

# St. Luke Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS  
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## 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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## A Word from the PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been busy learning the process for calling a new pastor and has been quietly preparing the documentation needed for us to find a perfect match for St. Luke. To complete that work, the PNC wants and needs the help of EVERY member of the church. Very soon, the committee will distribute a survey asking you to share your hopes, visions, and desires, not only for our new pastor, but for the church as well. We are all stakeholders in this process. The PNC members charged with the responsibility of conducting the search want everyone to have a voice so that we can be assured we know YOUR opinion.

The survey will be distributed in many different ways: online, by email, by post office mail, and by printed copies available at the church. We don't want to miss anyone! We ask that you respond to the survey by May 15. You are free to submit anonymously, or you may sign your name. Your viewpoints and opinions matter in this serious process, so please take the time to give the PNC the opportunity to hear your voice.

Thank you for your assistance and participation. Going forward, we will update our progress as appropriate in the *Epistle* and the Sunday bulletin. Please keep the PNC members in your prayers as we seek to discern God's plan for our future together.

—**Bob Hansen**, moderator, PNC

## Being a Matthew 25 Church

St. Luke has officially become a Matthew 25 church through the PC(USA). What does that mean? It means we continue to do the work we do with our hands of service, hands of faith, and open hands of love. A good example is our Laundry Love mission to the community that provides free loads of laundry in a neighborhood that needs the service. This is part of the Matthew 25

scripture stating, "I was naked, and you clothed me." Sharing a space with our brothers and sisters in the Methodist Church is another way that our congregation is reaching out to our community. St. Luke is already doing the work Christ calls us to do outside of our four walls. By connecting with other churches with similar purpose, we can share resources and continue God's work.

## Epistles

St. Luke Care Committee,

How nice to receive a goodie bag on Easter! I have enjoyed all of it. Thank you!  
I am now in room 503 at the Heritage, probably for four weeks.  
—*Blessings to each of you, Lucille [Dunn]*

Dear Threads of Love,

Thank you for the lovely prayer shawl Mary brought to me. It brightened my day!!  
—*Blessings to all of you, Lucille [Dunn]*

Dear Congregational Care Committee,

Many thanks for the Easter gift bag with all the goodies. The love flowing from St. Luke Presbyterian Church is overwhelming  
—*Love, Medora Williams*

To St. Luke friends and family,

Thank you for the love and support you offered me and my family during this difficult time. It is never easy to lose a loved one but your texts, phone calls, cards, and prayers were felt over the miles as we grieved the loss of my mom. Please know that we are grateful for all of you and appreciate your friendship and love.  
—*The Hoy Family*

## Filling the GAP

On Wednesday, May 3 at 6:00 p.m., GAP Game Night will take place at St. Luke! Bring your own dinner/snack and be ready for a game night. Childcare will be available in the nursery that evening.

Starting in June, **Tim** and **Kim Lacey** have graciously offered to host a weekly Bible study. We will meet on Wednesday evenings at the Laceys' home — June 7, 14, 21, and 28. More details to come, but save the dates!

## Men's Breakfast

The monthly men's breakfast will be at HUD'S (on Bell, just north of 45th St. on the east side) on Tuesday, May 9, at 6:30 a.m. **Bob McCracken** will deliver the devotional. All men are welcome. [Editor: The breakfast burritos are scrumptious.]

## St. Luke Women

St. Luke Women will finish their study of *Celebrating Sabbath* with a salad luncheon Tuesday, May 10. They will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. **Kendra Jones** will present the devotional, and a discussion of Lesson 9, "Sabbath and Community," will follow. For the luncheon, members are asked to bring a salad to share. Come help us celebrate our time together this year and the wonderful Bible study we have shared.

## Nothing Succeeds Like Access

We are in the process of transitioning from keys to electronic access with fobs and hope to have completed the transition in May. We are also waiting for approval for a budget change that will hopefully allow us to purchase a new computer and TV so that the images from the cameras are more easily viewed in the office.

Trainings for use of fobs and the alarm system started in late April and the next step will be to arm the system when no one is in the building.

Finally, the tablets that can be used by Melissa and ushers to arm/disarm, allow entry remotely, and check the status of our church have been purchased and have been programmed for use. We hope everyone is pleased with the new doors and the additional security!

—*Security Task Force*

## Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet on Wednesday, May 17, at noon in the fellowship hall. The program will be presented by **Eldon Wingo**, Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. He will inform us about charitable giving, legacy giving, and Donor Advised Funds.

To reserve a lunch, contact the church office by noon on Tuesday, the 16th. 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).



Deadline for guaranteed free t-shirt: May 22

### CAMP DATES

Buffalo Gap Summer Camp 2023, "Practice Joy," will take place in June.

