

St. Luke Presbyterian Church Epistle

December 2022 | Volume 58, Issue 12
Nan Kemp & Melissa Shields, Co-Editors



Stay in Touch

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“Less Is More” Christmas Devotional

Christmas has become the biggest holiday in North America, and arguably the biggest in the world, and in many ways, it’s become a holiday of “more”— more presents, more stuff, more events, more expectations, more stress. But as it turns out, if we dial back the “more,” we get closer to the heart of Advent and Christmas. “A ‘Less is More’ Christmas Poster and Devotional” is a fun-filled, faith-filled way to help you and your family do exactly that! The poster is packed with activity ideas. Put it up on your fridge (or in some other prominent spot), and check off the activities as you do them, in no particular order. The devotional also includes simple weekly Advent services to help the family connect to the deeper meanings of the season, as well as handy instructions for some of the activities on the poster. Together, the poster and devotional will help make this Advent and Christmas the most “less is more” yuletide yet! Paper copies are available from tables in the halls, and digital copies of the devotional were emailed to members on November 21.

Christmas Pageant December 7th

Mark your calendars for the St. Luke Christmas Pageant! It will be held on the evening of Wednesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. Desserts and hot punch will be shared afterwards in the fellowship hall. LOGOS on November 30 will be the pageant rehearsal, and pizza will be provided.

We hope to see everyone at this year's Christmas Pageant!

WESLEY WINGO

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Clerk's Report:

- October 2022 average attendance for worship - 62
- Active membership for October 31, 2022 - 141
- Communion was celebrated on All Saints' Sunday, November 6.

Session highlights:

Both the Presbytery and St. Luke exit interviews with Pastor **Kati** were summarized to help Session learn how to improve as we move forward with our new search. It was stressed by **Scott Campbell**, Executive Presbyter, that the new Pastor Nominating Committee be a reflection of our congregation. The 2023 Officer Nominating Committee will begin the process of inquiring for possible nominees for the Pastor Nominating Committee. Session agreed to take the process slowly and to let us all catch our breath.

The 2022 Officer Nominating Committee brought forth the following slate for various committees to be voted on by Session (yes, some had already been voted on at the congregational meeting 10/30): Scholarship Committee: **Sam Burnett** and **Nona Fulton**; Session members for 2023 Officer Nominating Committee: **Camille Hoy** and **Bob McCracken**. They will join at-large members **Mary Graff**, **Helen Thorsheim**, and **Kim Lacey**. Endowment Committee: **Eldon Wingo** to serve through 2024, **Barbara Taylor** as second Session representative, and **Nan Kemp**, at-large representative.

Elder training and Elder appreciation dinner will be held on December 18 (along with the end-of-the-year Session meeting).

Commendations:

- ✦ **Ross Clopton** for filling the pulpit, **Bob Hansen** for the hymn selection, and **Kary Wingo** for doing the children's sermon on November 13.
- ✦ Everyone who helped with the Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering.
- ✦ **Doug Tanner**, **Donna Clopton**, and **Camille Hoy** for handling the exit interview with Pastor **Kati**.
- ✦ **Eldon Wingo** for silently and reliably replacing furnace filters, light bulbs, and other items in the church.
- ✦ LOGOS group for their signing of The Lord's Prayer during the service on November 6, and **Wesley Wingo**, **Kary Wingo**, and **Helen Thorsheim** for helping prepare the children to sing.
- ✦ **Darcy Hargis** for co-moderating the LOGOS Committee.
- ✦ **Dave** and **Nan Kemp** for sponsoring a table on behalf of St. Luke at the Girl Scouts Texas Oklahoma Women of Distinction banquet and fundraiser held October 27.
- ✦ **Kaci Jones** for keeping separate accounting for the security grant to make the State of Texas happy.
- ✦ To **Helen Thorsheim**, who said she doesn't need a commendation every month, but who does an incredible amount of work every month to keep on top of all requirements from the state and working with vendors to make sure everything moves forward.

Outreach News

The Outreach Committee will host an Advent Workshop on Saturday, December 3, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Watch for announcements with more information.

AATAG (Amarillo Area Transgender Advocacy Group) will hold a holiday dinner on December 10 at St Luke.

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

December BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| 2 • Susan | 12 • Nona |
| 2 • Mary | 20 • Keith |
| 2 • Aubrey | 21 • Milam* |
| 4 • Alexa | 24 • Lynn |
| 5 • Phillip | 26 • Bob |
| 9 • Barbara | 27 • Kyle |
| 9 • Medora | 27 • Judy* |
| 9 • Sumner | * friend of St. Luke |

Important Deadline

As the end of 2022 approaches, please remember that St. Luke closes its fiscal year on December 31. *All contributions to be applied to the current year must be received by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 30.* If you made in-kind donations, send your receipts to the church office so that those may be acknowledged as well.

