



“WELCOME ONE, WELCOME ALL”



**“I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”
- Matthew 25:35**

One of the things I heard over and over in the neighborhood meetings was how much you loved being a “family” church. It is always good to feel “at home” when you walk in the door. You know what to expect. You know the names of just about every face in the crowd, and they know your story, your sorrows, and your successes. Some of them even finish your sentences while the others just finish the dessert right off your plate. Yes, it is a place that is comfortable and familiar where everybody knows everybody, and each week is a family reunion.

But what about the stranger? The first-time guest? The unfamiliar face on the back row? Imagine walking into our sanctuary for the first time and not knowing anyone. Imagine being new to church and not knowing what to do or when to stand. Imagine hearing what we think is a familiar Bible story but to this person it is new news to their ears. Imagine not having any church experience at all except maybe when your grandmother took you to church on Christmas Eve or Easter morning. To them “family” church can make you feel more like an outsider than an insider. Everyone is visiting in the aisle during the passing of the peace, but no one is talking to you. You are just standing there on the fringes of this friendly frenzy not knowing what to do. Feeling left out, outcast, alone.

So where is the balance between church feeling like family and not becoming a dysfunctional family? I shared a great article with the church council that raised a similar concern. Please take a moment to read it: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4093/why-worship-shouldnt-feel-like-family>

So how do we welcome the stranger and help them to feel like a part of the family? Here are some things I would like to invite you to do each week in worship:

Sign in on the registration – guests are watching you. They want to fit in so they are going to do what you do. The only way we have to follow up with first time guests is if they sign the attendance pads. They won’t share any more information if they see you aren’t either. Yes I know

we have your address and phone number, but please do it anyway.

Be the pew police – we are creatures of habit. We sit in the same place each week. So look 3 rows up and 3 rows back. Is there an unfamiliar face? If so, greet them. Tell them your name first, then ask them their name. Before or after worship, introduce them to me. Invite them to sit with you. Tell them what ministry or small group you enjoy and invite them to join you. They may decline, but at least they will walk out having felt welcomed.

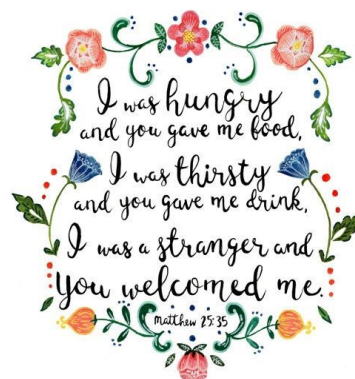
Rule of 3 – It takes 3 minutes for a guest to get out the door and to their car. Take the first three minutes after worship to greet our guests before you visit with your friends.

When I was a stranger you welcomed me!

Now go and do likewise,



Pastor RL



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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

October is here!!! Lots of activities are happening at St. Luke's including things in the children's area. We are learning about making good choices and how those good choices will help us grow into great Christians. The children will help with the pumpkin unloading on September 29th. There will also be a nursery for those that need help with the little ones.

October 13th the children will help with the stewardship message. Then on October 20th we will have Sunday school in the Pumpkin Patch and during the 10:45 worship we will have a "Glow with God" party. The children will participate in games and art activities and have a glowing good snack! Our Trunk or Treat event will take place on Halloween, Thursday Oct. 31st, 6-8pm. Plan to come out and bring a friend. We welcome all adult help as we will have hotdogs in the Patch, a hayride, face painting and of course trick or treating in the activities building.

Thank you to all who attended the movie matinee. We had a fun night with lots of yummy snacks.

Christy Terrill, *Director of Children's Ministries* | 318-470-0779 | cwt125@bellsouth.net



PUMPKIN PATCH NEWS

Pumpkin Patch time is HERE!. Please mark your calendar with these dates
We still need your help in the patch and you don't want to miss all the FUN!

Story Time Dates: OCT. 8-11, 17-18, 22-24 (Special Needs) @ 9:30am
Painting Gourds w/Renee on Oct 5th @ 10am-2:00pm
Cooking w/ Shelly Redmond "Skinny Louisiana" on Oct 12th @ 11am to 1pm
St. Luke's Pumpkin Patch Blood Drive on Oct 12th @ 10:30am to 1:30pm
Mom & ME Card Class w/Debbie on October 19th @ 10am to 12pm
Craft Market on Oct 19th @ 9:00am- 2:00pm
Family Pumpkin Carving Contest on Oct 26th @ 2:00-4:00pm, **CASH PRIZES!**
Crafters 4 Missions w/Debbie on OCT 26th @ 9am to 5pm



Watch for more FUN activities to be added and [please sign up to work in the Patch](#)
Follow us on Facebook for updates:



facebook.com/StLukesPumpkinPatchShreveport.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

The Chancel Choir is working on "**Have You Heard? A Celtic Christmas Celebration.**" If you would like to be a **Christmas Singer for this cantata, please join rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 6:30PM – 7:05PM. We were so excited last week to have four additional singers!** The Christmas cantata will be presented during both services on December 15th. Any questions? Please ask Beth Duet (contact info below).

The Bell Choir played two joyful numbers for worship on September 22nd. We continue to rehearse music for services in October and during Advent. Thanks to members of the Bell Choir for their time and hard work!

