

Epistle

St. Luke Presbyterian Church

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS
AUGUST 2023 | VOLUME 59, ISSUE 8

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TO HOST LUNCHEON FOR RETURNING EDUCATORS

Your Congregational Care Committee will host a luncheon on Tuesday, August 1, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., for all current St. Luke teachers, as well as those in the United Methodist congregation, Mesa Verde, and Johnson Chapel A.M.E. We intend to send our teachers off on another annual adventure with food, prayer, and inspiration. All our teachers deserve our gratitude for their dedication to our

children and our future, and we want to acknowledge their contributions.

As always, we continue to remember and pray for those who are on our care list. If you or someone you know needs our support and special prayers, please let us know. Each of our members and his/her circle of connections are important to us, and it is a privilege to us to help in any way we can.

— ANN HEFNER

PNC Report

The Pastor Nominating Committee received high praise from the Presbytery and the Committee on Ministry with the approval of the documents needed to begin connecting us to pastors seeking a new call. Before long, we will be able to receive credentials from ministers who are drawn to St. Luke based on the information we have provided. We are excited to review the applications and eventually discover the candidate that God is sending to us. Thank you for your patience as the discovery phase plays out. Please continue your prayers for the PNC and for God's guidance to our new pastor.

— BOB HANSEN, Moderator

Shields Announces Departure

Melissa Shields has informed us that she will be leaving her position as Office Administrator on September 5. The Personnel Committee has begun the search for a new administrator. Melissa will begin training her replacement as soon as the final choice is made and that person is available to begin work. Thank you in advance for creating a welcoming and supportive environment while the new office administrator learns his or her position.

Stay in touch!



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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

SESSION REPORT

The following is a synopsis of Session activity in June and July.

Clerk's report:

1. June 2023 average attendance for worship – 59.
2. July 2023 average attendance for worship – 61.
3. Active membership as June 30, 2023 – 140.
4. Communion celebrated May 28, 2023, with **Stacy Clopton** presiding.
5. Communion celebrated June 4, 2023, with **David Kemp** presiding.
6. Communion celebrated July 2, 2023, with **Stacy** presiding.
7. St. Luke welcomed **Ruth** and **Henry Suthard** into active membership as well as members of the 2023 confirmation class, **Cailyn**, **Aubrey**, and **Jeslyn** (pending baptism on August 20.)

Commendations:

- Pulpit supplies.
- All those who provided special music in June, including bell choir and duet by **Mila Abbasova** and **Mary Holmlund**.
- **Stacy Clopton**, for her timely attention to Worship Committee responsibilities.
- **Nan Kemp** for the celebration of Bob Hanson's thirty-five years as Music Director and his birthday.
- **Kary Wingo** for leading the confirmation class.
- **Tim Lacey** for coordination of housing for Methodist UMCOR group.
- **Bob Hansen** and the PNC for a quick turnaround preparing the MDP (Ministry Discernment Profile), which provides information about St. Luke for prospective ministers.
- **Kaci Jones**, **Susan Barnes**, and **Don Goetz** for conducting the financial review for 2022.

— BARBARA TAYLOR, Clerk of Session

Epistles

Dear St. Luke,

We would like to thank the church for their support during the sickness and passing of **Karen Johnson** (**Ashley Thomas'** grandma) and a special thank you to **Mary Holmlund** and **Donna Clopton** for their support at the funeral. Thank you!

— FAMILY OF KAREN JOHNSON

Dear St. Luke,

Thanks from all of us. We appreciate the place to stay.

— EMPORIA FIRST UNITED METHODIST YOUTH

Dear St. Luke,

Please know how sincerely grateful I am for the past (almost) twelve years as Office Administrator. St. Luke has been an employer, a second family, and a home for me, my daughter, and even Roscoe. It is with sadness and a bundle of nerves, but also with excitement and faith that God will provide, that I plan my move to Lubbock.

— MELISSA SHIELDS

Men's Breakfast

The August men's breakfast will be held on the 8th at 6:30 a.m. at HUD'S located at 4411 Bell St. (east side of the street). **Doug Tanner** will deliver the devotional. All men are invited.

St. Luke Women

September is coming! The theme of the *Horizons* Bible study for '23-'24 is *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir.

Meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 13, in the fellowship hall. We will begin with brunch at 9:30 a.m., as we always do. All women are welcome to attend. (If you would like to volunteer to host the September brunch, please contact **Kendra Jones**.)

Study books will cost \$11 if ordered through St. Luke; please mail or deliver your check (payable to St. Luke, "PW book" on the memo line) to the church office no later than August 13. No extra copies will be ordered. If you would like to purchase your book directly, here is a link: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/sacred-encounters-english-edition/>.

