

St. Luke Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS
VOLUME 58, ISSUE 2
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LOGOS Back for Spring

LOGOS will soon be back in session for the spring semester! We will have LOGOS approximately every two weeks. The LOGOS kickoff is Wednesday, February 2, and the start time has been pushed back to 5:45 p.m. LOGOS will still end around 7:30 each night.

- ♥ February - 2nd and 16th
- ♥ March - We won't meet due to Ash Wednesday and Spring Break.
- ♥ April - 6th and 20th
- ♥ May - 4th

We hope to see you February 2!

WESLEY WINGO

Congregational Meeting Nears

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 30 following the worship service in the sanctuary with a Facebook option. Due to high COVID numbers in the community, the traditional luncheon will be set for a later date.

The purpose of the meeting will be to receive the budget and various reports and to approve the 2022 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. He will entertain any questions.

The printed packet is available on a table by the nursery. One per family, please.

Elders Installed

During the worship service on January 16, ruling elders were installed: **Marcie Robinson** (filling the remainder of a term in the Class of 2022), **Jennifer Denham**, **Kendra Jones**, **Tim Lacey**, and **Cruse Messer** (all in Class of 2024).

Statements Sent

Giving Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 were emailed on January 11. Please retain your Giving Statement for tax purposes. Can't find it? Please check all email addresses associated with your household and your spam folder.

If the computer program couldn't find an email address on file, a statement was printed and mailed to you instead.

STAY IN TOUCH



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Find Pastor Kati's blog:
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Pastor Kati's podcast:
The Sycamore Tree



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PLEASE READ PAGE 6
TO LEARN ABOUT AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO SHARE THE *love*

Souper Bowl Set for February 13

Word has it there's a big football game on February 13. Coincidentally, on the same, day St. Luke Women will be extending soup bowls to you to fill not with soup, but dollar bills to support a local charity St. Luke endorses. This year, the Mission Committee is grateful to St. Luke Women for donating the funds collected in the Souper Bowl project to the Guyon Saunders Resource Center. This collection has traditionally been given to those organizations that are helping to alleviate hunger in our local communities. Although the GSRC does not serve meals to its clients, it does provide ready-to-eat food items to fill immediate hunger needs. This is especially important during the winter months. (Maple & brown sugar instant oatmeal cups are the most popular items.) If you have a few extra dollars, please consider contributing to the St. Luke Women Souper Bowl Fund on Super Bowl weekend. Your generosity is much appreciated and does make a difference in the lives of others.

Small GROUPS and Gatherings

Men's Breakfast & Devotional

The Men's Breakfast Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. at St. Luke with the next breakfast falling on Tuesday, February 8. **David Kemp** will provide the devotional. **Eldon Wingo** and **Ki Hargis** are providing the food. They look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, please call **Eldon Wingo** at

PW Study & Brunch

St. Luke Women will continue their *Horizons* Bible study on Wednesday, February 9, at 9:30 a.m. **Cruse Messer** will provide a brunch. Following will be a devotional by **Sallie Amason** about her grandmothers. The group will explore "Lesson 6: Bathsheba" in the study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*. All women are welcome, even if you haven't read the lesson.

Young at Heart

The Young at Heart group will meet at noon in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, February 16. The program will be given by **Ross Clopton**. 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!

Lunch Bunch to Munch

Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch will meet on February 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Bring your own lunch, and prepare to fellowship with your fellow brown baggers. We are already looking forward to spring when we can gather under the trees again.

Bring Peanut Butter on February 6

On Sunday, February 6, you are encouraged to bring jars of peanut butter to contribute to High Plains Food Bank. Non-perishable grocery items, empty egg cartons, and paper sacks are also accepted every week. Collection baskets are located in Fellowship Hall. The Mission Committee sponsors this ongoing project.

The budget for the year ended
DECEMBER 31, 2021

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.

