

St. Luke PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Epistle

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS

VOLUME 57, NO. 11 | NOVEMBER 2021

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED

The Session has issued a call for a congregational meeting following worship on October 31 to hear and act upon the report of the Officer Nominating Committee. The ONC will recommend the following slate for officers: **Jennifer Denham, Tim Lacey, Cruse Messer, and Kendra Jones** for 3-year terms (Class of 2024) and **Marcie Robinson** to fill the remainder of a vacated term in the Class of 2022 (1 year). The ONC also recommends the following at-large members for positions on the 2022 Officer Nominating Committee: **Sallie Amason, Kary Wingo, and Krista Berry**. These are one-year terms elected by the congregation.

Daylight Saving Time ends
at 2 a.m. on
Sunday, November 7.



Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

THANKSGIVING FEAST SET FOR NOVEMBER 21

Fellowship Committee will host a Thanksgiving luncheon at noon on Sunday, November 21 in the fellowship hall. Those with surnames A-H are asked to bring desserts, and the I-Z's are asked to bring side dishes. Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, dressing, and gravy will be on the menu, plus whatever you bring! Please plan to attend, even if you forget your salad in the fridge. We hope to see you all as we give thanks for God's blessings.

BOB MCCrackEN

Pastor's Drop-In Hours

Tuesdays, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - noon
or by appointment

(Mondays are typically Pastor Kati's Day of Rest unless they are marked as workdays on the calendar.)

In case of a pastoral emergency, you may call Pastor Kati's cell phone on any day.

Business Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - noon & 1 - 5 p.m.



Connect
with us!



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St. Luke Presbyterian Church



Find Pastor Kati's blog:
www.revkaticollins.com



Pastor Kati's podcast:
The Sycamore Tree



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Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

Looking Back

How beautiful upon the mountains are
the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

ISAIAH 52:7 (NRSV)

On October 30, I will celebrate my 10-year anniversary of the day I took my vows to serve as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). When I entered seminary in August of 2008, I did not expect to become a solo pastor, but I am now grateful for each day of ministry. The last year has by far been one of the hardest. Many times I felt lost, because I didn't know how to be a pastor if I'm not supposed to visit people in their homes or how to show compassion when listening to your problems with a mask covering my face. I started delivering pre-packaged Communion bags to our most isolated individuals, and we enjoyed some short porch conversations when we could. When people asked me to come into their homes, I tried to act as safe as possible, and I visited them when needed. For others, we talked on the phone or messaged by phone. I remember the first time someone prayed for me on the phone, it felt so strange and wonderful at the same time. When I closed my eyes, it was like we were in the same room together. I hope it feels that way when I pray for you on the phone. I have always been intrigued by the intersection

of technology, art, prayer, mission, and worship, but I had always done that with people present, not using technology to reach people in their homes, and trying to make it feel sacred all at the same time.

Now that our case numbers have been going down, I feel more able to be your pastor again. I have been visiting more people, but still making regular phone calls, as these have become an easy way to catch busy people. If I haven't called you, but you wished I did, please call me. I would love to pray with you and hear about your life. Again, I will offer, you may call me with pastoral emergencies at any time. I might be occupied and unable to answer it, but please leave me a message or text me, and I will call you back.

One piece of ministry that has stayed constant and joyful over the years has been the gift of Baptism. We have had three recent baptisms, and each one was beautiful and filled with wonder. I counted the other day, and I have preformed twenty-eight baptisms over the last ten years, including one of my own children. From adults who were much taller than me, to teens and toddlers, to babies of all sizes, we shared many cries of laughter and tears and a few of them danced in the end. When I say, "Remember Your Baptism," I am also remembering "your" baptism, thinking back to the parents and children baptized together, the little ones and the curious ones, wondering how you reacted to the waters dripping down your face.

A few months ago we started labeling my Mondays as a day of rest, while also marking when I am making up time I missed from half days this summer when Robbie and I cared for our sick girls. As of October 18, I had completed making up one week of vacation (five full days/ten half days). Some of you have

Continued on page 8.

