

IMPACT 2019

St. Luke's United Methodist Church





Not long ago, one of our members stopped me in the parking lot and told me a story. She attended a women's event here at St. Luke's, and as part of the program, they made small manger scenes out of various household items. She enjoyed the time and the fellowship of the event but wondered what kind of impact it could really have. Not too many days later, she went to visit her daughter and grandchildren, none of whom are active in a church. She stuffed the small manger scene in her purse. As she sat down to tell them about the Christmas story, she pulled that same manger scene out of her purse and used it to tell her grandchildren the story of the birth of Jesus, the incarnation. She said, "the time we shared together was truly holy." I said, "that is a God thing for sure." She went on to say, "God does more things through this church than you can possibly imagine!"

One way is numbers: number of people who attend worship, number of baptisms and professions of faith, number of people in small groups, number of service hours, number of first-time visitors, number of children and students. Numbers do matter.

Scripture tells us that 3,000 people became believers at Pentecost, and Jesus fed 5,000 with the loaves and the fishes. The Bible wouldn't include such numbers if they didn't matter at all. This document will outline some of the figures that can help reveal what God is doing in our midst.

But numbers aren't the only way. How does one measure hearts that are changed, marriages that are strengthened, people who help their neighbors, passion for the kingdom of God? How does one document the comfort provided by a community of faith surrounding someone who has lost a loved one? How does one measure increased kindness, improved patience, enlarged compassion, happier children, and more joyful daily living? How does one know if we have intensified gratitude or greater rejoicing in the Lord? And how does one know how those changed hearts have transformed workplaces, neighborhoods, family dinner tables?

St. Luke's mission is to equip families and individuals to live and love like Jesus, and our vision is that the transformed living would transform our city with the love of Jesus. Our job is to change hearts. Those changed hearts reach out and change the lives of people around us. We hope to share some snapshots and stories of those changed lives in this publication today.



HOW DOES ONE MEASURE
THE IMPACT OF A CHURCH?

HOW DO WE KNOW IF GOD
IS AT WORK IN US AND
THROUGH US?

AND HOW DO WE
DOCUMENT THAT IMPACT
FOR OURSELVES
AND OTHERS?

WHERE WERE WE THIS TIME LAST YEAR?

WE DECLARED 2019 AS THE YEAR OF GRATITUDE and began a journey of writing daily thank-you notes and intentional expressions of gratitude. How many of us are more expressive in thanks than we used to be?



"As it turns out, personally knowing 365 people was not the point of the gratitude challenge. Even if I don't get around to writing the actual notes, the world is full of amazing people in beautifully ordinary ways and the daily practice of noticing and remembering them all has been incredible."
Cassandra McZeal

WE EMBRACED OUR NEW...

VISION

A City Transformed by
the Love of Jesus

MISSION

To Equip Families and
Individuals To Live and
Love Like Jesus

AND SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



UP

**Hearts transformed by a
relationship with Jesus**

We experience a relationship with Jesus as the core of the Christian faith. It is the motivation for all we do.



IN

**Lives transformed by
Christian community**

We build authentic, caring community and experience spiritual growth in small groups and teams.



OUT

**Our city transformed by
our service and witness**

We demonstrate our faith and share Jesus' love by serving others in our community and world.

A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS



UP

Hearts transformed by a relationship with Jesus

Adult Ministries

2,105
individuals in
131
groups

2 new
Sunday School
classes, for a
total of **25**

First Small
Group Launch
formed
9 new groups

"In addition to growing my faith community, I discovered so much about my husband's relationship with God, which allowed us to grow in our marriage and beliefs together."

Allie Gossett Watkins

The Story Houston

"The Story Houston's biggest measure is people who decide to follow and serve Jesus."

Rev. Eric Huffman, Pastor of The Story Houston



29
Adult
Baptisms

50
Small Groups

100+
Professions
of faith

500+
Individuals in
Small Groups

IS THE MOTIVATION FOR ALL WE DO

Children's Ministries

"Children's simple stories of their faith journey are often the most impactful. You can almost see their hearts exploding with Jesus' love."

