

Lytle United Methodist Church
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Hanging of the Greens
Saturday, December 1 at 7 PM.
Don't forget the Christmas Cookie Contest!

DECEMBER 2018

The Gift and the Cost of the Incarnation

When a father asked his little boy what he wanted for Christmas, the boy replied, "A baby sister." As it turned out, the wife was pregnant, and delivered on Christmas Eve. On Christmas day she brought home a brand new baby sister for their son. The next year, when the father asked his little boy what he wanted for Christmas, the boy said, "If it wouldn't make mommy too uncomfortable, I'd like a pony."

Amid the joy of Christmas sometimes we forget the cost of the incarnation... to God: the fellowship of the Trinity torn apart and God, whose essence is purity and love, subject to life in a world full of sin and hatred. But God was willing to make the sacrifice, out of love. *I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. – Ephesians 3:17-18.*



Grace and Peace - Scott



Hanging of the Greens Saturday, Dec. 1st

The Hanging of the Greens--our traditional service of Christmas carols, holly and mistletoe, and beautiful candlelight--will be held this Saturday, December 1st, at 7 PM. The Chancel Choir will be singing Christmas hymns, and the congregation will join in for some traditional Christmas carols. Children and adults will help decorate the sanctuary to look its very best for this blessed season. Following the Hanging of the Greens worship service, refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall. During this time of refreshments we will be holding our annual Christmas Cookie Contest!! Cookies will be judged in six categories: Children, youth and adult - best tasting and best looking. Please come to the Hanging of the Greens and start your season off right!

M.A.D. Christmas Play, Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7 PM

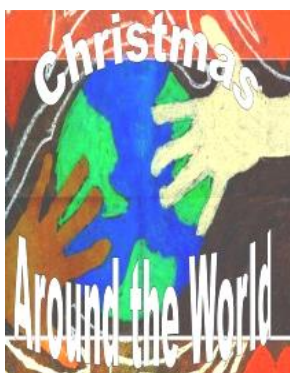
M.A.D. Club (Music, Art and Drama) is going strong and will conclude on Wednesday, Dec. 5 with the presentation of their Christmas musical, "Straight Outta Bethlehem." The musical is the Nativity meets "Anne" as a group of orphans living at the Bethlehem Inn encounter the baby Jesus. We know the Christmas season is busy but we pray that you will support this ministry, and the outreach efforts of our church, by attending the play and greeting visiting parents, friends and family of our MAD kids.



Christmas Around the World

Sunday School Christmas Skit - December 9th
During the covered-dish brunch (replaces the Bishop of Myra skit)

All over the world people celebrate Christmas! Whether you live in China, Argentina, Iraq, Russia, or the United States, the story of Jesus' birth is one of the most important stories ever told. "Christmas Around the World" tells the Christmas narrative of Jesus' Birth in a fun and memorable way as the story of the birth of Jesus (Mary and Joseph, shepherds, angels, etc.) is interspersed with simple Christmas songs and crafts from around the world. Rehearsals are taking place now during Sunday school, 10:15 to 11:15 AM Sunday mornings.



CHURCH SCHEDULE

- December 1, Saturday - **Hanging of the Greens worship service at 7 PM.**
- December 2 - 1st Sunday of Advent: Communion Sunday.
- December 3, Monday - Food Pantry Day, 6 to 7 PM. Volunteers needed.
- December 5, Wednesday - **M.A.D. Club Christmas Musical at 7 PM. Please come!**
- December 8, Saturday - Quilt Club in the fellowship hall.
- December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent.
- Church Covered-dish Brunch and Christmas party.
- December 10, Monday - United Methodist Women's annual Christmas potluck salad luncheon.
 Meet at Linda Stewart's at 12 noon. Bring a salad, and bring a friend.
- December 14, Friday - Emmaus Community Gathering at 7:30 PM at Medina Valley UMC.
- December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent. - **Choir and Praise Band Combined!**
- December 17, Monday - Food Pantry Day, 6 to 7 PM. Volunteers needed.
- December 18 & 19, Tuesday and Wednesday - Project Hope Open House/Walk-Through, 6 to 8 PM.
- December 23 - 4th Sunday of Advent.
- December 24, Monday - **Christmas Eve worship services at 5 PM and 7 PM.**
- December 25, Tuesday - Christmas Day.
- January 6 - Epiphany Sunday.

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UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

December 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Hanging of the Greens Worship Service 7:00 pm
2 U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4 pm – 6 pm						
9 U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4 pm – 6 pm						
16 Deliver Plants to some of the elderly. Christmas Party afterwards at the Keith's						
23 No U.M.Y.F.	24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 5 pm & 7 pm					
30 No U.M.Y.F.	31					

December 1: Hanging of the Greens Worship Service. A Beautiful Service of Christmas Carols and decorating our sanctuary for the Christmas Season. Cookie Contest afterwards. There is a division for youth. Who can make the best tasting and/or prettiest cookie?