Amarillo UMC Invites Us to Bible Study

Our United Methodist friends are inviting us to participate in a weekly Bible study from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. starting September 6 that will meet through the fall and spring. Rev. **Margie McNeir** will be leading the Disciple Bible Study class, which is an overview of Old and New Testaments during a 34-week study. Books for the class are available through Cokesbury and Amazon. Please contact **Kary Wingo** if you would like to order a book.



BABY SHOWER

AUG 6
9:30 AM

Come-and-go shower for baby boy W beginning at 9:30 a.m. in St. Luke's fellowship hall

You are invited to help celebrate the upcoming arrival of **baby boy W** ! **Wesley** and **Alexa** would appreciate baby boy clothing. We at St. Luke eagerly await his arrival, and we hope to see you there!

Joys and Concerns

The following appeared on St. Luke's prayer list since the last newsletter was published. Thankfully, many have improved or recovered since they were first listed.

We pray for:

- **Joyce B**
- **Bill,**
- **Andy C**

- **Danny H**

- **Mindy H**
- **Mary and Vance H**

- **Tom H**
Tom and Margaret

- **Michael K**

- **John M**

- **Michele S**

- **Larry S**
- **Tim S**

- **Gary S**
- **Ruth S**
- **Delma W**

Cousins of **Doug Tanner** and **Susan Barnes**

We extend our condolences and prayers to all who are grieving losses. May God bless and comfort these families through their grief.

Continued. →



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

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1 • Kiran B | 15 • Don G |
| 1 • Tera K | 18 • Jessica B |
| 3 • Lucille D | 19 • Priscilla S |
| 4 • Joyce B | 22 • Colton A * |
| 4 • Quentin S | 31 • J.T. J |
- * friend of St. Luke

Farewell Reception

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

The Fellowship Committee is hosting a reception after the Sunday worship service on August 27 for our Office Administrator, **Melissa Shields**, who is moving to Lubbock. Join us as we extend our gratitude for twelve years of faithful service and wish her Godspeed.

Thank You!

Mary Holmlund thanks everyone for their donations to the Hamlet Elementary School earphone drive. Over \$700 was contributed by St. Luke members and friends. On behalf of the students, the Hamlet staff was very appreciative.

Newsletter Reminder

The deadline to submit information for the September edition of the *E-pistle* will be August 27. The newsletter will be mailed on August 31. As always, please send your news to editor **Nan Kemp**. If you are not on the newsletter e-mail list and would like to be included, contact the church office.

MORE JOYS AND CONCERNS

- † The family of **Steven Berk**, Dean of the TTHSC School of Medicine and colleague of several members.
- † The family of **Greg Day**, **Krista Berry**'s partner. He died on July 19.
- † To **Lorraine Mains** and family upon the death of husband **Joe** on June 13.
- † To **Ashley Thomas** and family. Ashley's grandmother, **Karen Johnson**, died on June 26.

We give thanks and praise:

- We pray for blessings for **Hillary** and baby **Wyatt Randall**. Wyatt is **Ann H**'s great grandson. Congratulations!
- We rejoice with our Methodist friends who were chartered as Amarillo United Methodist Church on June 4. Their new pastor, **Rev. Robert Burke**, has an office in the education wing of St. Luke.

Continue to remember:

Dorothy B ; **Lois B** ; **Bob C** ; **Lucille D** ; **Leslie H** ; **Sarah K** ;
Roger O ; **Aaron P** ; **Dennis P** ;
; **Donna P** ; **Sharon R** ;

Marilyn S ; **Karl T** ; **Alexa, Wesley**, and **baby-on-the-way Wingo**; those impacted by severe weather; 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** and Kind House Ukraine Bakery; our participants and helpers at Laundry Love; and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.



Donated Artwork

This summer St. Luke received a framed tapestry as a gift from **Robert Smith**. The PC(USA) cross was woven in Korea. This piece is hanging in the multi-purpose room. Stop by to see this beautiful piece of craftsmanship.



The workday held on June 6 was fabulously successful.

Thank you to our Methodist friends for pitching in!

St. Luke, Palo Duro Presbytery, and the Synod of the Sun

Everyone is busy these days, and our denomination is no exception, from St. Luke up to Palo Duro Presbytery, Synod of the Sun, and PC(USA). Our church supports the work of the Presbyterian church not only financially but in other ways, and the Presbyterian Church supports us in return. We are a connectional church.

As a couple of examples, both PC(USA) and the Synod have aided Perryton in the wake of the recent tornado disaster. PC(USA), acting through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), provided a \$7,500 grant to Trinity Presbyterian in Perryton to support disaster relief. PDA and the Synod have staff members who are dedicated to disaster relief, and they respond quickly. Palo Duro Presbytery also does its share of work in this area. Not long after Perryton's trouble, a tornado struck Matador, Texas. Palo Duro Presbytery provided a grant of \$5,000 to help with recovery in that town.

