

# St. Luke Presbyterian Church

# EPISTLE



VOLUME 57, NO. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2021 | NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS

## LOGOS Fall Kickoff

LOGOS will be kicking off on September 8 at 5:30 p.m. The scheduled activities will center around a provided meal, Bible study, worship skills, and crafts/recreation.

LOGOS is for all St. Luke kids from K-12 and for any friends of St. Luke as well.

LOGOS will continue to take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. monthly on the first Wednesday every month through this fall. The registration fee is \$20 per family for the fall semester, and St. Luke has scholarship funds that can cover that if needed.

Safety is a top priority for LOGOS, and it is expected that all participants who are able will wear masks indoors unless actively eating or drinking.

If you would like more information, please contact **Wesley Wingo** at [wesley.wingo@stlukeamarillo.com](mailto:wesley.wingo@stlukeamarillo.com) or

you September 8! We hope to see **WESLEY WINGO** .

## PW to Begin Study

St. Luke Women's first meeting of 2021-22 will be at 9:30 a.m., September 8 in the fellowship hall.

**Sallie Amason** will provide refreshments. The study this year is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. The first lesson is "Family Trees." **Kendra Jones** will begin the study with reminiscences of her own grandmothers and will invite members to share theirs at upcoming meetings (in lieu of devotionals).

If you missed the deadline to order a book through the church office, you can still get a copy by ordering directly from Presbyterian Women. Here is the link:

[www.presbyterianwomen.org/](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/).

## Mark Study Begins September 22

Who was Mark? What is different about his gospel from the other three? Why is it believed Mark is the earliest written gospel of the four canonical gospels? How does his message speak to us today?

If any of these questions intrigue you, please join in a four-week adult Bible study on the Gospel of Mark. Classes will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. starting September 22 and continuing through October 20, skipping October 6.

Handouts from *The Thoughtful Christian* will be available for each class session. Please contact **Kary Wingo** ( ) if you'd like to participate, and she will email the weekly handouts to you.

WE'D LOVE

TO  
*Connect*  
WITH YOU!



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Visit our website:  
[www.stlukeamarillo.com](http://www.stlukeamarillo.com)



Find us on Facebook:  
[@stlukeamarillo](https://www.facebook.com/stlukeamarillo)



Watch us on YouTube:  
St. Luke Presbyterian Church



Find Pastor Kati's blog:  
[www.revkatcollins.com](http://www.revkatcollins.com)



Pastor Kati's podcast:  
The Sycamore Tree



Download the Sharefaith App  
on the App Store



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

## Spiritual Leadership Retreat Day

We all need a bit of rest and some new tools to lead in our workplace and home. St Luke's Session invites you to join them for a spiritual retreat to care for our souls so that we can care for others. Registration begins September 1.

### WILDCAT BLUFF NATURE CENTER

October 1, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Registration: \$10 (includes lunch and supplies)

## Children's Church to Begin September 12

Starting this fall, a Children's Church will take place during our Sunday morning worship service. Children from fifth grade and lower are welcome to leave the sanctuary after the choir's anthem (if they have not left after the children's sermon) and attend a class in the Bright Education Center, learning about songs, crafts, and Bible stories following the lectionary. There will be Sundays when the kids will learn more about Communion and other service-related activities. The class will start on September 12 when the Adult Sunday School will also begin. **Camille Hoy** and **Helen Thorsheim** will be teaching these classes. If you have any questions, please contact **Ashley Denham**.

## Your Tithes & Offerings Matter...

### to the "Food Insecure"

High Plains Food Bank is a program selected by the Mission Committee to receive a monthly, budgeted donation. In 2021, we aim to give a total of \$1,980 to this charity.

The food bank's website describes its mission:

We exist to alleviate hunger in The Panhandle. We do this in many different ways.

First, we provide food, a basic need. We delivered 8.25 million pounds of food in 2018 to the 29 counties we serve, in the top of the Texas Panhandle. According to 2014 data from our most recent hunger study, we served an estimated 92,000 people, in 8,000 different families, through our partner agencies. This is a tangible way you can see what we are doing at the Food Bank. It has been a long-standing tradition since our inception to deliver shelf-stable and fresh foods to the people that need them. We distribute the food through our over 190 agencies that work hand in hand with us to pinpoint need in their communities. We deliver this basic need to people who need help getting back on their feet.

To learn more about High Plains Food Bank visit  
<https://www.hpfb.org/>.

