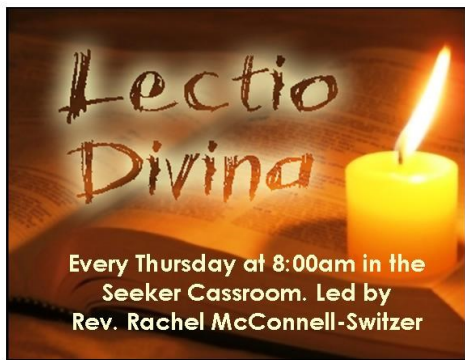


Newsletter, August 2017



Lectio Divina
Every Thursday at 8:00am in the Seeker Cassroom. Led by Rev. Rachel McConnell-Switzer

Upper Third
Thursday, August 10th
11:30 am

UMW
Thursday, August 17
11:00am

UMM
Tuesday, August 29
6:30pm

Centering Prayer
Wednesdays
10:00am & 5:15pm

Crafters
every Thursday
morning at 10:00am

Crafters 4 Mission
Thursday, August 24
5:30pm

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
Tuesday Afternoons
5:45 - 6:45 pm



Handbell Workshop
Saturday, August 19
10:00am-2:00pm

Healthy Lifestyles
Sunday August 13, August 27
2:00 pm

Book of Common Prayer
Monday-Thursday
8:30am

Koinonia meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00 am for Breakfast and Bible Study.

Trustee's Meeting
Monday, August 21
7:00pm

If you have something to submit for the September newsletter or calendar, please contact Michelle Gaharan at michellegaharan@gmail.com or 318-451-0373. Our monthly newsletter can be viewed on our website at stlukesumc.community. If you would like to have a newsletter mailed to your home, please contact Hannah in the church office.

Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 15
6:00pm

St. Luke's Book Club
The Book Club is on Summer break and will resume meeting on Sunday September 17th, at 3:00 pm. Join us as we share the individual readings we enjoyed during the summer. At that time, we will select our books for the remainder of the year.

Church Council
Tuesday, August 15
7:00pm



August 2017

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Staff

Rev. Betsy Eaves
Pastor

Hannah Rachel
Director of Music Ministry
Office Administrator

Laura Hirsch
Music Accompanist

Momma T (Tania Lang)
Spiritual Director of Youth

Michelle Gaharan
Children's Ministry Director

Brittany Richardson
Nursery Coordinator

Worship Hours

8:30am & 10:45am


Traditional Service

9:30am

Sunday School



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
WILL BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH AT THE 10:45 AM WORSHIP SERVICE.
A SPECIAL PRAYER WILL BE GIVEN FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES AND TEACHERS
EACH TEACHER AND STUDENT WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL CROSS TO ATTACH TO A BACKPACK OR BAG

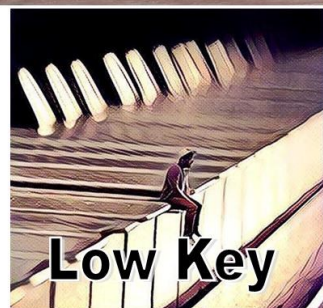


1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

On August 13, we will bless the backpacks of our children and youth. Each student and teacher will receive a cross to attach to a backpack or bag.

As we receive this blessing and gift, let us serve one another. We are asking you to please bring school supplies (notebooks, pencils, crayons, paper) or a backpack that we may share with our friends at Common Ground who are in need of back to school items.

These items will be placed on the altar on August 13th as we receive our Back to School Blessings.



Join us on Friday, August 18th, at 6:00 pm for our Low Key Service. This evening of jazz music and reflection is a great way to start your weekend.



I looked across the sky at the clouds rolling in the distance. Watching the climbing temperature, I was grateful that the clouds were beginning to block the hot summer sun. As the sun receded behind the clouds I saw the temperature drop from 91 to 74. Grateful for any summer day in Louisiana when the temperature dropped out of the 90s, I relished the smell of summer rain in the air. As the rain began to fall I was reminded of a song that I used to sing back in the 1970s called "Without Clouds."

Without Clouds, the rain can't wash the land.
Without Rain, the grass won't hide the sand.
Without sand, the flowers bloom won't grow.
Without pain, the joy of life won't show.

Oswald Chambers writes the following about clouds in "My Utmost for His Highest."
In the Bible clouds are always associated with God. Clouds are the sorrows, sufferings, or providential circumstances, within or without our personal lives, which actually seem to contradict the sovereignty of God. Yet it is through these very clouds that the Spirit of God is teaching us how to walk by faith. If there were never any clouds in our lives, we would have no faith. "The clouds are the dust of His feet" (Nahum 1:3). They are a sign that God is there. What a revelation it is to know that sorrow, bereavement, and suffering are actually the clouds that come along with God! God cannot come near us without clouds— He does not always come in clear-shining brightness.....

There are times in our lives when the clouds roll in and the rains come. Sometimes those clouds bring storms. Sometimes they simply bring relief from the heat. Sometimes the clouds bring gentle rain. I love the sunshine. I love to turn my face to the sun, close my eyes and bask in its warmth. But I also love the clouds and the rain. Particularly during the hot, dry, August days in Louisiana, the rain and the clouds bring welcome relief. And we need it. Perhaps we can be reminded by the clouds that God is in our midst, all around us and guiding us each day.

SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10:45AM SERVICE
EVERYONE IS INVITED!



PASTOR BETSY WILL BE LEADING A SEMINAR TITLED "LIVING OUR GIFTS AND PASSION"

Children's Ministries News



Kid's Day at Garden Park was amazing. Our St. Luke's kids, along with children of Garden Park staff gathered to serve and have fun with residents of the facility. The children decorated cookie bags and delivered cookies. They made flower arrangements and delivered flowers. We had discussion about chores now and when the residents were young. The children learned about picking cotton and gathering eggs for the family dinner. We did art projects each week. The residents and children helped each other with the projects. The last day, we had pizza together. We prayed, laughed and shared many memorable moments. We all cannot wait until next summer when we can do this amazing program again!

A Note from Hannah

Thank you all so much for a very successful hymn sing! It was wonderful to have complete participation in the sharing of gifts for the glory of God and I look forward to having another.

Now that summer is ending things are definitely getting back into a routine but are certainly not winding down.

There will be a handbell workshop on Saturday, August 19th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (lunch will be provided).

Barbara Williams from FUMC Slidell will be teaching new music and new techniques. We would love to have you join us-- all skill levels are welcome and you are in no way obligated to join the group if you choose to participate.

Please let me know if you are interested. We hope to see you there!

Hannah

Momma T and the Youth

We will be spending the next couple of Sundays on what the Scripture says about "Truth". Jesus says that He has come to testify to the truth.

Everyone on the side of truth listens to me. Pilate retorted "What is truth?" John 18:37-38. Our world today is not so different. We continue to ask as Pilate did; what is truth? For the Jewish leaders Jesus was a threat to their "Truth" For the apostles at that moment Jesus was a disappointment...Jesus is the Truth..

He is the Light...Jesus not only testified to the truth, but was the Truth the very essence of the Truth...Wonder how much testifying to the Truth we do?

Have a great and blessed week,

St Luke's Youth