INCREASE THE POWER OF YOUR PLEDGE

Many St. Luke members have already made a gift to the church through our online provider, Sharefaith Giving, and many have made their gifts recurring – their gift is automatically paid by secure credit card or bank withdrawal on a regular schedule. Sharefaith is offering a Donor Match Program for all customers that add new recurring gifts from November 1 – December 31, 2021: For every first gift from a new recurring donor that is added between November 1 and December 31, 2021, Sharefaith will match that first gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 per organization. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up, and the first recurring gift must be transacted by December 31, 2021.

So, here is an opportunity for the church to receive \$1,000 to support our work, and an opportunity to make your own support of the church easier and more efficient.

If you are not currently a recurring giver, please consider doing this. To sign up, please contact the church office. Melissa will send you the link to complete the process.

DAVID KEMP, Finance Committee

ATTENTION GENTLEMEN OF ST. LUKE

Your presence is requested on Tuesday morning, November 9, at 6:30 a.m. for a delicious breakfast hosted by the Christian Education Committee, to be held at the **Castleberrys' Firehouse** (the old Estacado Fire Station) located at 6009 Estacado Lane. Some men of the church have voiced a desire for ways to reconnect, and the CE Committee is hoping to help facilitate this wish. Please note: The entrance to the firehouse is through the RED door on Estacado.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Continue to remember those with COVID-19. Also pray for

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.

Church offices will be closed November 25th & 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

THANK YOU

for your faithful giving!

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.

September 2021

Year-to-Date

MISSION NEWS

Once again, the Mission Committee sponsored another successful Laundry Love event on October 16. We continue to make friends and build relationships with the clientele who come to the 10th Street Laundry every third Saturday of each month. Please consider joining us at one of these events. You will be enriched by it. You'll see a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

The staff at the Amarillo Children's Home was surprised and gratified by the overflowing bin full of underwear, socks, sheets, and towels we took out to them last week. It's not often that the children receive brand new underwear and socks, and they were sincerely appreciative of your generosity.

Our next collection will begin on November 1 and will be for Mesa Verde Elementary School. They use snacks in their "reward carts," and have provided us with the following wish list: small bags of chips, Takis, Airheads, Blow Pops, small bags of Skittles (like you would pass out at Halloween), Goldfish, Cheez-its, Chex Mix, and any other individual snack items. (Maybe some of you younger, hip parents will know better than I what some of these things are.) There will be a marked collection bin in the fellowship hall for your donations. As usual, financial contributions will also be gratefully accepted.

The Committee has decided to leave the collection bin for Guyon Saunders Resource Center in the fellowship hall indefinitely. Whenever you have gently used clothing to donate, especially athletic shoes, please consider giving it to the Center. The Committee will periodically deliver the items that have accumulated. The need, of course, is great and eternal. And now that the weather is changing, it is a good time to weed out things you no longer wear or have room for.

And as always, don't forget to bring peanut butter on the first Sunday of every month for the High Plains Food Bank. Thank you again for your generosity.

ANN HEFNER

Meditation Service

Friday, October 29
11:00 a.m.

The service will be held at the church.

INTERFAITH LUNCH AND PROGRAM

The 24th Thanksgiving Gathering is to be held this year at Temple B'nai Israel, 4316 Albert, on Sunday, November 14, 2021, from 12:30 through 3:00 p.m. The beneficiary of the Thanksgiving Gathering is the High Plains Food Bank. All donations of food and money will be brought to the temple by the attendees and distributed to the HPFB. There is no charge for sponsoring or attending the gathering. The purposes of this event include the bringing together the diverse cultures and religions in Amarillo in the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood and to enrich the lives of area residents through sharing and open heartedness.

This year the meal will consist of vegan sandwiches and snacks. If you would like to help with the meal, please contact **Mary Holmlund**. If you have questions or plan to attend, please RSVP to **Bob McCracken**.