## Mission Activities

On Saturday, August 21, your Mission Committee sponsored a Laundry Love event at the 10th St. Laundry at 1401 SW 10th Street from 8:00 until 10:00 a.m. It was a rousing success, demonstrating an unmet need in our community at large. We plan to host more such events in the future, so watch for notices and invitations to come. If you would like to contribute financially to these efforts, please designate your donations, "Laundry Love."

Although the Committee tries to space out the various drives we sponsor, with the start of the school year, several of the organizations we support are experiencing special needs. We have decided to extend the collection of used men's pants and shoes for the Guyon Saunders Resource Center in order to give you more time to clean out your closets and dresser drawers. At the same time, we are asking for ready-to-eat or easily prepared food for the Amarillo College Food Pantry, along with personal hygiene products. These items help low-income students continue their educations when they are food-deprived or when personal maintenance necessary for self-esteem becomes difficult.

In September and October, we will be asking for donations of school supplies for Mesa Verde Elementary School and for gifts of underwear for the residents of the Amarillo Children's Home. The items needed for the ACH underwear drive are women's socks and underwear (all sizes XS to XXL) and men's underwear and socks SM, MED, and LG. **ANN HEFNER**

## Church Telephone Directory

An electronic copy of the updated church telephone directory will be emailed next week. One printed directory per family will be available to be picked up from the tower foyer.



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

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1 • P.J.   | 12 • Jessica |
| 2 • Keegan | 12 • Tim     |
| 2 • John   | 14 • Mindy   |
| 4 • Grace  | 17 • Cruse   |
| 4 • Nan    | 18 • Lillie  |
| 8 • Jude   | 19 • Yvette  |
| 9 • Ross   | 19 • Doug    |
| 11 • Jan   | 25 • Alexa   |

\* Friend of St. Luke

# Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

## Truth Be Told

"See, the home of God is among mortals. The Three in One will dwell with them as their God; they will be God's peoples, and God personally will be with them; The Alpha and Omega will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

—adapted for inclusive language from REVELATION 21:3-4

We humans, we love stories. We tell them to ourselves and to others over and over. The more we tell a story, the more things get exaggerated and the more sure we become of the truth of our own perspective.

For us to grow and heal, however, we must start by looking at the story in a new way. When we see the possibility for a new interpretation of the world in and around us, we open the door for transformation, transformation of our minds, our relationships, our souls.

We can begin by putting our stories on paper, whether that's with words or numbers or music or art, and then step back to really look at what we are telling ourselves. By looking back at this piece of information, we can challenge it, and we can step back and say, "What else is happening here? Is there a way to see this from a new perspective?" When we are able to see multiple perspectives, we can write a new ending. We can come to see ourselves as agents of our circumstances rather than hopeless and out of control. Dr. Brené Brown is one of my spiritual gurus, and she talks about this power to retell our own stories in her book, *Rising Strong*.

The opposite of recognizing that we're feeling something is denying our emotions. The opposite of being curious is disengaging. When we deny our stories and disengage from tough emotions, they don't go away; instead, they own us, they define us. Our job is not to deny the story, but to defy the ending—to rise strong, recognize our story, and rumble with the truth until we get to a place where we think, Yes. This is what happened. This is my truth. And I will choose how this story ends.

Mulling over what could have been, or what we should do next can drive us to more desperation. This is not what she is suggesting. Her encouragement is to dig deeper into our emotions and recognize what we are feeling, so that we can move forward and take responsibility for how we will respond to what has happened to us.

She suggests that you start with the phrase, "The story I'm making up..." recognizing the story we tell isn't always the truth. Our daily routines do not always make space for this kind of introspection, and since each week seems to get heavier, we have to intentionally make time to integrate our feelings and our experiences.

I invite you to look through the church calendar and choose at least one activity to attend this month and continue this work of telling and listening to stories with one another, so that we might latch onto the greater story of God working towards the

redemption of the whole world. Whether it's the Wednesday night Mark study, the Silent Meditation services, or even Sunday morning worship, every time we gather and confess our struggles, we take an opportunity to hear our own stories from someone else's point of view and from God's all seeing view.

## Brown Bag New Member Class

August 29 after worship  
September 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Begin the process of becoming a new member and get to know St. Luke!

RSVP to the office or Pastor Kati for a free Jimmy John's sandwich or bring your own. Meet by the east door to decide on a meeting place.

# THANK YOU

*for your faithful giving!*

July 2021

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.

