

# Epistle

## St. Luke

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS  
JANUARY 2022 | VOLUME 58, ISSUE 1

## St. Luke to Conduct Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting/luncheon will be held on January 30 following the worship service. The purposes of the meeting will be to receive the budget and various committee reports and to approve the Pastoral Terms of Call. Finance Committee moderator **David Kemp** will present the 2022 budget for information only; it has been approved by the Session already. Watch the weekly announcements for details concerning the luncheon.

## Missional Grant Received from PDP

The St. Luke Mission Committee received an early Christmas gift from Palo Duro Presbytery in the form of a \$4,000 grant to be used for funding our Laundry Love project. We are truly thankful for the amount received and know that the families we serve each month will be extremely grateful.

Laundry Love is a national initiative whose objective is to provide opportunities to come together with people who are struggling financially and to aid them by paying for their laundry expenses. The laundromat is seen as a place of gathering where families and individuals can meet each other, share their stories, and build relationships. Those of us who have participated in LL events have found them to be an inspiring way to spend a Saturday morning. Thanks go to everyone who has

volunteered each month, brought donuts, donated laundry supplies, and offered financial support. If you would like to join us, feel free to come along and share the fun. We hold events on the third Saturday of each month, 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at the 10th Street Laundry located at 1412 SW 10th Avenue.

Kudos and roses to our two grant-writers, **Camille Hoy** and **Krista Berry**. We also want to thank Palo Duro Presbytery for their support of our mission efforts. And, of course, we extend to you, the congregation, our sincere appreciation for your continued generosity and willingness to stand with us in our attempts to share God's love in our community. We ask for your continued prayers as we provide this needed service.

MISSION COMMITTEE

## Connect



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Watch us on YouTube:  
St. Luke Presbyterian Church



Find Pastor Kati's blog:  
www.revkaticollins.com



Pastor Kati's podcast:  
The Sycamore Tree



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# THANK YOU

for your faithful giving!

Detailed financial reports are always available for review by church members. Simply stop by the church office during regular hours and request to examine the previous month's financial documents.

NOVEMBER 2021

YEAR-TO-DATE

INTEGRITY ✦ CLARITY ✦ SIMPLICITY ✦ LIGHT  
FOCUS ✦ JOURNEY ✦ INCORPORATE ✦ PLAY ✦ WISDOM  
PRAYER ✦ PLANNING ✦ PATIENCE ✦ CHEERFULNESS  
IMAGINATION ✦ COURAGE ✦ FORESIGHT  
KNOWLEDGE ✦ COMMUNITY ✦ UNITY ✦ JOY  
MERCY ✦ SOW ✦ DISCIPLINE ✦ CONFIDENCE  
TRUSTWORTHINESS ✦ FAITH ✦ CONSIDERATION  
ADAPT ✦ FORGIVE ✦ TRUST ✦ AWAKE ✦ MOTIVATE

Pick your word for the year by selecting a card from the Advent tree located in the foyer of the tower entrance or from the selection posted on Facebook.

❄️❄️❄️

## Men to Fellowship over Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group met for food and fellowship on December 14. They meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. at St. Luke with the next breakfast falling on Tuesday, January 11. **Ki Hargis** and **Doug Tanner** will be cooking, and the group will be getting to know one another better. They look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, please call **Eldon Wingo** at 806-683-2787.

## Young at Heart Set for January

The Young at Heart group will meet at noon in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, January 19. The program is still being planned. RSVP to the church office by noon on the day before so an approximation of the number of sandwiches to order can be made. A small fee of \$8 will cover the cost of your lunch. See you there!

## Study, Brunch Planned for Ladies

St. Luke Women will continue their *Horizons* Bible study on Wednesday, January 12 at 9:30 a.m. **Nona Fulton** and **Mary Holmlund** will provide a brunch. Following will be a devotional by Nona about her grandmothers. The group will explore "Lesson 5: Ruth and Redemption" in the study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*. All women are welcome, even if you haven't read the lesson.

## Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch to Resume in the New Year

The Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch will meet on January 27 at 11:30, location to be determined. Wherever it is, we'll have fun! Please save the date.

## Souper Bowl Set for February 13

February 13 is Souper Bowl Sunday at St. Luke and many other churches. This is 'soup-er' with an "o" as in chicken noodle. While the other Super Bowl is a once-a-year occurrence, food insecurity is ever present in our community.

St. Luke Women are inviting you to donate to relieve hunger in Amarillo and our surrounding area. Your contributions will go to the High Plains Food Bank, which reports that, because of the way they access food, they can stretch your dollar six times further. That means a \$100 donation has a \$600 impact!

You can donate by sending a check with *Souper Bowl* written on the memo line to the church or via the St. Luke website using the online giving option. Select the "Other" fund and "Special Missions" from the dropdown menu.

Thank you very much from St. Luke Women.

## Joys & Concerns

- ❖ **Johnie Edwin "Eddie" Dugger** entered the Church Triumphant on Friday, November 26. A memorial service was held on December 1 at Memorial Park Funeral Home; Rev. **Collins** officiated the service. We extend our love and sympathy to the Dugger family.
- ❖ **Charles Dale Ballard** was memorialized at a service on December 11. Dale passed away on December 10, 2020. Rev. **Collins** officiated the service. Love and sympathy are extended to **Nona Fulton** and the rest of the family.

*Continue to remember those with COVID-19. Also pray for*

\_\_\_\_\_ ; the people of Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church; **Glenda Moore** (Kind House Ukraine Bakery); and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

## Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

### A New Word

1 JOHN 4:7-12 (NRSV): Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

It has been a tough year, but it's hard for me not to see the sparking diamonds of joy as I look back. My favorite moments have been with my two girls. I have a sister, and although we are very good friends now, we pushed each other's buttons and annoyed each other until we were in high school. We did some fun things together, but we never laughed as hard as **Abby** and **Samantha**. They are already the dynamic duo, demanding double baths and reading books together. They even sing together...maybe it's the same song, maybe not. But I watch them, and I can see love in its simplest form. This love does also look like tears when they take toys away from each other, but learning to share is an important part of love, just as much as pain is a side effect.

Love might be a generic word for the year, but it opens a lot of doors, and I think if you want more love in the world, and if you look for it, you will find it. I heard Willie Nelson speak the other day in an interview about his new family album full of gospel songs and spiritual favorites. I'll summarize his words: Worrying about

something only puts negative energy out there in the world, but if you put some good thoughts out there, the good things can happen. I think this is prayer. If we turn our fears and worries over to God in *surrender* (another good word) and then offer some alternatives or visions for a different outcome, we just might see God's answers to our prayers when they come.

May your new year be filled with joy and love, good energy and songs.

I'll be in Dallas for my Doctorate of Ministry classwork January 3-14. My papers are due by the end of January, so it will be a fast month. If you have pastoral needs while I'm in Dallas, please call the office to be connected with someone who can help. If you have an urgent pastoral need, you may call my cell phone (580) 716-8962. If I am unable to answer, please leave a message or text me.

In January, the Session will be electing a new clerk. On the completion of her service, Rev. Collins wrote this tribute.

### Ode to Nan Kemp

(to the tune of *The Yellow Rose of Texas*)  
December 2021

*The yellow rose of St. Luke is our clerk **Nan Kemp**.  
She is there to take our minutes in snow or sleet or damp.  
She was there when we were on zoom,  
when the pandemic blew our minds,  
when decisions got real tricky,  
her notes were true and kind.*

*She laughs at all my jokes and keeps us all on track,  
and when I lose her emails, she kindly emails back.  
I know the next clerk will be great,  
it's time for Nan to rest,  
but since, while here, she was my first,  
she'll always be the best.*

## Clerk's Report:

1. November average attendance for worship – 55
2. Active membership as of November 30, 2021 – 147
3. Communion was celebrated on November 21.
4. **Terry Boulware** joined with St. Luke by reaffirmation and was welcomed into active membership on November 21.
5. **Johnie Edwin “Eddie” Dugger** entered the Church Triumphant on November 26. His service, officiated by Rev. **Kati Collins**, was held at Memorial Park Funeral Home on December 1.
6. **Hudson Dale**, son of **Kyle** and **Paige**, was baptized on Sunday, December 12.