LET'S TALK! LET'S PRAY!

Two of the best things we have going for us in the church are the love and friendships we enjoy together. One of the real blessings of small churches is the close-knit relationships that can be developed and the support that can be offered among caring people. While we have a pastor and a Congregational Care Committee, it is often easy for them to be unaware of special needs among the congregation. Sharing our concerns, fears, pain, and needs with caring members and friends is one way to weather the storms of life experienced by most people at

one time or another. We should never be reluctant to let our church friends know when we are in pain; we have friends who will listen and pray with us for God's solution to our needs. Our members are encouraged to take advantage of any of these people who are willing to listen in confidence and pray for and with those in need. Help and friendship are a phone call away. If you would like to be on the "Let's Talk, Let's Pray" Team, please let Pastor **Kati** know.

**Donna Clopton,
Ann Hefner,**

**Ross Clopton,
Mary Holmlund,
Nan Kemp,**

Birthdays in November

3 Kim*	19 Helen
6 Darcy	20 Erin
6 Madison	21 Barbara
8 Donnie*	23 Robbie
9 Elanna	23 Patrick
10 Barbara	24 Lois
13 Cathy	24 October*
14 Kati	24 Resa
14 Karen	24 Steve
16 Kaity*	25 Eldon
19 Stacy	30 Dean
19 Becky	

*Friend of St. Luke

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

EPISTLES

Dear Kati and Robbie and Congregation of St. Luke,

Here's my prayer for you: O God, source of all life, foundation of all hope and fountain of all strength, while we pray for all families, we especially lift up Pastor **Kati**, her husband, and two beloved daughters, **Sammi** and **Abby**. Surround them with your love and ours.

Help us to value learning new things, and new ways of doing things, and new ways of looking at what we have taken for granted. In this time of tremendous worry and challenge, may even the uncertainty brought to our lives become an impetus to renew ourselves, and deepen our sense of your presence with us. May hope in a sunrise freed from the pandemic challenges greet us soon. Hopes abound and prayers we say – bless you now and all your days. Amen.

Yours truly, **Rev. Dr. Robert D. Nicholson**
(friend of Rev. Murray Travis)

Dear St. Luke Ladies,

Thank you for the card and for thinking about me. I am doing well and miss my Amarillo church family. I'm in a good place as long as my mind holds out! [Her mind seems fine! Ed.]

The church here is small and is named Whidbey Island Presbyterian. The new pastor is very good, and he loves the small town feeling.

I hope you all are well and thanks for your service to the church. With love, **Elizabeth Wagner**

SEEDS OF BLESSING

Thank you to everyone who responded to our call for financial goals and estimates for giving towards the ministry of St. Luke in 2022. Your faithfulness and generosity are nurturing the legacy of faith and mission at St. Luke. It's clear St. Luke has an attitude of gratitude.