Please know that donations made through the church's online platform take *several* days to be deposited in St. Luke's bank account. Any online contributions to be applied to 2022 must be deposited in St. Luke's account by the close of the banking day on December 31; therefore, if you need to be certain that your gift is recorded for 2022, it is best to bring a check by the church office.

In the first full week of December, you will receive a Giving Statement (by email) that covers the period of January 1 to November 30. The purpose of this statement is to allow you to review that we have properly recorded all of your 2022-to-date gifts as you directed. It also gives you an opportunity to correct any errors or to catch up before the final 12-month statement is released in January 2023.

Your offerings, tithes, and special gifts make the ministries, missions, and programs of St. Luke Presbyterian Church possible.

THANK YOU for giving joyfully! Shalom!

Tis the Season

✦ Sunday, ✦
November 27

First Sunday of Advent
No adult Sunday school class

★ Saturday, ★
December 3

Advent Workshop
10:00 a.m. to noon | Fellowship Hall

✦ Sunday, ✦
December 4

Advent Study begins
during Sunday school time

★ Wednesday, ★
December 7

LOGOS Christmas Pageant
(followed by snacks)
7:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

✦ Sunday, ✦
December 11

10:00 a.m. | Brunch in Fellowship Hall
Christmas Cantata during worship
No Children's Church

★ Sunday, ★
December 18

Christmas Joy Special Offering

✦ Wednesday, ✦
December 21

Blue Christmas Service
6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Church offices will be closed
December 23 through December 26.

★ Saturday, ★
December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight
& Communion Service
6:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

✦ Sunday, ✦
December 25

NATIVITY OF THE LORD
No adult Sunday school class
Service of Lesson & Carols
No Children's Church

The Perfect Gift

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING

And the Word became flesh and lived among us...

JOHN 1:14

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace, and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh—fully human and fully God—became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles, and triumphs, Jesus became one of us—leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life. *The perfect gift!*

Through the Christmas Joy Special Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us—past, present, and future—who have pointed us to God. This and other special offerings play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns.

The **Christmas Joy Special Offering** will be received at St. Luke on or before Sunday, December 18. There are three ways that you can give:

- 1) Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy. (This is the preferred method.) If giving online, please provide the name of our congregation.
- 2) Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999.
- 3) If you are unable to give by either of the electronic methods above, you may write a check payable to St. Luke with "Christmas Joy" noted on the memo line.

Thank you, God, for providing for your children in times of plenty and in times of need. Thank you for opportunities to serve your people and to bring your care to those around us. Amen.

OFFICE SCHEDULE:

The church office will be closed
December 23rd & 26th





MILES FINN

was born on Saturday, November at 12:23 a.m.
He weighed 9 lbs. 5 oz., and length was 22 inches.

Proud parents are **Abby** and **Blaine** ;
grandparents are **Tim** and **Sara** .

Congratulations to the and families!

Christian Education News

The Advent season begins November 27. The adult Sunday school class will not meet on that day. Beginning December 4, the adults will study *Making Room* by Dr. Ed Robb. There are four topics to the study:

- 1) Be a Neighbor
- 2) Welcome Strangers
- 3) Leave the Light On
- 4) Walk Each Other Home

Class is at 9:45 a.m. in the activities/craft room. If you want your own study guide, it can be purchased through Cokesbury or Amazon. Also, you can download a free Advent study from the PC(USA) store and obtain a unit from the *Follow Me* curriculum entitled "Hope." Also, Pastor **Kati** provided "Less is More" Advent calendars and devotional booklets for the congregation. They are available from tables in the halls.

KENDRA JONES

St. Luke Women to Meet

St. Luke Women will meet Wednesday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. **Mary Holmlund** and **Donna Clopton** will provide the brunch. **Kendra Jones** will lead a short business meeting, then **Ann Hefner** will present the devotional. **Nan Kemp** will introduce the lesson. The chapter for November is #4 – "Sabbath and Surrender." All women of the church are invited to attend.

Worship News

CANTATA

Our annual Christmas cantata will be December 11 during worship at 11:00 a.m. Before the cantata, we invite you to a brunch beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please join us in Christmas fellowship as we celebrate together with brunch and the chancel choir's presentation of Eugene Butler's *Wondrous Night*.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Blue Christmas is a tradition that happens on the longest night of the year, December 21, the Winter Solstice. It is about comforting fellow Christians who are grieving and struggling to find joy and hope during the season. Join us on December 21 at 6:00 p.m. as we comfort one another.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Come celebrate the Christmas season with Christmas Eve worship including Communion. It's a special time to gather as a family as well as with your St. Luke friends. Worship will begin at 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Worshiping on Christmas day is a lovely time! This year, we will celebrate with a Service of Lessons and Carols. Come dressed casually and join our voices, proclaiming Christ our Savior. Worship will be at our regular time, 11:00 a.m.

