



# Epistle

## ST. LUKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS | VOLUME 59, ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2023

## Scholarship Application Deadlines Near

The **ST. LUKE SCHOLARSHIP** is open for applications. They are due by March 1; however, the deadline may be extended. You may request (by phone or email) the application instruction and forms from St. Luke's church office or visit the homepage of our website for a [link](#).

**CELEBRATION SCHOLARSHIP** through the Palo Duro Presbytery: Palo Duro Presbytery allows students to complete the application at their own pace over the span of weeks or a month until the final deadline of March 7, 2023. Visit this link: <https://www.paloduropresbytry.org/> Go to the resources page, and click on "2023 Celebration Scholarship Application" for a fillable form. Your application must be submitted and received by the office at Palo Duro Presbytery by March 7.

**MITCHELL/TUFTS SCHOLARSHIP** opportunity for Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA): The goal of the Mitchell/Tufts Scholarship is to make a college degree or vocational certification possible for members or persons active in the life of a Presbyterian church in PC(USA) in North Central Texas who are students of promise and can demonstrate financial need. Visit this website for further information: [scholarships@dallasfoundation.org](mailto:scholarships@dallasfoundation.org)

— Jennifer Denham

## Lenten Study: Lent for Everyone

A Lenten study (during the Sunday school hour) will begin on February 26. We will use *The Thoughtful Christian: An Introduction to the Book of Matthew* along with a book by N.T. Wright that is called *Lent for Everyone*. Wright's book "provides an inspirational guide through the Lenten season, from Ash Wednesday through the week after Easter." The author offers his own scripture translation of Matthew, a brief reflection, and a prayer for each day of the season.

## Manse Workday

On Saturday, March 4 from 9 a.m. to noon, we will have the first of several work days at the manse (3613 Torre.) This one will be to clean walls and trim in preparation for painting and also a bit of yard work. Please bring step ladders and stools, buckets, rags, gloves, and cleaning solutions, as well as a rake and edger for the yard. There will be other workdays later. Contact **Tim Lacey** with questions.

## RULING ELDERS

Ann Hefner, Camille Hoy,  
Bob McCracken, Doug Tanner,  
Jennifer Denham, Kendra Jones,  
Tim Lacey, Cruse Messer,  
Ross Clopton, Bob Hansen,  
Barbara Taylor, and Kary Wingo

## Connect with us!



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Download the Sharefaith App  
on the App Store



Get St. Luke Pres., Amarillo TX  
on Google Play

# MARCH Birthdays

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

1 Ki*	15 Bob
1 Myra	15 Scott
3 Harry*	17 Jessica
7 Travis	17 Blayne*
8 Szak	18 Donna
8 Tim	26 Wesley
9 Marcie	27 Daryl*
15 "Bo"	27 Andrew

*\* friend of St. Luke*



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, March 12** (or before you go to bed Saturday night).

## Congregational Care Cares for You!

Did you know that St. Luke has a dedicated committee just for taking care of the congregation? We stand ready to offer comfort and help to those of us who are ill, grieving, or in need of a little support. If you know of someone who could use a little extra TLC, please let us know. We want to make sure that all our members are aware of how much our community values and loves them. The committee members are **Ann Hefner, Sallie Amason, Susan Barnes, Terry Boulware, Donna Clopton, Sharron Fitzner, Nona Fulton, Margaret Heyde, Mary Holmlund, and Linda Pierce.** We all welcome your suggestions.

— Ann Hefner

## Newsletter Reminder

The deadline for the April edition of the *Epistle* will be March 26. The newsletter will be mailed on March 31. As always, please send your news to editor **Nan Kemp**. If you are not on St. Luke's emailing list and would like to receive the newsletter, please contact **Melissa** in the church office.

## 28th Annual Lunch Series Is "Bach"

The Bach's Lunches are a wonderful time for Lenten reflection and good music among friends. Held at various churches on Fridays during Lent, each program will begin promptly at 12:05 p.m. with a twenty-five minute organ recital. Following the recital, the host church will provide tea, coffee, and a place to eat the box lunch that you bring.

### ♪ FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

St. Thomas Catholic Church, 4100 S. Coulter St.

Mr. **Jim Gardner**, Organist

### ♪ FRIDAY, MARCH 3

First Christian Church, 3001 Wolflin Ave.

