



St. Luke
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EPISTLE

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS | VOLUME 57, ISSUE 4 | APRIL 2021

Beginning April 4, St. Luke will offer two options for worship: in-person (by reservation) at 9:45 a.m. and/or online via Facebook at 11:00 a.m.

Read the details on page 2.

Coffee & Donuts to Be Shared on March 28

The Fellowship Committee is hosting a “Parking Lot Pastries” (formerly “Drive Thru Donuts”) event from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 28. Along with donuts, coffee, and juice, we will be distributing bags for “Holy Week at Home” including Communion elements and other supplies to worship remotely. You may also pick up a copy of *These Days* which includes daily devotionals for April through June.

You are invited to find a parking spot, enjoy refreshments, and if you wish, join in fellowship (with social distancing) amongst friends.

Donations to AC Food Pantry Accepted in Lieu of Easter Lilies

In this time of COVID safety precautions, we are forgoing Easter lilies in the sanctuary this year. Instead of asking for donations for flowers; the Worship and Mission Committees are accepting contributions to the Amarillo College Food Pantry. This fund drive will continue from now until April 9. Thank you ahead of time for your support.

News from Your Mission Committee

By ANN HEFNER and CAMILLE HOY

The Mission Committee is eager to get closer to business as usual as St. Luke reopens the sanctuary for in-person worship. Look for new opportunities to help others outside our community as the world begins to open up. If you see a need that our congregation can help with, let us know. And don't forget to bring your contributions of peanut butter every first Sunday of the month.

“We love because He first loved us.”

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Worship at 11 a.m. via Facebook

Maundy Thursday

Service at 6 p.m. via Facebook

Good Friday

Service at 6 p.m. via Facebook

STAY IN TOUCH



3001 Bell Street
Amarillo, TX 79106-5037



806.355.6253 Office
806.355.0629 Fax



pastor@stlukeamarillo.com
admin@stlukeamarillo.com



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



Pastor Kati's podcast:
The Sycamore Tree



Visit our website:
www.stlukeamarillo.com



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

Holy Week 2021

Holy Week at Home

Packages will be available beginning Sunday, March 28 in order to help you participate in worship. Pastor **Kati** is preparing bread and juice along with hand wipes, a candle and matches, bubbles, and blessings made especially for our "Body of Christ." Plan to pick up a package for you and your worshiping household or neighbors.



Maundy Thursday, April 1

Streaming on Facebook at 6 p.m.

Supplies needed for participation: wet cloth, bread, juice (provided in the HWH package.)

Join us for this service of blessings, including scripture, music, devotion, and sacraments. Following with John's account of Christ's Last Supper with his disciples, we will begin with a Blessing of the Body with a washing of feet or hands. We will Bless the Bread and Cup as we share Communion across time and space and pray for healing.



Good Friday, April 2

Streaming on Facebook at 6 p.m.

Supplies needed for participation: candle(s), matches (provided in the HWH package.)

Join us for this service as we "Remember the Cross," hearing scripture, music, and reflections which place us at the foot of the redeeming and awe-inspiring event of Christ's crucifixion.

Sunday School to Resume

Sunday School will be starting up again on April 11; the time will be announced a little later. We will be doing a video study on the Old Testament. Watch your announcements for updates.

Reserve a Space for Easter Worship

You may reserve your spot in the sanctuary or fellowship hall beginning Monday, March 29. Watch for details by email.

Transitional Worship Practice

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” PSALM 133:1

We are resuming worship in-person in the sanctuary beginning with Easter on April 4. Easter Sunday will be our first attempt at providing “in-person inside worship” since before the pandemic! You will still be able to access the service from home if desired, so our whole church family can be connected over time and space. Please note that worship procedures and times are transitional and temporary.

It will be an exciting morning, so here’s what you will find when you arrive at the church. You may enter through whichever door you choose, but you will find the simplest entry through the east door. The Fellowship Committee will have some chairs arranged outside this door so that you may catch up with your fellow church members. When you enter the building, you will be welcomed by greeters and ushers. We are all required to wear a mask, and you can turn in your reservation ticket or give your name to the usher taking attendance or fill out a quick reservation form at the door. From there, you may go to either the fellowship hall or the sanctuary, where you will find seating arranged or marked for social distancing. Feel free to sit closely with your family or friends you spend time with on a regular basis. We encourage you to greet the other people around you and welcome new folks or people you haven’t seen for a long time.

During this transitional time, we will begin in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m., and then stream this recorded service at 11 a.m. on Facebook. We will listen to hymns sung by Elder **Bob Hansen** and members of the choir, although we will not have a full choir, and we will ask attendees to sing in your heart or lightly hum. We will not pass an offering plate, but as you arrive or leave, you may place your offering in our beautiful offering box made by **Kyle Hadley**. You may also continue your online giving. After the service, Pastor **Kati** will stand outside by the east door, and you can greet her and others gathered in the area provided. Easter morning may feel out of the ordinary, but we will work together over the coming weeks to make worship a welcoming, meaningful, and mission inspiring event. We hope you will join us in this journey.

Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

Wonder in the Garden

MATTHEW 6:30–33 (The Message): “If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don’t worry about missing out. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.”

This is the time of year that I look forward to seeing daffodils and crocuses and other early blossoming flowers shooting out of the ground. I’ve always been amazed at those gardeners who can plan with a variety of flowers and plants that blossom throughout the year. I love watching the different colors come at different times, waiting with great expectation to see what colors will appear next. When I consider what the next couple of months will look like for all of us, I see a beautiful garden. I see some people continuing to remain beneath the surface and others emerging quickly. I see some periodically appearing as their health and stress levels allow. I see new people revealing how they have become part of our church family garden while we were outside the building, and they will enter our physical doors for the first time. Our church family has a history of loving people with different and creative gifts, and I see us welcoming and incorporating our members at their different levels of comfort and discomfort, vulnerability, and ability.

I invite you to join me in an “Adventure of Wonder and Knowing.” Dr. Bill Brown, Old Testament scholar and theologian, says, “In wonder the object of knowing never becomes conquered territory or something consumed. To know something in wonder is to participate rather than to appropriate; it is to be awakened and made vulnerable, transformed in an ongoing adventure of knowing.” We think we know what worship and fellowship at St. Luke look like, but we will discover new experiences as we re-visit old and familiar ones. Let us begin this journey in wonder that we might know God, know ourselves, and know one another in the full mystery and beauty of creation.

Again, I want to thank all of our preachers, readers, and videographers who helped provide meaningful and engaging worship throughout my maternity leave. We worshiped with you each week and felt great joy and comfort. Thank you, once more, for your faithfulness during this exciting transition from three to four humans in our household. **Abigail** is a sweet and precious gift to each of us.

Small Group Meetings Resume

The Session has authorized small group meetings in St. Luke’s building so long as the city’s Coronavirus indicator remains at level orange or better. The size of a small group is limited to ten, and masks and social distancing are strictly required. Only two groups may meet per day, and those meetings must be at least two hours apart. For this reason, please stay within the time slot reserved by your group. If your group or committee has an event to add to the calendar, please call the church office; the calendar will fill fast.

St. Luke Women Study “Creation Laments”

St. Luke Women will continue their study of *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament* on Wednesday, April 14, at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. The study this month is Lesson 8, “God Laments.”

Kendra Jones will moderate the meeting, and **Nan Kemp** will direct the study. **Sharron Fitzner** will provide the devotional.

Please join us, even if Zooming is new or a challenge to you. We’ll do our best to get you connected. Contact **Donna Clopton**, our able and gracious host, or Kendra or Nan. The plan is to meet in person in May, when the lesson will be “The End of Lament.” We hope to see you there both in April (by Zoom) and in May.

Newsletter Reminder

The deadline for the May edition of the *Epistle* will be April 25. The newsletter will be mailed on April 29. Please send your news and announcements 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.

APRIL Birthdays

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

3 Hayden	13 Steve*
5 Sharen	15 Dorothy
6 Jeff	16 Dave
7 Kaleigh	17 Melissa
8 John	17 Kendra
10 Krista	20 David
12 Bronwyn	26 Ronald
12 Kelsea	29 Paige
13 Cheri	29 Kim

* friend of St. Luke

MARCH SESSION REPORT

The Session met at its regularly scheduled time on March 21. Below is a brief report:

Clerk's Report

1. February 2021 average attendance for worship – 45
2. Active membership as of February 28, 2021 – 158
3. Communion was celebrated on March 7, 2021.
4. Commendations:
 - ♦ **Robbie Collins** for continuing to edit worship recordings during Kati's maternity leave.
 - ♦ **Ashley Denham** for the Mid-Week Devotional, from inside her pickup truck, on the importance of silence.
 - ♦ **Daniel Williams** from More Light Ministries for filling the pulpit and preaching about the great importance of names on February 28.
 - ♦ Liturgists: **Steve Parker, Mary Graff, and Susan Barnes.**
 - ♦ **Travis Kemp** (with Abraham, the puppet) for sharing Words for God's Children with the telling of Abraham's life story in a beautiful and animated way. (Great script writing, **Nan!**)
 - ♦ Pastor **Kati** for her Mid-Afternoon Prayer on the gift of love. Joining her was baby **Abby**, who hushed her crying when Kati sang.
 - ♦ Pastor **Kati** for her return to the pulpit, which was a highly anticipated event. Welcome back, Pastor Kati!
 - ♦ **Robbie Collins** for making announcements. Welcome back, Robbie!
 - ♦ **Cruse Messer** for lining up liturgists for worship services. Thank you, Cruse.
 - ♦ **Bob Hansen** and **Mila Abbasova** for their wonderful music, especially the special music, "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed."
 - ♦ Pastor **Kati** for the sermon "Looking Up" and the children's sermon about each child having their own personal star.
 - ♦ **Ashley Denham** for her expertise in 21st century technology that helps make many St. Luke events run smoothly.
 - ♦ **Helen Thorsheim** for her weeks of work on a federal security grant, which she submitted recently.
 - ♦ The Property and Personnel Committees for their lengthy search for a new sexton.
 - ♦ The Worship Committee for their planning and preparations as St. Luke looks forward to worshipping in the building again.