December 16: Meet at the church at 1:30pm. We will deliver plants and some Christmas Cheer to some of the elderly and shut-ins of our congregation. The party will be held at the home of Kevin and Michelle Keith. You may be picked up there at 8:00 pm. If you need their address, let me know.

Other Important Dates- Put These Dates on Your Calendar!

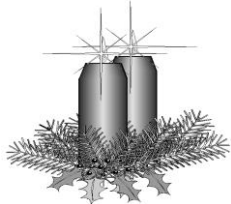
- February 8 – 10, 2019: Spiritual Retreat at H.E.B. Foundation Camp in Leakey, TX.
- March 1, 2019 - March 2, 2019: Yard Sale and Bar-B-Que Fund Raiser for the mission trip.
- June 15 – 23, 2019: Mission Trip to Crownpoint, New Mexico

Sunday Morning Worship (9 AM)



The First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 2 Christmas Communion

Start your season off right by connecting with Christ through communion!



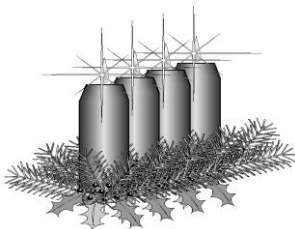
The Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9 Church Christmas Party following Worship

Following the worship service on the second Sunday of Advent, December 9, we will be celebrating with a covered-dish brunch and our annual church Christmas party, a celebration for children and adults. The covered-dish brunch will feature great food, and children's activities include the children's Sunday School play, "Christmas Around the World," a goody bag including a Christmas ornament gift for each child from the church, and a Christmas piñata. Come experience the joy of Christmas.



The Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 16 Special Music from the Choir and Praise Band

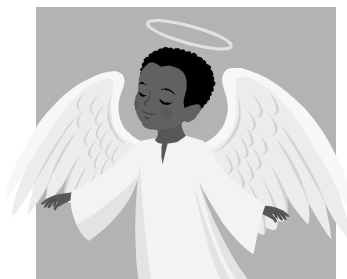
Our third Sunday will feature combined music from choir and the Living Dust praise band. The Christmas music and anthems will tell the timeless story of Christmas through music.



The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 23 The final Sunday of Advent

Project Hope (The Angel Tree)

"The Angel Tree," a mission of our church, is set up in the parlor of the church. Each paper angel has the name of a child and suggested gifts for that child. Children will be from either needy families identified through Lytle's Project Hope, or the children of prisoners (selected from Prison Fellowship Ministry). We ask people to purchase three gifts: one Christian item, one clothes item and one toy. We want to emphasize that the Christian gift is the most important of the three because, while the other two will last but a short time, the gift of Christ lasts forever. It's the gift of Christ that can truly transform lives. After you purchase the gifts, bring them to the church, wrapped, on Sunday, December 16. The gifts will be handed out at a church open house on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 18th and 19th, from 6 to 8 PM which will include a "walk-through exhibit" to tell the Good News of Jesus Christ. Take an angel, and give a gift that can change a life.



UMW Christmas Luncheon – Monday, Dec. 10

The United Methodist Women will meet at Linda Stewart's house on Monday, December 10 at 12 noon for their annual Christmas potluck salad luncheon. Bring your favorite salad and a small gift under fifteen dollars in value for a fun gift exchange. Please bring guests and enjoy fellowship with the ladies of our church. For more information about this event or the UMW, call Linda Bahlmann at (210) 837-0650.

Project Hope Open House Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 18 & 19

Church volunteers are constructing a dramatic three scene "Good News Walk-Through" as a unique way of handing out the Project Hope Christmas presents. After the walk through the children will be invited into the sanctuary to receive their presents, and then cookies and punch will be served in the entranceway. Come and help, 6 to 8 PM, or at least come and see the "Walk-Through."

Christmas Eve Worship Services Monday Evening at 5 and 7 PM

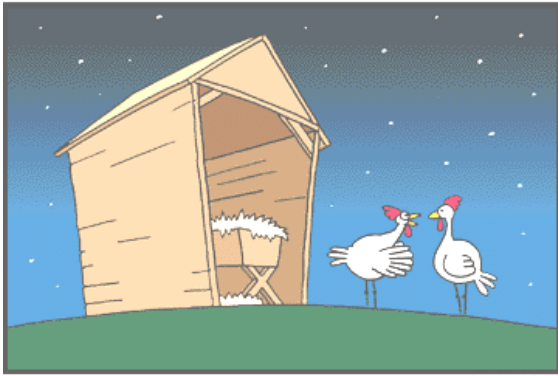
We will be having worship services this year at 5 PM and at 7 PM. Both will feature candles and communion. The 7 PM service will feature our beautiful choir, while the 5 PM service will have special music and a children's time. Come and prepare for Christmas by remembering what it is really all about. Make the Christmas Eve service a cherished family tradition.