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.

OCTOBER 2022

YEAR-TO-DATE

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

December



Committee meetings have a Zoom option available.

1

World AIDS Day

10:00 am
Exercise Group

2:00 pm
Threads of Love
Ministry

8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

2

3

10:00 am - noon
Advent Workshop

4

**Second Sunday
of Advent**

MVE Sunday
Advent Study
begins
Elder
David Kemp
will fill the pulpit.
Children's Church

5

10:30 am
Adult Piano Class
2:00 pm - if needed
Christian Educ.
Com. Mtg.
5:30 pm
Mission Com. Mtg.
6:00 pm
Property Com. Mtg.
8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

6

10:00 am
Exercise Group
4:00 pm
Congregational
Care Com. Mtg.
6:00 pm
Hebrews Bible
Study (@ the
Taylors' home)

7

Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day
1:30 pm
Luke Bible Study
6:00 pm
Kids arrive for
LOGOS
7:00 pm
Annual LOGOS
Christmas
Pageant

8

10:00 am
Exercise Group
2:00 pm
Threads of Love
Ministry
8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

9

10

Human Rights Day
Fellowship Hall
reserved for
AATAG Holiday
Dinner.

11

**Third Sunday
of Advent**
Advent Study
"Bring a friend to
church!" Sunday
Brunch &
Christmas
Cantata
No Children's
Church

12

10:30 am
Adult Piano Class
8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

13

6:30 am
Men's Breakfast
10:00 am
Exercise Group
5:45 pm
Worship Com.
Mtg.
6:00 pm
Hebrews Bible
Study (Taylors')

14

9:30 am
St. Luke Women
6:15 - 7:15 pm
GAP (white
elephant
exchange)

15

10:00 am
Exercise Group
2:00 pm
Threads of Love
Ministry
8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

16

17

8:00 - 10:00 am
Laundry Love
Event @ 10th
Street Laundry

18

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**
Advent Study
Christmas Joy
Special Offering
Elder
Stacy Clopton
will fill the pulpit.
E-pistle deadline

19

10:30 am
No Piano Class
4:30 pm
Elder Examination
Stated Session Mtg.
Elder Appreciation
Dinner
8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

20

10:00 am
No Exercise Group
6:00 pm
Hebrews
Bible Study
(Taylors')

21

Winter begins
12:00-noon
No Young at
Heart
1:30 pm
Luke Bible Study
6:00 pm
Blue Christmas
Service

22

10:00 am
No Exercise Group
12:00-noon
No Lunch Bunch
2:00 pm
Threads of Love
Ministry
8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

23

Church office
will be closed.

24

Christmas Eve
6:00 pm
Christmas Eve
Service with
Communion

25

**NATIVITY
OF THE LORD**
No Adult Sunday
School Class
Service of Lesson
and Carols
No Children's
Church

26

Church office
will be closed.
10:30 am
No Piano Class
8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

27

10:00 am
No Exercise Group
6:00 pm
Hebrews Bible
Study (Taylors')
7:00 pm
Farkle Group

28

10:00 am
No Exercise Group
2:00 pm
Threads of Love
Ministry
8:00 pm - AA
8:00 pm - Al-non

29

All
contributions
to be applied
to 2022 giving
must be
in the office
by 3:30 p.m.

30

31

New Year's Eve
Any online
contributions
to be applied to
2022 giving
must be posted
by the bank
by the close of
the bank day.

Piano Lessons

Piano lessons will take a winter break and will not meet December 19, December 26, or January 2. Lessons will resume on January 9. SUE DUCKETT

Early Newsletter Deadline

Due to the holidays, the deadline for the January edition of the *Epistle* will be Sunday, December 18. The newsletter will be emailed the last week of December. 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.

Prayer Concerns

Recent prayer requests:

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

† We extend our love and sympathy to the family of **Mike Poushyk**, who died in an accident recently. We pray for **Tony Hadaway** and his mother **Nancy Poushyk**. (Tony is **Ashley Denham**'s boyfriend.)

Continue to remember those with COVID-19 and also

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.

Mission Greetings

The Mission Committee wishes you all a peaceful and holy Christmas...with all the fixin's. We will be busy little elves during the month of December and plan to start the New Year with a renewed and reenergized spirit. Watch for our plans for 2023 in the *Epistle* and in the bulletin.

By the way, we are pleased to tell you that a very proud **Roberto Coronado**, owner of the 10th Street Laundry where we hold our Laundry Love project, is now a new American citizen. Well done, Roberto, *Felicitaciones!*

Congregational Meeting Held

A congregational meeting was called on October 30 for the purpose of electing new officers and to dissolve the relationship with Pastor **Kati**.