Rev. Dr. **Jacob Miller**, Organist

### ♪ FRIDAY, MARCH 10

First Presbyterian Church, 1100 S. Harrison St.

Mr. **Norman Goad**, Organist

### ♪ FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2525 Wimberly Rd.

Mr. **Michael Raillard**, Organist

### ♪ FRIDAY, MARCH 24

St. Paul Methodist Church, 4317 I-40 West

Mr. **Mark Clark**, Organist

### ♪ FRIDAY, MARCH 31

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1601 S. Georgia St.

Mr. **Michael Mitchell**, Organist

This annual event is sponsored by the Amarillo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

## THANK YOU for giving joyfully!

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

### Year-to-Date



## Joys and Concerns

We extend our condolences and prayers to all who have lost loved ones. May God bless and comfort these families during this time of grief.

- † **Robin Gantz**' sister-in-law passed away in Arizona. Robin has returned to Amarillo.
- † **Kathy Kanelis**, who visited St. Luke along with her husband **John**, passed away on February 3. A memorial will be held in Amarillo on February 25.
- † **Debra Kiser, Sam Burnett**'s aunt, passed away on February 2. Debra attended St. Luke with the Burnetts. A service was held on February 6 at Cox-Rowley Funeral Home; a reception for the family followed at St. Luke

Continue to remember those with COVID-19 and also

the St. Luke Session; our congregation as we prepare to vote to approve the slate for the Pastor Nominating Committee; the staff and residents at Amarillo Children's Home; the people of our sister church Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church; **Glenda Moore** (Kind House Ukraine Bakery); our participants and helpers at Laundry Love; and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

## Mission Committee Stays Busy

The Mission Committee sponsored a very successful Laundry Love event on Saturday, February 18. Many thanks to **Kaci** and **Kendra Jones** and to **Cruse Messer** from St. Luke Women and to **Edwin Criado** and crew from Duke Electric. They all pitched in to make things go smoothly. Duke Electric has been helping with our Laundry Love chapter by donating money and their time and energy to make life a little better for others in our community. It is truly a blessing to be working with them.

The Committee also wants to thank all of you for your donations to Mesa Verde Elementary School. The teachers are all so appreciative of the tissues, wipes, and lip balm you bring every first Sunday. Your generosity makes a difference, not only for the kiddoes, but for the faculty, as well. Keep it up, St. Luke.

— Ann Hefner

Invite a friend to church  
on the second Sunday!



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

The Special Offerings of the PC(USA) offer the whole church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts which place us in partnership with those who have the least. Over the past several years, the Special Offering's work has been informed by the idea that "the Church" is not an institution, but an action. For the church to be the Church, it must be enacted in relationship to those in need. Through gifts to the Special Offerings, we directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness, and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger.

St. Luke joins this effort each year, and you are encouraged to designate your One Great Hour of Sharing special offering; this collection goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency (36% to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, 32% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and 32% to Self-Development of People.)

From today through Easter Sunday, there are several ways that you can give.

- 1) Donate by bank account or credit/debit card online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](https://pcusa.org/give-oghs).
- 2) Text OGHS to 91999 to give.
- 3) Send your check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.
- 4) *If you are unable to give through any of the means above*, you may put your donation in the offering plate on Easter Sunday. Make your check payable to St. Luke with "OGHS" on the memo line or use the special envelope that will be provided.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

## Security Task Force Report

March is an exciting month for the security enhancements! The east doors have already been replaced as of the newsletter deadline; the north doors may have been replaced, and the fellowship hall door modifications made by the time you receive this newsletter. All the access control elements have been installed and external cameras will be finished up in the next few months. The timeline for the final steps of getting the system running and everyone trained is not solid, but it should all be happening this spring. We will keep you informed when we will need to turn in keys and get new fobs!

— *The Task Force*

## Epistles

Dear St. Luke friends,

We would like to thank everyone for the nice meal. Everyone enjoyed it, and it also gave them time to heal before going their separate ways. With appreciation, *the Burnett Family*

Dear St. Luke,

Thanks for all the calls, cards, and prayers following **Amy** and **Harry**'s recent health concerns. Special thanks to **Kendra** and **Kaci Jones** for early morning transportation for Amy. With appreciation, *Mary Graff*

## Postscripts

**Alice Cooke** invites us to the spring WTAMU Town and Gown Band Concert on Monday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Northern Recital Hall.