## General Business:

2022 Committee Moderators and Co-Moderators

Christian Education – **Kendra Jones**

Congregational Care – **Donna Clopton** and **Marcie Robinson**

Fellowship – **Tim Lacey** and **Bob McCracken**

Finance – **Doug Tanner**

LOGOS – **Wesley Wingo**

Mission – **Ann Hefner** and **Camille Hoy**

Outreach – **Jennifer Denham**

Personnel – **Doug Tanner**

Property – **Cheri Castleberry**

Worship – **Cruse Messer**

Treasurer – **Helen Thorsheim**

Clerk of Session – To be chosen at the January meeting.

Session representatives set for following committees:

Officer Nominating Committee – **Donna Clopton** and **Marcie Robinson**

Perpetual Endowment – **Cheri Castleberry** and **Tim Lacey**

Scholarship – **Wesley Wingo**

The next evaluation of the minister will be in the

spring. Any suggestions/questions about the minister's duties are welcomed by the Personnel Committee.

Palo Duro Presbytery has approved a grant in the amount of \$4,000 to be given to St. Luke to be used by the Laundry Love mission program.

COVID protocols are to be maintained.

Elder training was set for the evening of February 4 (5:30 - 8:00 p.m.) and the morning of February 5 (8:30 - noon) at the **Castleberry** family's firehouse.

Elder installation will take place on January 16 during the worship service.

The Annual Congregational Meeting and luncheon is scheduled for January 30 at noon.

## Commendations:

- **Mary Holmlund** for chairing the December meeting of Congregation Care and **Ann Hefner** for taking minutes.
- **Camille Hoy** and **Krista Berry** for submitting the successful application for a presbytery grant.
- **Dave Kemp**, **Mary Holmlund**, and **Ashley Denham** for their service on the Session and **Nan Kemp** as outgoing clerk.
- **Helen Thorsheim**, **Stacy Clopton**, **Wesley Wingo**, **Kary Wingo**, **Mary Holmlund**, and all the participants in the Christmas pageant.
- **Kaci Jones** and **Helen Thorsheim** for locating the elusive building blueprints.
- **Helen Thorsheim** for the decorations and desserts at the December Session meeting.
- Pastor **Kati** for the inspiring funeral service for **Eddie Dugger** and the beautiful memorial service for **Dale Ballard**.
- Pastor **Kati** for the beautiful and meaningful Advent devotional book she created for the congregation and to all those who contributed to it.

*Continued on page 6.*

## Security Grant Report

The task force has been busy this month, meeting with three door and window companies and also with IDeACOM, the company that will be doing the video surveillance, alarm system, outside lighting improvements, and access control (which has to be coordinated with door replacements). Supply chain issues may impact the timing of the improvements, but so far we are under the impression that we have built in sufficient time in the grant to not be a problem. (We are aiming to begin most work next summer.) Included in our plans are repairs to the tower doors and replacement of old, feisty locks.

An application for a revolving line of credit type of loan to pay for improvements until we are reimbursed by the grantor has been submitted to FirstBank Southwest. Our goal will be to minimize the time between payment for work and receipt of reimbursement by grantor, in order to minimize the interest costs. We have also applied for a “fidelity bond”, which is required by the Texas Office of the Governor. It has been an interesting journey finding a company that will provide such a bond!

We also have four new walkie talkies and have started using them on the days when our sexton is working. He and the church office can now communicate easily, in case there is a problem during those times. Another primary use will be on Sunday mornings when the ushers, people in fellowship hall, and in the education wing can keep in touch in case of an emergency.

Our next steps are to select the vendors for doors and windows and to submit an Environmental and Historic Preservation assessment to FEMA (this can't be done until we finalize all the specifics). The report is quite detailed and must be approved before work can begin. Our hope is to have all the necessary information to submit the assessment in mid-January.

