

Lexington & Blue
United Methodist
Churches

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Address service requested

The Voice

Lexington UMC

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Blue UMC

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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

Nov 5	Enchilada Lunch
Nov 18	UMW Bazaar
Nov 19	Ministerial Alliance's Thanksgiving Celebration
Dec 3	UMW Christmas Party (at the home of Lee Marks)
Dec 3	Family Life Center Open House & Dedication
Dec 10	Children's Christmas Program

Get Connected at LUMC on Sunday Morning

Sunday School 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Journey Class for Adults

Meet in the Family Life Center with leader, Cinda Lewis

Second class at 11 a.m. led by Nancy Thomas

Men's Gathering

Meet in the Family Life Center with leader, John Gibbs

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful
for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training
in righteousness" 2 Timothy 3:16*

The Voice

Lexington & Blue United Methodist Churches

Volume 17, Issue 11

November 2017

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

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Scriptures for November

Colossians 3:15-17
And let the peace of
Christ rule in your
hearts, to which indeed
you were called in one
body. And be thankful.
Let the word of Christ
dwell in you richly,
teaching and
admonishing one
another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and
hymns and spiritual
songs, with thankfulness
in your hearts to God.
And whatever you do, in
word or deed, do
everything in the name
of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the

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

We have come to that time of year, where Jolly St. Nicholas (old St. Nick) comes to the forefront of our minds. It turns out that the historical St. Nicholas was a fascinating human being. Born in 270 AD, he was an orphan raised by his uncle (who was a bishop), a Holy Land pilgrim, and the Bishop of Myra in what is now Turkey. He does seem to have been a jolly man. There are many stories of his kindness, but he was also passionate. The story goes that at the Council of Nicaea, St. Nicholas became so enraged at the heretic, Arius, that the jolly religious leader punched Arius in his jolly old face.

However, Nicholas gained fame for his random acts of kindness. The most common story opens with three daughters of a poor father. They didn't have enough money for the traditional wedding gifts that were given to a groom's family. Without that, they couldn't get married and had incredibly bleak future prospects. At this point, Bishop Nicholas enters the scene. He begins leaving purses of gold for each of the daughters without anyone seeing who was doing it. One version of the story, which might sound familiar to us, has Old St. Nick dropping the gold purses down the chimney to land in the girls' stockings, which had been hung on the mantle to dry. Over time, Nicholas left them enough gold to provide wedding gifts for each of the daughters – saving the day. The father starts to put two and two together and confronts Nicholas. Rather than taking credit, the bishop simply reminds the father that all gifts ultimately come from God.

Culturally, we have certainly grasped the idea of semi-anonymous gift giving in the name of St. Nick, but I think that there is more that we should learn from his example. While maybe we shouldn't punch people that we see as heretics in the face, our world could certainly use more Christians who are deeply passionate about our faith. We can also look at why Nicholas gave all that money away. It fundamentally transformed the lives of those young women. Things are different now, but to go unmarried 1,800 years ago left women with few options – none particularly dignified. Nicholas's gifts saved them from that life.

In the lead up to Christmas, I usually find an opportunity to challenge us about our gift giving. On average, American families spend over \$800 per year on Christmas gifts – often in the name of St. Nick. On a level, it is a beautiful and joyful tradition, where we can create so much excitement and fun for the people that we love. It is a way for us to experience and share God's love within our families and communities. I certainly look forward to opening presents Christmas morning and experience a lot of joy in picking out presents for those close to me.

Still, I want us to think about transformative giving. In all our giving and spending every year, how much of it truly changes the prospects for another person? How much have we embraced the example of St. Nicholas? I challenge us all this year to find one way to practice transformational giving this Advent and Christmas season. As a church, we participate in Angel Tree, where we buy gifts for children who have an incarcerated parent. Our St. Stephen's fund, that supports folks who struggle to pay their bills, always runs a little low during the holidays. You could donate in honor of someone rather than giving them one more object that they don't need. Look around the community and around the world. There are a lot of lives in need of transformation. Give accordingly.

