



NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS | JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 59, ISSUE 1

ANNUAL MEETING SLATED

The annual congregational meeting/luncheon will be held on January 29 following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to receive reports from the various committees as well as the 2023 operating budget that was approved by Session this December. Watch for future announcements to see what you will be asked to bring to the luncheon.

DEADLINE FOR 2022 CONTRIBUTIONS

The Finance Committee wishes to thank the congregation for its continued support during 2022. Your faithful stewardship has blessed the work that happens within our church and extends to our community and to mission partners around the world.

Please remember that all contributions to be applied to the current year must be received by 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 30. Know that donations made through the church's online platform take several days to be deposited in St. Luke's bank account; 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.

2022 Giving Statements to be used for tax purposes will be emailed by January 15. If you do not have an email address associated with your giving number, a printed statement will be mailed.

MISSIONAL GRANT AWARDED

The Common Life Ministry Team recently announced the 2022 Missional Grants for Palo Duro Presbytery. St. Luke was awarded \$1,625 to be used for funding our Laundry Love project. We are truly thankful for the amount received and know that the families we serve each month will be extremely grateful.

Laundry Love is a national initiative whose objective is to provide opportunities to come together with people who are struggling financially and to aid them by paying for their laundry expenses. We hold events on the third Saturday of each month, 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at the 10th Street Laundry located at 1412 SW 10th Avenue.

Thank you to **Camille Hoy** for putting together our application this year and to PDP for their support of our mission efforts.

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.

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SESSION REPORT

Below is a report from the December 18 Session meeting, which was moderated by Rev. **Janell Blair**.

Clerk's Report:

- November 2022 average attendance for worship - 71
- Active membership for November 30, 2022 - 141

Session highlights:

- The 2023 operating budget was approved.
- Worship Committee recommended to designate two St. Luke members to attend Presbytery Communion training.
- Incoming elders **Kary Wingo, Barbara Taylor, Ross Clopton**, and **Bob Hansen** shared some of their personal thoughts after reading the Constitutional Questions from the Book of Order. Their elder examination was received, and they are ready to proceed to installation. (Date to be determined for January.)
- Committee moderators were selected. **Jennifer Denham**, Outreach; **Bob Hansen**, Worship; **Barbara Taylor**, Clerk and Endowment Vice-Moderator; **Cruse Messer**, Worship; **Kendra Jones**, Christian Education and Seminar; **Kary Wingo**, LOGOS; **Doug Tanner**, Finance/Stewardship; **Bob McCracken**, Fellowship; **Ross Clopton**, Personnel; **Ann Hefner**, Congregational Care; **Camille Hoy**, Mission; **Tim Lacey**, Property and Endowment. **Helen Thorsheim** will serve as Treasurer.

Commendations:

- * **Travis Kemp** for his technology expertise.
- * **Helen Thorsheim** and **Cheri Castleberry** for hosting the elder dinner.
- * Christmas pageant — **Helen Thorsheim, Kary Wingo, Stacy Clopton, Paige Hadley**, and the children.
- * Staff for their excellent work.
- * **Stacy Clopton** for the liturgy each Sunday.
- * All of those who filled the pulpit and gave the children's sermon in December.
- * **Fred Kunkel, Melissa Croft, Bob Hansen, Mila Abbasova**, and the chancel choir for the lovely Christmas Cantata, with the help of **Eva**, **Elias**, and **Cailyn**.
- * All those who helped the Worship Committee set up the Christmas decorations and those who helped host the Cantata brunch.

LOGOS NEWS

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our kids for the Christmas pageant! LOGOS will *not* meet on the first Wednesday of January. The regular schedule will pick back up in February on Wednesday, February 1. Enjoy your Christmas break!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline to submit information for the February edition of the *Epistle* will be Sunday, January 22. The newsletter will be emailed on the 27th. 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.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Even though we are without a full-time pastor, we have quite a few members who are willing to talk with you or pray with you during difficult times. We are available to come to the hospital to pray with you prior to surgery or during your hospital stay. We want to support you during any illness, special need, or death your family may experience.

Ann Hefner () is the new moderator of the Congregational Care Committee. **Donna Clopton** () is the immediate past moderator of the committee. Both are available to meet with you or find someone with whom you would feel comfortable. **Ross Clopton** () has volunteered to be available for prayer and support, as has **Tim Lacey** (). Please do not suffer alone; we are here to help. We hope to be God's hands and feet with skin on wherever we are needed and wanted.