Contemporary Worship Service Celebrates Christmas

Our Saturday night contemporary service is celebrating its second Christmas and it has been a blessing. Saturday nights are a great time for folks who work on Sundays and for the younger crowd. The service features uplifting and encouraging praise songs, prayer, and preaching from Pastor Scott Martin. Please get the word out to anyone who might be attracted to a contemporary Saturday night worship service.

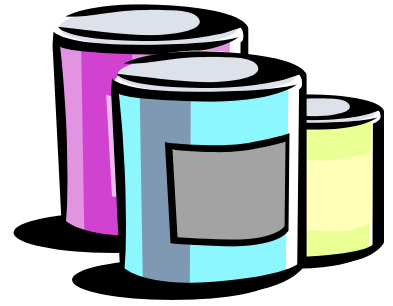
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I WAS SO EXCITED ABOUT THE BABY JESUS THAT I STARTED CLUCKING LIKE A FIEND ... AND THEN AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED BEFORE ME AND SAID UNTO ME ... "SHUT UP"

Food Pantry Ministry

Our Food Pantry is going strong and we are truly grateful for those who are helping to pick up the food from the San Antonio Food Bank. November was a busy month. In December our regular food pantry days are Dec. 3 and Dec. 17. Our workers have been terrific, but we can always use more. Just come at 2:30 PM to help bag the groceries or at 5:30 PM to help prepare for the 6 to 7 PM rush. Thank you for supporting the Methodist Food Pantry.



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Prayer Joys and Concerns

- **For the Hughes Family**—death of Darren Hughes' sister
- **Rose Lynn**—hospitalized, doing better
- **Mary Snyder**—moving to Country Living in Lytle
- **Sherry Morrow**—severe stroke, at Country Living
- **Cole Kelley** (friend of Shelle McMillan)—just had bone marrow transplant
- **Shelle McMillan's Father**—fell and broke a vertebra in his lower back
- **Elaine Kroger**—in rehab • **Tammy York**—praise for cancer-free check up
- **For travelers to be safe** • **For United Methodist Church**
- **Phillip Escalante** (Felix's brother)—diagnosed with bladder cancer
- **Chris LaFond**—back issues from work
- **Kathryn Davison**—awaiting liver transplant
- **Elaine Douglas** (Michelle Keith's mother)—for continued healing
- **Irma Kelley** – stage IV breast cancer
- **Robert Meyer** (Brent and Lisa's father)—cancer
- **Nell Nixon** (Annette's sister) dementia, poor health, prayers for Annette as well
- **Raymond Orta**—stage 4 cancer, and for salvation
- **Annie Rhoades**—health
- **Robert Hunt**—health
- **Charles Baker** (Bethel Kay Bateman's nephew) on hospice
- **Martha Foster** (Shelle McMillan's mother)—dementia
- **Felix Escalante**—health
- **Nancy Burns**—health
- **Molly Melton** (Malcolm Brown's daughter)—brain tumor, on hospice
- **Marsha Boener** (Michelle Keith's aunt)—breast cancer
- **Jay Bateman** (Jack's son)—mouth cancer
- **Rose Lynn**—health, and for David
- **Pastor Scott Martin and all of our church staff, and their families**
- **Our military and their families and our president and government**
- **Our missionaries around the world**
- **For persecuted Christians around the world**
- **For victims of human trafficking and for an end to human trafficking**



Our Church Family Military

- **Ian Simons**—Air Force • **Brandon Hunt**—Army Reserves
- **Ross Moffitt** (Chris and Fred Brauchle's grandson)—Air Force
- **William Reichel**—Army, in Germany • **Forrest Keith**—Kevin Keith's son, Navy
- **Kyle Pringle**—Army • **Josh Orbinati**—Michele Brown's nephew, Coast Guard
- **Craig Wolf**—Air Force • **Jonathan Heiman**—Navy
- **Jon and Brianna Hartwig**—Army, Jill Daggs' daughter and son-in-law
- **Joyce Biggs** (George Bahlmann's great-niece)

6:10 PRAYER Lord Break Through

Matthew 6:10 (The Lord's Prayer)
**"Your kingdom come, Your will be done
 on earth, as it is in heaven"**



Pray each day
 at 6:10 AM
 or 6:10 PM

Pray for
 your home,
 work, country
 and church

Lord, break through the fog of our future
 Lord, break through our fixation on the past
 Lord, break through our fear of change

**Lord, give us the courage
 to walk into your future**

6 Month Break Through Prayer Campaign

November 2018 – April 2019

The church has initiated a six-month prayer campaign to ask God to guide us as a church, and as individuals and families. Please pray a simple pray for guidance and break-through each day, either at 6:10 AM or 6:10 PM.

