

Children's Choirs begin today with registration in the Commons at 4 p.m. JoyfulNoise! is for Pre-K (age 4 as of Sept 1) and SundaySing! is for grades 1-5 Both groups meet 4-5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

Men's Life | Wednesday, September 20 6:30-8 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

Men of all ages join Dr. Tom Pace for teaching, a light breakfast and small group discussion about real-life issues and life approaches related to men.

Top Questions for Home Care Providers

Wednesday, September 20 11:30 a.m. | Hines Baker Room

Learn about evaluating home safety concerns, quality of life, and home care providers for you or a loved one. The event is free but advance registration is required to 713-402-5008.

Unplugged: Middle School Retreat

Sept. 22-24 | Stoney Creek Ranch

Details and sign up at StLukesMethodist.org/students

Dr. Matthais Henze, the Isla Carroll and Perry E. Turner Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism at Rice University, will be speaking at St. Luke's on Monday, September 25 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Rotunda. He will discuss why the Judaism

of Jesus and the Jewish literature outside of the Bible matter for our understanding of early Christianity.

Early Response Training September 23 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Early Response Training sponsored by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and the Texas Annual Conference will be offered for those interested in serving in times of humanitarian disaster. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Cost is \$20. Contact Denise Snider at 713-402-5034 or dsnider@stlukesmethodist.org.

Blood Drive | Sunday, September 24 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

There is an increased need for blood donations due to Hurricane Harvey. Give the gift of life to someone in need next Sunday and reserve your spot at https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/250714

Religious Diversity Tour

Wed., September 27 | 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Rev. Gregory Han, Director of Interfaith Relations at Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston, will discuss religious diversity and lead us on visits to houses of worship for three different faith traditions. Cost is \$15 (lunch included). Advance reservation required to 713-402-5087 or reservations@stlukesmethodist.org.

WE GIVE OURSELVES AWAY

in generosity and service.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, St. Luke's is committed to turning the church Inside-Out. To be a part of our volunteer effort, sign up at StLukesMethodist.org/houston-flood-relief-volunteer-signup.

Mucking Houses

Three weeks after Harvey, it is no longer safe to send our folks into homes with mold. To continue the process of cleaning homes, St. Luke's is pleased to announce our partnership with NECHANA, a voluntary organization that provides natural disaster preparedness, response, and recovery services nationwide. Sign up by emailing volunteer@nechama.org

Financial gifts can be made in several ways.

- Text \$ flood to 832-263-6762
- Place a check with *Flood Relief* on memo line in the collection plate
- Go to StLukesMethodist.org/houston-flood-relief and click on the Houston Flood Relief Online Giving button



1,165+ Amazon donation boxes have been delivered to us from generous friends around the nation!



#stlukeshouston



/stlukeshouston

INSIDE-OUT HABITS

WE PRAY

Sunday, September 17

Fall Kickoff Sunday

Loving God, it's hard to believe we are kicking off another fall season filled with new opportunities to learn and grow, and to serve. Stir within us a desire to grow into the likeness of Jesus; and then help us to be open to your leading and direction. May all that we set out to accomplish be inspired and enabled by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

-Prayer by Dr. Linda Christians

Monday, September 18

Father God, thanks for this wonderful earth that you have blessed us to live in and care for. Teach us how to be better stewards of our planet in order that our children will live well after we have left. Thanks for your son, Jesus. Amen.

Tuesday, September 19

Dear God, I pray for all those who are in need of your help. I pray for the people who are in need of your guidance, and I pray that you would watch over me and my loved ones. Amen.

Wednesday, September 20

Lord, I pray for the unemployed among us. Open doors for them to get new jobs and find renewed joy in the workplace. Help us to lovingly remind them that their identity is in you and not in their vocations. Amen.

Thursday, September 21

Lord, I pray that I would find my purpose in life. Lord grant me hope, faith, love and happiness today. Amen.

Friday, September 22

Lord, protect my home, cultivate a healthy, happy, and loving family that grows up learning to love you. Show me how to be a better parent to my children and spouse to my partner. Amen.

Saturday, September 23

Lord, I need more motivation and a sense of purpose at work. Help me enjoy what I do again and inspire me to rise up above the negative and share grace with others. Amen.

The Fall Prayer Harvest | September 24 at 6:15 p.m. | Sanctuary

Join us for a special time of prayer as we harvest the leaves from the prayer tree and turn our hearts to God for a new season. The entire church family is invited to come experience the power of prayer in community as we live out the first of our Inside Out Habits, "We Pray."

Request prayer | Prayer for others | Read daily prayers

Visit the interactive prayer wall at our new website at StLukesmethodist.org/prayer. Not only is the interactive Prayer Wall a place to share your prayers, it is also a place where you can go to pray for others. When you do, be sure and check the box that says you prayed.

If you or someone you know needs prayer, a hospital visit or contact from one of our ministers, please call Rev. Bill Denham at 713-402-5156. Visit the interactive prayer wall at our new website at StLukesMethodist.org/prayer.

SERMON NOTES

Romans 15:1-7

¹We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Sermon Notes *Building the Body* Second in a Series Be a Re-Builder Dr. Tom Pace preaching

It's not about you!

Tools for body building:

- Acceptance
- Encouragement
- Challenge

KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. –Romans 15:2

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

In what circles do you find yourself feeling like "it's about you"? What habits do you have that tear down? What is one step you can take to be a better body builder?

WE TELL OUR STORIES



THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST by Rob Dulaney

This past summer St. Luke's sent a group to the Dominican Republic on a family mission trip. Our church has partnered with GO Ministries in the DR for several years because we respect their philosophy that "by working alongside local leaders in construction, sports, medical or children's ministry, groups have the opportunity to teach and be taught more about the love of Christ."

Part of the vision of that trip, or any trip we take to the DR, is that we take home what we learn there, and can continue that kind of work in Houston. It is mutually transformational. It benefits both the giver and the recipient. This year two of the St. Luke's families that went included the Kroenckes and Mercados. Both families have served as the hands and feet of Christ on foreign mission trips and within our city.

As Hurricane Harvey moved into Houston, our city was hit hard and not only were we faced with personal losses, but many of our friends were affected as well. On Tuesday during the hurricane, one of our biggest concerns was for Evan Long-Quian's family. Evan is a college student whose dad has Alzheimer's. This family was already stretched incredibly thin before the hurricane. Knowing everything they were dealing with before the storm made them high on our list. We hoped for the best, but word came that their home had taken on two feet of water.

The second that the streets were passable, I walked over to their house and was surprised to see that the Kroencke family was already there. I hadn't called them... they were just there. The Mercados were not far behind. Brenda Mercado told me, "this is a young man I partnered with on a trip to the DR. Evan has such a servant's heart and he is loved by us the same way he loves the Dominican kids. It is important to be here for him."

Neither family needed instruction; they knew what to do. We just picked up where we left off in the Dominican Republic. Blessed and trained to be the hands and feet of Christ, they began the clean-up process and have been unstoppable since that time. Not only were they committed to serving, but they also recruited their friends to join in. The Kroencke and Mercado families have always had servant hearts, but I do think the training and the equipping that we got from serving in the Dominican Republic helped them serve at a higher capacity and move others to join them.

This is what it means to live out our 5 Inside-Out habits. When we pray, we study the Bible, we make friends and we tell our stories. Then, when opportunities come to give ourselves away in generosity and service, we are ready and we serve.

P.S. While we were mucking the house, the insurance adjuster arrived and said, "I have never seen this before." When asked what he meant, the adjuster replied, "I have never seen people love each other the way they do in Houston."