Year-to-Date

# CLERK'S REPORT

The Session had their regular monthly meeting on August 15. Following is a report:

1. July 2021 average attendance for worship – 56
2. Active membership as of July 31, 2021 – 156
3. Communion was celebrated on August 1, 2021.
4. **Samantha Lucille Collins**, child of **Robbie** and Rev. **Kati Collins**, was baptized on Sunday, August 8, 2021.
5. Listed below are actions that were approved and the associated committee:
  - Treasurer's Report (Helen Thorsheim)
  - baptism was approved for September 12. (Pastor)
  - To make up days she was unavailable while taking care of her children, Pastor **Kati** requested to observe two Mondays of service a month rather than from rest through December. Schedule to be reflected on the church calendar, which is on the website and in the *Epistle*. (Pastor)
  - Request for committee moderators to update the time/talent form. (Finance)
  - The Endowment Committee is exploring ways to increase giving to the church's endowment. (Finance)
  - Move Communion date to September 19. (Worship)
  - Minutes for Mission on September 12 and 26. (Worship)
  - Possible establishment of Board of Deacons tabled until the September meeting. Pastor **Kati** will have an informative display at the Time and Talent Fair. (Deacon Subcommittee)
  - COVID protocols: Members strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors. Fellowship events and in-person worship to continue. Message to congregation to be sent and church signs to be updated. (Session)

## Congregational Care

Many thanks to all those who stopped by the Congregational Care table at the Time & Talent Fair to share ideas and ask questions. We appreciate your support. Thank you, too, to all of you who have provided donuts for Sunday morning fellowship. If it isn't convenient for you to order and pick up the donuts yourself, contact **Donna Clopton** for assistance.

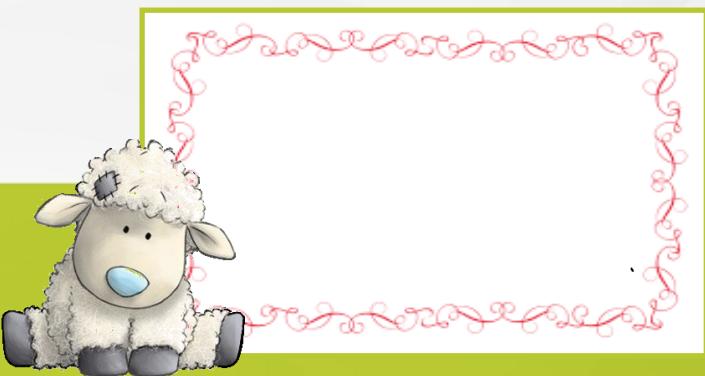
It is good to visit with friends before church, and we want to thank those who remember to wear their masks when they have finished eating. Let's all work together to keep everyone safe. Wishing many blessings for all of you.

DONNA CLOPTON

## Choir Practice Schedule

In order to accommodate the upcoming Adult Sunday School schedule, the chancel choir will rehearse from 9:30-9:45 and 10:30-11:00 a.m. Also, it's about time to take home your summer robes to freshen up for next year.

- Each committee urged to have its own historian/photographer for recording church events. (Session)
  - **Ann Hefner** and **Mary Holmlund** to be St. Luke's commissioners at (Zoom) Presbytery meeting on September 24. (Session)
6. **Commendations:**
- **Bob Hansen, Mila Abbasova**, and chancel choir for an outstanding cantata.
  - Worship Committee, Christian Education Committee, and **Donna Clopton** for the Cantata Brunch.
  - **Mary Holmlund** for playing flute and piano during worship.
  - **Kaci Jones, Darcy Hargis**, and **Bob McCracken** for serving as liturgists.
  - **Robbie Collins** for recording and mainstreaming worship through July.
  - **Mila Abbasova** and **Mary Holmlund** for the organ/piano duet "Holy, Holy, Holy".
  - **Camille Hoy** and **Marcie Robinson** for Minutes for Mission.
  - **Steve Parker** for singing a solo as the anthem.
  - **Cheri Castleberry, Darcy Hargis, Helen Thorsheim, Stacy Clopton**, and **Donna Clopton** for leading the July LOGOS event.
  - **Doug Tanner** for working with several others to complete the lengthy insurance questionnaire.
  - **Helen Thorsheim** for having the dedication to St. Luke and to the Finance Committee that she attended the meeting from Colorado.
  - **Sammi Collins** for bringing such joy and enthusiasm to the baptism service.



## Fellowship Hall Is Where It's At!

See pictures  
on page 6!

The Time & Talent Fair, held on August 22, has been extended. If you haven't been to the fellowship hall to see the displays, or even if you have, stop by and see what St. Luke is up to and how you can participate! Pick up the flyers that help complete the information that is so artfully and creatively presented. The theme for the fair and the coinciding stewardship drive is "Find a Place to Bloom." We know you will!