December 2021

Year-to-Date

Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

Our Star Word: Forgiveness

Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

PSALM 103:1-5

In January, I gave you the option to vote on a star word for our church, and the word with the most votes was FORGIVENESS. Offering the willingness to learn about forgiveness and take time strengthening our "forgiveness muscles" sounds to me like a good place to start. L. Gregory Jones talks about the interconnections of forgiveness and creativity in his book *Social Innovations*, one of my textbooks for the missions class this January as part of my DMIN studies. "Forgiveness and innovation," he says, "are linked in ways that hold together the future and the past in a life-giving, blessing, and transforming present." He compares the training of a jazz musician to preparations for becoming a social innovator, and I think this process can also be applied to becoming a forgiving person. He tells us "improvisation is not about innovation understood as 'making stuff up' from scratch; rather, it is about drawing on the best of the past, and discerning the gifts around us, in a 'yes, and' culture that builds bridges rather than fosters opposition."

Sometimes, the most difficult rifts of betrayal blur our ability to name our persecutors or correctly place blame. This causes us to carry an ambiguous grief for the unseen violence we encounter listening to the daily news reports or the unheard comments we receive through reading posts on Facebook. How do you forgive someone you don't know, who did something you did not see, even though it effects your everyday sacrifices? Perhaps, we can begin with building trust in relationships through a mindset of improvisation. First, Jones suggests "adopting learning as a way of life." Next, an individual and/or a community must begin to accept new invitations and learn to say "Yes" or "Yes, and" as a "default way of engaging with others," as a way of developing trust and growth. Thirdly, "cultivating connections" increases our capacity for improvisation and relying on others, but we must continue to balance those connections with time for solitude in order to better know our own voices.

Not ready to forgive that deep pain you've been holding on to? That's okay. How about we start with curiosity, as he suggests. Are you willing to learn about forgiveness? If the answer is yes, ponder the "and" you are willing to talk about, and we can get started. The "and" allows you to set your goals and

Continued on page 6.

Joys & Concerns

We extend our sympathy to all who have lost a loved one. May our Lord bless and comfort your families during this time of grief.

- ♥ **Dr. Cecil "Travis" McBride**, 91, entered the Church Triumphant on Monday, December 20, 2021. A memorial service was held at St. Luke on December 29.
- ♥ **Barbara Powell** entered the Church Triumphant on January 14, 2022. A memorial service was held at The Craig Senior Living Community Chapel on the 18th.
- ♥ **Pearl Jeffers**, sister of **JoAnn Jolley**, passed away January 2; the funeral was held on the 7th.
- ♥ **Bill Merrell, Kary Wingo's** father passed away on January 21. He resided in Sweetwater.

We extend our prayers to all who currently have or are recovering from COVID as well as to their caregivers including:

And continue to remember

the staff and residents at Amarillo Children's Home; 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.

We Meet and Greet

St. Luke is known as a very friendly church, and one of the reasons has to do with the greeters who welcome attendees each week. For the first time this past year, we have had a cadre of folks who have served in this capacity once each month for the entire year. We owe them a debt of gratitude for signing up for this responsibility and relieving the Congregational Care Committee of having to find someone each week. Those dedicated souls included **Sallie Amason, Lucille Dunn, Bob and Mary McCracken, Donna and Ross Clopton, Gary and Janet Stone, Camille Hoy, and Cruse Messer**. We give our thanks and appreciation to these people and, after their year of service, will be replacing them with a new team of dedicated greeters beginning the first week in February. Our new greeters for the 2022 year include **Dave Kemp and Travis Kemp, Alexa and Wesley Wingo, Darcy and Ki Hargis, Kim and Tim Lacey, and Dannette and David Baker**. We offer our thanks to these fine members who have agreed to serve in this important capacity and hope that if you have the opportunity, you might find time to thank members of both teams, as well.

DONNA CLOPTON

February Birthdays

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

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 3 • Sue | 16 • Kaci |
| 5 • Olivia | 16 • Choice |
| 5 • Victoria | 17 • Tyler |
| 6 • Farley | 19 • Hudson |
| 6 • Peter | 20 • Blaine* |
| 8 • Holland | 24 • David |
| 8 • Tim | 24 • Sharron |
| 8 • Jesse* | 25 • Ashley |
| 9 • Nicole | 26 • Bob* |
| 10 • Mary | 26 • Laquita |
| 14 • Matthew | 26 • Steve |
| 14 • Anne | 27 • Jim* |

