digest before you headed out to fight the crowds. But no longer. Black Friday sales started two weeks

before Thanksgiving and Amazon Prime is the new year round Cyber Monday. So now until Christmas morning it will be a frenzy to the finish line. But before we get all caught up in all the wrappings and trappings of a modern day Christmas, might I take us back to the first one?

The angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and said:

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:11 & 12)

While the angels caused quite a stir that night, and the shepherds rushed off to find this baby it certainly paints a much different picture of Christmas. The stirring and rushing was not about parties or packages, but about a baby. And not just any baby, but a baby that is a Savior. And not just any Savior, but a Savior “born to you.” Wow!

May the knowledge of that little baby coming into the world to save you be what stirs in your heart and may His love and grace rush over you this Christmas season.

*So if you are looking for a new way to stir and rush here are some opportunities to Celebrate Christ in Christmas:*

### “Light of the World” Bible Study

Through book study, scripture & video we will take a fresh look at the story of the birth of Jesus.

One study – three class offerings

Monday, December 2, 9, 16 & 23 @ 10 am at the church

Monday, December 2, 9, 16, & 23 @ 6 pm at the Durel’s home

Tuesdays beginning December 3 @ 5:45 at the church

### “Have You Heard” Choir Cantata

A Celtic themed choir presentation of the Christmas story.

Sunday, December 15 @ 8:30 and 10:45



### Christ Eve Candlelight Service

A child-friendly service celebrating the hymns and story of the birth of Christ.

Tuesday, December 24 from 5:30 – 6:30



These are all great opportunities to invite friends or family to St. Luke’s.

Who might you give the gift of a church home to this Christmas season?



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# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Merry Christmas! The children are excited because it's December! We will be learning about Advent & sharing the story of the birth of Baby Jesus. Lots of activities will be going on, so please come join us!

\*Christmas Angel Tree will be available beginning Tuesday November 26. Please choose an angel tag to buy a gift for & return it wrapped Sunday December 15th.

\*Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, December 14th, 9-12am. **We need volunteers!**

\*Happy Birthday Jesus celebration Sunday, December 22nd during 10:45 service.

We hope you will be able to volunteer & join us as we learn to wait & watch for the birth of Baby Jesus. **Merry Christmas!**

Christy Terrill, Director of Children's Ministries | 318-470-0779 | [cwt125@bellsouth.net](mailto:cwt125@bellsouth.net)



Join us for Sat.  
December 14th for  
pancakes, crafts,  
pictures and a  
chance at a door  
prize!

# MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

# Have You Heard?

## A Celtic Christmas Celebration

Presented by the Christmas Singers  
of  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
Sunday, December 15, 2019  
8:30AM and 10:45AM

Please mark your calendars and come to hear many familiar Christmas carols, as well as familiar Christmas texts set to beloved Irish and Welsh folk songs. These, combined with original music and scripture-based narration, complete a surprisingly refreshing re-telling of the Christmas story. Please invite friends and family!

The choir has worked diligently to bring you this musical Christmas gift!

Gratefully, Beth Duet, Director of Music Ministry | [music@stlukesumc.community](mailto:music@stlukesumc.community) | 985-991-9617

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Advent is the liturgical period preceding Christmas, Western churches it begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The dictionary's definition is "the coming or arrival of something or someone that is important or worthy of note." Indeed it is the arrival of someone of importance. According to Isaiah 9:26 "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of darkness-on them light has shined." This is a time to hit the pause button and clear our hearts of the clutter of life and to shine the light in a world that needs the Light. I leave this little light for you:

Thank you for this time of awakening to notice that you are with us to hear your voice in the night calling us to bring your light to people. Thank you for your light in the world. I want to walk as a child of your light.

Mark your Calendar :

- 12.03.19 Senior High prayer breakfast 6:50 am
- 12.08.19 Annual Ice Skating trip to Marshall, Texas .We will We will leave the church at 4pm & return 8:30 pm
- 12.10.19 Senior High prayer breakfast at 6:50 am
- 12.14.19 Breakfast with Santa 9am
- 12.15.19 Christmas Cantata
- 12.17.19 Last prayer breakfast of the 2019 at 6:50 am
- 12.22.19 Youth Christmas party
- 12.29.19 No youth



Blessings from the youth.

Momma T, I Spiritual Director of Youth | [taniaalang50@gmail.com](mailto:taniaalang50@gmail.com)

## Pumpkin Patch News

WOW, WE DID IT AGAIN! I know everyone is as excited as the Pumpkin Patch Committee that the 2019 Pumpkin Patch is over and was such a great success.

Thanks to the Youth Challenge Program, CADA, Oakwood Home, BPPC Nursing Students and all the other volunteers who helped set up the patch and unload the truck. We could not have done this all by ourselves. Our total sales were \$28,503.50 and with a little help from our Face Book Thanksgiving Decoration Advertisement, our Pastor and donations from our wonderful church family, we earned a 40% profit. That means we will have \$10,500 plus to give away to local much needed Missions.