Register now at [www.buffalogapcamp.org](http://www.buffalogapcamp.org).  
For more information, email them at [office@buffalogapcamp.org](mailto:office@buffalogapcamp.org).

<b>High School Retreat</b>	Grades 9-12   June 1-3   \$120
<b>Mini Camp</b>	Grades 1-3*   June 6-9   \$180
<b>Elementary Camp</b>	Grades 3*-5   June 11-16   \$300
<b>Middle School Camp</b>	Grades 6-8   June 18-23   \$300

\* Completed 3rd graders may attend Mini or Elementary camp at parents' discretion.



# BIRTHDAYS

## in May

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

3 Judy	21 Ann
10 Susan	24 Mary
11 Daron	26 Michael
12 Bronwyn	27 Elvis
13 Alice	28 Emin*
14 Daina	31 Donna
18 Amy	* friend of St. Luke

## APRIL SESSION REPORT

### Clerk's Report

1. March 2023 average attendance for worship – 70
2. Active membership as of March 31, 2023 – 140
3. Communion was celebrated on Maundy Thursday, March 6, 2023 with Rev. **Holly Haines** presiding.

### Session Actions

- **Cruse Messer** was elected commissioner for the April 28-29 PDP meeting.
- Request that PDP approve Rev. **Lynn Brack** (retired Methodist Minister) to serve Communion to shut-ins on an occasional basis.

### Commendations and Suggestions

- ♥ All those who led worship in March and April.
- ♥ All those who provided special music in March and April.
- ♥ **Eldon Wingo** for making sure the Presbyterians and Methodists are caffeinated.
- ♥ **Tim Lacey** and the Property Committee for their hard work on the manse.
- ♥ Rev. **Lynn Brack** for offering Communion to our shut-ins.
- ♥ **Cruse Messer** and the Worship Committee for coordinating Holy Week services.
- ♥ **Cruse Messer** for serving as presbytery commissioner.
- ♥ **Bob Hansen, Mila Abbasova**, St. Luke choir, and WT musicians for the Easter cantata.
- ♥ **Barbara Taylor** for leading the devotionals for the Session.
- ♥ **Ashley Denham** for playing the Easter Bunny for the Easter Egg Hunt.
- ♥ All those who helped make the cantata brunch a delicious success.

## Summer E-pistle Deadline

The deadline for the summer edition of the *E-pistle* is May 21. Please send your news for both June and July to editor **Nan Kemp**. If you are not on St. Luke's emailing list and would like to receive the newsletter, please contact the church office.

## Confirmation Classes in June

Any middle schoolers, 6th grade and up, are invited to join in confirmation classes beginning the week of June 11. There will be a short introductory class on Sunday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m. We will then meet Monday through Wednesday, possibly Thursday if needed, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The curriculum is called *Big God, Big Questions*, put out by PC(USA). We will explore our faith together and have a lot of fun at the same time. **Wesley, Cruse, and Kary** will be facilitating the study sessions. If you would like more information, please contact Kary Wingo.

## Mission Report

The Mission Committee hosted another Laundry Love event on April 15. We extend our sincere thanks to **Cruse Messer** from the Worship Committee who helped out. This mission is a labor of love, and we invite any and all who would like to participate to join us in this project. It's not that we enjoy doing laundry, it's that we enjoy being with the people we meet there. So, come and join us any third Saturday of the month.

We also wish to thank all those who prepared food and helped to serve it at The Hope & Healing Place dinner. Your efforts mean a lot to those who participate in their ministry.

In May, the committee will be helping the Mesa Verde volunteers in regaling the faculty of Mesa Verde with gifts during Teacher Appreciation Week and in helping with the faculty luncheon. Another academic year is drawing to a close, and these teachers have worked hard during the last nine months. They deserve all the appreciation we can give them.

As we approach summertime, your Mission Committee has no plans for slowing down. We plan to continue our mission projects and to make plans for our fall fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information.

## CCC Cares for You

The Congregational Care Committee asks for your help in making sure each member of our congregation knows how much they mean to us. If you know of someone who is in need of comfort or support, please let us know. And please keep all those on our prayer list [see page 4] in your prayers and in your hearts.

## Outreach Shares Results

For the last month, we have reached over 2,000 people through Facebook. Half of those people have interacted by liking and sharing and commenting on the posts. We have eight new followers for our church's Facebook page. The post about the cantata and this week's announcements have had the most engagement with 122 people. We are reaching people!  
—**Jennifer Denham**

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS: April 2 through April 23  
Worship services on Facebook Live:  
Average reach = 78.5 (high of 99, low of 64)  
Average engagements = 11.5 (high 14, low 9)  
Average peak "live" viewers = 5.0 (high 6, low 4)

# Webinar Offered by TPF

Texas Presbyterian Foundation is offering a webinar that will address donor advised funds and endowments. This educational event will review investment options, funding requirements, and sample agreements. We hope you will join in on Thursday, May 4, at 11:00 a.m. for "Changing Your World with Donor Advised Funds and Endowments." To find the webinar, in your browser, type in the title of the webinar and TPF.