* Friend of St. Luke

2. **Cheri Castleberry** to serve as Clerk of Session. **Tim Lacey** to switch to moderator of Property. (Session)
3. Added social media approved. (Outreach)
4. Session evaluation forms to be completed for Pastor **Kati's** review to be held by March 31, 2022. Other staff reviews to be held by September 30. (Personnel)
5. **Ann Hefner** and **Helen Thorsheim** will be St. Luke representatives for Presbytery Zoom meeting January 28. (Session)
6. Recommendation approved for "take one/leave one" book, DVD, puzzle area. (St. Luke Women)

Commendations:

- Property Committee for help with Laundry Love.
- **Kary Wingo** and **Barbara Taylor** for their willingness to serve as Clerk.
- **Tim Lacey** for willingness to switch to moderator of Property Committee.
- **Cheri Castleberry** for willingness to serve as Clerk.
- **Melissa Shields** for all her hard work compiling all the reports for the beginning of 2022.
- Session for helping Pastor **Kati** stay connected while she was out on study leave.
- **Doug Tanner** for his diligent work on the insurance coverage proposals for the church and the manse.
- To all the children who participated in the Christmas pageant, especially our littlest participants, who all added joy to our holidays.
- **Susan Barnes** for making the cookies and decorating for the Advent workshop.
- **Ashley Denham** for her dedicated service for the past three years as moderator of the Outreach Committee.
- **David Kemp, Kary Wingo, and Ross Clopton** for serving as liturgists.

Continued on page 6.

Session Report

Below is a summary of the Stated Session Meeting held on January 16:

Clerk's Report

1. December 2021 average attendance for worship - 56
2. Average attendance for the year 2021 - 52
3. Active membership as of December 31, 2021 - 146
4. **Cecil Travis McBride** entered the Church Triumphant on December 20, 2021. A memorial service, officiated by Rev. **Kati Collins**, was held at St. Luke on December 29.

General Business:

1. Elder Training to be held February 4/5. (Session)

Epistles

Dear St. Luke Family,

Thank you to all who came for the recent fundraising concert and made contributions to the Russian Music Festival program. [For those interested, this concert will be on April 9, 7:30 p.m. in Northern Hall.] Thanks go to St. Luke committees and ministry for letting me use the Fellowship Hall for the reception, tuned the piano, decorated tables, and many other things you did for me. You showed huge support for WT School of Music faculty and students.

Love, *Mila Abbasova*

Dear St. Luke,

Thanks so much for the sympathy cards. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

JoAnn Jolley

Dear St. Luke,

We want to express our deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love and support shown to our family. It has been a source of strength and encouragement.

Much love, *Kari Wingo*

Brrrrrr! Gloves Needed

During the winter, Guyon Saunders Resource Center keeps gloves by their front desk to hand out to those who need them. They only have a few pairs left, so if you would like to donate some, you can either drop them in the blue bin in our fellowship hall or check on our Facebook page for their Amazon wish list to order and have them shipped there.

Deadline for March Epistle

The deadline for the next edition of the newsletter is Sunday, February 20. As always, send your news and information to editor **Nan Kemp**. The *Epistle* will be emailed on February 24 in plenty of time for you to read about the activities planned for Lent. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact the church office to be added to the address book.

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Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 2.
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
EACH SUNDAY 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (until further notice) 11:00 am In-Person Worship Children's Church during worship 11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook		1 10:00 am Exercise Group 4:15 pm Congregational Care Com. Mtg.	2 Groundhog Day 5:45 – 7:30 pm LOGOS	3 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	4 5:30 – 8:00 pm Elder Training @ Castleberry family's firehouse	5 8:30 am – noon Elder Training @ Castleberry family's firehouse 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Fellowship Hall reserved for Payne event. 10:30 am - ACA
6 Peanut Butter Sunday Following worship Brown Bag Lunch with Pastor Kati	7 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 2:00 pm Christian Educ. Com. Mtg. 5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg. 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	8 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Exercise Group 5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg.	9 9:30 am St. Luke Women 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg.	10 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	11	12 10:30 am - ACA
13 Souper Bowl Sunday	14 Valentine's Day 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	15 10:00 am Exercise Group 5:30 pm Fellowship Com. Mtg. 5:30 pm Property Com. Mtg.	16 12:00 noon Young at Heart 4:30 pm Personnel Com. Mtg. 5:45 – 7:30 pm LOGOS	17 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	18 12:00 noon - 5pm Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke	19 8:00 – 10:00 am Laundry Love @ 10th St. Laundry 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke 10:30 am - ACA
20 Following worship Stated Session Mtg. Epistle deadline	21 Presidents' Day 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	22 10:00 am Exercise Group 7:00 pm Farkle Group	23	24 10:00 am Exercise Group 11:30 noon Lunch Bunch 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	25	26 10:30 am - ACA
27 Transfiguration of the Lord Communion will be celebrated.	28 10:30 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	<h1>february</h1>				

STROKES OF GRACE *continued from page 3.*

boundaries for the tenderness and pain you carry. What do you hope to learn? What vulnerabilities do you need to protect?

