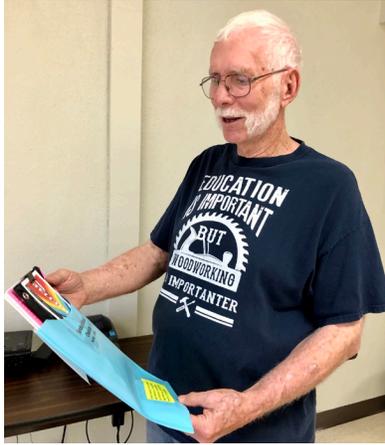


## WE TELL OUR STORIES



### SERVICE ISN'T WHAT WE DO, IT'S WHO WE ARE

If you or any of your children or students have ever attended a Sunday School class, your presence was recorded. Attendance may sound like a tedious word, but its importance is fundamental. How else would a new member be welcomed or a sick member be looked after? You have Jim Weatherly and his team to thank.

For over 30 years, this faithful group of volunteers has stopped at each Sunday School class, pulling out the attendance sheets, collecting any offering donations, and relaying the information of visitors to staff. They operate discretely, making their rounds after everyone else has headed down to worship (or out to lunch). Without fanfare or accolade, these church members selflessly give themselves away in service, every single Sunday.

Jim describes it this way: "I think there are really two things that are important to bring out. One, of course, is the value of our activity to the church. The other is the opportunity to answer a call to serve given to the people who have shown up faithfully all these years. It has provided a sense of belonging, as well as the satisfaction of providing a service to the church."

1 Peter 4:10-11 says this: *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."*

Servanthood looks different for each person: sometimes it's leading a small group, sometimes it's holding a church council position, sometimes it's gathering folders. The beauty of serving Christ is that we all have the chance to glorify him in our own special ways. Christ calls us to lift others up for his kingdom. Here at St. Luke's, this responsibility is woven into our heritage: at every turn, you have the chance to play a part in God's mission.

## ST. LUKE'S INSIDE-OUT HABITS

### WE STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP

**Mark 4:26-32** <sup>26</sup> He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." <sup>30</sup> He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

#### Sermon Notes November 10, 2019 Tomorrow Second in the Series Next

1) Hope for the world

2) Hope for ourselves

#### Possible next steps for you

- Try something new this week, and decide to look forward to it!
- St. Luke's "Tree of Angels" contains the names of children whose fathers are in the Prison Entrepreneurship Program. Our congregation shops on behalf of the men, enabling the children to receive Christmas gifts from their dads. Stop by the distribution table today in the Commons to sponsor a child this Christmas!

#### Key verse for the week

*The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.* – Mark 4:28

#### Questions for Conversation and Reflection

Where do you see the kingdom of God growing in the world? Where do you see the kingdom of God growing within you?



#stlukeshouston



/stlukeshouston

We have a church app! Search *St Lukes UMC Houston* to download from the app store.

## WE PRAY

### Sunday, November 10

Heavenly Father, thank you for always hearing our prayers and caring what is on our hearts. Thank you, God, for always having a plan that is in our best interest. Please continue to grow us in our prayer life through honest prayers of confession and heartfelt petitions. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

### Monday, November 11 Veteran's Day

Heavenly Father, today we honor the veterans of our country. We give thanks for their willingness to stand up and protect us. We pray for the families of those who laid down their lives to serve our country, and we pray for healing for those who have been wounded while serving. Please bless our veterans and their families. Amen.

### Tuesday, November 12

Heavenly Father, thank you for this day and the opportunities it provides us to bring peace and love into the world. Please help me to take notice of your works and your Spirit today and every day. Please fill me up with your Holy Spirit so that I might be a vessel of your love to the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

### Wednesday, November 13

Heavenly Father, we pray for our loved ones who are suffering from addictions. Please guide them to people and places where they can receive help. Please care for them and help them to know that they are loved. Give them strength and hope. Amen.

### Thursday, November 14

O Father in Heaven, you are amazing. Your love has no bounds. Let us sing your praises daily and be faithful witnesses to your word. Amen.

### Friday, November 15

Lord, thank you for this Church, its leaders, and the congregation. We pray that you will guide us to the next step in our spiritual journey. Place it on our hearts to speak boldly about you. We also pray for those who are looking to become more involved in this church community by joining a small group. Amen.

### Saturday, November 16

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who are without a home. We pray that you would provide for their needs and open doors to a place that they can call home. We pray that you would work through us to bring them into your community of faith. Amen

---

## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

### Service of Prayer and Healing

Wednesday, December 4 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel

Rev. Thomas Harper leads a time of prayer and communion where we ask God for spiritual and physical healing for you or a loved one.