Your Endowment Committee also encourages you to participate in the Young at Heart meeting on May 17, when **Eldon Wingo** will speak about charitable giving, legacy giving, and Donor Advised Funds.

The Endowment Fund continues to grow, in part due to your birthday donations, and the committee extends its thanks. \$3,717 has been added in the past two years.

# Joys and Concerns

We pray for:

Continue to remember those with COVID-19 and also

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

The north doors are now the main entrance to our building. The new intercom system works to call the office and get entrance remotely during business hours. Effective immediately, please discontinue using the tower doors.

# Happy Mother's Day



THANK YOU  
for your faithful giving!

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

MARCH 2023

YEAR-TO-DATE

# MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<div>1</div> <div>May Friendship Day</div> <div>9:00 am*</div> <div>Yoga Practice</div> <div>10:00 &amp; 11:00 am</div> <div>Adult Piano Classes</div> <div><del>4:30 pm</del></div> <div>No CE Com. Mtg.</div> <div>5:30 pm</div> <div>Mission Com. Mtg.</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Exercise Group</div> <div>4:00 pm</div> <div>Congregational</div> <div>Care Com. Mtg.</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6:00 pm</div> <div>GAP Game Night</div> <div>@ St. Luke</div>	<div>4</div> <div>National Day</div> <div>of Prayer</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Exercise Group</div> <div>2:00 pm</div> <div>Threads of Love</div> <div>5:30 pm</div> <div>Seminar Com Mtg.</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>
<div>7</div> <div>Mesa Verde</div> <div>Sunday</div> <div>Elder</div> <div>Stacy Clopton</div> <div>will fill the pulpit.</div>	<div>8</div> <div>9:00 am*</div> <div>Yoga Practice</div> <div>10:00 &amp; 11:00 am</div> <div>Adult Piano Classes</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6:30 am</div> <div>Men's Breakfast</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Exercise Group</div> <div>5:45 pm</div> <div>Worship Com. Mtg.</div> <div><del>6:30 pm</del></div> <div>No Fellowship</div> <div>Com. Mtg.</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>St. Luke Women</div> <div>Bible Study &amp;</div> <div>Salad Luncheon</div> <div>12:00 noon</div> <div>Finance Com. Mtg.</div> <div>5:30 pm</div> <div>Property Com. Mtg.</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Exercise Group</div> <div>2:00 pm</div> <div>Threads of Love</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Fair Trade Day</div>
<div>14</div> <div>Mother's Day</div> <div>Invite a friend</div> <div>to church!</div> <div>Ruling Elder</div> <div>Bob Hansen</div> <div>will fill the pulpit.</div>	<div>15</div> <div>9:00 am*</div> <div>Yoga Practice</div> <div>10:00 &amp; 11:00 am</div> <div>Adult Piano Classes</div> <div>PNC surveys</div> <div>are due.</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Exercise Group</div>	<div>17</div> <div>12:00 noon</div> <div>Young at Heart</div> <div>6:15 pm</div> <div>Outreach Com. Mtg.</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Ascension</div> <div>of the Lord</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Exercise Group</div> <div>2:00 pm</div> <div>Threads of Love</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>8:00 - 10:00 am</div> <div>Laundry Love @</div> <div>10th St. Laundry</div>
<div>21</div> <div>Ruling Elder</div> <div>Kary Wingo</div> <div>will fill the pulpit.</div> <div>4:00 pm</div> <div>Stated Session</div> <div>Mtg.</div> <div>E-pistle deadline</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9:00 am*</div> <div>Yoga Practice</div> <div>10:00 &amp; 11:00 am</div> <div>Adult Piano Classes</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Exercise Group</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Exercise Group</div> <div>12:00 noon</div> <div>Fourth Thursday</div> <div>Lunch Bunch</div> <div>2:00 pm</div> <div>Threads of Love</div>	<div>26</div> <div>The Office</div> <div>Administrator will</div> <div>be on vacation</div> <div>thru June 2.</div>	<div>27</div>
<div>28</div> <div>Day of Pentecost</div> <div>Elder</div> <div>Phillip Periman</div> <div>will fill the pulpit.</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Memorial Day</div> <div>The office</div> <div>will be closed.</div> <div><del>9:00 am*</del></div> <div>No Yoga Practice</div> <div><del>10:00 &amp; 11:00 am</del></div> <div>No Piano Classes</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10:00 am</div> <div>Exercise Group</div> <div>7:00 pm</div> <div>Farkle Group</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</div> <div>9:30 am</div> <div>Coffee &amp; Fellowship</div> <div>9:40 am</div> <div>Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>9:45 am</div> <div>Adult Sunday School Class</div> <div>11:00 am</div> <div>In-Person Worship</div> <div>Children's Church after the anthem</div> <div>11:00 am</div> <div>Service will stream Live on Facebook</div>		
				<div>* Kary Wingo will notify participants</div> <div>if the schedule changes.</div>		