DAVID KEMP

"We are surrounded by God's benefits. The best use of these benefits is an unceasing expression of gratitude." ~ John Calvin



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<b>SUNDAY SCHEUDLE</b>						4
9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Adult Sunday School — Choir Rehearsal — <b>SEE PAGE 4!</b> 11:00 am In-Person Worship 11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook 11:00 am Children's Church during worship 2:00 pm Service will be posted to YouTube			6:00 pm LOGOS Com. Mtg.  Pastor Kati ↳ is on vacation thru Sept. 5	10:00 am Exercise Class 2:00 pm Threads of Love		
				6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-non*		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Peanut Butter Sunday  → Ruling Elder <b>Doug Tanner</b> will fill the pulpit.	Labor Day Church offices will be closed. <b>10:30 am</b> No Piano Class  8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non*	<b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>4:00 pm</b> Congregational Care Com. Mtg. <b>6:00 pm</b> Fellowship Com. Mtg.	<b>9:30 am</b> St. Luke Women <b>12:00 noon</b> Finance Com. Mtg. <b>5:30 - 7:30 pm</b> LOGOS Kickoff Event	<b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>2:00 pm</b> Threads of Love  6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-non*		Patriot Day
12	*13	14	15	16	17	18
Grandparents Day  Adult Sunday School Class begins (9:45)  Children's Church begins  Baptism of	<b>10:30 am</b> Adult Piano Class <b>2:00 pm</b> Christian Educ. Com. Mtg. <b>5:30 pm</b> Mission Com. Mtg.  8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non*	<b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>5:45 pm</b> Worship Com. Mtg.	<b>12:00 noon</b> Young at Heart <b>7:00 pm</b> Brown Bag New Members Class	<b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>2:00 pm</b> Threads of Love  6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-non*		
Communion will be celebrated.  <b>12:00 noon</b> Stated Session Mtg.	<b>10:30 am</b> Adult Piano Class	<b>Peace Day</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>5:30 pm</b> Property Com. Mtg.	<b>Autumn begins</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> 4-week Mark Study	<b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>11:30 am</b> Lunch Bunch <b>2:00 pm</b> Threads of Love  6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-non*	23	24
						25
26	*27	28	29	30	<b>Pastor's Drop-In Hours</b> Tuesday, 1 - 4 p.m. Wednesday, 9 a.m. - noon or by appointment (Mondays are typically Pastor Kati's Day of Rest.)	
E-pistle deadline	<b>10:30 am</b> Adult Piano Class	<b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Class	<b>7:00 pm</b> Mark Study	<b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>2:00 pm</b> Threads of Love	Pastor Kati will be in the office on * this Monday to compensate for an absence due to her kids' illness.	
<b>September</b>			<b>Business Office Hours</b> Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - noon & 1 - 5 p.m.			
7:00 pm Silent Meditation Service	8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-non*	7:00 pm Farkle Group	6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-non*			

## GIVE

SHARE YOUR FINANCIAL  
BLESSINGS TO HELP DISASTER  
SURVIVORS THROUGHOUT THE  
WORLD.



## ACT

GET INVOLVED WITH DISASTER  
RECOVERY MINISTRY.



## PRAY

OUR BEST RESPONSE IS PRAYER.  
SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE ON  
BEHALF OF DISASTER  
SURVIVORS.



# Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has had long-standing partnerships in Haiti for decades. These meaningful relationships enable us to come alongside communities affected by disaster in the immediate aftermath, as well as support communities planning multi-year, long-term recovery projects.

Most recently, PDA is responding to the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti the morning of August 14, 2021 that has resulted in the loss of more than 1,200 lives. Working closely with Presbyterian World Mission, our traditional partners on the ground and ACT Alliance, PDA is responding to emergency needs such as WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), emergency power generators, shelter, food, first aid, and more. We remain committed to the long-term recovery.

To support this response, designate gifts to OG100000-Haiti

To give, visit <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/OG100000/>.

To give by phone, call 800-872-3283. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go (OG100000) on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

## More Books Added to St. Luke Library

Doug Tanner announces that additions to the St. Luke library this summer include:

Bass, Diana Butler, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* (2019).

Bell, Rob, *What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything* (2017).

Bolding, Amy, *Inspiring Devotions for Church Groups* (1994).

Borg, Marcus J., *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Power and How They Can Be Restored* (2012).

Chege, Sam, *Life Is God's Best Gift: Wisdom from the Ancestors on Finding Peace and Joy in Today's World* (2019).

