

Lytle United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 608
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Lytleumc.com
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Sunday Morning Worship at 9 AM
Contemporary Worship Service – Saturdays at 6 PM

FEBRUARY 2018



Fixing Sanctuary Sound System Critical To Following Christ into the Future

I always wanted to be cool like the Fonz—a character in the 1970’s TV show “Happy Days.” He would walk into the malt shop, go to the juke box, bang on it, and music would play. Well I got my wish—sort of. On Sunday mornings I come into the sanctuary, go to the sound system, bang on it, and get it to work... until it stops again. Our sanctuary sound system has served us well but it is now over twenty years old and needs replacing. We can record funeral services and sermons... as long as you bring your own cassette tapes. The CD player works... if you pray a whole lot and force the CD tray back into the player. Our sound system has served us well, but it has to be replaced.

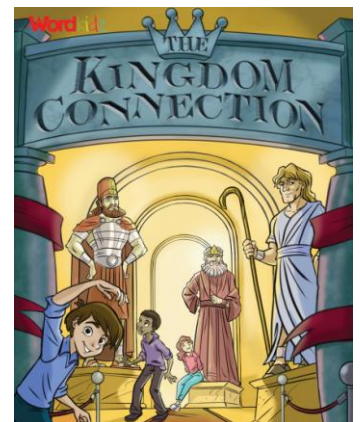
The theme for our 125th anniversary was “Celebrating 125 years of Ministry: Following Christ into the Future.” Never thought Christ would take us up on that pledge so soon, but He has, because our sound system is vital to our future. It is not only essential to our Sunday morning worship service, it is the backbone to our children’s Music, Art and Drama program, our Saturday night service, our children’s Sunday school, funerals and weddings, Vacation Bible School, and much more.

How do we pay for a new system? The Trustees have taken bids and selected the best contractor, but it will cost us \$20,000. The Trustees just got through paying for a new A/C system for the fellowship hall so our savings are tapped. It’s up to us, which is appropriate since it is our future—the future of our church which is at stake. On January 30, the Administrative council authorized a \$20,000 capital campaign to raise funds for the new system. It was not an easy decision since just two years ago we completed our “Paying Off Our Church Debts” campaign, but the only other choice was to borrow from the bank, which would defeat the whole purpose of the “Paying Off Our Church Debts” campaign. So with confidence in the people of the church, our “Following Christ/Sound System/Capital Campaign” is beginning. - *Scott*

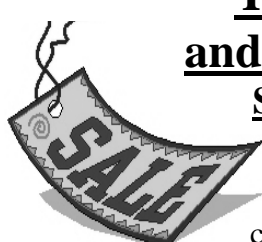
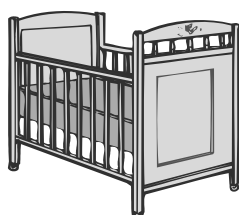
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M.A.D. Club Starts Again February 7
(Music, Art and Drama)

We will be having a spring session of MAD Club in 2018, again meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 PM. We will meet from February 7 through April 4, with a musical performance on April 4th at 7 PM. Please get the word out to all the families you know, and we can always use more volunteers. We need people to provide snacks at 4 PM, publicity, people willing to help with art, a video/computer operator and people willing to help with music and drama. Help us reach the children and families of our community with the Good News of Christ through M.A.D. Club.



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 <p><u>Youth Yard Sale</u> <u>and Barbecue Plates</u> <u>Saturday, March 3</u></p> <p>The youth yard sale will be held in front of the church from 8 AM to 3 PM.</p>	<p><u>Help Fill-up the Crib</u></p>  <p>Throughout the month, we are helping to supply the Care Closet of the Pregnancy Care Center. The Closet provides clothing for mothers in unintended pregnancies and then layettes for their newborn.</p>
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Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 4