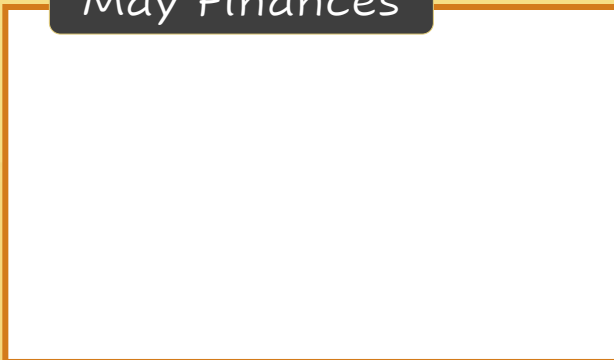
At the presbytery level, we have long supported NOROC, a mission in Romania until recently dedicated to care for orphans in that country. With the war in Ukraine, NOROC has also devoted time to the care of refugees from that war. Late last year, the presbytery hired a full-time mission worker, Rev. Kristen Harris, who divides her time between Romania and Texas. Palo Duro also is the body that has the closest contact with local churches and could not function without the volunteers who carry on the work.

This is just a sketch of the work of the Church. Those of us who work regularly with the larger church are grateful for your support. Know that we are mindful that we have a sacred trust in representing you, and we ask for your support as we try to be worthy of that trust. — DAVID KEMP, Palo Duro Presbytery Clerk

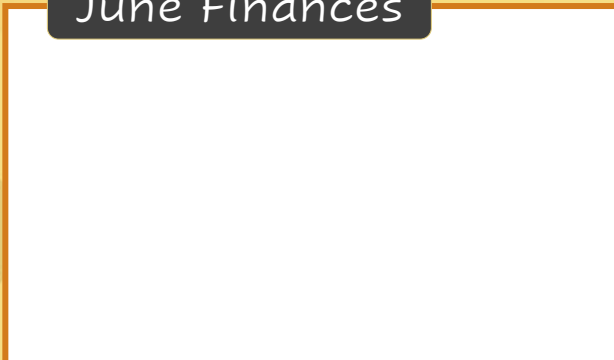


THANK YOU
FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING

May Finances



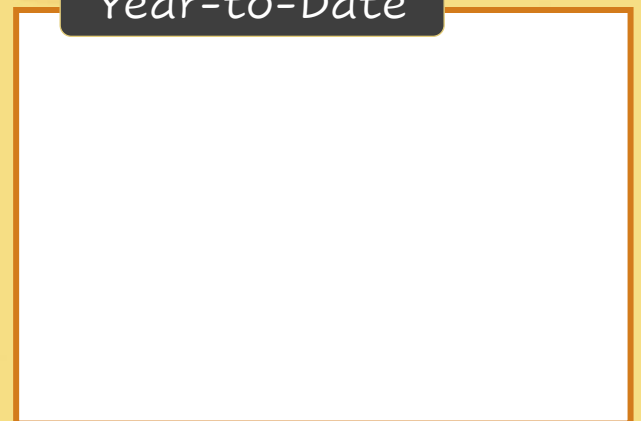
June Finances



2023 BUDGET TO DATE

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



AUGUST 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship Service & Children's Church * Kary Wingo will notify participants if the schedule changes.		1	2	3	4	5
		10:00 am No Exercise Group 11:30 am Luncheon for Returning Educators	9:00 am* Yoga Practice	10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry		OAC table at AMACON
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mesa Verde Sunday 9:30 am W Baby Shower Communion will be celebrated. Elder David Kemp will fill the pulpit.	10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class 4:30 pm Christian Education Com. Mtg.	6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ HUD'S 10:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Cong. Care Mtg. 5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg.	9:00 am* Yoga Practice 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg.	10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry	5:00 - 8:00 pm <i>Reserved for AC Respiratory Care Pinning Ceremony</i>	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Invite a friend to church!	9:00 am* Yoga Practice 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	10:00 am Exercise Group 6:00 pm Property Com. Mtg. 6:30 pm NAACP Religious Affairs Mtg. <div>Melissa will be out of the office.</div>	6:00 pm LOGOS Com. Mtg. 6:30 pm Outreach Com. Mtg.	10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry 5:30 pm Seminar Com. Mtg.	<div>9:00 am - 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall is reserved for the Scrapbook Club</div>	8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love @ 10th St. Laundry
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4:00 pm Stated Session Mtg.	9:00 am* Yoga Practice 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	10:00 am Exercise Group		10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry		
27	28	29	30	31	 <div>August 2023 5</div>	
E-pistle deadline Following church Farewell Reception honoring Melissa Shields	9:00 am* Yoga Practice 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	10:00 am Exercise Group 7:00 pm Farkle Group		10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry		