Small Groups & Gatherings

## St. Luke Women Study & Brunch

Presbyterian Women thanks all who made gifts to the Amarillo College Food Pantry on Souper Bowl Sunday. St. Luke forwarded \$418 to the Amarillo College Foundation to help stock the AC food pantry.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. **JoAnn Jolley** and **Mary McCracken** will host the brunch. **Kendra Jones** will lead a short business meeting, then **Sharron Fitzner** will provide the devotional. **Nan Kemp** will introduce the lesson, Chapter 7, "Sabbath and Self-Care," from the *Horizons* Bible study.

## Men's Breakfast & Devotional

The monthly men's breakfast will be at HUD'S (on Bell, just north of 45th Street on the east side) at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14. **Doug Tanner** will deliver the devotional. Many breakfast burritos and cups of coffee will be enjoyed. All men are welcome to attend.

## Young at Heart Lunch & Program

Young at Heart will meet on Wednesday, March 15, at noon in the fellowship hall. The program will be presented by **Chuck Williams**, local radio personality. To reserve a lunch, contact the church office by noon on Tuesday. The fee is a mere \$8 for lunch and a beverage. If you forget to call, show up anyway and BYOB (bring your own bag). See you there for an enjoyable lunch and informative program.

Sneak peek at April – **Robin Gantz** will present a program about cultural depictions of Jesus. Save the date!

## Search Process Moves Forward

At the January Session meeting, the Officer Nominating Committee was given the go-ahead to select seven members of our congregation to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC.) The committee met several times in January and prayerfully discussed how best to compose a committee reflecting a cross-section of our congregation. The seven individuals have been selected and will be placed on the ballot and voted upon at a Congregational Meeting that is called for March 12 following worship.

We are blessed to have so many thoughtful, dedicated, and compassionate individuals in our congregation!

## Mesa Verde Sunday — March 5

You may leave your donations of facial tissue, lip balm, or disinfecting wipes in the fellowship hall.

## GAP & LOGOS Volunteer Project

The GAP (Growing Adult Presbyterians) and LOGOS groups will be volunteering at High Plains Food Bank on Wednesday, March 22. Start time is at 6 p.m. at the food bank at 815 Ross St. For more information, please contact **Kary Wingo** or **Paige Hadley**.

## Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch

Bring your favorite brown bag lunch and join us for a time of fellowship on the fourth Thursday of the month, March 23. This group will meet in the fellowship hall.

**PIANO NOTES:** **Sue Duckett** has announced that the Adult Piano Classes will not meet on Monday, March 13, in order to take a spring break.



# MARCH

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship  
9:40 am Choir Rehearsal  
9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class  
11:00 am In-Person Worship  
Children's Church after the anthem  
11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook

\* If class time changes, Kary will send a notification.

			1	2	3	4
				10:00 am Exercise Group  2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry  5:30 pm Seminar Com. Mtg.	World Day of Prayer	9:00 am - noon Manse Workday
5 <b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>  Mesa Verde Sunday  Ruling Elder <b>Ann Hefner</b> will fill the pulpit.	6 9:00 am * Yoga Class  10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class  5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg.	7 10:00 am Exercise Group  4:00 pm Congregational Care Com. Mtg.	8 9:30 am St. Luke Women  12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg.  5:30 pm Property Com. Mtg.	9 10:00 am Exercise Group  2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry	10	11
12 Daylight Saving Time begins  Invite a friend to church!  Rev. <b>Don McDonald</b> will fill the pulpit. <b>Following worship Called Cong. Mtg.</b>	13 9:00 am * Yoga Class  10:00 & 11:00 am No Adult Piano Class	14 6:30 am Men's Breakfast  10:00 am Exercise Group  5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg.	15 12:00 noon Young at Heart  6:15 pm Outreach Com. Mtg.	16 10:00 am Exercise Group  2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love Event @ 10th St. Laundry
19 <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b>  Elder <b>Krista Berry</b> will fill the pulpit.  4:00 pm Stated Session Mtg.	20 Mr. Rogers Day 9:00 am * Yoga Class  10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	21 10:00 am Exercise Group	22 6:15 pm GAP & LOGOS @ High Plains Food Bank	23 10:00 am Exercise Group  12:00 noon Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch  2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry	24	25
26 <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>  Elder <b>Ashley Denham</b> will fill the pulpit.  <i>E-pistle</i> deadline	27 9:00 am * Yoga Class  10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	28 10:00 am Exercise Group  7:00 pm Farkle Group	29	30 10:00 am Exercise Group  2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry	31 <i>E-pistle</i> will be emailed.	*** Dates and times are subject to change. Please refer to your Thursday email and announce- ments for the most recent information.