Our church will again participate in the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring mission offering. Last year the youth collected the offering during the service in large soup pots and raised \$322.28 for the Lytle Food Pantry, which helps feed the hungry in this community. That year more than 260,000 young people across the nation participated in “souper-bowl” events at their local churches and collected \$8.5 million for local hunger-relief charities. All the money collected is donated locally, then the amount is reported so it can be included in the national total. Thank you everyone who donated.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

- February 5, Monday - Food Pantry day, 6 to 7 PM.
- February 6, Tuesday - In-Reach Team meeting from 6 to 7:30 PM.
Outreach Team meeting from 7:30 to 9 PM.
- February 7, Wednesday - Music, Art and Drama Club (MAD) resumes, 4 to 6 PM.
- February 9, Friday - Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering at New Fountain UMC near Hondo.
Music starts at 7:30 PM
- February 9-11, Friday through Sunday - Youth Spiritual retreat at HEB Camp.
- February 10, Saturday - Quilt Club in the fellowship hall.
- February 12, Monday - United Methodist Women meet at 2:30 PM at Betty McGinnis’ home.
- February 14, Wednesday - Ash Wednesday worship service at 7 PM.
- February 18 - Worship series begins: “The Great Escapes of the Bible”
- February 19, Monday - Food Pantry day, 6 to 7 PM.
- March 3, Saturday - **Youth yard sale and Chicken Bar-b-cue plate sale.**
- April 7 & 8, Saturday & Sunday - **Food Pantry Fund Raiser.**

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United Methodist Youth Fellowship Schedule

February 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Highway Trash Pickup 7:30 am
4 U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	5	6	7	8	9 Spiritual Retreat at H.E.B. Camp Meet at the church at 5 pm	10 Spiritual Retreat at H.E.B. Foundation Camp
11 Spiritual Retreat at H.E.B. Camp Return to the Church by 4:00 pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 U.M.Y.F. At The Church 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	26	27	28			

February 3: Highway Trash Pick-up. Our church participates in the “Keep Texas Beautiful, Adopt A Highway” campaign. Although not an official “youth event”, this is a great way to serve our community, to help make our church visible to the community and a good way to get N.H.S. service hours. Breakfast tacos are provided. (Please note: I will not be able to be there this time, but youth will still be supervised by other adults from our congregation, or parents are more than welcomed to help as well. More help is always needed!)

February 4: Permission Forms due for the Spiritual Retreat at H.E.B. Foundation Camp

March 3: Yard Sale (Pricing and Lock in on March 2)

May 5: Jogging for William

June 23 – 30, 2018: Mission Trip to San Augustine County, TX.

Church Goals for 2018

1. Replace the 20 year old sound system in the sanctuary
2. Explore using the Living Dust band more frequently, integrated with the chancel choir
3. Fully implement the new Rio Texas Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult Safety Policy
4. Develop a church emergency response plan, and inform/train the congregation on the plan
5. Better assist the UMW with funeral and family care
6. Provide yearly evangelism training in ways which encourage attendance and involvement
7. Move our church wide discipleship emphasis from the Fall to Spring so that new small group Bible study groups won't fade away during the Christmas break, and have a devotion emphasis in the fall
8. Emphasize stewardship of time, talents and treasures at times in addition to during the stewardship campaign
9. Explore having recycling facilities at the church

Set Your Own Personal Spiritual Goals for 2018

Spiritual Inward Action

At the bottom of this list of possibilities, you are invited to note some personal goals for inward development

- attend worship more regularly
- read the Bible regularly
- have a daily devotion time (morning or evening)
- be part of a weekly small group Bible study
- read the Upper Room or other daily devotionals
- use Christian media like podcasts, books or movies
- listen to spiritual music, attend Christian concerts
- attend Christian events
- form Christian mentoring relationships
- have a devotion time with your family
- being part of a Sunday morning Bible-study class
- participate in the United Methodist Women
- participate in the Monday night men's group
- start to journal, or journal more regularly
- join the Tuesday morning prayer group
- participate in the Sunday afternoon youth group
- organize and/or participate in a topic class
- pray regularly throughout the day
- attend a spiritual retreat (organized or simply a time apart)
- attend a Walk to Emmaus this year
- be part of an Emmaus accountability/reunion group
- other _____

