

EPISTLE

St. Luke Presbyterian Church

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 10 | OCTOBER 2022 | NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS

Stay in touch with St. Luke!



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The Sycamore Tree



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Giving Joyfully!

Stewardship is a ministry for each of us. It is the giving of your time, talent, and treasure to extend the many blessings God has given each of us. The theme for the 2023 stewardship drive is "Giving Joyfully!" On Sunday, October 2, printed stewardship packets for members and friends will be available for pick-up. The material will be e-mailed and the online form will be posted on the website on the following Monday. We ask that you kindly return your information by October 16. The "form" is simply a two-sided sheet with "My Giving Commitment" on one side and "Time and Talent Commitment" on the other. Please read the cover letter and other information carefully. This year, Giving Joyfully t-shirts will be given to all those who ask for them, even if you choose not to make a giving estimate. They are St. Luke's way of thanking you for your continued faithful giving.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

I PETER 4:10

2022 St. Luke Seminar Coming October 7-8

The Seminar Committee is excited to announce the return of the St. Luke Seminar this fall! In hosting these events, St. Luke seeks to provide modern and relevant Biblical Scholarship in an instructional and conversational setting. All are welcome, and there is no charge to attend this event.

The upcoming seminar, "Colorblind No More: Reading with the Eyes of the Other," features guest speaker Dr. **Angela N. Parker**. Dr. Parker is Assistant Professor of New Testament and Greek at McAfee School of Theology and the author of *If God Still Breathes, Why Can't I?* You can read a full biography on our website.

Continued on page 4.

Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

Over the past month, our congregation received two well attended Active Attack Security Trainings, offered by Lt. **Tim Williams**, a retired member/trainer of the SWAT team of Randall County. There were several teaching points that I wanted to remember and take note for my own personal practice, and I wanted to share those thoughts with you.

First, he outlined what goes on inside our brains when we respond to an attack, whether that be to an active shooter situation or with a violent person in general. First, our minds don't want to believe this is actually happening, and we experience **DENIAL**. Then, we begin to think through what we could do next in an act of **DELIBERATION**. Finally, we make a choice to move in a **DECISIVE MOMENT**. If we take the time to prepare for a moment of crisis, whether that is a fire, an attack, or another traumatic event, we come to the moment of deliberation with more wisdom and information, and we can help set a sense of calm for those around us as well as ourselves.

We can take comfort in his assurance that our Randall County Sheriff's Office has a three-minute response time to situations involving an active attacker, so our goal can be contact them, keep ourselves and others safe for the next three minutes, and then trust them to do their jobs. He also encouraged us to comply completely with police upon their arrival, so that they can more easily identify the attacker and get wounded individuals to the care they need.

During those three minutes, we are to remember the letters **ADD** for our decisive moment. Some will find a way to **AVOID** the attacker by getting away as quickly as possible. Now is the time to identify your exit strategy for your church, your main grocery stores, your home, your school, any place you spend time. He encouraged us to begin noticing where the exits are in buildings, because the entrance is not the only exit.

DENY matches the first D in our acronym. Deny entry to the attacker by locking doors or building a barricade if you do not have a clear place to go. **DEFEND** matches the second D. He reminded us that we have a right to defend ourselves in a situation such as this and encouraged us to consider what items could be used as a weapon, such as a hammer, baseball bat, or glass bottle.

Each individual will make a different decision, and your decision will influence the lives around you. Moving towards a safe exit creates movement for others to follow. Taking steps to block the attacker's movement protects others around you. Finding the courage to attack the attacker will fall to trained and/or equipped people, and as we have heard the stories of recent church attacks, ordinary people can make a difference in one of these situations.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our steps in prevention and preparation measures, and may Christ continue to speak to and through us in the strangers that we meet, so that we might learn to love one another with our "hands of service, hands of faith, and open hands of love."

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

PSALM 23

These Days:
Daily
Devotions
for Living
by Faith
for the
fourth quarter
are available
from tables
around the
church.

Do you have an October birthday?

The Endowment Committee encourages you to celebrate your birthday and the church together by donating the amount of your age. Your gift is added to St. Luke's Perpetual Endowment Fund to continue the mission of the church in years to come.

THANK YOU

for your faithful giving!

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.

August 2022

Year-to-Date

Session Highlights

The Session had its regular monthly meeting on September 18. Below is a short summary.