Vaya con Dios,

Pastor Trey

LEXINGTON ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL TREASURER'S REPORT

<i>All Funds Balance as of 10/22/17</i>		Date:	Offering	Worship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance (All Classes)
General Fund	\$17,754.49	October	1	\$4,754.00	87
Early Chapel CD	\$19,072.40				
RTSB CD #1	\$16,426.41				
RTSB CD #4	\$10,535.06				
			8	\$3,096.26	97
			15	\$3,479.50	91
			22	\$2,044.00	94
DESIGNATED FUNDS in GENERAL:					
Pledge Fund Acct. Balance	\$8,575.36				
Early Chapel Cemetery Fund	-\$ (788.43)				
Journey Sunday School	\$58.30				
Memorial Fund	\$3,192.42				
		Annual Church Budget for 2017		\$199,699.00	
		Offerings thru October 22, 2017		<u>\$131,751.73</u>	
		Minimum amount needed to stay within budget:			
		\$16,640/month & \$ 3,840/week			
		<u>2017 District Apportionment</u> - Paid In Full			
		<u>2017 Conference Apportionments</u> - Paid In Full			

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

St. Stephen's Fund

\$1,786.89

On Communion Sunday's (the first Sunday of the month), we take a special offering at the rail for the **St. Stephen's Fund**. This money is used to help those in need in our community. With this fund, we help people in emergency situations and those that may need some help with their utilities. To contribute by check, please write "St. Stephen's Fund" in the memo.

OUR E-MAIL ADDRESS: lexingtonunitedmethodistchurch@outlook.com

	Newsletter deadline for December's edition is November 22nd Articles and photos are always needed. Please submit yours to Stephanie in the church office.
	Stephanie Kellenberger Editor of <i>The Voice</i>

BLUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fun at Community Night



Blue UMC Worship Attendance		
October	1	57
	8	32
	15	38
	22	28

November Birthdays

- 7-Craig Biehle
- 8-Donna Durocher
- 11-Deandra Little
- 14-Brooke Medders
- 15-Chris Beihle
- 20-Carolyn Hutson



UPCOMING BLUE EVENTS

- Sunday Mornings**
 9 a.m. Worship
 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
- Wednesday Mornings**
 11 a.m. Prayer Group

NOVEMBER

- 6 BVFD
- 7 NWLC 4H (LUMC)
- 10 Community Night
- 11 Veterans Day
- 13 Texas Stars
- 18 UMW Bazaar
- 19 Thanksgiving Breakfast & Min Alliance Thanksgiving Gathering
- 22 Tree Decorating
- 20-23 Office Closed
- 23 Thanksgiving
- 28 TEEA

You are Invited!

Thanksgiving Breakfast

Sunday, November 19th
 7:30 am
 Blue UMC Fellowship Hall



"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
Matthew 18:20



Sunday, November 5th

We will be drawing names for Christmas (after service).

Wednesday, November 22nd
 Tree decorating



Calendar of Events

Sunday

Sunday School
9:45-10:45 AM
(6-12th grade)
With Mr. Stephen
High School Youth
5 PM

Wednesday

Middle School Youth
3:30 to 5 PM

November:

5 & 8 Make Vet Cards
11 Veterans Day



5th Quarter

Youth 6th grade to seniors are invited to join us for fun, food & fellowship after all Lexington home games. Invite your friends!

Date:
11/10

YOUTH PROGRAMS

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Dear Parents,

I am writing to let you know that we will be starting our Confirmation Class for sixth and seventh graders in January. Right now, the plan is to hold the classes after our normal Middle School Youth Group from 5pm to 6pm on Wednesdays. However, if there is a consensus that another time works better, we can find another time. In addition to the weekly classes, there will be a weekend retreat for all the participants in the spring, and the actual church service celebrating Confirmation will be in May.

What's Confirmation?

In the United Methodist Church, Confirmation is a program for youth to help them find their own faith, accept and claim Christ as their Savior, and become full members of the church and of their local church. For many of our young people, they were baptized as infants, before they could speak for themselves. Confirmation presents them with that opportunity to make their own decision for Christ and teaches them what they need to know to make an informed decision.

Confirmation specifically focuses on:

- The key Biblical groundings of our faith and understanding of God
- The theological and liturgical underpinnings of our worship and Christian faith such as salvation, grace, the sacraments, and the Trinity
- The traditions, structure, and history of the broader Christian Church as well as the United Methodist church specifically.
- The understanding that each student has unique gifts from God and a specific calling on their life.

The hope is that with all of this information, the students will be prepared for what it takes to be a more grown up Christian – taking a bigger role in their own faith and in the church.

What's Next?

If you would like for your child to participate in Confirmation or want more information on the class, I ask that you attend our parent's meeting, Sunday, November 12th at noon (following 11 a.m. service). This meeting will give y'all a chance to get any questions answered and give us all an opportunity to finalize logistical details such as meet times and scheduling the retreat.