PIANO LESSONS recommence on January 9, when there will be two lessons, one at 10 a.m. and another at 11 a.m.

✠ **THANK YOU**
for your faithful giving!

NOVEMBER 2022

YEAR-TO-DATE



PER CAPITA MADE EASY

As a member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our church annually pays an assessment to the national church which for 2023 will total \$9.85 per church member. For 2024, the per capita will decline slightly to \$9.80 per member.

Why do we pay this assessment known as per capita? Because we value our Presbyterian heritage and identity. As a congregation, we derive many material benefits from our Presbyterian association. At the General Assembly level, these include the oversight of preparation for ministers and the mechanisms for calling new ministers, the maintenance of the Presbyterian historical collection in Philadelphia, the biennial meeting of the General Assembly, resources ranging from training for ruling elders to assistance with immigration, and so much more.

Per capita goes to the General Assembly for the support of the whole denomination. In addition, our church helps support Palo Duro Presbytery, the group of PC(USA) churches roughly covering the Texas Panhandle. The work of the presbytery includes support and resources for clergy, lay pastors, and churches; Celebration Scholarships; youth programs such as Buffalo Gap and Youth Triennium; and support of a mission worker in Romania. The work of the presbytery is not funded by per capita, but by additional contributions from its member churches.

The Finance Committee is suggesting that each member pay their own per capita – that is, contribute \$9.85 right now to cover St. Luke's per capita for 2023. And since the presbytery does not receive any of the per capita, we are asking each member to go the extra mile and add a little to your additional contribution to send to Palo Duro. For example, instead of \$9.85, consider giving \$20.00 for the support of PC(USA) both nationally and regionally.

We look forward to your participation in per capita giving, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond.

MESA VERDE SENDS THANKS

Thank you, thank you! The school and staff were so appreciative of the meal, desserts, iced tea, and gifts at the recent party. The principal and several of the staff specifically asked that we convey how much the support of St. Luke means throughout the entire year. Thank you for your generosity! [Please see the note and signed picture that is posted on the bulletin board in the hall.]

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Joy Special Offering on December 18. In addition to your direct gifts, our congregation collectively contributed \$540 which has been forwarded to Presbyterian Missions.

If you missed the opportunity to give through our congregation, you may still make a donation through the Presbyterian Mission website (pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy) or you can text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

January BIRTHDAYS

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

8 Robin*

8 Tom

19 Mila*

22 Melissa*

29 Janelle

* Friend of St. Luke

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men will meet at 6:30 a.m. on January 10 at HUD'S located at 4411 Bell (just north of 45th and Bell) for their monthly breakfast. **Wesley Wingo** will provide the devotional.

ST. LUKE WOMEN

St. Luke Women will meet Wednesday, January 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. **Nona Fulton** and **Cruse Messer** will provide the brunch. **Kendra Jones** will lead a short business meeting, then **Mary Holmlund** will present the devotional. **Margaret Heyde** will lead the study. If time permits, **Nan Kemp** will introduce Lesson 5, "Sabbath and Servitude." All the women of the church are invited to attend.

SLW thanks you for the donation of \$452.49 for the PW Thank Offering which was collected at the Thanksgiving luncheon.

YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart will meet Wednesday, January 18, at noon in the fellowship hall. **Beth Duke**, director of Center City, will present the program. A small fee of \$8 covers the cost of the meal. Kindly RSVP to the church office by noon on the 17th if you plan to attend. Also, if you are a regular Young at Heart attendee, be on the lookout for a quick little survey from the church office about the lunch provided—what you like best, what you would like to see less of.

Did you have a December 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. So far \$1,674 has been contributed in 2022! Let's keep our endowment growing!

JOYS & CONCERNS

Joys and praise:

Congratulation to **Ki and Darcy** on the birth of their son, **Sutton James** . Sutton is also welcomed by big sister, **Holland** and the **Hargis, Castleberry, Adams, and Hadley** families.

Those who are recovering from illness (including COVID and flu) or surgery:

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.