Clerk's Report:

- August 2022 average attendance for worship - 62
- Active membership for August 31, 2022 - 147
- Communion was celebrated on Sunday, September 11.
- Requesting dismissal to other churches: **David and Colby Barrow, Julie Cathey, and Bunny Leathers.**

A few highlights:

- An "elder of the week" will be available after each worship service to meet with visitors and/or St. Luke members about any questions or comments they may have for the Session.
- A task force is being formed to begin planning St. Luke's 60th anniversary in 2024.
- A \$200 donation is being made to The Bridge in the name of **Tim Williams** in appreciation of his doing the ALERRT training for our church.
- **Doug Tanner** and **Barbara Taylor** will serve as commissioners to the Palo Duro Presbytery meeting September 30 - October 1.
- St. Luke Women will collect donations at the Thanksgiving dinner for the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering.
- St. Luke Family retreat plans for October 22 at the High Plains Retreat Center were discussed.

Commendations:

- ✓ **Doug Tanner** for his donation of four National Geographic books by Jean-Pierre Isbouts for the library.
- ✓ **Nicole Payne, Cruse Messer,** and nursery volunteers who have already had their background checks completed.
- ✓ **Camille Hoy, Tim Lacey, J.T. Jolley,** and **Helen Thorsheim** for their quick response and hard work for the water removal and repair (due to ice machine leak).
- ✓ **Helen Thorsheim** and **Doug Tanner** for their extra work on the security task force and for making the church map layouts.
- ✓ **Eldon Wingo** for laminating the church layout maps.
- ✓ **Melissa Shields** and Pastor **Kati** for their media push and for keeping things up to date for the community.
- ✓ All who helped with AmaCon in some way to make the photo booth a success.

Continued on page 4.

2022 ST. LUKE SEMINAR *continued from page 1.*

The seminar will be broken into three sessions.

- (1) Friday, October 7, 6:30 p.m., "God Still Breathes: 2 Timothy"
- (2) Saturday, October 8, 10:00 a.m., "Reading with Eyes of Privilege: Mark 14 & 15"
- (3) Saturday, 1:00 p.m., "Reading with the Other: Galatians"

Lunch, catered by Delvin's Restaurant, will be offered between sessions on Saturday for \$15 per person. Meal vouchers will be available if you need help with the cost. Childcare will be available if requested.

For complete information and registration, please visit our website: <https://www.stlukeamarillo.com/st-luke-seminars/>

SESSION REPORT *continued from page 3.*

- ✓ **Helen Thorsheim** and **Quentin Smith** for honoring **Doug Tanner** for his 80th birthday.
- ✓ **Helen Thorsheim** for sticking with the security grant marathon through thick and thin...and COVID.
- ✓ **Tim Lacey** for setting up the CRASE training with **Tim Williams**.
- ✓ **Kary Wingo** for stepping in at the last minute to provide a computer and handle technological aspects at the August 24 training session.
- ✓ Pastor **Kati Collins** and **Melissa Shields** for providing a computer and operating expertise at the September 9 training.
- ✓ **Ross Clopton** for filling the pulpit on September 4.
- ✓ **Stacy Clopton** for the children's sermon on September 4.
- ✓ **David Craig** for taking care of technology on September 4.

Church Family Retreat

"Sailing with the Spirit," a St. Luke Church Family Retreat will be held at the High Plains Retreat Center on Saturday, October 22. Our Session is organizing this event to provide more opportunities to build our community at St. Luke! All ages and abilities are welcome.

Campfire, coffee, and bagels will start around 9 a.m.; we will gather for morning worship at 10 a.m., and the camp inspired events will come to a close about 4 p.m. Our Bible study, journaling, and crafts (for adults) will explore our partnership with the Holy Spirit.

You're encouraged to register now so that a meal and supplies can be prepared for you. Registration costs are by donation, and any extra funds raised will go toward the next retreat.

Childcare will be provided during worship and Bible study activities (10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.) for kids that are six years old and under.

For a description of the theme, details, and registration information, please visit our website: <https://www.stlukeamarillo.com/event-registration/>



LOGOS and GAP THE LOGOS COMMITTEE

In September, the LOGOS evening was well attended, and the kids enjoyed a craft, Bible study, and making (and consuming) brownie ice cream sundaes. They provided the benediction during the following Sunday's worship service and did an awesome job!

 The GAP (Growing Adult Presbyterians) group met at Fuzzy's Tacos for discussion and visiting, with free childcare provided in our nursery by able volunteers.

For October, kids (kindergarten through 8th grade) will have LOGOS from 6 -7:15 p.m. on the first Wednesday (October 5) with dessert provided. We hope to again prepare something to offer during worship on the following Sunday (October 9.)