Story Time was another huge success. We entertained 1,092 kids in nine days. Eight units of blood were selflessly given in the Blood drive. Our Cookies sales were enjoyed to the tune of \$627, and the Boutique Craft Shop yielded \$1,034. As you know the Pumpkin Patch Committee is always up to trying new things every year. This year we had a Crafter Market which brought in \$300 and Crafters 4 Missions that also brought in \$300. Painting Gourds was another fun thing for the kiddos to do; Thanks to Bobby for supplying all the small gourds which we sold and then provided paint and instructions to decorate. The Family Pumpkin Carving was another fun event and with a little tweaking has the potential to turn into a profitable event.

In a few weeks we will announce the time and date of our Annual Appreciation Dinner for all our volunteers. We definitely want to show our church congregation how much we appreciate you and let you hear some wonderful stories from the local Missions to which we will be awarding the money.

Thanks to all you talented folks who brought cookies and made things for us to sell in the Boutique. To all of you who worked endless hours in the patch, I cannot thank you enough! We are "St. Luke's Strong!"



Janice Boller, Pumpkin Patch Coordinator

## Healthy Lifestyles

Join us Dec. 8th at 2pm. We will start a 6 month program with exercise.



Debbie Laffitte

## Crafting 4 Missions / Methodist Men

**NO meetings for both groups in December**

Debbie Laffitte/ Larry Blair

## Methodist Women Christmas Party

Join us Dec. 5th at 11:30am. Bring finger foods. All women are invited.

## Upper Third

The December gathering of the Upper Third group will be on 12th- Clay Eaves will be sharing the "Music of the Season."

All are welcome!

Thank you, Donnie

## St. Luke Book Club

The St. Luke's Book Club will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be January 19, 2020, when we will discuss a historical novel by M. L. Stedman, The Light Between Oceans. Set in Australia at the conclusion of World War I, this is a captivating story of a lighthouse keeper and his wife who make a choice that changes two worlds.

Join us for a powerful discussion at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, the 19th of January, in the church library.

Gerrie



## STAFF

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## WORSHIP

SUNDAYS, 8:30 & 10:45 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 AM

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# DECEMBER 2019

## SUNDAYS

**DECEMBER 1,8,15,22,29** WORSHIP, 8:30 & 10:45 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 AM  
YOUTH GROUP, NOON - 2 PM  
AA, 7 PM

**DECEMBER 8** CIRCLE SERVICE, 5:15 PM  
HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, 2:00 PM  
**DECEMBER 15** CANTATA, 8:30 & 10:45 AM  
PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE 2-4 PM  
176 SAND BEACH BLVD

## MONDAYS

**DECEMBER 2,9,16,23,30** AA, 7 & 7 PM  
**DECEMBER 2,9,16,23** ADVENT BIBLE STUDY, 10:00 AM  
ADVENT BIBLE STUDY, 6:00 PM (DUREL'S)

**DECEMBER 16** TRUSTEES, 7:00 PM

## TUESDAYS

**DECEMBER 3,10,17** SR. HIGH PRAYER BKFST, 6:50 AM  
CENTERING PRAYER, 4 PM  
YOUNG ADULTS, 5:45 PM  
(10TH IS TACO TUESDAY)  
**DECEMBER 3,10,17,24,31** ADVENT BIBLE STUDY, 5:45 PM  
MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GRP, 6:00 PM

**DECEMBER 3** WORSHIP COMM, 2:00 PM  
AUDIT TRAINING, 8:00 –3:30 PM  
**DECEMBER 3,17** STAFF MEETING, 10:30 Am

## WEDNESDAYS

**DECEMBER 4,11,18,25** KOINONIA, 7 AM (NO KOINOINA ON 12/25)  
(NO HANDBELLS IN DECEMBER)  
CHANCEL CHOIR, 6:30 PM (NO CHOIR ON 12/25)  
AA, 7 PM

**DECEMBER 25** OFFICE CLOSED

## THURSDAYS

**DECEMBER 5,12,19,26** AA, 6:30 & 7:30PM

**DECEMBER 5** WOMEN XMAS PRTY, 11:30 AM  
**DECEMBER 12** UPPER THIRD, 11:30 AM  
**DECEMBER 19** COMMON GROUND, 5:15 PM

**DECEMBER 5,19** CRAFTERS, 10 AM

**DECEMBER 26** OFFICE CLOSED

## FRIDAYS

**DECEMBER 6,13,20,27** LOW KEY SERVICE, 6 PM  
AA, 8 PM

## SATURDAYS

**DECEMBER 7,14,21,28** AA, 10 AM  
ALANON, 10 AM

**DECEMBER 14** CHOIR DRESS REHERSAL, 10:30 AM  
BREAKFAST W/SANTA, 9-11 AM