Julie Ellerbrock, Director Children's Ministries



1,946
Children in
Sunday School
classes

969
People
participated in
VBS

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry held special services each Wednesday during Lent, inviting us to go deeper with experiential prayer services, including a prayer labyrinth, Lectio Divina, Stations of the Cross, and a Foot Washing Service.

"I attended the Prayer and Healing Services during Lent. This became a joyful habit that I look forward to each month. It is a peaceful and wonderful service that should be renamed "Prayer, Praise, and Healing."

Mary Williams

3,600+
Prayer Requests
received

7+
Times each request
was prayed for

Student Ministries

"It was amazing to see the 8th graders transfixed as the high schoolers led worship and shared their faith stories at the first-ever Confirmation Retreat. Even if we had brought in a big-name speaker, the students would have preferred to hear from these fantastic high schoolers as they shared openly and honestly about their faith."

Rob Dulaney,
Director of Student Ministries

"The SLA (Student Leadership Academy) members were some of the kindest, funniest all-around good people I have met in the church. They really opened up about their lives and helped me learn even more how to love God and to follow him. After the retreat, I could not wait to apply to be in the SLA the following semester as I entered high school."

David Sudduth

440+
Students
attended trips and
events

300+
Students
participate in
Small Groups



AUTHENTIC COMMUNITIES

Senior Adult Ministry



"For some folks who participate in our senior adult programming, St. Luke's provides one of many activities on their calendars. But for others, these events are their main source of relational interaction."

Mary Schuler, Coordinator

Senior Adult and Intergenerational Ministries

35
Events
gathered seniors
in community

200+
Attended caregiver
programs



IN

Lives
transformed by
Christian
community

Caring Ministries

1,825 Hospital visits

6,720 Birthday calls

160 Pastoral calls



Women's Ministry



"I have always enjoyed things like vision boarding, so signing up for the women's retreat was a safe bet for a fun time. Knowing that all of the women there also live for Jesus was like a special connection that broke the ice that day. And attending with my friend Ashley was extra special because she supports me in my spiritual journey."

Meredith Clark

60 Women attended the
A Beautiful Creation retreat

EXPERIENCING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Hospitality



"Upgrading hospitality was a recent church-wide goal to ensure guests and members feel comfortable and welcome. Volunteers on our Hospitality Team redesigned the space in the Gathering Room, filled it with comfortable and attractive furnishings and serve as hosts each week, welcoming guests and newcomers in for coffee and treats."

Alice King, Hospitality Coordinator

230 people, including **12** children
serve as Hospitality Team members

Music and Fine Arts

"For some, the Christmas Festival is special not only because of the exquisite music but because it is a worship service to which people are comfortable inviting their unchurched friends. The Gospel makes its way into hearts when they are least expecting it."

Sid Davis, Director of Music and Fine Arts



**Christmas Festival
attendance**

3,295

36
Musicians

120 Voices
Ages **11-80**

Scripture+Shared

"Our small group becomes like extended family. Relationships deepen when we hear each other relate to scriptures."

Michael Shook

2
New Studies
written by
St. Luke's pastors

669
New S+S
App users

14,782
App
uses

SHARING JESUS' LOVE BY **22,255 volunteer hours**

Saturday Serve



2 TONS
Beans and rice
bagged for CCSC



11,000 LBS
Pet food bagged for
aniMeals



32,500
Sandwiches made
for Kids' Meals in 2019



Out

Our city
transformed
by our service
and witness

Houston Project

"The Houston Project has been an incredible experience and introduced me to His Grace Foundation which was a grant recipient in 2017. I got the pleasure of calling them and sharing the good news. Ever since that phone call, I have been volunteering with His Grace and at Texas Children's and cherish every moment of it."

Lauren Morris

6 Grants awarded totaling
\$100,000

Total awarded since 1977
\$6,665,182

The Story Houston

On the third Wednesday of each month, a service team from The Story Houston shows Christ's love to people who are homeless, hungry and who deserve loving interactions they don't normally receive in the streets. Volunteers, including children as young as 5 years, lead worship, share fellowship and provide a meal.