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>All Saints Day</i></p> <p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Election Day</i></p> <p>11:00 am Matter of Balance</p> <p>4:00 pm Congregational Care Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>5:30 - 7:30 pm LOGOS</p>	<p>10:00 am Exercise Class</p> <p>2:00 pm Threads of Love</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>World Community Day</i></p> <p>12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>Time TBA Outreach Com. Mtg.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>10:30 am - ACA</i></p>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>Daylight Saving Time ends</p> <p>All Saints Sunday PB Sunday</p> <p>following worship "Get to Know St. Luke" Brown Bag Lunch</p>	<p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p>2:00 pm CE Com. Mtg.</p> <p>5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>	<p>6:30 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>11:00 am Matter of Balance</p> <p>5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg.</p> <p>6:00 pm Fellowship Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>9:30 am St. Luke Women</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Veterans Day</i></p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Class</p> <p>2:00 pm Threads of Love</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>	<p>6:00 - 8:00 pm GAP Game Night</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>10:30 am - ACA</i></p>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>12:30 pm Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Gathering @ Temple B-nai Israel</p>	<p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>	<p>11:00 am Matter of Balance</p> <p>5:30 pm Property Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>12:00 noon Young at Heart</p> <p>6:00 pm LOGOS Com. Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 pm Transgender Day of Remembrance @ St. Andrews</p>	<p>10:00 am Exercise Class</p> <p>2:00 pm Threads of Love</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>		<p>8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love Event</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>10:30 am - ACA</i></p>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>Christ the King Communion</p> <p><i>Epistle</i> deadline</p> <p>Following worship SL Thanksgiving Luncheon</p> <p>4:00 pm Stated Session Mtg.</p>	<p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p>Pastor Kati will be in the office. Drop-in hours are 10 am - 2 pm</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>	<p>11:00 am Matter of Balance</p> <p>Pastor Kati will work a half day remotely while traveling.</p>	<p>Pastor Kati will work half a day remotely while traveling.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thanksgiving</i></p> <p>Church offices will be closed.</p> <p>No 4th Thursday Lunch Bunch</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>	<p>Church offices will be closed.</p> <p>Pastor Kati will observe her Day of Rest on Friday this week.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>10:30 am - ACA</i></p>
28	29	30	SUNDAY SCHEDULE			
<p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>No Sunday School</p> <p>Hanging of the Greens</p>	<p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - Al-non</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Giving Tuesday</i></p> <p><i>Epistle</i> will be sent.</p> <p>11:00 am Matter of Balance</p> <p>7:00 pm Farkle Group</p>	<p>9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>9:45 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am Choir Rehearsal (until further notice)</p> <p>11:00 am In-Person Worship</p> <p>11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook</p> <p>Children's Church during worship</p> <p>2:00 pm Service will be posted to YouTube</p>			



SESSION REPORT

The Session had its regular monthly meeting on October 17. Below is a summary:

Clerk's Report

1. September 2021 average attendance for worship – 53
2. Active membership as of September 31, 2021 – 149
3. Communion was celebrated on September 19, 2021.
4. Dear friend of St. Luke, Rev. **Murray Travis** (HR) entered the Church Triumphant on Friday, October 1, 2021. His service was held at First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene on October 16.
5. **Hayden Janet**, daughter of **Daron** and **Nicole**, was baptized on Sunday, October 17, 2021.
6. Moderator's report highlights (Rev. **Kati Collins**)
A correction - one Monday in October (not November) will go towards completing make-up days for her. First Sunday Brown Bag Lunches have been well received and will continue.
7. Officer Nominating Committee (**Ann Hefner** and **Mary Holmlund**)
 - Class of 2024: **Tim Lacey**, **Cruse Messer**, **Kendra Jones**, one yet to hear from
 - Class of 2022: **Marcie Robinson** (to fill a vacancy)
 - Perpetual Endowment: **Eldon Wingo**
 - Scholarship: **Stacy Clopton**, **Lucille Dunn**
 - Nominating Committee at-large members: **Sallie Amason**, **Kary Wingo**, **Krista Berry**
8. Old Business
 - A. Palo Duro Presbytery meeting report received.
 - B. Board of Deacons discussions continue.
 - C. COVID protocols will be maintained.
 - D. Rev. **Travis Ellis** transferred his membership to a Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City.
9. Commendations
 - Nominating Committee for their hard work.
 - **Cheri Castleberry** and the Property Committee for managing the raffle.
 - **Doug Tanner** for his work in the library, especially the historical book of St. Luke pastors.
 - **Helen Thorsheim** for her meticulous work on the 2022 Property Committee budget.
 - **Castleberry** family for their picnic table donation.
 - **Mary Holmlund** and **Nona Fulton** for their work on the booklet for visitors.
 - **Stacy Clopton**, **Cheri Castleberry**, **Wesley Wingo**, **Kary Wingo**, and **Paige Hadley** for their hard work in hosting LOGOS last month.
 - **Helen Thorsheim**, **Doug Tanner**, and **Cheri Castleberry** for many hours of painstaking work in writing the successful application for the security grant; they were invaluable in checking, advising, and proofreading. Also, thanks to **Melissa Shields** for supplying information as needed.
 - **Ashley Denham**, **Alexa Wingo**, and **Tim Lacey** for serving as liturgists.
 - **Cruse Messer** for serving as liturgist and helping with personnel documents.
 - **Kaci Jones** for a Minute for Mission on stewardship.
 - **Bob Hansen** for his beautiful solo part on the anthem and his a cappella solo during Communion.
 - Pastor **Kati** and **Mila Abbasova** for the gorgeous flute sonata prelude.
 - **Donna** and **Ross Clopton**, **Doug Tanner**, and **Ann Hefner** for assisting Pastor in the celebration of Communion.