Contactless Pick-Up and Drop-Off

The church building is once again open for small group activities; however, we recognize that not everyone is comfortable with or able to come inside the building. For those who are trying to limit their exposure, we offer contactless pick-up and drop-off through our tower foyer. If possible, notify us in advance of your upcoming visit and ring the call button to the right of the tower doors when you arrive. Melissa will answer and let you into the foyer remotely.

Automate the Important

As a reminder, we now offer ways to give digitally. One of the biggest benefits to online giving is the ability to set up scheduled recurring giving.

Setting up scheduled giving allows you to be faithful and consistent in your generosity and allows us to plan and budget consistently as a church.

If you've never given regularly before, we challenge you to try it for three months and see what God does. Simply check the "Make this gift recurring" box on the St. Luke Contribution Form from your phone app or the website. You can edit, update, or cancel your gift at any time. If you need assistance, you can call the church office for help. 806-355-6253

As always, we appreciate your faithful generosity!

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.

February 2021

Year-to-Date



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SCHEDULE for SUNDAYS 9:45 am In-Person Worship 11:00 am Worship Service streamed via Facebook <div style="font-size: 4em; text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">April</div>				Maundy Thursday 1 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 - 4:00 pm Threads of Love 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Svc. via FB 6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	Good Friday 2 6:00 pm Tenebrae Svc. via FB	3
Resurrection of the Lord 4 Peanut Butter Sunday Easter Svc. In-Person at 9:45 a.m. & Online via FB at 11:00 a.m.	5 10:30 - 11:30 am Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	6 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Cong. Care Com. Mtg. (Z)	7 Holocaust Remembrance Day 4:00 pm LOGOS Com. Mtg. (Z)	8 International Roma Day 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg. (Z) 6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	9 AC Food Pantry Drive ends <div style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> 2:00 - 4:00 pm Threads of Love 6:15 pm Outreach Com. Mtg. (Z) </div>	10
11	12 10:30 - 11:30 am Piano Class 5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg. (Z) 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	13 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg. (Z)	14 9:30 am St. Luke Women (Z)	15 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 - 4:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	16	17 International Day of Farmers' Struggles
18 4:00 pm Stated Session Mtg. (Z)	19 10:30 - 11:30 am Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	20 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group	21	22 Earth Day 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 - 4:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	23	24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day
25 Epistle deadline	26 10:30 - 11:30 am Piano Class 8:00 pm - AA 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	27 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 6:00 - 8:00 pm Farkle Group	28	29 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 - 4:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	30 Stated Mtg. of Palo Duro Presbytery	FB = streamed on Facebook (Z) = Zoom Meeting * = Virtual Meeting White block indicates all time slots are full.

Your Tithes & Offerings Matter to... Meals on Wheels Recipients

Meals on Wheels is one of several programs selected by the Mission Committee to receive a monthly, budgeted donation. In 2021, we intend to give a total of \$1,200 to this particular charity. Our gifts provide meals to two recipients for the year. This is one of the many ways that St. Luke embodies its three WHYs—“Hands of Service, Hands of Faith, Open Hands of Love”.

Keep reading for a “thank you” letter from **Susie Akers**, Executive Director at Meals on Wheels.

Dear Friends with St. Luke Presbyterian Church,

Meals on Wheels appreciates your continued generosity.... It is without question vital to the ongoing existence of our ministry because we completely depend on the generosity of our community. We are an important resource for the elderly in Amarillo. We receive referrals daily from families, social workers, dieticians, and home health care providers seeking to make life easier for our elderly friends.

During 2020, we delivered 67,180 meals. Many of the clients are completely alone in Amarillo. Week after week, I talk to concerned family members in distant cities and states about the need for meals for an aging parent or grandparent.

Many of these clients refuse to leave their long-time homes for assisted living facilities because they cherish their independence and treasure the memories their homes provide. Because the family can depend on Meals on Wheels for a nutritious meal and a safety check, this allows their loved ones to remain in their homes.