Thanks to the St. Luke's church family for sharing hymns that are meaningful to you!
Your favorite hymns will continue to be included in worship in the weeks to come!

Gratefully,

Beth Duet, *Director of Music Ministry* | music@stlukesumc.community | 985-991-9617



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Blessings from the Youth & Young adults of St Luke's! By the time you are reading this newsletter, our field will be covered in the color of orange and hopefully a little cooler temperature. There is always excitement in the air at St. Luke's when the pumpkins arrive. Busy Bees everywhere buzzing around the patch! That includes our Youth & Young Adults who will be helping out in the Patch this year. Young Adults will be helping on Tues, Oct 1st, and the Youth & Young Adults will also be serving hot dogs in the Patch on Sat, Oct 12th from 11:30 till 2 as a fund raiser as well as on the 31st during Trunk or Treat (6-8pm).

Youth mark your calendar for the following dates:

Oct. 6: Pumpkin Puke at Grace 4-6
Oct. 11-16: Caddo Parish Fall break
Oct. 12: Concessions in the patch 11am till 2 pm
Oct. 20: Youth will help in the patch during class time & youth time
Oct. 27: Corn Maze Noon till 4pm
Oct. 31: Trunk or Treat with Concessions 5:30 p m till 8 p m

People were created to be loved. Things were created to be used. The reason why

GED Ministry

We are considering starting a GED ministry here at St. Luke's. If you are interested in being a tutor in this program, please contact Gerrie Grant at hgvq.grant@gmail.com or call her at 318-455-2834.



Handmade Craft Fair

A handmade Craft Fair will be held Oct 19th (in parking lot spaces 9-16 ft.) Bring your own tables & chairs. \$25 per space All items you sell must be handmade.

See Debbie Laffitte for details

Grief Support Group

A new Grief Support Group starts Thursday, OCT 3rd from 5:30pm –6:30pm for 6 weeks.

For more info, contact Sandy Huber@
sandrahuber17@yahoo.com

"Together we are not alone"



Healthy Lifestyles

NO Healthy Lifestyles for October.

Join us Nov. 10th at 1pm. We will start a 6 month program with exercise.



Crafting 4 Missions Scrapbook/Craft Day

Oct 26, 9am-5pm

Come spend the day working on whatever craft project you are working on. \$25 for 1/2 an 8 ft table, \$40 for a whole table. Proceeds will go to the Pumpkin Patch. Concessions will be by UMM.

Debbie Laffitte

Upper Third

Join us on October 10, 2019 at 11:30am in the gym. Special guest is Sally Hammer of Weird Sisters. -Thank you, Donnie

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WORSHIP

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

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St. Luke Book Club

Meets in the St. Luke's library October 20th at 3:00 p.m. We will discuss *Where Lilacs Still Bloom* by Jane Kirkpatrick and *Stress Less* by Kate Hanley. The novel is based on the life of Hulda Klager (1864-1960), a German farm wife with an 8th grade education whose desire to create something beautiful led to her becoming an authority on plant hybridization. *Stress Less* contains 100 mindfulness exercises designed to promote calmness and clarity. These selections are available through the Shreve Memorial Library's Book Club in a Bag series. Ten copies of each title are being circulated among the Book Club members. If you would like to obtain one, please contact Gerrie Grant at 318-455-2834



OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAYS

OCTOBER 6, 13, 20, 27

WORSHIP, 8:30 & 10:45 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 AM
YOUTH GROUP, NOON - 2 PM
AA, 7 PM

OCTOBER 13

CIRCLE SERVICE, 5:15 PM

OCTOBER 20

BOOK CLUB, 3:00 PM
GLOW WITH GOD PRY, 10:45 AM

MONDAYS

OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, 28

AA, 7 & 8 PM

OCTOBER 7,10,14

NOMINATING COMM, 6-7:30PM

OCTOBER 14

TRUSTEES, 7:00 PM

TUESDAYS

OCTOBER 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

CENTERING PRAYER, 4 PM
YOUNG ADULTS, 5:45 PM
(8TH IS TACO TUESDAY)

OCTOBER 15

FINANCE COMM, 6:00 PM
CHURCH COUNCIL, 7:00 PM

OCTOBER 1,15,29

STAFF MEETING, 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAYS

OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

KOINONIA, 7 AM
HANDBELLS, 5:30 PM
CHANCEL CHOIR, 6:30 PM
AA, 7 PM

THURSDAYS

OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

SR. HIGH PRAYER BKFST, 6:50 AM
AA, 6:30 & 7:30PM
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP, 5:30 PM
CRAFTERS, 10 AM

OCTOBER 10

UPPER THIRD, 11:30 AM

OCTOBER 17

WOMEN'S MINISTRY, 12 NOON
COMMON GROUND, 5:15 PM

OCTOBER 24

CRAFTERS 4 MISSION, 5:30 PM
ST. LUKE'S MM, 6:30 PM

OCTOBER 31

TRUNK OR TREAT, 6:00 PM

FRIDAYS

OCTOBER 4, 11, 18, 25

LOW KEY SERVICE, 6 PM
AA, 8 PM

SATURDAYS

OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26

AA, 10 AM
ALANON, 10 AM

OCTOBER 19

SRSG,10:00 AM– 2:00 PM