Some 2018 Goals for Spiritual Inward Action:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Spiritual Outward Action

At the bottom of this list of possibilities, you are invited to note some personal goals for outward development

- share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others
- invite others to attend church with you
- help with Vacation Bible School or M.A.D. Camp or Club
- teach Sunday school, or help with the youth group
- help with the Interactive Dinner Theaters
- take part in worship dramas/plays or lead a drama ministry
- help with the Food Pantry or Backpack ministry
- go on a mission trip
- help support the youth's summer mission trip
- vote for and support those who stand for Biblical principles
- participate in the Life-chain in the Fall
- help the Pregnancy Care Center
- take part in our Christmas Project Hope/Angel Tree
- help support our missionaries and missions
- sing in a choir or provide special music
- start or participate in a worship praise group
- be an operator for the computer/projection system
- help make banners or other special visual art
- serve on the In-reach or Outreach Teams
- serve on other church committee
- be a Sunday worship lay leader, or greeter
- other _____

Some 2018 Goals for Spiritual Outward Action:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

“Following Christ/Sound System/Capital Campaign”

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of God” – Romans 10:17

This capital campaign to raise funds to replace the old church sound system will run through April. In the months of February and March the importance of a new sound system, and the details of the new sound system selected by the Trustees, will be laid out for everyone. Then, starting at Easter, a chart will be posted and regularly updated detailing the donations received. Finally the new system will be installed in May.

FOLLOWING CHRIST/SOUND SYSTEM/CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GIFT RANGE CHART			
GIFT SIZE	NUMBER OF GIFTS NEEDED	SUBTOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
4,000.00	1	4,000.00	4,000.00
2,000.00	2	4,000.00	8,000.00
1,000.00	2	2,000.00	10,000.00
750.00	4	3,000.00	13,000.00
500.00	6	3,000.00	16,000.00
250.00	10	2,500.00	18,500.00
under 250.00	15	1,500.00	20,000.00
TOTALS	40		20,000.00

The gift range chart to the left details the individual donations required to meet our \$20,000 goal. We ask you to pray about this campaign and the size of gift God is calling you to give. Pastor Scott Martin and wife Linda have again stepped up to the plate and pledged the \$4,000 gift.

Needed: Volunteers to be on a prayer team dedicated to praying over every step of this campaign. Please talk to the pastor if you would be willing to be part of this team. You can prayer with us at church or from home.

Prayer Concerns

- Dorothy Granberg (Karla Dominguez' mother)—recovering from lower leg amputation
- Felipe and Eleanor Aguilar—Felipe with health problems; prayers for kids and grandkids, too
- Kirk Jackson—cataract surgery Jan 24, still recovering
- Bethel Kay Bateman—knee pain
- Family of Carolyn Hopkins (parents Louisa and Frank) as well as Devine HS and community
- Felix Alvarez (Gloria Johnson's brother)—released from halfway house, prayers for success
- Gwen Dominguez (Jim and Karla Dominguez' niece)—stage 4 brain cancer
- Molly (Malcolm Brown's daughter)—diagnosed with brain tumor, had second surgery
- Michelle Keith—foot pain, flu
- Linda Bahlmann—recovering from surgery
- Debbie Hunt
- Felix Escalante
- Roger Meyer (Father of Brent and Lisa)—in hospital since Dec 11
- Warren Wanjura—starting radiation for cancer
- Nancy Burns—health, surgery rescheduled
- Terry Gray Chandler—brain tumor
- Wayne Morgan (Escalante brother-in-law)—return of lung cancer
- Roger Lockhart—on hospice
- Penny (Suzie Sollock's aunt)—cancer, not responding to chemotherapy
- Dale Edwards (chemo buddy of Lisa Wells)—on hospice
- Marsha Boener (Michelle Keith's aunt)—breast cancer
- Marta Becerra (Lollie's sister)—cancer
- Lisa Wells—on chemo again, good scan results again
- Jay Bateman (Jack's son)—mouth cancer
- Jean Rouse—breast cancer, hip surgery
- Rose Lynn—health, and for David
- Our missionaries serving in many nations
- Pastor Scott Martin and all the church staff and families
- For our nation and for the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- For persecuted Christians around the world
- For victims of human trafficking and for an end to human trafficking