We are thankful for your gift which allows us to provide a nutritious meal to a homebound elderly senior. Over the past few years, we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of applicants who ask for assistance from us because they are struggling financially and cannot afford the modest cost of \$2.50 per meal.

Good planning on our part and a generous community allows us to provide meals for many of these folks at no charge. Your financial support is treasured and appreciated.

LOGOS News

LOGOS kiddos met this week to enjoy pizza together and prepare some music selections for our virtual church service on Palm Sunday. We hope you will enjoy seeing their contributions. It was good to have everyone together, and we are always proud of their efforts.

LOGOS committee members are planning a June event for our children. It will cover three evenings, Tuesday through Thursday, during an early week in June and follow a traditional LOGOS format that includes recreation, Bible study, worship skills, music, art, and a meal. COVID protocols will be carefully followed.

Bach's Lunch Series Concludes the 26th

The Bach's Lunch Series is back for its 26th season. The last recital will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 26; **Norman Good** will be the organist. Because each hosting church has its own COVID-19 protocols, be sure to call ahead to find out the specifics.

These Days Devotionals Available Now

You may pick up a copy of the devotionals for the second quarter from the table in the tower foyer.

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT
FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Each year, St. Luke joins with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

From today through Easter Sunday, there are several ways that you can give.

- 1) Donate by bank account or credit/debit card online at <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/OG999999/>.
- 2) Text OGHs to 91999 to give.
- 3) Over the phone: 800-728-7228
- 4) By mail: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700
- 5) Donate online through [St. Luke's website](#). Select “One Great Hour of Sharing” from the dropdown. (This option is active through April 4.)

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Visit pcusa.org/oghs to learn more about how your gift to OGHs makes a difference.

Lenten Study Continues

Emily Dickinson and the Poetry of Lent

In this Lenten devotional, biblical texts and simple, accessible practices weave together with Emily Dickinson's poetic vision, creating a 40-day journey into the heart of the holiest week of the year. We'll walk through the garden together toward Easter morning with Dickinson as our guide.

If you're interested in obtaining the PDF for you to print or read from your favorite eReader, please email **Kary Wingo**:

It's not too late to join, since the lessons are self-contained. The next lesson is Thursday, March 25, at 7 p.m. We'll be looking at the fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent.



The photo above was taken by [Beau Sherwood](#) and entered in a photo challenge on Guru Shots.

He gave permission to share this beautiful snap. You can click on the link to see other the interesting photos that he has taken around Amarillo.

Synod Youth Workshop 2021

Synod Youth Workshop will take place at the University of Tulsa on July 12-17. This event is open to rising 9th grade students through graduated seniors.

The workshop will feature keynote speaker, **Martin Osaë**, the Commissioned Pastor and leader of the Ghanaian Fellowship Ministry of Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, Texas. Martin is originally from Ghana in West Africa and is married to **Betty**, and they are blessed with five God-loving children. Martin has lived a life of service to the body of Christ in all his travels from Ghana to Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and here in the United States of America. Among Martin's interests and hobbies are traveling, gardening, public speaking, and motivating others.

The 2021 workshop theme is "Whatagreatgod."

Contact the church office to be directed to more information.

Epistles

Dear St. Luke,

Thank you all so much for the prayers, meals, gifts, and gift cards during this exciting time! We appreciate our church family's support so much!

Paige, Kyle, and Hudson Hadley

Dear St. Luke Family,

Thank you all so much for the meals, prayers, cards, love and support during this wonderful time! Our new family of three truly appreciates everything. We can't wait until we can see you all in person and let you meet **Holland**.

Ki, Darcy, and Holland [Hargis]

Dear Rev. Collins,

We want you to know how thankful we are to have you as part of our family of restorers. Thank you for using your blessings to restore children's lives and create generational change in the Texas Panhandle. Your church's gift of \$1,750 directly impacts the lives of 42 children currently calling Amarillo Children's Home "home." Thank you for your generosity; thank you for your heartfelt love for children and our community.

Gratefully, Erica Currie
Amarillo Children's Home

Joys and Concerns

- ✦ Our love and prayers are extended to **Delma Wingo** and her family upon the death of her sister, **Ida Glasgow**, who passed away in Elk City, Oklahoma.
- ✦ Our love and prayers are extended to St. Luke friends **Raji Bolton** and **Kiran** upon the death of their loved one, **Steve Rumley**, who died on March 5 after a long battle with cancer.

Congratulations to **Ann Hefner** upon the birth of great-grandson _____, born _____.
Parents are **Courtney** and "**Bubba**" **Brammer**

Continue to remember:

_____ the people of Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church; **Glenda Moore** (Kind House Ukraine Bakery); and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?" JOHN 11:25-26 (RSV)