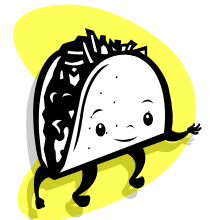
When God answers the prayer, please let us know through our Sunday prayer forms, through a call or by email. If it is a break-through in your personal life, let us celebrate. If it is a message for our church, let us heed and obey.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. – Philippians 4:6

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Youth Breakfast Taco Sales

Bowing to hungry demands, the youth group has instituted First Sunday breakfast taco sales as a regular monthly activity. They will be selling your favorite breakfast taco before Sunday school on the first Sunday of every month. The next sale is on December 2nd.



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FIGHT NIGHT

with **DRS. LES & LESLIE PARROT**

A FUN DATE NIGHT & A RELATIONSHIP GAME-CHANGER
 You'll laugh, learn, grow closer, & never look at fighting in the same way.

**A Free Simulcast Event
 January 26, 2019
 6 to 8 PM
 Invite everyone you
 know for this free
 marriage enrichment
 event**

Next Interactive Dinner Theater

Get set for our next dinner theater, a fund raiser for the church's food pantry, which will take place on Saturday Night, March 30, at 6 PM and Sunday Night, March 31, at 5 PM, and will include dinner. There will also be a silent auction each night – so think about what items you could donate for the food pantry ministry. A sign-up sheet for volunteer to be in the play will be posted on the church bulletin board in December. Rehearsals will be on some of the Sundays in January, February and March. We would love to see some new faces. Please keep this ministry, and our food pantry ministry, in your prayers.



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Backpack Ministry Thank you

Thank you to all the people helping provide food to children and their families through the school backpack ministry. Each week a backpack filled with food is taken to the school to help 11 families. Thank you to all who help, and to Nan Boyd for coordinating this effort.

Highway Clean-up Day in January

Our church has adopted highway 463, starting from the Lytle water tower and heading out beyond Lake Shore Estates and our next "Highway Clean-up Day" will be on January 26. Meet at the church at 7:30 AM for breakfast tacos, then head out. We will be done before 10 AM.

Monday Night Guy's Group

The Guy's group meets regularly on Monday nights from 7 to 9 PM in the kitchen and Youth building for a time of fellowship, mentoring, and study. Dinner is provided.

Our Church's Purpose

To reach out to our community and beyond to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and to welcome people into this body of Christ where we might all be filled with God's strength and vision.

Emmaus News!



12-26-1997

MY MOM MADE THIS FOR ME FOR THE CHRISTMAS PLAY AND NOW SHE IS SO PROUD OF IT THAT I AM NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE IT OFF



12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR

The next Koinonia sponsored walk is men's Emmaus walk #6 at Mt Wesley May 2 - 5, 2019. It's time to start talking to potential pilgrims. Let's make this a full walk! The next women's walk will take place at Mt. Wesley in October. Get your applications in soon if you would like to serve on that team, and let's keep both of these walks in our prayers. If you would like more information about Walk to Emmaus, a very special Christian retreat, call the church office, or see the Emmaus bulletin board. In other Emmaus news, there will be a monthly gathering of the Koinonia Emmaus Community in December this year. It will take place at Medina Valley UMC in Castroville on Friday, December 14. Gatherings are times for music, praise and testimonies, and fun, food and fellowship.

When my daughters were little, I would always tell them around Christmas that this is Jesus' birthday and he only received 3 things so do not be disappointed in what lies under the tree. When it came time for worship on Christmas morning, I asked the children what they thought Jesus would think of Santa and all the hype. Would he ask Santa a question? My youngest daughter replied, "I think Jesus would ask how come I only got three things and none of them were toys?"

SAL Ridgeway Ontario

After the Christmas pageant, I asked my 6-year-old son if he remembered the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus. He thought for a minute then said "gold, frankincense, and humor". We could all use that!

Church Wifi Equipped

As a continuation of our sound system project, the whole church has now been wired for Wifi. The units are in the sanctuary, office, fellowship hall and youth building, and the network name and password are the same everywhere:
Network: lytleumc password: holyspirit987. (all lower case).