Our Church Family Soldiers and Civilians Working with the Military

- Ian Simons—Air Force • Brandon Hunt—joining Army Reserves
- Ross Moffitt (Chris and Fred Brauchle 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)

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Miscellaneous News

Youth Taco Sales - The youth group sells your favorite breakfast tacos before Sunday school on the first Sunday of every month. The next sale is on February 4th. Come hungry!

Church Directories - Our new church directories are at the printers and will be available in few weeks. Thank you to everyone who checked the copies, and helped in the preparation.

Thank You for Supporting the Youth - Thank you to everyone who supported the youth through their Lasagna dinner sale. Please remember the yard sale coming up on March 3rd.

Thank You to the Trustees - The pastor and his wife would like to thank the Trustees for promptly replacing the water heater at the church parsonage. Thanks especially to Brent and William Meyers for doing the installation and to Kyle Jackson for getting the water heater.

Free Devotional Guides - Our church offers free devotion guides for adults (The Upper Room) and youth (Essential Connection). Pick up copies today from the literature rack by the windows in the church entranceway or in the fellowship hall. A daily time of prayer brings God's power to your day.

Birthday Updates - To expand our birthday list, during the month of February we will be seeking this information through the yellow response forms contained in our Sunday morning worship bulletins. If we already have your family's birthdays there is no need to fill out this part of the yellow form.

“Wall of Stock” Youth Mission Trip Fund-raiser

Starting the last Sunday in February (February 25) and then continuing on the last Sunday of March and April and then each Sunday in May, the “wall of stock” will be set up in the church entrance to help raise funds for the youth summer mission trip. There will be a cork board with stock envelopes pinned to the board. Each envelope will have a stock (donation) amount printed on it. Amounts will range from \$1.00 to \$150.00. Stock holders can simply take an envelope or envelopes and put that dollar amount into the envelope. Place the envelope into the collection plate or give it to Diana Jackson. If cash is used, please write your name on the back of the envelope so that your contribution can be credited to you.

Please Join the Outreach or In-reach Teams

The Outreach team is responsible for “reaching out to our community and beyond to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed,” and meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. The In-reach team is responsible for “welcoming people into this Body of Christ where we might all be filled with God’s strength and vision,” and meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. We welcome anyone to take part!

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Ash Wednesday and Lent, A Time of Preparation

The Ash Wednesday service, celebrated on February 14, is a special time to recommit ourselves to God as we strive to grow in grace, taking seriously Paul’s call to “present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Romans 12:1). The service will begin at 7 PM, includes literally nailing our sins on the cross, and concludes as palm ash (from the palms used for Palm Sunday last year) are used to draw a cross on each person’s forehead as a sign of confession, repentance, and dedication to God.



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A New Lenten Worship Series, February 18 – March 25

“The Great Escapes of the Bible”



Our Lent worship series this year will focus on some of the great escapes described in the Bible, from Lot escaping Sodom and Gomorrah and Daniel escaping the lion’s den, to Peter and then Paul escaping from prisons. Through these thrilling stories we will learn how we as Christians can face the perils of our world. The series will start with a general introduction to Lent, and then Sunday by Sunday we will learn about God the great rescuer.

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Methodist Food Pantry Fund Raiser

Dinner Theater and Silent Auction, April 7 & 8

Armed with a sharply judgmental attitude and a pair of binoculars, homeowner Leona Crump is consumed with anxiety over her new neighbors. Will they be California beatniks? Or paroled drug pushers? Or more frightening yet, perhaps someone with children?! Her worst fears are realized when an odd-ball "hill-folk" family move in across the street. Adding to Leona's exasperation are her daily dealings with her refrigerator-raiding neighbor Paul, the local real estate saleswoman, the mailman, an Avon lady, a police officer, and a paper boy... all, she is sure, who were only put on this earth to annoy her.