GAP will meet October 19 from 6:15 - 7:30 at Cinergy to bowl and enjoy each other's company. Again, free childcare will be provided in our nursery, starting at 6 p.m.  Please contact **Paige Hadley** if you are interested in joining the GAP group for an evening out! We welcome all kids to LOGOS and all young adults to GAP!

Newsletter Deadline

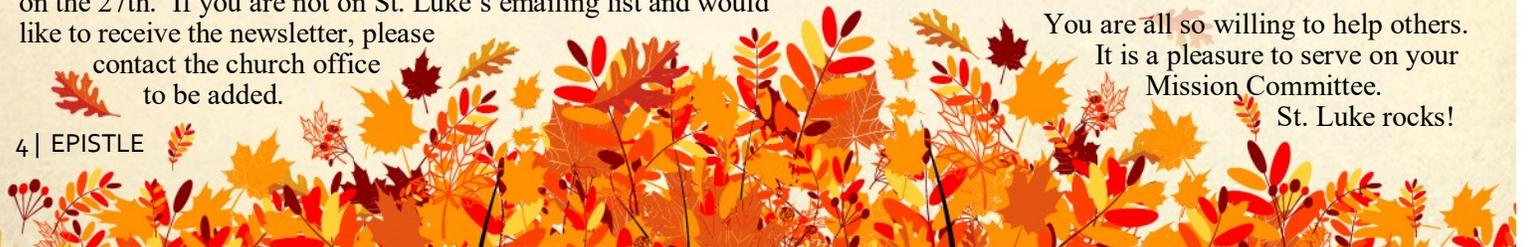
The deadline for the November *E-pistle* will be Sunday, October 23. Send your news to editor **Nan Kemp**. The newsletter will be emailed on the 27th. If you are not on St. Luke's emailing list and would like to receive the newsletter, please contact the church office to be added.

Mission Projects ANN HEFNER

The Mission Committee thanks you for responding so generously to our requests. Mesa Verde has received many tissues, sticks of lip balm, and disinfecting wipes that they need and will continue to need throughout the school year. Don't forget that the first Sunday of every month is now Mesa Verde Sunday, so stock up on the above-listed items and bring them to the church on October 2 and subsequent first Sundays. Also, we have collected many items for the Amarillo College Food Pantry. Those donations will go a long way toward helping disadvantaged students continue their education.

And, a special thanks to all of you who contributed furniture and labor in helping our Laundry Love couple get established in their new home. They are fairly well-equipped now, but we do still need some footstools or ottomans, and a couple of easy chairs. Keep your eyes open and let me know if you find something suitable.

You are all so willing to help others. It is a pleasure to serve on your Mission Committee. St. Luke rocks!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
EACH SUNDAY 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:40 am Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am In-Person Worship and service will stream Live on Facebook Children's Church						1
2 World Communion Sunday "Mesa Verde Sunday" following worship New Member Reception Stewardship Drive begins	3 4:30 am No Piano Class 2:00 pm Christian Educ. Com. Mtg. 5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg.	4 10:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Cong. Care Com. 6:00 pm Hebrews Study 6:00 pm Blessing of the Animals Worship Service	5 1:30 pm Luke Study 6:00 - 7:15 pm LOGOS	6 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love	7 6:30 - 8:00 pm St. Luke Seminar Session 1	8 10:00 am - noon St. Luke Seminar Session 2 12:00 noon Seminar Catered Lunch 1:00 - 3:00 pm St. Luke Seminar Session 3
9 Dr. Angela Parker will fill the pulpit.	10 Columbus Day 10:00 am Adult Piano Class 6:30 pm Property Com. Mtg.	11 6:30 am (TBD) Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Exercise Group 5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg. 6:00 pm Hebrews Study	12 9:30 am St. Luke Women 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg.	13 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm St. Luke Ladies (moms group)	14	15 8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love Event @ 10th Street Laundry
16 following worship Stated Session Mtg. Stewardship forms are due.	17 10:00 am Adult Piano Class	18 10:00 am Exercise Group 6:00 pm Hebrews Study	19 12:00 noon Young at Heart 1:30 pm Luke Study 6:00 - 7:30 pm GAP @ Cinergy	20 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love	21 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Scrapbook Club Event in the fellowship hall	22 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Scrapbook Club Event in the fellowship hall 9:00 am - 4:00 pm All-Church Retreat @ HPRC
23 E-pistle deadline	24 10:00 am Adult Piano Class	25 10:00 am Exercise Group 6:00 pm Hebrews Study 7:00 pm Farkle Group	26	27 10:00 am Exercise Group 12:00 noon Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch 2:00 pm Threads of Love	28	29
30 Reformation Sunday	31 10:00 am Adult Piano Class	<p><i>The first Sunday of the month is now "Mesa Verde Sunday."</i></p> <p>You are encouraged to bring facial tissue, ChapStick, or disinfecting wipes to contribute to our Partners in Education school, Mesa Verde Elementary. You can find donation bins in the fellowship hall. The Mission Committee sponsors this ongoing project.</p>				

Take One, Leave One KENDRA JONES

As the weather cools and we spend more time indoors, come check out the "Take One, Leave One" little library located on the east wall bookcase in the activities/craft room of the education wing. There is a good selection of fiction, as well as nonfiction books, jigsaw puzzles, and DVDs. It's said you can't take it with you, but you really can. Enjoy!

