

What's Happening at St. Luke's

April Collection - Last Few Days!

Donate school supplies for Small Steps, our Community Partner, that provides "an exemplary early childhood program for economically at-risk children and their families." Drop off supplies in the donations bin or order online. StLukesMethodist.org/schoolsupplies

Pure Sound youth choir presents *The Drowsy Chaperone*

May 2-4 | 7:30 p.m. | May 5 | 2:30 p.m. | Rotunda

The Drowsy Chaperone is a loving send-up of the Golden Age musical, featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. StLukesMethodist.org/DrowsyChaperone

Women's Spring Dinner

Friday, May 3 | 6 p.m. | Hines Baker Room

How is 2024 going? Is it time for a mid-year check-in? Let's connect, share our stories, and learn from each other. \$25. StLukesMethodist.org/womensspringevents

Women's Spring Creative Workshop

Saturday, May 4 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m. | 3rd Floor Johnson Building

Join us for not one, but two painting workshops! One will include a mindfulness process, and then we will create watercolor florals. It will be a fun morning with breakfast, snacks and great company! Workshop \$30. StLukesMethodist.org/womensspringevents

Practicing the Way Course

May 7 - June 25 | 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. | branches

Experience eight sessions of teaching, guided conversation, and spiritual practices designed to lay a foundation for lifelong apprenticeship to Jesus. The Course can be an on ramp to people new to following Jesus, and a needed refresher for all people seeking to become more like him. brancheshtx.org/ptw

Save the Date - Working Faith Breakfast

Wednesday, May 15th | 8 a.m. | Hines Baker Room

Be inspired by Dr. Rachel Schneider, Director of the Religion and Public Life Program at Rice University. Her presentation is "Taking faith to Work: How do Christians practice faith at work and see work as calling?". Dr. Schneider will be presenting based on research from the Faith at Work Study, conducted by the Religion and Public Life Program at Rice University and funded by the Lilly Endowment. StLukesMethodist.org/MayWorkingFaith

Disaster Response Training

May 18 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | ES313/314

Sharpen your skills by attending a FREE disaster response training session hosted by St. Luke's and Texas Congregational Disaster Readiness. Open to anyone that would like to be a part of St. Luke's Disaster Response team before, during and after a disaster. This training will help volunteers be prepared to connect with members, work in our collections/distribution centers, on muck and gut teams or compassionate care teams. All St. Luke's participants should choose the St. Luke UMC's Member breakout session on the registration form. StLukesMethodist.org/responsetraining

Jump into the best week of the year as a VBS Volunteer!

As a classroom teacher, you'll share the Bible story, facilitate games and crafts, and escort children to other activities like worship, playground/gym, and science. Lesson plans and materials are provided, and you'll have a partner and 2-3 teen helpers to complete your team! StLukesMethodist.org/vbsvolunteer

Welcome to worship at St. Luke's!

If you are visiting and would like to learn more about our church, please stop by the Connection Desk for a welcome gift.

Tell us you are here!

1. Is this your first visit?

Please text *iamnew* to 97000 to let us know you are worshipping with us today!

2. Check in on the St. Luke's App.

If you don't have the app installed on your phone, you can download it at: StLukesMethodist.org/app.

Sermon Notes

Even Your Best Calling

Last in the Series, *Lies of Little Gods*

What does your life say?

When your family is an idol...

Putting things in order

Helicopter, Tiger, Lawnmower... another way?

Leading in Worship Today: Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears; Rev. Cliff Ritter; Rev. Amy Sumrall.

Musicians: Victoria Shorokhova, Organ Scholar; Randy Murrow, Associate Director of Music & Fine Arts; B.B. Bamberg, Accompanist; St. Cecilia.

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of Ann Margaret Bartlett by her parents, Katherine and Clayton Bartlett and brother, Charles Bartlett; in celebration of the baptism of Josephine Lee Robinson by her parents, Kendall and Matthew Robinson; and in celebration of the baptism of William Elder Warden by his parents, Courtney and William Warden.



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

April 28, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor

713-622-5710 | StLukesMethodist.org

PRELUDE *Méditation* Vierne

***HYMN OF PRAISE**
577 *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

***THE APOSTLES' CREED** UMH #881 **Rev. Amy Sumrall**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI** UMH #70 MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

WELCOME **Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears**

SCRIPTURE READING **Rev. Cliff Ritter**

Matthew 8:18-22

¹⁸Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. ¹⁹A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." ²⁰And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ²¹Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ²²But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

MORNING PRAYER **Rev. Amy Sumrall**

SERMON **Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears**
Even Your Best Calling
Last in the Series, *Lies of Little Gods*

OFFERTORY *Deep River* arr. Robinson
St. Cecilia

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?
Oh, deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord,
I want to cross over into campground.

As an alternative to the offering plate, text gift amount to: 832-669-5500.

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #95 OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION **Rev. Amy Sumrall**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy,
You sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.
We confess that we have strayed from you
And turned aside from your way.
We are misled by pride,
For we see ourselves pure when we are stained,
And great when we are small.
We have failed in love,
Neglected justice,
And ignored your truth.
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.
Return us to paths of righteousness
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON

God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger,
overflowing with loyal love and faithfulness.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...the pastor continues

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Jim Roman

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est.

...the pastor continues

...in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

...the pastor continues

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

A - men A - men A - men

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**
445 *Happy the Home When God Is There* ST. AGNES

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

We are guests at Christ's table which is open to all. Receive the wafer in your hands, and the server will say, "The body of Christ, given for you," and your response could be, "Amen." Then dip the wafer into the juice and the server will say, "The blood of Christ, given for you," and again you may respond, "Amen."

Gluten-free wafers and pre-filled cups are available. Indicate your need to your server. Offerings left at the communion rail will be directed to the Member Care Fund, which aids our friends in need.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION
338 *Where He Leads Me* NORRIS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *in unison* **Rev. Cliff Ritter**
Teach us, good Lord,
to serve as you deserve
to give and not to count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labor and not to ask for any reward,
except that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

#570 Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you would like to become a follower of Jesus Christ, or are interested in joining St. Luke's United Methodist Church, we would love to talk to you about what that means. Please visit the Connection Desk to learn more.

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT**
451 *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

***BENEDICTION** **Rev. Amy Sumrall**

POSTLUDE *Postlude in D* Willan

At places marked * those who are able may stand.