This new dinner theater, a fund raiser for the church’s food pantry, will take place on Saturday Night, April 7, at 6 PM and Sunday Night, April 8, 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 to volunteer to help with the play is posted on the church bulletin board. Rehearsals will be on some of the Sundays in February and March. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

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Important Trustee Projects in the Works

In addition to examining bids for a replacement sanctuary sound system, the church trustees have been working on several other projects for the church:

- The completion of the prayer garden through the placement of lights on the columns around the garden as a memorial to Ann Williams. The cost will come from money in the memorial account donated in Ann William’s memory, plus money donated by Betty McGinnis for this project. Thank you Betty!
- The installation of a three cross “sculpture” on the church grounds in honor of our 125th anniversary. The structure is being built and donated by Malcolm Brown, and will be installed by the trustees. The exact location and configuration of the sculpture is still under discussion.
- The placement of a small memorial marker for Ruby Reichel next to the tree planted in her honor by the church parking lot entrance. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled once the marker and other plantings are ready. Thank you to Kyle Jackson for installing the tree, and to Connie Scott for working on the marker.

At their January meeting, the Trustees selected new officers. The new officers are: Chairmen-Nan Boyd; Vice Chairman- Bobby Sollock; Secretary: Orlando Gutierrez; Treasurer: Debbie Pruet. We would like to thank our outgoing chairmen, Glenn Norton, for his great leadership. Glenn continues as a trustee but has passed his gavel on to Nan Boyd.



Showing through Feb. 8 at Santikos Silverado

WE ARE STRONGER is a faith-based movie exploring a veteran’s battle with PTSD. As he struggles to recover from his injuries, reclaim his marriage, and fit back into the civilian world, he discovers he can’t do it alone. It is showing Weekdays at 7 PM and Saturday and Sunday at 2 PM.

Stephen and Karen Dorner
Cru Military Ministry

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Emmaus Gathering, February 9, at New Fountain UMC near Hondo

The Koinonia Emmaus Community gathering for February will take place at New Fountain UMC near Hondo on Friday, February 9. Singing starts at 7:30 PM. Mark the date now and be sure to be at the gathering for lots of music and praise, and some fun and fellowship.

Men’s walk #4 will be May 3-6, and the applications for being a “pilgrim” on these walks, or any walk, are located in the church entranceway, or online at swtxkonia.org. Talk to the pastor or someone else who has already gone and get your application submitted. Women’s Walk #5, sponsored by the Konia community, will be led by our own Michelle Keith and will take place in October. Submit a team application now! If you would like more information about Emmaus, a very special Christian retreat, call the church office, pick-up a brochure in the church entranceway, or see the Emmaus bulletin board.

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<p><u>Church Food Pantry</u> Our food pantry continues to help over 70 families twice a month. The next food pantry days are February 5 and 19. Our workers have been terrific, but we can always use more. Just come at 2:30 PM to help sack or at 5:30 PM to help prepare for the 6 to 7 PM rush. Thank you for supporting the Methodist Food Pantry.</p>	<p><u>United Methodist Women</u> The UMW’s purpose is to serve the Lord through missions, service, study and worship. Officers this year are President: Linda Bahlmann; Vice-President: Bethel Bateman; Secretary: Carol McDonald; and Treasurer: Linda Stewart. The UMW will be meeting on February 12th at the home of Betty McGinnis at 2:30 PM. Carol McDonald will give the program. We urge you to come and visit us as we start out new year.</p>	<p><u>Monday Night Guy’s Group</u> The men meet regularly on Monday nights from 7 to 9 PM at the church for a time of fellowship, mentoring, and study. The group also participates in mission work and fellowship activities. Come and be part of this great group.</p>
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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.