HELEN THORSHEIM

## Large-Print Hymnals Available

Large-print hymnals are available for use during worship. You may pick up a copy (the hymnal with the BLACK cover) from one of the tables next to the sanctuary doors. The words of each hymn are printed in larger type and the accompanying music has been omitted for easier reading.

# January '22

| SUN  | MON  | TUE  | WED  | THU   | FRI  | SAT   |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6   | 7  | 7   |  |
| <b>Epiphany Sunday</b><br>No Adult Sunday School<br>No Children's Church<br>Communion will be celebrated.<br>"PB Sunday" | Church offices will be closed.<br><b>10:30 am</b> Adult Piano Class<br><b>5:30 pm</b> Christian Ed. Com.<br><br><i>8:00 pm - AA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i> | <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Group<br><b>4:00 pm</b> Congregational Care Com. Mtg.   | Continuing Educ. Leave for Pastor Kati   | <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Group<br><b>2:00 pm</b> Threads of Love<br><b>6:15 pm</b> Outreach Com. (Z)<br><br><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i>            |  | <i>10:30 am - ACA</i><br><br><b>8</b><br><br><i>10:30 am - ACA</i>                    |  |
| 9  | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13  | 14   | 15  |  |
| <b>Baptism of the Lord</b><br>Back to Adult Sunday School curriculum   | <b>10:30 am</b> Adult Piano Class<br><b>5:30pm</b> Mission Committee Mtg. (Z)  | <b>6:30 am</b> Men's Breakfast<br><b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Group<br><b>5:30 pm</b> Fellowship Com.   | <b>9:30 am</b> St. Luke Women<br><b>12:00 noon</b> Finance Com. Mtg.<br><b>6:00 pm</b> LOGOS Com. Mtg. | <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Group<br><b>2:00 pm</b> Threads of Love<br><b>4:30 pm</b> Personnel Com. Mtg.  | Last day of Pastor Kati's Continuing Educ. Leave → | <b>8:00 am</b> Laundry Love Event @ 10th St. Laundry<br><br><br><i>10:30 am - ACA</i> |  |
| 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   | 20  | 21   | 22  |  |
| Installation of Elders<br><b>12:00 noon</b> Stated Session Mtg.<br><b>3:00 pm</b> Fundraiser for Russian Music Festival  | Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.<br><b>10:30 am</b> Adult Piano Class<br><br><i>8:00 pm - AA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i>                                 | <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Group<br><b>5:30 pm</b> Property Com. Mtg.  | <b>12:00 noon</b> Young at Heart   | <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Group<br><b>2:00 pm</b> Threads of Love<br><br><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i>  |  | <br><br><br><i>10:30 am - ACA</i>   |  |
| 23   | 24   | 25   | 26   | 27  | 28   | 29  |  |
| <i>Epistle deadline</i>  | <b>10:30 am</b> Adult Piano Class<br><br><i>8:00 pm - AA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i>  | <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Group<br><b>7:00 pm</b> Farkle Group  |  | <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Group<br><b>11:30 am</b> Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch<br><b>2:00 pm</b> Threads of Love<br><br><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i> |  | <br><br><br><i>10:30 am - ACA</i>   |  |
| 30   | 31   | <b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b><br>9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship<br>9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class<br>10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (until further notice)<br>11:00 am In-Person Worship<br>Children's Church during worship<br>11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook |  |   |  |   | <i>Watch for updates as the month unfolds.</i> |
| <b>12:00 noon</b> Annual Congregational Mtg. & Luncheon<br><br><i>8:00 pm - AA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i>            | <b>10:30 am</b> Adult Piano Class<br><br><i>8:00 pm - AA</i><br><i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i>  |  |  |   |  |   |  |

Session Report continued from page 4.