- ✠ **Nan Kemp**'s aunt **Shirley Wucher** (of Austin) passed away on December 11.
- ✠ **Alex Barrow** died Sunday, December 4. He is survived by our many friends of St. Luke: his wife **Maddy** and daughter **October**, parents **David** and **Colby Barrow**, sisters **Jessica** and **Livi**, and grandparents **Mark** and **Sue Barrow** and **John** and **Jan Pennington**. His service was held at St. Paul United Methodist Church.
- ✠ **Levi Leinen**, 21, who visited our church and attended AATAG passed away in Albuquerque on November 13. A memorial was held at Washington Avenue Christian Church.
- ✠ Friend of St. Luke and former AHS football coach, **Mel Maxfield** passed away recently. We send our love and sympathy to **Jill** and their children.

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.

ABOUT PW

What does it mean to support the mission of the church worldwide? For Presbyterian Women, it means responding to God's love for us by offering our many gifts to ensure wholeness for all. Standing alongside the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and our ecumenical partners, we bring Christ's love to the world.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregations, Presbyteries, and Synods often also identify their own mission partners, answering needs in their communities and regions.

It also offers a number of opportunities for mission: Birthday Offering and Thank Offering; Together in Service/ Mission Opportunities, PW Development Projects, and Mission Tours.

In addition to these program, mission is at the heart of Presbyterian Global Exchange and USA Mission Experience.

Find the Presbyterian Women Justice and Peace Calendar at www.presbyterianwomen.org.

Information provided by
Margaret Heyde.

Welcome a tiny St. Luken!

Sutton James

was born on Sunday, December 4 to
Ki and Darcy

He is welcomed by big sister **Holland**
and the **Hargis, Castleberry, Hadley,**
and **Adams** families.



ONLINE WORSHIP CONTINUES TO SERVE MANY

In the past 90 days, St. Luke's Facebook page has reached 7.9K, an increase of 34.7% from the 90 days prior. Our engagement in that time period was 1.4K (an increase of 66.1%).

- December 4 service—79 people were reached by the post, and 6 stayed to worship with us online; there were 13 reactions, comments, and shares.
- Christmas Pageant (December 7)—173 people were reached with 8 clicks to play; 26 reactions, comments, and shares.
- December 12—69 people saw the post, and 7 stayed to worship with us online; 10 reactions, comments, and shares.
- December 18—81 people were reached, and 9 stayed to worship with us live; 15 reactions, comments, and shares.
- Christmas Eve—110 people saw the post with 3 peak live viewers; 17 reactions, comments, and shares.
- December 25—87 people reached with 5 staying for worship; 23 reactions, comments, and shares.

It is worth noting that not all worshipers watch the service live. Many view the service at a later time or date.

JANUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Day No Adult Sunday School Class Mesa Verde Sunday Elder Phillip Periman will fill the pulpit. No Children's Church	2 Church office will be closed. 10:00 & 11:00 am No Piano Class 2:00 pm Christian Educ. Com. Mtg. 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	3 10:00 am Exercise Group 6:30 am Men's Breakfast @ HUD'S	4	5 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study @ Taylors' 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7
8 Baptism of the Lord "Bring a friend to church!" Sunday Elder Wesley Wingo will fill the pulpit.	9 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class 5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg. 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	10 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Cong. Care Mtg. 6:00 pm Property Com. Mtg. 6:30 pm Fellowship Com. Mtg.	11 9:30 am St. Luke Women 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg. 6:00 pm LOGOS Com. Mtg.	12 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study @ Taylors' 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	13	14
15 Ruling Elder Tim Lacey will fill the pulpit. 4:30 pm Stated Session Mtg.	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	17 10:00 am Exercise Group	18 12:00 noon Young at Heart	19 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study @ Taylors' 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	20	21 8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love Event @ 10th St. Laundry
22 Per Capita Sunday Elder Helen Thorsheim will fill the pulpit. <i>E-pistle</i> deadline	23 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	24 10:00 am Exercise Group	25	26 10:00 am Exercise Group 12:00 noon Lunch Bunch 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry 6:30 pm Hebrews Bible Study @ Taylors'	27 Newsletter is e-mailed/mailed <i>Fellowship Hall is reserved for a Scrapbook Club Event from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</i>	28 <i>Fellowship Hall is reserved for a Scrapbook Club Event from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</i>
29 Ruling Elder Robert Hansen will fill the pulpit. 12:00 noon Annual Luncheon & Congregational Meeting	30 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - AI-non	31 10:00 am Exercise Group 7:00 pm Farkle Group	<div>  <h2>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</h2> <p> 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:40 am Choir Rehearsal 9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class 11:00 am In-Person Worship Children's Church after the anthem 11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook </p> </div>			

Watch for updates as the month unfolds.