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UPCOMING SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AT ST. LUKE

St. Luke applied for and has recently been awarded a 2-year grant through the state of Texas non-profit security grant program. This program is part of the FEMA's Homeland Security initiative to protect houses of worship from terrorist acts. The funds from the grant will be used to enhance the building's security while not detracting from the welcoming nature of our church. There are several elements within our grant as described below:

- Add remote access control, intercom, and video to commonly used doors, with five tablets that can be used by ushers or committee moderators to remotely unlock doors when someone is needing access. For example, Melissa will be able to let someone in through the Fellowship Hall doors while in her office, and ushers will be able to provide access to the church after worship has started without going to the door.
- Transition to a key card system where each card can be programmed for the needs of each user. For example, specific doors and access times can be set for outside groups using our church, while Session members can still have full access. If a card is lost or not returned, it can easily be deactivated.
- Replace older doors and side lights with stronger equivalents. All doors will also get new locks that use a patented key system (keys cannot be copied). A very limited number of keys will be distributed to provide access, in case of a power failure.
- Install security film on older window glass in the education wing and kitchen so that it is more difficult to break.
- Purchase four walkie talkies that can be used to communicate between various parts of the church, or outside, to be able to easily keep in touch if there is a problem.
- Update and improve the camera system within the church.
- Increase outside lighting, to illuminate areas that are currently dark at night (e.g., storage shed and northern part of sanctuary).
- Install a monitored electronic intrusion system with door sensors, several zones, and glass-break sensors that will provide alerts if the building is entered without disarming the system. Each authorized user will have a personal code to disarm the system.

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SESSION REPORT *continued*

- Pastor **Kati** and Chaplain **Scott Hill** for the eye-opening interview explaining the plight of doctors and nurses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
10. Suggestions
- Attend a Laundry Love event.
 - Each committee host a Laundry Love Saturday with help from the Mission Committee.
 - Become part of a team that is available to listen to and pray with members of the congregation as needed or desired.

SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS *continued*

Provide training for members on security awareness and how to be welcoming to visitors and yet alert to possible threats.

A task force made up of **Helen Thorsheim, Doug Tanner, Kaci Jones, Kyle Hadley, Nona Fulton, and Roger Castleberry** will begin meeting in November to select vendors and specifics of the systems. While the grant officially started October 1, we expect that installation will begin next summer and everything will be completed by November 30, 2023. Helen Thorsheim and Doug Tanner are currently the most knowledgeable on aspects of the grant, if you have any immediate questions. We will keep the congregation informed of the progress.

PW STUDY CONTINUES

St. Luke Women continue their Horizons Bible study on Wednesday, November 10 at 9:30 a.m. **Ann Hefner** will provide a brunch, followed by a devotional by Ann about her grandmothers. The lesson is No. 3, "Rahab," in the study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*. All women are welcome, even if you haven't read the lesson.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT HELD

On October 2, members of the Session and congregation met for rest and spiritual exercises at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center. Time with God, in nature, in silence, in movement, and in community. Spiritual Leaders attend to their souls, listening to God and to one another for wisdom and discernment.

Congratulations to Pastor Kati, who celebrates her tenth year of her ordination on October 30.

See retreat photos in the weekly email.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the December edition of the *E-pistle* will be Sunday, November 21. Due to the holiday, the newsletter will be mailed on November 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.