### Let's Pray Together

November Prayer Calendars are available in the kiosks in Johnson Gathering, Commons, Fellowship Hall narthex and the Activity Center.

### So many ways to pray...

- Now you can call or text your prayers: 713-228-7033
- Write your prayer request on one of the leaves found in the pew rack
- Visit the interactive prayer wall: [StLukesMethodist.org/prayer](http://StLukesMethodist.org/prayer)

If you or someone you know needs prayer, a hospital visit or contact from a minister, call Rev. Bill Denham at 713-402-5156.

## WE MAKE FRIENDS

**TODAY! PipeWorks! Up-Close with the Organ**, a 30-minute Concert with Rob Landes and Jim Roman | Sunday, November 10 | 12:15 p.m. | Sanctuary  
Join St. Luke's organists Rob Landes and Jim Roman in the loft for a free 30-minute program followed by a behind-the-scenes look inside the organ.

**Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey through the Gospels**  
Wednesdays, November 13, 20, December 4, 11, and 18 | 9-10:30 a.m.  
Room ES311 | Led by Louise McEvoy

The Christmas story we know so well is really a compilation of accounts found in each of the gospels. Come learn what parts of the Christmas story come from which gospel and encounter a fresh experience of the birth of Christ. Participants will purchase the book. Register at [stlukesmethodist.org/group-life](http://stlukesmethodist.org/group-life).

**Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas Author Event**  
Wednesday, November 13 | 7 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

New York Times best selling author Stephen Harrigan will discuss and sign his book, *Big Wonderful Thing*. For book personalization, please purchase from Blue Willow Bookshop (14532 Memorial Drive.) At the time of your purchase, they will issue a signing line ticket for your place in line.

**Technology: The Reshaping of Our Children's Brains**  
Sunday, November 17 | 4-5 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Parents: Here is your help! Addiction expert Dr. Crystal Collier shows how screen exposure affects mood, learning, memory, sleep, and relationships. What a perfect time to invite a friend to St. Luke's! Postcards are available throughout the building. Registration and childcare: [StLukesMethodist.org/parenting-center](http://StLukesMethodist.org/parenting-center)

**The Intersection of Politics and Culture in Texas ... Past, Present and Future Lunch with Ed Emmett** | Thursday, November 21 | 11:30 a.m. | Fellowship Hall  
Come hear Ed Emmett, Senior Fellow, Kinder Institute for Urban Research; Professor in the Practice, Rice University; and Former Harris County Judge. Optional buffet lunch (\$10) begins at 11:30 a.m. Register: [StLukesMethodist.org/ed-emmett](http://StLukesMethodist.org/ed-emmett)

**Thanksgiving Eve Service** | Wednesday, November 27 | 6:30 p.m. | Chapel  
Come thank God through singing, prayer, and Holy Communion for the blessings we have received during the past year. Rev. Bill Denham officiating.

## WE GIVE OURSELVES AWAY

Be our guest! This year's Christmas Offering Dinner on Tuesday, November 19, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall will support Amazing Place, a faith-based ministry whose mission is to empower lives disrupted by dementia. RSVP for the dinner: [StLukesMethodist.org/ChristmasOfferingDinner](http://StLukesMethodist.org/ChristmasOfferingDinner)  
Donate to the Christmas Offering: [StLukesMethodist.org/ChristmasOffering](http://StLukesMethodist.org/ChristmasOffering)

**Tree of Angels** | November 10, 17 and 24 | Tree in the Commons

Make a child's Christmas merry by picking up a wish list on the Tree of Angels. Gifts are due by December 1 in the bins located throughout the church. Contact Madeline for info 713-402-5064 or [mbeem@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:mbeem@stlukesmethodist.org)

**Giving with Gratitude 2020**

What a privilege to give ourselves away and support the work that God is doing through St. Luke's! If you have not yet made your pledge, there are many ways to do so. Give online ([StLukesMethodist.org/give](http://StLukesMethodist.org/give)) or on the St. Luke's app, or fill out a pledge card located in the pew back or visitor kiosks.

**Consider serving in a governance role at St. Luke's. The deadline for nominations is November 22.** The Lay Leadership Committee presents a slate to the Church Council for approval and then the nominations slate is voted on by the the congregation at our Church Conference in January 2020. To forward your name for consideration or to make a nomination, visit [StLukesMethodist.org/nominations](http://StLukesMethodist.org/nominations) or contact Rebecca Alsup ([ralsup@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:ralsup@stlukesmethodist.org))