

**Lectio Divina**

Every Thursday at 8 a.m. in the Seeker classroom. Led by Rev. Rachel McConnell-Switzer.

Looking for something different?

**December 15th  
6:00 p.m.  
Low Key Worship**

**Breakfast with Santa!**

**Saturday December 9th  
8am-11am**

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

Tuesday Afternoons  
At 5:45 to 6:45pm

**Upper Third**

Thursday, December 14th at 11:30am.

Hannah Rachal will lead us with Christmas music.

Please bring a covered dish to share.

**Koinonia meets every Wednesday morning at 7am for breakfast and Bible study.**

**Crafters meet every Thursday morning at 10am**

**If you have something to submit for the January newsletter or calendar, please have it in the office by December 20th. Our monthly newsletter can be viewed on our website at [stlukesumc.community](http://stlukesumc.community). To have a newsletter mailed, please contact Hannah in the church office.**

**Choir Rehearsals:**

6:15pm-7:45pm on Wednesday for the remainder of 2017

<b>UMW</b>	<b>UMM</b>
<b>Christmas Party, Thursday</b>	<b>6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Dec 7th at 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Tuesday, Dec 19th</b>

**Book Club**

St. Luke's Book Club will meet on Dec 17th at 3:00 pm. The discussion will cover a variety of Christmas books on loan in the library. Pick up one, read and join the book club for an interesting discussion. All are welcome.

**Worship Committee meets on Tue, Dec 5th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Missions Committee meets Monday, Dec 4th at 5:30**

**Trustees meet Monday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Centering Prayer**

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

**St. Luke's**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Love, not judgement, is found here.**

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**December 2017**

6012 Youree Drive  
Shreveport, LA 71105  
Phone: 318-868-3613  
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[www.stlukesumc.community](http://www.stlukesumc.community)  
[admin@stlukesumc.community](mailto:admin@stlukesumc.community)  
[facebook.com/stlukesshreveport](https://facebook.com/stlukesshreveport)

**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**

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
Traditional Service  
9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School

"Church is not something you go to, it's a family you belong to." I've always loved that saying, because it makes me think of St. Luke's. Like family, through good times and bad, St. Luke's has always been there for me.

Back in September, we kicked off our annual Stewardship Campaign by "Honoring the Past, Serving the Present, and Providing for the Future." We discussed things we celebrate at St. Luke's, and the dreams we have for our present and future.

Our little church on the corner of Youree Drive and Sand Beach Boulevard may be lacking in size, but has touched so many. The multitudes we've reached through our Pumpkin Patch missions, helping establish the Oakwood Home for Women, and our unique relationship with the recovery community make St. Luke's a special place to many. Another fact that speaks volumes about our community, is the long list of members through the years who have become pastors.

We have been blessed this past year with generous gifts that helped us become debt free, which we are very thankful for. However, our day to day budget remains tight, despite our staff and committees frugally pinching pennies. Thank you to those who turned in 2018 pledge cards. You have been very helpful in assisting the Finance Committee establish next year's budget. Despite the Stewardship Campaign being complete, it is NOT too late to pledge for 2018. To paraphrase C.D. Barnes—"We are not giving to provide for St. Luke's, we're giving to show our thanks to God for our many blessings." It's amazing just how blessed we truly are. Thank you for being part of OUR family, and thank you for continuing to help us do God's work and show God's love through our little church. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Steve Terrill, Finance Chair.



Keeping Christmas ..... Henry Van Dyke

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom. It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life. It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open--are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?  
But you can never keep it alone.

Henry Van Dyke, 1905  
(The original version of this was published in 1905 by Charles Scribner's Sons.)

Children's Ministries  
Christy Terrill

The children will be learning all about Advent and the birth of baby Jesus this month. We have started the 2nd session of our Deep Blue Kids curriculum in Sunday School.

Congratulations to Aeryn and Ava on receiving their very own engraved new Bibles. They will be learning to use them each Sunday.

Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, December 9th, from 8:00 until 11:00. Pancakes, sausage and juice will be served for \$5.00 a person, no more that \$15.00 per family. We will not be charging for pictures with Santa this year so please bring your cell phone or camera and take as many pictures as you like. We will have an Elfie station where you can take fun pictures. There will be lots of crafts to make and each family can take home some Magic Reindeer Food to sprinkle in the yard to help Santa find his way! Door prizes will be given away throughout the morning. Join us for this fun filled event!

December 24th we will celebrate with a Happy Birthday Jesus party during children's church! A very special celebration for a very special baby!

We would love extra hands during Sunday School and Children's Church. We would also love to have donations of a snack during Children's Church. Pleas sign up on the calendar by the hospitality room if you would like to help. I promise you will enjoy your time with our children.

Thank you to the Children's Council and friends of the Council for all your support.

Merry Christmas!

Youth Ministries  
Momma T

Matthew 2:1-12 tells the story of the Magi's search for the King of the Jews. They followed a star and came to worship him. What is not written is that they traveled a very long way overcoming harsh conditions carrying supplies to sustain them on their journey and they weren't even Jewish! They knew the prophecy, saw the star, and came in faith to acknowledge the King of Kings. Herod, on the other hand, would no travel a short distance to see the light of the world—he preferred the darkness. The news disturbed him for he may very will have to give up his thrown! How far would you travel, what sacrifices are you willing to make, and what would you bring to the Christ child?

The coming weeks we will be digging deeper into the story of the Magi's visit to the Christ child. You are invited to join us.

Our youth will be helping with Breakfast with Santa so arrive at the church by 7:30 am. Prepare to spend the day as we will be traveling to Marshall for a fun day of ice skating.

Peace of Christ,

Momma T

Music Ministries  
Hannah Rachal

One of the most magical aspects of the Advent/Christmas season is being surrounded by music that transports us from our hectic lives and returns us to a more innocent and blissful time. Our handbells and choir are working hard to be able to create beautiful music for our upcoming services so that we may all share in the gifts God has given us both in the forms of music and His son, our savior.