

WE TELL OUR STORIES



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY by Gena Blanchard

Ken and I talked about children before we got married and agreed if the other decided they wanted children we would have them, but we didn't feel strongly about it either way. We checked in with each other from time to time and never got the itch. We had nieces and nephews on both sides of our families so we had lots of children in our lives and I got to help mother most of them. We have been Auntie and Uncle to all of the kids and their friends.

Hailey is our great niece on my side and we fell in love with her as soon as she was born. Her mom was young, so Hailey spent a lot of time with us. We spent weekends and vacations together, and we brought her to St. Luke's from the beginning. She came to live with us when she was 12 because her mom had some problems. That was five years ago and we have grown so much together. We are so blessed to have her and she is such a joy in our lives. We have a great Sunday school class and I learned a lot about being a parent over the years watching our friends as their children grew, parenting through the joys and struggles. I learned even more about myself and my need to be in control. I know now more than ever that I am not in control and I have learned to lean on God.

Hailey is now 17 and is such a wonder— strong, smart and resilient. I couldn't be more proud as a mom if I had given birth to her. On this day people wish me Happy Mother's Day and I accept that wish knowing that even if I don't hold the official title I joyfully accept the role and feel like a mother. This was God's plan for us and I couldn't be more grateful.

So Happy Mother's Day to all the moms and all the mother figures!



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ST. LUKE'S INSIDE-OUT HABITS

WE STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP

LIVING
FORWARD

Philippians 2:1–4 (NASB) ¹ Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Sermon Notes for May 12, 2019 *Holding Hands* Second in the Series, *Living Forward*

- 1) If your faith moves you forward
- 2) then take others with you
- 3) with humility
- 4) and service.

Possible Next Best Step for You

- Write a note of gratitude to your mom/a mom
- Join a summer Bible Study, Bible 101 or The Bible in 90 days:
stlukeshouston.org/group-life

Key Verse for the Week

...make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Philippians 2:2

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

Who has taken you with them, and how did they do so? What "us" do you have with whom you are moving forward?

WE PRAY

Sunday, May 12 – Mother's Day
Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of mothers. Thank you for birth mothers, adoptive mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, and mother figures who bring love and care into our lives. We pray that you would pour out your richest favor and blessings on them today and always. Help them to know how much they are loved and appreciated. Amen.

Monday, May 13
Father, thank you for the gift of forgiveness. Help us to forgive others as you have forgiven us. And help us to forgive ourselves. Let your unconditional love show us the way. Amen.

Tuesday, May 14
Heavenly Father, in a world where evil exists, we pray for your divine protection from the evil one. We pray, God, that you would hold us close to you and purify our hearts so that we may seek good and grow your Kingdom here on earth. Amen.

Wednesday, May 15
Dear Lord, thank you for all you give to us every day! Please be with and help those who are hurting and lonely. Help them to find and maintain a relationship with you and

your son, Jesus Christ. The sacrifice your son made has opened the door and paved the way for all of us broken and sinful people to find your grace and forgiveness even though we do not deserve it. Thank you for this day! In your son's name, we pray. Amen.

Thursday, May 16
Oh God, open me up to your truth, and hope, and love. Please carry me through this day, for you are my strength and song. Help me to show your sacrificial love to all I encounter. In Christ's blessed name I pray. Amen.
-Prayer by Michelle Frazier

Friday, May 17
Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for beautiful spring days and the promise of new life. Grant us time to spend with you in peace enjoying this wonderful world with which we have been blessed. As we enjoy the wonder of your creation, may we grow closer to you. Amen.

Saturday, May 18
Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ who showed us how to love and live. Help us to follow Jesus and to remember 1 Corinthians 16:14, "Do everything in love." Amen.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Service of Prayer and Healing | June 5 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel
Join us for this service on the first Wednesday of every month. 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.

So many ways to pray...

- ♦ Write your prayer request on one of the leaves found in the pew rack
- ♦ Visit the interactive prayer wall: StLukesMethodist.org/prayer
- ♦ Call the prayer line: 713-402-5088.

We are here for you! 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

Reception Honoring Dr. Linda Christians | Sunday, May 19 | 12 p.m.
Join us in the Fellowship Hall to thank Linda for over 20 years of service to St. Luke's and to wish her well as she begins serving as Sr. Pastor at West University UMC.

Thirsty for Theology | May 20 | 6:30 p.m. | Black Lab (4100 Montrose)
Join other young adults for frank conversation about spiritual topics. We will be discussing questions surrounding the subject of *Sin and Salvation*. No RSVP required. Led by Rev. Thomas Harper.

Blast off for Vacation Bible School! | June 10-14 | Calling all children entering K-5!
Special fun is also planned for 6th graders! Spaces for student helpers are full, but students can be placed on a waitlist and still participate in After VBS activities. Details and registration: StLukesMethodist.org/VBS.

Pastors' Sunday School Class Resumes June 2 | 9:55-10:45 a.m. | Fellowship Hall
Interested in Sunday School but hesitant to make the weekly commitment? Join us as you are able this summer as we study what John Wesley had to say on topics such as sin, salvation, and perfection. Led by Rev. Thomas Harper

Summer Groups: Register at StLukesMethodist.org/group-life

Bible in 90 Days | Tuesdays | June 4-August 27 | Hines Baker Room | 6-7 p.m.
Led by Ken & Gail Jacobson and Peggy Keus
Join us for a special class designed to read the Bible from cover to cover...in 90 days!

Bible 101: Old Testament | Tuesdays | June 4-August 6 | 6-7:30 p.m. | ES313/314
New to the Old Testament? Join us as we study the birth of Israel and the people of the Old Testament. Led by Rev. Thomas Harper and Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears.

Men's Downtown Group | Thursdays | beginning June 6 | 12-1 p.m.
Led by Whitney Mears and Barry Alsup
Join the guys (ages 25-45) for a six-week study on *Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton.

Savvy Caregiver Class | Sundays, June 9- July 28 | 3:30-5:30 p.m. | ES301
Dementia is just so hard. You want your parents and loved ones to be safe and to grow old surrounded with dignity, but you just don't know how to help. This class offers insights into changes loved ones are experiencing and training to identify solutions. Free. Register: Sharon Cantrell: scantrell@amazingplace.org.

WE GIVE OURSELVES AWAY

in generosity and service.

Sunday, June 2 | Beans and Rice | 12:30-2 p.m. | Location to be determined
Come for lunch and help us bag beans and rice to be distributed to Christian Community Service Center and other local food pantries. Children are welcome! Register at StLukesMethodist.org/events



The more we practice gratitude, the more we experience it in our hearts and the more we feel it inside, the more we express it in the way we live. Stop by one of the new displays to grab a mini thank-you card and "Pass it On!"