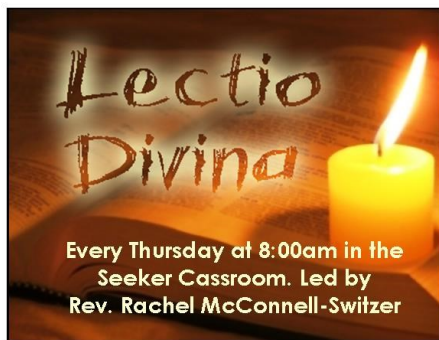


Newsletter

September 2017



Lectio Divina

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

Upper Third
Thursday, September 14th
11:30 am

UMW
Thursday, September 21
12:00pm

UMM
Tuesday, September 26
6:30pm

Centering Prayer
Wednesdays
10:00am

Crafters
every Thursday
morning at 10:00am

Crafters 4 Mission
Thursday
September 28
5:30pm

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



LOW KEY
October 15th
6:00pm

Healthy Lifestyles
Sunday
September 10, September 24
2:00 pm

Start looking at your October calendars, and be looking for dates you can help out in the Pumpkin Patch!

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

If you have something to submit for the October newsletter or calendar, please contact the church office, or email your information to admin@stlukesumc.community. 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.

St. Luke's Book Club
The Book Club will meet 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.

Christmas Card Class
September 23
10:00am-2:00pm



September 2017

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Staff

Rev. Betsy Eaves
Pastor

Hannah Rachal
Director of Music Ministry
Office Administrator

Laura Hirsch
Music Accompanist

Momma T (Tania Lang)
Spiritual Director of Youth

Christy Terrill
Children's Ministry Director

Brittany Richardson
Nursery Coordinator

Worship Hours

8:30am & 10:45am

Traditional Service

9:30am

Sunday School



Disaster Response

As we watch the floodwaters devastate South Texas and move through Louisiana many of us are wondering what we can do to help. It is clearly going to be a long road to recovery and no one yet knows either the full impact or the definitive path but people are beginning to organize. Here are some reminders and opportunities.

Be sure that any organization to which you contribute financially is legitimate. One of the best ways to give is to work through known organizations with a track record for disaster response.

As you look for ways to help, consider these recommendations:

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) - Checks can be made to St. Luke's with UMCOR in the memo line.

As of recently, the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot only had 18,000 flood buckets available. This will not be enough to meet the impending need before us.

Both supplies and funding are needed to help in this disaster response.

Flood buckets. You can pack a flood bucket hygiene kit and deliver it personally to Grace Community UMC at 9400 Ellerbe Road in Shreveport or to Asbury UMC at 3200 Airline Drive in Bossier where the buckets will be collected and delivered. PLEASE use the precise list found at:

Cleaning Kits (<http://www.umcor.org/ArticleDocuments/709/Cleaning%20Kit%20Assembly%20Instructions.pdf.aspx>)

Hygiene Kits (<http://www.umcor.org/ArticleDocuments/709/Hygiene%20Kit%20Assembly%20Instructions.pdf.aspx>).

If you prefer, you can make a contribution to purchase items for flood buckets. Each bucket costs approximately \$45. Make checks to St. Luke's with flood buckets in the memo line.

As the waters recede, we will be in touch with United Methodist churches in affected areas to determine additional ways we might help. If you are interested in participating in a hands on mission trip at some point in the future, please email Pastor Betsy at pastor@stlukesumc.community and let her know of your interest, skills and availability.

And don't underestimate the power of your PRAYERS. We will be intentional about being the practical hands and feet of Christ through contributions of time, skills and resources. All of these needs and efforts to meet them need to be undergirded by prayers. Pray for the first responders, for the caregivers, for the victims, for the leaders and volunteers. All will need to be carried by God's Spirit as we make our way through the days ahead.

Honoring the Past***Serving the Present***Providing for the Future by Reverend Betsy Eaves

As I watch hundreds of citizen volunteers pitch in to rescue the stranded who are flooded out by Hurricane Harvey, then other volunteers organize to feed and house the stranded I am encouraged by the common decency of humanity when needs so great arise. I am impressed by the way people offer what they have no matter how much or how little. What always fascinates me the most in times of need is how people with only a little are so quick to offer what they have. Offering what we have and who we are to making the world a better place is what we are all created for - it is a core piece of our divine destiny. Interestingly health studies reveal that people who invest their time, energy and resources in helping others have fewer serious health events than those who don't. Isn't that AMAZING? God's design is that we live better when we live generously. Many generous people already know that. We know that we feel better, breathe better and are generally more joyful when we are investing in needs beyond ourselves. As Christians we shouldn't be surprised. Jesus tells us that he came to bring life and bring it more abundantly (John 10:10) AND he says that if we want to find our life, we must lose it. (Matthew 10:39)

During August and September at St. Luke's we are recommitting to being good stewards of all of our resources. Our promise as United Methodists is to uphold the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. We gave some time in August to exploring and identifying our talents and spiritual gifts. Many responded to the time and talent survey by identifying interests and ways we would like to support God's work in and through St. Luke's and people are getting involved in things about which they care.

As we move into September I invite you to pick up a pledge card and give prayerful consideration to what God is calling you to give financially to the work at St. Luke's. Many of us give generously to organizations and needs beyond the walls of St. Luke's and those are so very important. I truly believe God leads us to the places where our resources need to go so pay careful and prayerful attention to God's nudging.

Our theme for the stewardship campaign is "Honor the Past/Serve the Present/Provide for the Future." We are greatly blessed at St. Luke's by many of God's faithful who planted the seeds for God's work in this place. We see the fruits of their labor in so many ways - in our lovely prayer garden, in our beautiful sanctuary, in the ministry of music and Upper Third and worship and education, in the mission of the Pumpkin Patch, AA and Oakwood Home. And we celebrate the many opportunities born out of their work that allow us to serve God and neighbor in the present time. We have so much fun together, growing, learning, celebrating and serving. Each time I sit with the children or visit with the youth I see their growing faith and the ways they are being formed as young Christians. I look at them and feel our responsibility to provide for their future here at St. Luke's.

I hope you will join me in honoring our past, serving the present and providing for the future of God's great church planted here at the corner of Youree Drive and Sand Beach Boulevard. May God lead us together into God's plan for us in 2018.

Just a reminder that the entire month of September is Stewardship Month. Pledge cards will be available September 10th and may be turned in any time through September 24th. September 24th is Stewardship Sunday.

Children's Ministries News



Thank you St. Luke's for 2 very special years. I will miss you all! Christy Terrill will do an amazing job, I am certain, following me!

The special good by I received, was very heartfelt. Thank you all so much for the cards and very generous gifts. Much love to each one of you!
With love, Michelle Gaharan



We are very excited to announce Christy Terrill as our new Director of Children's Ministries.

Christy has been a member of St. Luke's since she was a child, and we are elated to welcome her to our staff!

Mark your calendars for Pumpkin Unloading Day! Sunday, October 1st following the 10:45am Worship Service



Momma T and the Youth

I know by now you are in full swing of a new school year.

Back to school is an exciting time of change and opportunity. Changes are sometimes not easy, not always fun, not always welcomed but one thing is for sure, we can count on our lives to always be full of changes. As you begin a new school year and face the challenges of change remember God will be with you as He was with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and with Moses. We may not always feel Him or see Him but we can always trust that He is there guiding us step by step. So trust and embrace the next step!!

Connect with your God this week. Read Exodus 3:11-12. Peace of Christ..