RAFFLE FOR QUILT UNDERWAY

St. Luke is raising funds for outdoor play equipment for our children through a quilt raffle. A beautiful king size quilt, made by award winning quilter **Anne Sanders**, was donated by longtime member **Dorothy Baggerly**. Tickets are \$10 each. The winner will be chosen November 21. See the display in the hall! (Of course, if you simply want to donate without buying a ticket, that is fine, too.)

Postscripts

Janelle Isherwood has moved. Her new address is . Her cell number is .

There will be no Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch during the holiday months of November and December.

If you enjoy having donuts and coffee with your St. Luke family on Sunday mornings, we could use your help! Donuts are not a budgeted item and are provided through the generosity of volunteers. If you would like to help keep the fun going, you can volunteer to bring the donuts. Pick a Sunday from the sign-up sheet on the coffee counter in Fellowship Hall. If you aren't able to pick them up yourself, you can send money with **Mary Holmlund** to make the purchase.

Hadlee was presented as an Amarillo Symphony Belle on October 16. Congratulations!

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you have been using the tower entrance to the church, please use a different entrance until further notice; this includes those who have keys. Because of issues with the locks and the doors themselves, these doors will remain locked all week—including Sunday mornings. During office hours, you may still buzz to be let in the door with remote lock release.

Each Thursday morning, a weekly email goes out to everyone who is subscribed to our list. This email contains information about the coming service, the church schedule for the week, current Mission projects, and more. If you have not been receiving this email, you can subscribe from St. Luke's website. Visit <https://www.stlukeamarillo.com/connect-with-us/>. You can unsubscribe at any time. These weekly updates come via AWeber and not St. Luke's generic email account; the lists are independent of each other.

STROKES OF GRACE *continued.*

asked about that, and I wanted to share how I am committed to setting aside time for rest so that I can better care for myself, for you, and for my family. God rested after creating the world, and I have found a practice of Sabbath teaches humility and gratitude. I hope that my courage to rest and be accountable empowers you to rest when you need it, and I hope it displays my faith that God holds “the whole world” in “Open Hands of Love”. If you find yourself in need of prayer, and I am unavailable, you may call the office or **Donna Clopton** to be connected with one of our congregational prayer team members who have volunteered to pray with people.

“A VERY ST. LUKE CHRISTMAS” ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Sunday, November 21 you will be able to pick up your copy of *A Very St. Luke Christmas: Advent Devotional by Members and Friends*. If you have not had a chance to sign up for a day, but would still like to write a devotional, please contact Pastor **Kati**. If you have artwork or poetry which could complement the devotion, please send it to Pastor Kati as well. All submissions should be turned in by November 7.

Christmas Schedule

November 28

First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens

December 21

Blue Christmas Service | 8 p.m.

December 24

Christmas Eve Service | 5 p.m.
Communion and Candlelight

“HANGING OF THE GREENS”

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 28, every worship participant will be invited to help decorate the church for Christmas as they come into the sanctuary. Tree ornaments and nativity characters will be on tables outside the sanctuary to be brought in before the service and during the prelude. Bring your family for this interactive worship event, and help us resume past beloved traditions of our St. Luke Family!

COMING IN DECEMBER!

St. Luke Seminar: How Our Churches Responded to COVID-19. The event will include a panel of Amarillo ministers and leaders sharing their perspectives, break-out discussion groups to debrief with your neighbors, and a closing worship.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOV. 7TH

During the November 7 worship service, we will light candles in memory of our loved ones who have died. Participants will be invited to light their own candles and then take either a blue gem or a rock from the sand. The blue gems represent the Baptism which unites us with “the great cloud of witnesses”. The rocks represent our animal companions which have accompanied us in life and now rest in eternity. We give thanks to our Creator and maker of all the universe, who created us to live in community with one another and care for all creation.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 4 | 10:00 a.m. to noon
Activities for all ages. Soup and sandwich lunch.