Additions to the Library

The following items have been added to the St. Luke Library and are available for checkout:

- Epictetus; Hastings Crossley, translator. *The Stoic Path: The Golden Sayings* (2022; originally published 1903). Gift of **Doug Tanner**.
- Ferry, David. *Gilgamesh: A New Rendering in English Verse* (1993). Gift of **Doug Tanner**.
- Howlett, Susan. *Boards on Fire: Inspiring Leaders to Raise Money Joyfully* (Seattle, WA: Word & Raby Publishing, 2nd edition, 2019). Gift of **Donna Clopton**.
- Paolucci, Antonio. *The Sistine Chapel* (2017). Gift of **Doug Tanner**.
- Thompson, Susan Conklin. *Children as Illustrators: Making Meaning through Art and Language* (2005). Gift of **Donna Clopton**.
- Tigay, Chanan. *The Lost Book of Moses: The Hunt for the World's Oldest Bible* (2017). Gift of **Doug Tanner**.
- TouchingGrace.org. *Jesus Speaks to You Today: Quotations from the King of Kings to Encourage, Comfort, and Energize You*. Gift of **Donna Clopton**.
- Walters, Diana L. *Fun with Words* (n.d.). Gift of **Donna Clopton**.
- Walters, Diana L. *Touching Grace: Montessori Methods and the Touch of Christ* (2016). Gift of **Donna Clopton**.

Thanks go to all those who donated last month and in all the preceding months to our library. Stop by some time; you may be surprised by the variety and quality of the collection.

Silent Auction Scheduled

The Mission Committee is organizing a silent auction to raise funds for our Laundry Love program. The auction will be held after church on October 1.

If you would like to help this worthy cause, you can donate items to be auctioned. Here are just a few ideas: art or a craft that you have made, holiday items, coupons/certificates for a service that you will provide (like one housecleaning, car wash, homemade dessert, etc.), an item taking up space in a cabinet that is like new/never used, baked goods. Use your imagination! (No clothing, please.) The Mission Committee will begin collecting donations soon. Contact **Camille Hoy** with questions.

Reaching Out

Worship services on Facebook (viewed Live):
June 4 through July 23

Average reach = 65 (high of 86, low of 45)
Average engagements = 8 (high of 11, low of 0)
Average peak live viewers = 4.13 (high of 6, low of 2)

Facebook reach since June 29 = 1,157
New followers = 2, Reactions = 158, Shares = 19
Published posts = 25
Highest reach on a post: Juneteenth schedule
Most comments on a post: **Bob Hansen** passes baton
(link to WTAMU's website)

Congratulations!

Dr. **Robert Hansen**, the first director of WTAMU's School of Music is passing the baton to Dr. B. J. Brooks on August 1—although he won't officially retire until the end of the 2023-2024 academic year. If you're counting, that will total thirty-seven years of service to WT! We offer our congratulations on Dr. Bob's many achievements during his tenure (which you can read about on WT's website, wtamu.edu/news/.)

Travis Kemp has been nominated for the 2023 Best of Amarillo Community's Choice Awards in the Radio Personality/Show category. In addition, KACV-FM has been nominated in the Radio Station - Local category. FYI, Sonic has been nominated and Discovery Center, as well, in their categories. Voting is now open through July 31. Check it out.

Kudos to **Myra Mba**, junior at Abilene Christian University. She has been recognized as a Dean's Honor Roll student and was named in an article in the *Globe News* recently.

Congratulations to **Hadlee Shields** who finished a Pre-Medical Enrichment Program offered by the TTHSC School of Medicine this summer. She won an award for receiving a perfect score on physical examinations. She was also named on the President's List for the spring semester at Oklahoma State University where she will return this fall.



BOOK OF ORDER (2023-2025)

"The revised Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [Part II], which took effect as a governing document July 9, can be accessed online in three formats from the Office of the General Assembly pages of pcusa.org. Bound copies can be ordered through the PC(USA) store.

Laurie Griffith, Associate Director for Constitutional Interpretation in OGA, led the effort to compile the new publication, including more than 30 amendments presbyteries finished voting on at the end of March. She noted that all amendments proposed by the 225th General Assembly were approved."

Interactive pdf:

<https://www.pcusa.org/get/resources/resource/56990/>

Printable pdf (for 8 1/2- x 11-inch paper):

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/boo_2023-2025_lettersize_textonly_forprint.pdf

Annotated web version: <https://Index.pcusa.org>

Bound version:

<https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/9798988550105/book-of-order-20232025.aspx>