100 Meals served to the homeless each month

SERVING OTHERS IN OUR CITY valued at \$549,488.30*

* Nationally recognized dollar value for volunteer work: \$24.69/hour.

Tapestry Players

"I absolutely love performing in Tapestry Players productions, not only because I get to spend time with my friends from St. Luke's, but I also get to meet new friends that are brought in by the shows - both in the cast and in the audience! It is so much fun to hear how much joy our shows bring to those who are coming to our church for the first time."

Grace Roman, Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts



Kids Hope



"No matter how the rest of your week has gone, the Kids Hope mentoring experience is so rewarding that it makes every week a good week."

Steve McCarthy

8 Theatrical Productions **176** Cast and crew **2,153** Total attendance

105
KIDS Hope students
mentored and
prayed for

Children's Outreach

"Our VBS mission is at the center of the week. Children run home to have lemonade stands, basketball tournaments, bake sales and more to raise money and awareness for our mission. The smallest among us can display Christ's love in a BIG way."

Julie Ellerbrock, Director of Children's Ministries

Children gave **\$13,350**
and **2569** hours of service
to **20** organizations



GETHSEMANE: AN EPICENTER OF HOPE



"Ephesians 2:14-15 says, 'For he is our peace; in his flesh he has broken down the dividing wall between us, that is, the hostility between us... so that he might create in himself one new humanity.' That is the vision of kinship, to be one people not divided by language, race, culture, origin or any label the world might put on us. We simply belong to one another, as we all belong to Jesus."

Rev. David Horton, Pastor
Gethsemane Church

650+

**Attended Wednesday
Night Fellowships**

220

**People prepared
and served dinners**

Wednesday Night Fellowship is a free meal followed by Bible Study for anyone and everyone who shows up. Teens come for the soccer program. Some kids come just because they know they won't get dinner at home. As Luke 24:30 tells us, "It was only when Jesus played host at the table that they saw him."



280

**Average worship
attendance**

3

**Languages in
worship**

Gethsemane Impact Zone

Located in the heart of Gulfton, Gethsemane exists to be an epicenter of hope where faith is turned inside-out in love for the community. These organizations and schools are our community neighbors with whom we give ourselves away in generosity and service.

[CCSC Emergency Food Pantry and Garden](#)
[Connect Community](#)
[Etoile Academy](#)
[Jane Long Academy](#)
[Justice For Our Neighbors](#)
[Harris County Department of Education](#)
[KIPP Academy](#)

[Las Americas Newcomer School](#)
[Legacy Community Health](#)
[Sutton Elementary](#)
[reVision Houston](#)
[Small Steps Nurturing Center](#)
[YMCA](#)

2019 FINANCIALS



Total Gethsemane Outreach	\$1,625,116
Children's Ministry	\$1,583,728
Worship Ministries	\$1,485,254
Music and Fine Arts	\$1,210,040
Adult and Connecting Ministries	\$1,169,071
Student Ministry	\$1,164,237
Outreach and Community Ministry	\$1,115,006
Connectional Expense	\$849,242
Caring and Prayer	\$746,753

The following ministries of St. Luke's are also supported by the infrastructure of the church: St. Luke's Day School, After School Care, Nick Finnegan Counseling Center, Bridges Academy

We give ourselves away in generosity and service ABOVE AND BEYOND

In 2019, we supported many organizations with gifts beyond our pledged giving. Below are four annual offerings:

*Easter Offering AVDA Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse	\$55,802
Christmas Offering Amazing Place	\$426,347
*Back To School CCSC Christian Community Service Center	\$19,790
*Tree of Angels PEP Prison Entrepreneurship Program	gifts valued at \$23,775
*new offering record	

This report contains just a few stories of hearts, lives and our city transformed by the love of Jesus in 2019. This work and these experiences happen every single day, all year long at St. Luke's - all thanks to your gifts and generosity. Your financial investment propels us forward to make an even greater IMPACT.

THANK YOU



St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

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