This is a wonderful opportunity for each of the students and for you to explore and grow in faith together. I hope and pray that your child will participate.

Vaya con Dios,

Rev. Trey Comstock
979-773-2728

Pastor, Lexington and Blue UMCs

COMMUNITY:

Lexington Area Ministerial Alliance

Save the Date

Thanksgiving Celebration
Sunday, November 19th
6:00 p.m.

Lexington United Methodist Church
Everyone is invited to this FREE event!

*The Methodist church has been asked to provide the **Meat** for the dinner.*



What is the Ministerial Alliance? This ministry exists to extend mercy throughout the Lexington community by offering both financial help and the message of the Gospel. We strive to help people with their primary needs; those needs that are necessary for physical, emotional, and spiritual survival. These events help us to raise money for the Ministerial Alliance's fund.

Lexington Backpack Buddies Update

"...I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestor did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers." 2 Timothy 1:3



Save the dates!

Power Hour
Monday, November 6th
9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Soup & Bread Lunch
Monday, February 19th
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Lexington United Methodist Church

Would you like to help? Please contact **Sarah Hallum** if you can help with the soup. If you would like to donate to the auction, please let **Stephanie Kellenberger** know.

Lexington Backpack Buddies is a collaborative church and community partnership that seeks to increase student academic achievement by ensuring that all children have enough to eat over the weekend, when free and reduced breakfasts and lunches are not available. Currently, we feed nearly 70 kids each week during the school year. Our budget for the 2017/18 school year is roughly \$13,500. This will provide 70 kids three dinners, two breakfasts, two lunches, and snacks each weekend during the school year. Please "like" our Facebook page: Backpack Buddies Lexington.

Enchilada Dinner

Lexington UMC will be hosting our famous Enchilada Lunch fundraiser on Sunday, November 5 in the Family Life Center.

Serving begins at 11 a.m.

Adult plates are \$9 and child plates are \$4. Carryout will be available, with all plates costing \$9.

We need help on Saturday, November 4 beginning at 8 a.m. to setup. Helpers don't have to stay the whole time - please come when you can and go whenever you need to!

Volunteers Needed!

We need the following for the Enchilada Lunch:

- ~ Cake Donations
- ~ Help Cooking Beans
- ~ Prep on Saturday beginning at 8 am



CALLING ALL KIDS & YOUTH

The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 10th and we want to know if you would like to participate in it this year. All kids (toddlers to teens) are invited to be a part of this annual tradition on Sunday, December 10th at 6 p.m. Please let Jennifer Marek know if you would like to be in the program. Practices are held on Sunday's during Sunday School.



The Kairos Luther Unit wishes to express their profound thanks for the dozens and dozens of cookies, hundreds of creative placemats, all the meals purchased for an inmate, and all the prayer chain promises of prayers. This is a true example of Matthew 25 where you have touched the lives of men inside the prison for the better. Thank you again for your Christians hearts and God bless your church.



Thank you,
John

Angle Tree Program

Again this year as we have for the last 13 or so years, we will be volunteering to deliver Christmas presents from inmates to their children here in the local area. This is an amazingly effective program in keeping relationships alive. Recently we have been able to serve about 24 children. Also in the past we have hosted an Angel Tree Christmas party for the children and their parents/caregivers. We do this in the afternoon before the Children's Christmas program. We need help in contacting the caregivers to verify information and gift requests, in buying gifts, in wrapping gifts, in delivering the gifts for those who will not be able to attend the party, in presenting the Gospel and in helping with the Angel Tree party. Please contact John Gibbs if you wish to volunteer. He will ensure you have the training you need to be comfortable in this service. Email, jgibbs78947@zochnet.com, 512-751-3923. And please include the Angel Tree children in your prayers.



METHODIST CHILDREN PROGRAMS

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

The Acolyte for November is Abigayle Hardy



Children's Church is available during the 11 a.m. service. This part of the service is for elementary-aged children.

M&M's

Mid-Week Methodists

M&M's is our community-wide after school program for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. It runs from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays during the school year. Each week children are picked up by bus at Lexington Elementary School and dropped off at the church where they enjoy a snack, music, bible story, crafts, and outdoor recreation. We sincerely believe that your child will be blessed as they study God's word each week with their friends! We hope your children can join us this year!