## Disaster Relief

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is

providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in Syria and Turkey. Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR999999-ST earthquake. Gifts can be made:

- online at <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/turkey-syria-earthquake/>
- by phone at (800) 872-3283
- or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST Earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

## Annual Meeting Is in the Books

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held following worship on January 29, 2023. Rev. **Robin Gantz** was the designated moderator in the absence of Rev. **Janell Blair**. Reports were given by the Clerk of Session, Treasurer, and all permanent and special committees. The 2023 budget, approved by Session, was presented for information and discussion. Special thanks to the Fellowship Committee for a delicious soup and sandwich lunch.

## Social Media Outreach

Facebook stats:

In the past twenty-eight days (as of February 14), posts to St. Luke's Facebook page have reached 1,266 people—meaning those people have at least viewed the post. There have been 757 people interacting with the posts on Facebook, meaning people are "liking," sharing, and commenting on the posts. We have 500 followers on Facebook that includes many religious organizations and community organizations as well as people. Roughly 80% of the followers are women. Our post-interactions have reached beyond Amarillo up to Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, and Oklahoma. As of the writing of this article, there have been 143 people who have viewed the post about the men's breakfast.

Instagram:

We have thirty-one followers. Many of the posts are from Facebook to reach more people.

Why is this important? This is a way to grow our church, engage with our community and beyond, and provide a place for anyone searching for a church home.

— *Jennifer Denham*

Worship Services on Facebook Live:

January 29 through February 19

Average reach = 54 (high of 58, low of 50)

Average engagements = 9.75 (high 16, low 3)

Average peak "live" viewers = 4.25 (high 7, low 3)

*We are unable to track how many view the service later.*

Shares = 0.25 (high 1, low 0) Please share our services.

## FEBRUARY SESSION REPORT

Clerk's Report:

- January 2023 average attendance for worship - 68
- Active membership on January 31, 2023 - 141
- Communion was celebrated on February 19; officiated by Rev. **Holly Haines**.
- **suziQ tracy**'s membership was moved to Metropolitan Community Church.
- Endorsement for **Stacy Clopton** to begin Commissioned Lay Pastor training.

Commendations:

- ✓ **Helen Thorsheim** for writing a guide to understanding the financial documents for Session members and for moving the archived financial documents to a better location (and freeing up space in the technology closet).
- ✓ **Doug Tanner** for his informative Minute for Mission about per capita given on January 22.
- ✓ **Ann Hefner** for the Care List.
- ✓ By **Teresa Burnett** for the love and care given to her and her family in the loss of their aunt **Debra**.
- ✓ **Jennifer Denham** for giving a Minute for Mission about Outreach on February 12.
- ✓ All those who led worship in February.
- ✓ **Mary Holmlund** and **Mila Abbasova**, who provided special music on February 5.
- ✓ **Szak**, who helped with technology on February 5.
- ✓ **Jennifer Denham** for her work on St. Luke Facebook page and organizing all online sites.
- ✓ **Cruse Messer** for procuring a pulpit supply for all services at St. Luke.
- ✓ **Stacy Clopton** for planning the liturgy each week.
- ✓ Duke Electric and **Edwin Criado** for working alongside and donating to our Laundry Love Mission.

## Important Worship Dates

**Palm Sunday** - April 2

Hosanna! Alleluia! Palm Sunday begins Holy Week on April 2 with our morning worship service at 11:00 a.m. We will be entering the sanctuary with palm branches so come a bit early to help.

**Maundy Thursday** - April 6

Come share Communion during our Maundy Thursday service on April 6 at 6:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Tenebrae** - April 7

The joy of Palm Sunday and the celebration of the Passover meal are past. We will share this somber day's service on April 7 at 6:00 p.m.

**Easter** - April 9

He has risen! He has risen indeed! Put away the gloom of the grave; Christ is no longer there! Easter Sunday service will begin at 11:00 a.m.

**Easter Cantata** - April 16

Schubert's Mass in G, D. 167, with soloists and orchestral accompaniment.