## One Great Hour of Sharing

Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us; to connect with those who have the least; to see Jesus in all with whom we come into contact. Through gifts to special offerings, we directly support people experiencing hunger, homelessness, thirst, imprisonment, sickness, and deprivation, as well as welcoming the stranger. Through our gifts, we connect with God's most vulnerable children.

On Easter Sunday, St. Luke received the annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. St. Luke has forwarded \$1,060 to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to help improve the lives of the suffering and vulnerable through three life-saving programs — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Thank you to everyone who contributed to OGHS.

If you missed the opportunity to give through St. Luke, you can still make a direct contribution to PC(USA):

- 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.

## Early Bulletin Deadlines

**Melissa**, St. Luke's Office Administrator, will be on vacation from May 25 through June 2. During that time, **Susan Barnes** and **Helen Thorsheim** will be handling office operations. Melissa will be contacting those who will be participating in the services on May 28 and June 2 about early deadlines. If you have information for either of those church bulletins, please send it no later than May 19. The church office will be closed on May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

## Family Assistance Fund

St. Luke established the St. Luke Family Assistance Fund in 2020 to provide a temporary lifeline for the relief of those we love through limited monetary assistance based on immediate need. Recipients must be members of St. Luke (for at least six months), staff members, or dependents and close relatives of St. Luke members. Depending on the resources available, each household may receive assistance up to the maximum stated in the fund's policy. There is no requirement to repay the money. Requests should be submitted through the church office. A response will normally be given within forty-eight hours. All requests will be confidential.

## Postscripts

**Travis Kemp** wants to share lots of good news with his St. Luke family. First, he encourages you to tune into his jazz radio show on Sunday, April 30 (International Jazz Day) for a special celebration. Listen from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on 89.9 FM or online at [kacvfm.org](https://kacvfm.org). Next, he has recently accepted the position of Classroom Support Assistant for Amarillo College's Disability Services and is very excited about this new opportunity. Lastly, Podcast fans will be interested to know he will appear as a guest on an upcoming episode of the "Splat Attack! Podcast," which is mostly dedicated to shows that aired on Nickelodeon in the '90s. The episode should be online in early June. Ask him about access.

**Hadlee Shields** has been accepted into this summer's Pre-Medical Enrichment Program offered by the Texas Tech Health Science Center School of Medicine. The program is designed to produce well-qualified and competitive medical school applicants. She will have the opportunity to participate in clinical and shadowing experiences, MCAT preparation, professional development, and mock interviews. Congratulations, Hadlee!

## Our CP Amendment Approved

Many of you know and understand the process of changing the PC(USA) Constitution. Some may discount the effort, but for me, it is the very nature of Presbyterianism.

Representational Democracy from the pews is a way to lift up Christ and Christ's Church, the believer connected to the believer leading the church. Palo Duro advocated, nudged, and sponsored an overture to change G-2.1001 in our constitution.

Today is a great day in the life of Palo Duro Presbytery. One of the great worries of the presbytery is to help sessions fill each pulpit fifty-two times in a year, including every special event and every unplanned event. Now Commissioned Pastors may be commissioned to more than one validated ministry of the presbytery based on the missional needs of the presbytery at the same time; CPs may respond to a variety of needs. This helps fill empty church pulpits; it further affirms the role of Commissioned Pastors.

This summer, our overture was affirmed by the General Assembly and subsequently sent to the presbyteries for their vote. Today the amendment passed the threshold of a majority of presbyteries voting in favor 100-0. (There are 167 presbyteries; the vote ends in June.)

Do you know the ground has shifted? Like churches in Palo Duro Presbytery, small churches all over the country now have more freedom to fill empty pulpits. Palo Duro, you are impacting Christ's church in ways and places you do not know. Thank you to our beloved CPs in Palo Duro who give a face to the calling to be a CP, most often going where others will not shine the light of the good Lord.

*From Executive Presbyter, Rev. **Scott Campbell** on the Palo Duro Presbytery website: <https://paloduropresbytery.org/news/>*