Calendar

- Thanksgiving Holiday – November 22
- Last M&M's for Semester – December 6
- M&M's Begins Spring Semester - January 24
- Spring Break – March 14
- Last M&M's for Year – April 25



M&M Christmas Caroling

M&Ms kids are invited to come sing Christmas Carols on Wednesday December 6th at the two senior retirement homes in Giddings. This is a volunteer group of students that will practice after M&M from 5:00 – 5:15 at the Methodist Church in Lexington. Practice will continue through November. More information will be provided to the children that are participating.



Children's Sunday School

Sunday School teachers include Jan Alexander, Jan Lynn, Jennifer Marek, & Trudy Doerfler. The children's Sunday school curriculum comes from the series, Deep Blue. Children will hear the Bible story, apply the Bible message and then live out the message in their lives. Each session is divided into three sections. The 1st section is a large group where the children will meet together. Children will be introduced to a Bible story and Bible verse. Then the children will be divided into two age groups. One group will explore the lesson deeper and do a craft activity and the other age group will have a snack, play games related to the Bible story and practice Bible verses. Then the two groups switch.



Save the Date
Family Life Center Open House and Dedication
 Sunday, December 3, 2017
 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
 Everyone is invited to attend.

With Gratitude

Thank you for your generous donation of school supplies for students at LES. Without your support many of our students would be unprepared for school. I wish each of you could see their little faces light up when they get their new supplies! Thanks again,
 Kayla Koester
 LES Counselor

Thank you so much for helping my family in our time of need. It has been so humbling to see so many people give of themselves for someone they hardly know. We are grateful, (a family helped by St. Stephens fund)

Thank you Lexington UMC for once again sponsoring the Lexington Elementary School's PTO. Your funds help our teachers and school purchase items that may not be available otherwise. Through the years, we have purchased i-Pads, laptops, and video display monitors for the classroom. We truly appreciate your support.
 Sincerely,
 LES PTO



5th Quarter
 This year, 5th Quarter will be held here at Lexington UMC.

November 10

We always need volunteers to help with 5th Quarter. If you would like to help, please contact the office or see Lee Marks.

S3 Bible Study
 Monday's at 7 p.m.
 Family Life Center

Everyone is invited to attend this program which includes Study, Song and Sustenance.

A new worship service is now available at Lexington United Methodist Church

Sunday's at 10 a.m.
 Family Life Center
 Pastor: Rev. Trey Comstock
 Worship Leader: Chuck Moore

contemporary
 Worship

A Gift was given to Lexington UMC

Backpack Buddies

In Memory of ...Billie Bieble

by...Caldwell #976 Eastern Star

Memorial Fund

In Memory of ...Billie Bieble

by...George Wall

In Memory of ...Billie Bieble

by...RE & Sharon Gibson

Building Fund

In Memory of ...Billie Bieble

by...Bob & Judy Belyeu

In Memory of ...Carl Peterson

by...Chester & Norma Thomas

In Memory of ...Carl Peterson

by...Jan Woodward

"...I thank God for you—the God I serve with a clear conscience, just as my ancestor did. Night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers."

2 Timothy 1:3



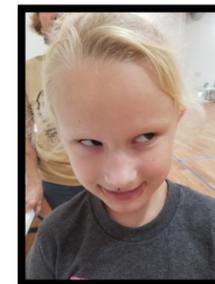
Memorials reflect all gifts received and recorded as of October 15. To make a memorial place "memorial" in the subject line of your check & place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Kassidy Kelley
- 3—Blaine Hobbs
- 3—Lori Barnikow
- 3—Marla Mitchell
- 3—Colton Robertson
- 5—Jimmy Thomas
- 12—Beverly Pense
- 12—Chuck Moore
- 12—Kyler Langehennig
- 13—Carol Nash
- 14—Danielle Miller
- 15—Piper Swisher
- 17—Dick Hallum
- 18—Shelley Huettel
- 19—Dixie Reat
- 19—Rob Kellenberger
- 21—Jeannine Brewer
- 21—Harold Sandifer
- 22—Dawn Jackson
- 22—Janie Ahrendt
- 23—Michaela Butler
- 24—Jim Nash
- 25—Carter Robertson
- 27—Kevin Retzlaff
- 27—Coby Robertson
- 28—Mike Organ
- 29—Kaytin & Wesley Wofford



A Great time at Chocolate Lovers!



Thank you Lee Marks and Cindy Gibson for all of your hard work on another fun Chocolate Lovers event. And thank you to their volunteers, bakers, participants, and those that came to eat some delicious pancakes and bid on beautiful cakes!



Coffee House

10:45 a.m.

LUMC Fellowship Hall enjoy complimentary coffee & pastries