Coleman, J.A., *The Dictionary of Mythology: An A-Z of Themes, Legends, and Heroes* (2019).

Coolidge, Olivia E., *Greek Myths* (1977).

Daniels, Mark, *World Mythology in Bite-sized Chunks* (2019).

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr., *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song* (2021). Signed by author.

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. (Host), *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song* (2021). DVD, 2 disks.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel, and others, *Classical Mythology: Myths and Legends of the Ancient World* (2019).

Jordan, Samuel T., *Bible Timeline, from the Creation to the Death of John, AD 100* (2016).

Kirsch, Adam, *The People and the Books: 18 Classics of Jewish Literature* (2017).

O'Grady, Selina, *In the Name of God: The Role of Religion in the Modern World -- A History of Judeo-Christian and Islamic Tolerance* (2020).

Pemberton, John, *Myths & Legends: An Illustrated Guide to Their Origins and Meanings* (2019).

Welsh, Frank, *The History of the World, from the Dawn of Humanity to the Modern Age* (2013).

Wilson, Barrie A., *Searching for the Messiah: Unlocking the Psalms of Solomon and Humanity's Quest for a Savior* (2020).

More booths to see!  
Come to Fellowship Hall!

Find a place to bloom!

Time & Talent Fair



## Joys & Concerns

- ★ Staff and residents at **Amarillo Children's Home**
- ★ Prayers for those with COVID-19, including church members

*Continue to remember:*

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.

## Silent Meditation Services

August 29 & September 26 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Luke Zoom Meeting Room

Meeting ID:

Beginners and regulars welcome. We begin with a gathering prayer followed by a short moment of silence. We read some scripture and poems, have a longer period of silence as we dwell in the presence of God (15-20 minutes), and close with a spoken prayer and saying of the Lord's Prayer. Contact Pastor **Kati** or **Phillip Periman** for more information.

## Thursday Lunch Bunch

The Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. on September 23. Watch your emails and announcements for the location and any updates.

## Time to Take Stock

Giving Statements will be emailed around the first of September; please watch your email. Take just a moment to verify that your gifts have been recorded correctly. If you have any questions or need to report an error, please call the church office.

We offer six different options to make your tithe or financial gift to St. Luke: 1) offering plate, 2) online, 3) mobile app, 4) "text to give", 5) bill pay, and 6) traditional mail. If you would like to learn more about any of these options, please visit the "Giving" page on St. Luke's website. Here is a link: <https://www.stlukeamarillo.com/tithe/>.

No matter how you choose to give, we are so grateful for your generosity and faithfulness!

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the October edition of the *E-pistle* will be Sunday, September 26. The newsletter will be mailed on September 30. 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 the church office to be added.

## Adult Sunday School to Start September 12th

The Adult Sunday School Class will start September 12. We will meet in the last classroom on the north side of the Education Wing. You can grab a donut at 9:30 a.m. and enjoy fellowship before coming to class from 9:45-10:45.

We have chosen a Great Courses Video Series called "How Jesus Became God." There will be a 30-minute video followed by thirty minutes of discussion. Facilitators for the class will be **Cruse Messer, Kendra Jones, and Kary Wingo**. The author and presenter of this study is Dr. Bart D. Ehrman, a professor at the University of North Carolina who holds a M.Div. and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary.

What exactly happened, such that Jesus came to be considered God? To ask this question is to delve into a fascinating look into the origins of the Western worldview and the theological underpinnings of our civilization. In twenty-four provocative lectures, Professor Ehrman takes you deeply into the process by which the divinity of Jesus was first conceived by his followers, demonstrating how this conception was refined over time to become the core of Christian theology, our culture, our thought, and our world.

All adults are welcome. It is sure to spark some thought and lively discussions!

KENDRA JONES

## Peanut Butter Sunday

September 5 will be "Peanut Butter Sunday." You are encouraged to bring peanut butter to contribute to the High Plains Food Bank. Non-perishable grocery items, empty egg cartons, and paper sacks are also accepted every week. This ongoing project is sponsored by the Mission Committee.

**St. Luke's call2action number is  
806-631-6253.**

- Text **AMEN** to be directed to the attendance pad.
- Text **ASSIST** to volunteer your time and talent.
- Text **GIVE** to make a financial contribution.

## Postscripts

A pair of women's sunglasses has been turned in at the church office. They can be found in the mail slot outside the office door.

Jazz DJ **Travis Kemp** has a podcast in the works. If you want to be involved (possibly interviewed?) please call or text him. Stay jazzy, Amarillo!