Donna Clopton, moderator of the Officer Nominating Committee, thanked the members of the committee: **Sallie Amason**, **Kary Wingo**, **Marcie Dunavin**, and **Krista Berry**. The committee offered the slate of nominees for the Session Class of 2025: **Ross Clopton**, **Robert Hansen**, **Barbara Taylor**, and **Kary Wingo**.

Other various committees: Scholarship - **Sam Burnett**, **Nona Fulton**; Endowment - **Nan Kemp**, **Eldon Wingo**; Nominating Committee 2023 - **Mary Graff**, **Kim Lacey**, and **Helen Thorsheim**.

Pastor Kati then shared some personal thoughts and reflections of her time at St. Luke. The motion was made, seconded, approved to receive the request of Reverend **Kati Collins** to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective November 7, 2022.

Congratulations to **Mila** and **Emin**

on the birth of their fifth grandchild. **Atlas Emin**

was born on October in Austin, TX. He weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 21 ½" long.

welcome baby

Thank you!

We want to thank you all for your lovely and generous gifts for our upcoming baby boy! We are so blessed to have a wonderful church family. And thank you for all the love and support over the next few weeks as we prepare to bring our bundle of joy home.

—Darcy and Ki Hargis

Thanks go to moderators and committee members for your timely responses to our budget requests. To the amazement of the budget team, we were able to come up with a satisfactory annual budget for 2023 without burning the midnight oil. Details to follow!

—Faithfully, Doug Tanner, Finance Moderator

- ◆ Thanks go to the Fellowship Committee and all those who brought food for the Thanksgiving Luncheon. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and food.
- ◆ **Travis Kemp** thanks those who listen to his weekly radio show on FM90. Have a Jazzy Christmas and a Boppin' New Year!
- ◆ Presbyterian Women thank the congregation for the donations in the sum of \$452.49 given at the Thanksgiving luncheon.
- ◆ Thank you to **Fred Kunkel** for his wonderful solo, "Ride On, King Jesus" to celebrate Christ the King Sunday.



Library News

The card catalog for the library is on the window shelf. There are two drawers, one for author and one for title/subject. The checkout list is also on the shelf. Please make an entry for each item you check out. Happy Christmas reading!

DOUG TANNER

Below are some recent additions to the collection:

- ☑ Armstrong, Karen, *The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts* (2019).
- ☑ Bloch, Serge, and Frederic Boyer; Cole Swenson, translator, *In the Beginning: Illustrated Stories from the Old Testament* (2017).
- ☑ Brown, Brene, *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience* (2021). Gift of **Nan Kemp**
- ☑ Jacobson, Rolf A., editor, *Crazy Talk: A Not-so-stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms* (rev. ed., 2017; originally published 2008). Gift of Rev. **Kathryn Collins**
- ☑ Konner, Melvin, *Believers: Faith in Human Nature* (2019).
- ☑ Lucado, Max, *Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here* (2016). Gift of **Medora Williams**
- ☑ Parker, Angela N., *If God Still Breathes, Why Can't I? Black Lives Matter and Biblical Authority* (2021). Signed copy from St. Luke Seminar
- ☑ *St. Luke Presbyterian Church, A Very St. Luke Christmas: Advent Calendar and Devotional by Church Family and Friends* (2021). Gift of Rev. **Kathryn Collins**
- ☑ *Ibid.*, Fellowship Committee, *Fellowship: Favorite Recipes* (n.d., ca. 1990?).

Congratulations

Jennifer Denham has successfully defended her research and will graduate December 10 at WTAMU at 10 a.m. She has earned a doctoral degree in Education, Leadership. Kudos!

Ashley Denham will graduate with an Associates Degree in Welding Technology from Amarillo College on December 16. Well done, Ashley!

Bring a Friend to Church!

The second Sunday of each month is “Bring a Friend” Sunday. In December, the cantata and brunch will be a special treat for you and your guests!

Do you receive our Thursday update emails? [Subscribe](#) here or from our website!



Phillip Periman Announces:

The IC Gallery will be open for the first time since the pandemic began---

Friday, December 16 | 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 17 | 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Masks are optional; however, do not come if you are not vaccinated! Books and photographs will be for sale for an unusual Christmas gift.

Additional parking will be on the vacant lot immediately to the east of the gallery.

Call for additional information: 806-373-5380

The gallery is located at 1501 S. Washington Street.

Town & Gown

Alice Cooke invites everyone to a Town and Gown concert at WT's Mary Moody Northern Hall on December 5 at 7 p.m. These concerts are always enjoyable – and free!

Mesa Verde Sunday

The first Sunday of each month is designated “Mesa Verde Sunday.” You are encouraged to bring facial tissue, disinfecting wipes, or lip balm to donate to our Partners in Education school. The Mission Committee sponsors this ongoing drive. Thank you for your continued generosity!