My classmates and professors at Perkins Theological have been great companions on my educational journey. I am also grateful to **Tim Lacey** for preaching while I was studying in Dallas, and I am grateful for you all supporting me in my studies. You'll be glad to know I have completed four classes, with four more to go and a dissertation to complete. I look forward to my next class, which starts in June. Meanwhile, I am excited about sharing some of what I've learned from my studies in my sermons and upcoming articles.

SESSION REPORT *continued from page 4.*

- **Mila Abbasova** and **Mary Holmlund** for musical offertories.
- Chancel choir, **Bob Hansen**, and **Mila Abbasova** for the Christmas cantata.
- **Stacy Clopton** and **Bob Hansen** for the Service of Lessons and Carols.
- Musical offertory and *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve - **Alice Cooke** and **Helen Thorsheim**.
- **Dave Kemp** for his dedication and calm leadership in heading the Finance Committee through a challenging 2021.
- **Helen Thorsheim** for well written reports and open communication with Session.

*thank
you*

Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Joy Special Offering on December 19. In addition to your direct gifts, our congregation collectively contributed \$350 which was forwarded to Presbyterian Mission to support church leaders among us — retired, present, and future.

For Your Calendar

March 1	Shrove Tuesday
March 2	Ash Wednesday Season of Lent begins.
March 13	Daylight Saving Time begins.
April 10	Palm Sunday Holy Week begins.
April 14	Maundy Thursday
April 15	Good Friday
April 17	Resurrection of the Lord

Church Library Acquires New Works

These books are new additions to the church library:

- 📖 George, Louise Carroll, *The Remarkable Plans for Captain Travis O. Evans* (2021).
- 📖 Hattstein, Markus, *Monasteries: Places of Spirituality and Seclusion Around the World* (2010).
- 📖 Jones, Dan, *Crusaders: The Epic History of the Wars for the Holy Land* (2019).
- 📖 Kirsch, Jonathan, *King David: The Real Life of the Man Who Ruled Israel* (2001).
- 📖 Larson, Edward J. and Michael Ruse, *On Faith and Science* (2017).
- 📖 Marty, Martin E., *October 31, 1517: Martin Luther and the Day That Changed the World* (2016).
- 📖 de Sales, Saint Francis, *Introduction to the Devout Life* (2002).
- 📖 Sigrist, Bishop Seraphim, *A Life Together: Wisdom of Community from the Christian East* (2011).



“Share the Love” in February

February is the Month of Love, from Saint Valentine forward to our own time. Bishop Valentine expressed his love by ministering to persecuted Christians during the late Roman Empire. The Greeks have six words for various aspects of love, from the earthy to the divine. We have only one, but it is powerful across a spectrum of meanings.

We invite you to share your Christian love by naming things you love about St. Luke. We will share these thoughts at a Minute for Mission during worship on February 20. Please send your thoughts in response to weekly emails or by filling out a green slip at your pew and returning it with the offering plate during worship services between now and then.

Let us give of ourselves and share the love with each other!

Elder Training Scheduled

February 4 & 5, the 2022 Session will meet for Elder Training. In an effort to continue the training process of all of our elders, Rev. **Collins** and Elder **Barbara Taylor** will provide a series of sessions on Spiritual Leadership, Robert's Rules of Order, Presbyterian Governing Documents, and Holy Friendships. Elder **Helen Thorsheim** will provide a tutorial to reading financial reports and managing committee budgets.

Postscripts

Sallie Amason has a new address: The Amarillo, TX She has the same cell number, but no landline. Please adjust your telephone directories accordingly.

A Word for the Year: Pick up your word for the year from the selection of words listed on Facebook or pick one up from the table in the narthex hall.