Evening Bible Study of Hebrews

You are invited to a weekly Bible study group meeting on Tuesday evenings. The first meeting will be at **Tim and Kim Lacey's** home at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4. The plan is to work our way through the book of Hebrews, taking one chapter each week.

According to the Discipleship Study Bible, "Hebrews addresses people who have been Christians for some time, but who find that their earlier enthusiasm has faded and that their faith commitment is on the wane...the major purpose of Hebrews is thus to encourage, strengthen, and motivate its readers, to call them to faithfulness." If this relaxed, group-led study sounds interesting to you, we hope you will make plans to join us!

For more information, give **Kary Wingo** a call.

Meals on Wheels CHERI CASTLEBERRY

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers! There are three ways to volunteer: permanent drivers (once/week), substitute drivers (as needed), and snow drivers (as needed). Today, the Amarillo Meals on Wheels program feeds over 350 elderly recipients and has a waiting list until more volunteers become available. Volunteers pick up the meals from either BSA or Northwest Texas Hospital. They drive their own cars and use their own gas to deliver the meals. Most routes have seven to nine stops, and it usually takes about an hour to complete. Many times, you will be the only person the client may see that day. A friendly smile, hot nutritious meal, and critical safety check five days a week are priceless to the homebound elderly in our community that depend on Meals on Wheels volunteers.

In addition, Amarillo Meals on Wheels recognizes the need among their clients to help care for their beloved cats and dogs so they began the Animeal program. In many cases, their pets are more like family and help keep them going. Oftentimes, with limited access to food, the clients will feed their hungry pet before they feed themselves. Meals on Wheels delivers pet food once a month to existing clients.

It's been said before that the volunteers receive many more blessings than the clients. Please consider volunteering for Amarillo Meals on Wheels!

October BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 2 • Steven | 13 • Jennifer |
| 2 • Jarvis | 17 • Linda |
| 4 • Camille | 19 • Nathan |
| 6 • Bea * | 20 • Abby |
| 6 • Teresa | 21 • Margaret |
| 7 • Brayden | 22 • Marilyn |
| 12 • Cailyn | 24 • Pat |
| 13 • Andy * | 27 • Roger |
| | 27 • Beth * |

* Friend of
St. Luke

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

Blessing of the Animals October 4

A Blessing of the Animals Evening Worship will be held on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:00 p.m. outside the sanctuary (or if windy, we will move to the courtyard.)

Bring your family, friends, and animal friends as we give thanks for God's creation and pray for a blessing upon our animal companions. If you would like a blessing but are unable to bring your pet, you may bring any of the following: picture of the pet, food or water bowl for the pet, stuffed animal, leash, pillow, or other personal item. The service will include singing, scripture, memorial candles (electric), and prayer for pets who have died, and a procession of persons with their animals or items to receive a blessing from Pastor **Kati**.

Joys & Concerns

Recent prayer requests:

- Congratulations to the **Taytum and Nolan** on long family. . He weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18 ½”

For you
shall go out
in joy
and
be led forth
in Peace;

— Isaiah 55:12

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

- Our dear friend Rev. **Georgia King** entered the Church Triumphant on August 27, 2022. A memorial service was held at First Presbyterian Church of Canadian on September 2. Rev. King filled the pulpit at St. Luke and throughout the Texas Panhandle.
- Our love and sympathy are extended to **Alexa and Wesley Wingo** upon the death of their baby girl, **Scout Mikana Wingo**. Please also pray for **Kary, Eldon, Delma, Tyler, Abby**, and the extended **Wingo** family and the **Hand** family as they also mourn this loss. Donations may be made in Scout’s memory to The Hope and Healing Place: hopeandhealingplace.org.
- Please pray for the family of **Karlee Messer—Kristin Messer** (her mother), **Karen Hubbard** (grandmother), **Lois Ball** (great-grandmother), and **Sharen Baker** (great-aunt). Karlee was killed on September 23 here in Amarillo.

Continue to remember those with COVID-19 and also **Dorothy Baggerly**; Rev. **Bob Carson**; **Dale Conner**; **Margaret Heyde**; **Aaron Parker**; **Dennis Phelps**; **Donna Phipps**; **Marilyn Shillings**; **Doug Tanner**; Rev. **Karl Travis**; **Delma Wingo**; the St. Luke Session; the staff and residents at Amarillo Children’s Home; the people of Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church; **Glenda Moore** (Kind House Ukraine Bakery); our participants at Laundry Love; and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

Dear St. Luke,

The **Wingo** and **Hand** families want to express our heartfelt appreciation for all the expressions of love and support to our families with your calls, texts, cards, prayers, and presence during this most difficult of times for our family. We love you all. —*The Family of Scout Wingo*

Dear St. Luke Friends,

Thanks for the swell time at **Helen** and **Quentin's** on Sunday the 18th for my 80th. The company and eats were great! It was especially meaningful to have my son **Greg** and his friend **Doug** with us from Colorado, along with my sister **Susan Barnes**. It's been such a joy to be associated with you all in the wonderful work God has set forth for us. —*Love, Doug Tanner*

Dear St. Luke,

Thanks for the birthday card! It’s always nice to be remembered on your special days. Thanks, also, to the Fellowship Committee for their work setting up the Young at Heart in September (and every month). The program (Second Chance House) was very informative. Y@H is fun, and I always learn something. —*Nan Kemp*

Gifts to the Church Library

The following is a list of books recently donated to the St. Luke library. All donations are gratefully accepted!
DOUG TANNER

Gifts of Rev. Robin Gantz:

- Brueggemann, Walter, *The Creative Word: Canon as a Model for Biblical Education* (1982).
- Giorgi, Rosa, *Saints: A Year in Faith and Art* [2002-2017].
- Gustafson, James M., *Christ and the Moral Life* (1968).
- Morgan, Robert J., *A Song in My Heart: 366 Devotions from Our Best-loved Hymns* (2021; previously published under another title, 2010).
- Ortlund, Dane C., *In the Lord I Take Refuge: 150 Daily Devotions through the Psalms* (2021).
- Palmer, Parker T., *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity & Getting Old* (2018).
- Woolman, John, *The Journal of John Woolman and A Plea for the Poor* (1961; previously published 1871). Spiritual autobiography of the great Colonial Quaker.

Gift of Ann Hefner:

- Berenbaum, Michael, editor, *Witness to the Holocaust: An Illustrated Documentary History of the Holocaust in the Words of Its Victims, Perpetrators and Bystanders* (1997).

World Communion Sunday October 2

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

Christ's table is wide, and his welcome is for all. Jesus dined with sinners and saints, with farmhands and foreigners, with disciples and doubters, with children and cherished friends, with the outcast and the outspoken, with lepers and loved ones. And just as he ate at others' tables, when Christ set his banquet table, he welcomed us all, too.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Small & Groups Gatherings



Hebrews Study

Tuesdays in October | 6:00 p.m. (See page 6 for details.)

Luke Study

Continues on first & third Wednesdays | 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

LOGOS (Youth Event)

First Wednesday, October 5 | 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.
(Details on page 4.)

Men's Breakfast

Second Tuesday (October 11) | 6:30 a.m.
TBD (Watch your announcements for updates.)

St. Luke Women NAN KEMP

PW will meet Wednesday, October 12, at 9:30 a.m. **Ann Hefner** and **Margaret Heyde** will host a brunch. **Kendra Jones** will provide a devotional then lead a short business meeting. **Nan Kemp** will present Lesson 2, "Sabbath and Creation" from the *Horizons* Bible Study, *Celebrating Sabbath*. The September meeting was lively and well attended, and we invite all women to come.

St. Luke Ladies (Moms Group)

Second Thursday, October 13 | 6:30 p.m.
Contact Pastor **Kati** to be added to the invite text.

Young at Heart BOB MCCrackEN

Y@H will meet on Wednesday, October 19 at noon. **Glenda Moore** will speak about her recent trip to the Ukraine and about the new location for the bakery. She will bring cookies. Donations will be accepted with gratitude. Kindly RSVP by 11 a.m. on the day before to reserve yourself a sandwich. See you there!

GAP (Growing Adult Presbyterians)

Third Wednesday, October 19 | 6:00 p.m. (See page. 4)

Farkle Group

Last Tuesday, October 25 | 7 p.m. New players welcome!

Lunch Bunch

Fourth Thursday, October 27 | noon
Bring your own lunch and meet at St. Luke for a time of fellowship!