- **Donna Clopton** for all the hard work she has been doing in spite of being weakened by illness.
- Members of Congregational Care Committee for stepping forward to help while **Donna Clopton** is unwell.
- **Stacy Clopton, Bob Hansen, and Mary Holmlund** for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.
- **Bob McCracken, Doug Tanner, and Kary Wingo** for serving as liturgists.
- **Ashley Denham, Camille Hoy, and Krista Berry** for Minutes for Mission.
- **Susan Barnes, Alice Cooke, Kary Wingo, and Tom Heyde** for providing donuts.
- **Alice Cooke** for playing oboe in a recent anthem.
- **Wingo** family for gifting the church with three large-print hymnals and for stepping up to repair/replace a very high spotlight in the sanctuary.
- Pastor **Kati, Mary Holmlund, and Mila Abbasova** for the flute duet offertory, *Lo! How a Rose E're Blooming*.
- **Kemp** family for their leadership in worship – **Dave** as liturgist, **Travis** as technology man, and **Nan** as choir member.
- **Hudson Dale** for being the perfect baby at his baptism, water-soaked as he was; **Paige and Kyle** for being loving, faithful parents, and Grandmother **Cheri** for introducing Hudson for baptism.
- All those who set up and served cookies and hot cider after our beloved **Dale Ballard**'s memorial service.
- **Sam and Teresa Burnett** for organizing a Christmas feast and fun-filled celebration for the AATAG community.
- All those who have worked so diligently to make St. Luke's worship services meaningful.
- **Mary Holmlund** for her three years as the moderator of the Worship Committee and for her thoughtful commendations.



## Birthdays in January

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 1 Emily     | 19 Mila*             |
| 4 Juliana   | 19 Terry             |
| 6 Abby      | 21 Colby             |
| 8 Robin*    | 22 Melissa*          |
| 8 Tom       | 29 Janelle           |
| 12 Nicholle | * friend of St. Luke |
| 16 Alex     |                      |

If your birthday is not listed or if there is an error, please call the church office.

## Come! Concert to Benefit RMF

A 3 p.m. concert in St. Luke's Fellowship Hall on January 16 will raise funds for this spring's fifth annual Russian Music Festival with the WT School of Music faculty. A reception will follow. All donations will go to the Russian Music Festival program and WT music major scholarships. Please come and enjoy the concert, donate generously, and support our future musicians.

MILA ABBASOVA, RMF founder

## In Gratitude

The Finance Committee wishes to thank the congregation for its continued support during 2021, admittedly a difficult year for many in our St. Luke family. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure never fails, and is a blessing to your church and community. We appreciate you more than we can say.

DAVID KEMP, Finance Committee Moderator

# Happy New Year!

## Epistles

Dear St. Luke,

A special thank you to Pastor **Kati Collins** for arranging and conducting and to **Robbie Collins** for filming and posting the memorial service for **Dale Ballard**. Special thanks to our friends, organist **Mila Abbasova** and vocalist **Dr. Steve Weber**, for lending their musical talents.

Thanks also to Boxwell Brothers for contacting piper **Jordan Langehenning** and members of Volleys for Veterans for their moving tribute to Dale's Scottish heritage and in recognition for his twenty years of active service in the U.S. Navy.

Thanks to members of the Fellowship and Congregational Care committees for providing refreshments after the service.

Dale loved his St. Luke family and left the following message to all: "Vaya con Dios!" In gratitude for all,

*Nona Fulton* and family

## Thank You from the Collins

At the Children's pageant, I received two Love Offerings. One of spiritual means as you welcomed my tiny angels on the stage. Second of a financial one from collection of many, many blessings. Your generosity provides support to me and my family, and I am grateful for that! Thank you!

## Postscripts

**Jennifer Denham** was recognized at a celebration for West Texas A&M University's inaugural cohort of the Doctoral Educational Leadership Program. She was given a medallion that she can wear at her graduation May 7, 2022.

**Susan Barnes** and **Helen Thorsheim** adeptly kept the office running during Melissa's recent vacation. A huge "Thank you!" to both these ladies for supporting their church and Melissa with their gifts of time and talent.

**Ki, Darcy, and Holland Hargis** have a new address! Please update your telephone directory: