

St. Luke Presbyterian Church *Epistle*

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS | VOLUME 57, ISSUE 4 | APRIL 2022

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



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www.revkaticollins.com



Pastor Kati's podcast:
The Sycamore Tree



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Special Services Leading to Easter

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Join us before worship for an **ALL-CHURCH PALM SUNDAY**, April 10. Everyone will gather in the fellowship hall, and together, we will move into the sanctuary with our palm branches waving. Yes, everyone will process to the sanctuary at our All-Church Palm Sunday Celebration.

HOLY WEEK is a truly special week in the life of our church. This Holy Week, we will have two special mid-week services.

On **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, April 14 at 6:30 p.m., worship will include Communion with optional foot-washing. Both Communion and foot-washing date to Jesus' time, and both have deep spiritual roots.

On **GOOD FRIDAY**, April 15 at 6:30 p.m., the Tenebrae Service will focus on the last seven words that Jesus spoke from his crucifixion cross. We will celebrate our Tenebrae with special music and candles.

This **EASTER**, we will be Flowering the Cross. Before worship, everyone is invited to bring floral offerings to cover our cross—from your garden, the grocery store, from anywhere. Bring your flowers to decorate our seven-foot cross. The beauty of Easter is shared as we cover our cross with the spring blossoms of hope and everlasting love.

CRUSE MESSER

Follow Pastor **Kati's** Sycamore Tree podcast for a Lenten series of healing meditations based on Psalms 23 and 51. Episodes will be released weekly with links in the Thursday emails.

Strokes of Grace

A note from PASTOR KATI

Co-Workers in Healing

SMALL GROUPS & GATHERINGS

Men's Breakfast & Devotional

The Men's Breakfast Group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. at St. Luke with the next breakfast falling on April 12. **Wesley Wingo** will give the devotional, and **Eldon Wingo** will provide the meal. They look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, please call **Eldon Wingo** at

PW Study & Brunch

St. Luke Women will continue their *Horizons* Bible study on Wednesday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m. **Nan Kemp** and **Donna Clopton** will provide a brunch. **Mary McCracken** will share about her grandmothers as this month's devotional. The group will explore "Lesson 8: Mary in the Faith and Tradition of the Church" in the study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*. All women are welcome, even if you haven't read the lesson.

Young at Heart Luncheon & Program

The Young at Heart group will meet at noon in the fellowship hall on Wednesday, April 20. **Stacy Clopton** will present a program about the many services provided by Amarillo Public Library. If you plan to attend, RSVP by calling the church office by noon on the 19th. A small fee of \$8 will cover the cost of your lunch. See you there!

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch

The Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on April 28 under the trees by the fellowship hall, weather permitting. (Otherwise, meet inside.) Bring your own lunch and prepare to fellowship with your fellow brown baggers.

Weak and wounded sinner
Lost and left to die
Oh, raise your head, for Love is
passing by ...
Come to Jesus and live!
Now your burden's lifted
And carried far away
And precious blood has washed
away the stain, so ...
Sing to Jesus and live!

Lyrics from the hymn
"Come to Jesus" by Chris Rice

This song describes the road of a Christian, alongside images from scripture, as we come to Jesus in our brokenness, time, time, and again, and in this "coming," we are given life, both here on earth and to "fly" to Jesus in heaven and live the everlasting life. When I think about why I do what I do, I sing this song. We bring our wounds to Jesus, asking for healing, and my calling as a pastor is to walk with people on that journey, helping, loving, singing, sitting, dancing, crying, and looking for Jesus with my "co-workers in healing," all of you.

February and March have been unusually hard for me and my family, and we have been the ones in great need of healing. As many of you know, I am one of the "long-haulers" who have experienced "long COVID," where many symptoms of the virus remain

or repeat after the initial infection. You may have heard that I never tested positive for COVID, and, although that is true, I was diagnosed by several different physicians and treated (and continue to be treated) for COVID and Long COVID. I was away from you for a full three weeks, taking two weeks of vacation and one week of sick leave (as approved by the Session), and I began attempting to return to work while still fighting recurring effects of the initial infection. Meanwhile, my husband was hospitalized, and he now carries the identification of a type 2 diabetic. He has improved greatly, and his blood sugar is now managed and healthy; however, this has been a sharp lifestyle change for him and our family.

I share these struggles with you because I have asked for a lot of help over the last two months, and I have received an overwhelming amount of help from many of you. From meals to childcare, from sermons to children's sermons, a multitude of our church members have helped me in many ways throughout our journey. I wasn't quite

Continued on page 7.

Mission Report

No grass has grown under the feet of your Mission Committee lately. On Saturday, March 19, we hosted another successful Laundry Love event. Much appreciation to the Outreach Committee (**Jennifer Denham, Ashley Denham, and Ross Clopton**) for helping out. Also, on Monday, March 21, the committee helped with the Mesa Verde Teacher Appreciation Lunch to welcome the faculty and staff back from spring break. Kudos to **Krista Bryan** for honchoing a lovely treat for a group of hardworking teachers. Also, in response to Mesa Verde's request for art supplies, we approved an expenditure from our discretionary fund. We are looking forward to seeing what clever and imaginative project they make. More news on that to come.

We will let you know soon what baking supplies the Kind House Ukraine Bakery is needing as their fundraising efforts increase. And don't forget our ongoing collections: used clothing and shoes for Guyon Saunders Resource Center, ready-to-eat snacks for the Amarillo College Food Pantry, and peanut butter for the High Plains Food Bank. Of course, most important, we ask for your prayers as we seek to follow Jesus's command to serve our neighbors in need.

ANN HEFNER

Birthdays

IN APRIL

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

- | | |
|------------|----------------------|
| 1 Martin* | 13 Steve* |
| 3 Hayden | 15 Dorothy |
| 5 Sharen | 16 Dave |
| 6 Jeff | 17 Melissa |
| 7 Kaleigh | 17 Kendra |
| 8 John | 20 David |
| 10 Krista | 29 Paige |
| 12 Bronwyn | 29 Kim |
| 12 Kelsea | * friend of St. Luke |
| 13 Cheri | |

Birthday Offering

You are encouraged to give \$1 for each year of your birthday (or in honor of a loved one's birthday) to the Perpetual Endowment Fund to help continue St. Luke's mission.

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

YEAR-TO-DATE

Thank You!

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to the Mesa Verde teachers' lunch on Monday, March 21. The staff appreciated it so much, and we had plenty of everything. Shout-out to **Krista Berry** for organizing everything and to **Ann Hefner** for getting everything from the church to the school. That's a huge job.

SESSION REPORT

March 27, 2022

Clerk's Report

1. February average attendance for worship - 50
2. Active membership as of February 28, 2022 - 145
3. Communion was celebrated on February 27, 2022.
4. The Session voted to receive **Aaron Parker** into membership at St. Luke following his baptism by a BSA Hospital chaplain.
5. **Doyle Leathers** entered the Church Triumphant on Wednesday, March 15, 2022.
6. **John and Jan Pennington** have joined St. Paul's United Methodist Church.
7. **Juliana Walker** will join Morning Star United Methodist Church in Las Cruces, NM.

Other Session news:

The by-laws change regarding the term for Endowment Committee moderators was approved.

Commendations:

- **Krista Berry** for coordinating the lunch at Mesa Verde Elementary School.
- **Donna Clopton** and **Beth Walley** for their preparation of wonderful meals for LOGOS.
- **Rebecca Vardiman** and **Ross Clopton** for filling the pulpit in February.
- **Ki Hargis** for joining the usher team.
- **Donna Clopton** for her efforts in establishing tea parties as a way of recognizing faithful members.
- **Mary Holmlund, Lucille Dunn, and Marilyn Shillings** for their visits to members of the congregation.
- **Hadlee, Melissa Shields'** daughter, who took down the Advent tree in the bell tower and put supplies away to earn community service hours for her honor society at school.

Annual Congregational Meeting: April 3rd

The Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon will be held April 3 following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive the budget and various committee reports and to approve the 2022 Pastoral Terms of Call. Finance Committee moderator **Doug Tanner** will present the 2022 budget for information only; it has been approved by the Session already. He will entertain any questions. The printed packets were made available in January. If you haven't picked one up yet, you may take one (per family) from the stack on the table in the hall.

We will be having chicken noodle soup and ham and potato soup made by **Stacy and Donna Clopton** and **Tim Lacey**. Congregants are invited to bring salads or cookies.

BOB MCCrackEN

MATTHEW 25:31-46

We Are the Church, Together...

Let's Build God's House

During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with "those who have the least"—and that's what One Great Hour of Sharing is all about. Each gift to OGHS helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through life-saving programs.

Ways to give:

- 1) Donate by bank account or credit/debit card online at psusa.org/give-oghs.
- 2) Text OGHS to 91999 to give.
- 3) Send your check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.
- 4) *If you are unable to give through any of the means above*, you may put your donation in the offering plate on Easter Sunday. Make your check payable to St. Luke with "OGHS" on the memo line or use the special envelope that will be provided.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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					<p>1</p> <p>4:30 pm Personnel Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 am - 1:00 pm <i>Fellowship Hall reserved for Payne event</i></p> <p>10:30 am - ACA</p>
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April

2022

EACH SUNDAY

9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
 9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class
 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal (until further notice)
 11:00 am In-Person Worship and Children's Church during worship
 11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook

<p>3</p> <p>Peanut Butter Sunday</p> <p>Following worship Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p>2:00 pm Christian Educ. Com. Mtg.</p> <p>5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg.</p> <p><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Group</p> <p>4:00 pm Congregational Care Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:45 - 7:30 pm LOGOS</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Group</p> <p>2:00 pm Threads of Love</p> <p>6:15 pm Outreach Com. Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 pm Lenten Study</p> <p><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i></p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 am - ACA</p>
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<p>10</p> <p>Palm Sunday All-Church Palm Procession</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 am Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Group</p> <p>5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 am St. Luke Women</p> <p>12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Maudy Thursday</p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Group</p> <p>2:00 pm Threads of Love</p> <p>6:30pm Maudy Thur. Svc.</p> <p><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Good Friday Church offices will be closed.</p> <p>6:30 pm Tenebrae Svc.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love @ 10th St. Laundry</p> <p>10:30 am - ACA</p>
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<p>17</p> <p>RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</p> <p>No Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>Flowering of the cross</p> <p>Communion will be celebrated.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Group</p> <p>5:30pm Property Com. Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00 noon Young at Heart</p> <p>5:45 - 7:30 pm LOGOS</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Group</p> <p>2:00 pm Threads of Love</p> <p><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Earth Day</p> <p>9:00 am - 5:00 pm <i>Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 am - 5:00 pm <i>Scrapbook Club @ St. Luke</i></p> <p>10:30 am - ACA</p>
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<p>24</p> <p><i>Epistle</i> deadline</p> <p>4:00 pm Stated Session Mtg.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30 am Adult Piano Class</p> <p><i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Group</p> <p>7:00 pm Farkle Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 am Exercise Group</p> <p>12:00 noon Fourth Thursday Lunch Bunch</p> <p>2:00 pm Threads of Love</p> <p><i>6:30 pm - ACA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AA</i> <i>8:00 pm - AI-non</i></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 am - ACA</p>
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PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Leave a Lasting Legacy: See how a Legacy you leave today can live on for years to come.

Texas Presbyterian Foundation exists to enable and expand mission.

TPF and St. Luke Presbyterian Church have partnered to educate individuals on legacy and planned gifts.

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be provided.

Mission Opportunity

St. Luke takes donations of baking items for Kind House Ukraine Bakery's work. We collect powdered sugar, evaporated milk, white sugar, brown sugar, salt, paper towels, foil, press and seal wrap, and disposable baking pans of all sizes. There is a tub in the fellowship hall where you can leave your donations. To make a monetary donation to the KHUB ministry, simply text "donate" to 8332408115. If you have any questions, you can contact **Krista Berry** or any member of the Mission Committee. We thank you for your ongoing support of this important mission.

Deadline for May Epistle

The deadline for the next edition of the newsletter is April 24. As always, send your news to editor **Nan Kemp**. The *Epistle* will be emailed on April 28. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please contact the church office to be added to the address book.

Joys & Concerns

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

- **Bobby and Helen Hernandez** and family – Their daughter **Kimberly Williams** died February 24. Bobby was St. Luke's sexton until his retirement in 2015.
- **Bunny Leathers** and family – **Doyle Leathers** entered the Church Triumphant on March 15. A Memorial Service was held at St. Paul United Methodist Church on March 24.

Continue to remember others with COVID-19 and

*the St. Luke Session; the staff and residents at Amarillo Children's Home; the people of our sister congregation, Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church; **Glenda Moore** and Kind House Ukraine Bakery; and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.*

Extra Egg-citement Planned



We have received word that the Easter Bunny will make a stop at St. Luke on Easter Sunday, April 17. All children, toddlers through elementary school, are invited to bring their baskets and hunt eggs at 10:00 a.m. The toddlers will hunt in the courtyard, and the older children will hunt on the south lawn. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

"Take One, Leave One" Little Library

Many of you are familiar with the "Take One, Leave One" Little Library boxes located in our neighborhoods. As so many of us are spending more time at home, due to the pandemic and other circumstances, St. Luke Women have established our own "Take One, Leave One" library at the church. It is located in the activity/craft room in the education wing. Books of all genres, jigsaw puzzles, and DVDs are now available for your pleasure. Please stop by and peruse at your leisure. Take one and leave one.

KENDRA JONES

EPISTLES

Mother and I would like to thank the sweet ladies who provided the lovely tea for us on Monday [February 21]. It was good to be able to visit with everyone.
—Sharen Baker, by email

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Guyon Saunders Resource Center. We are thrilled to have your support! We can continue this valuable work because of the generosity of people like you and your congregation.

With your help, we can continue to provide a variety of services to meet the basic needs of those experiencing homelessness including storage, mail service, showers and laundry. And during this critical time, it is even more important to serve those most vulnerable.

Again, thank you and may God Bless!

—Cari Good, President of the Board of Directors

Lenten Study Continues

The Lenten Study continues on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and repeats on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Childcare is available on Sundays. The study is a six-week discussion of how to read the Bible using The Bible Project videos. The final lesson will be on April 10.

KARY WINGO

Choir Practice will be at 10:15 on Sunday mornings in April.

By the Numbers in February

FACEBOOK:

People reached - 4,704
Engagements posted - 909
Page likes - 14

INSTAGRAM:

Posts - 34
Followers - 16
Following - 39

AWEBER (email):

Average opened - 73
Average clicked - 20

WEBSITE:

Visitors - 751
Visits - 2,517

STROKES OF GRACE *continued from page 2.*

sure whether I could return full-time, and I called our Executive Presbyter, **Scott Campbell**. He encouraged me to keep going and provided many suggestions for how to preserve and prioritize my energies while asking for help where I can. I am grateful for the joy and variety this has added to our worship and our ministry at St. Luke. I am grateful for **Bob Hansen**'s interlude to my sermon series on Joseph's journey of forgiveness. I needed some relief so I could focus on caring for our members and myself, so the Holy Spirit gave Bob a beautiful sermon of truth and music! Thank you Bob and **Mila** for your beautiful selections from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" alongside his sermon on March 20. Since some of my challenges effect my abilities to speak and stand for long periods of time, I asked **Cruse Messer**, as the moderator of the Worship Committee, to involve more people in our worship service by finding talented people to fulfill the children's sermon in the weeks leading up to Palm Sunday and Easter. Cruse, **Darcy Hargis**, **Camille Hoy**, **Stacy Clopton**, and, this Sunday, **Wesley Wingo** have been a great help by bringing a message for our children and allowing me a moment to sit, rest, and hug my children. If you'd like to know more about the adaptations that help me serve as your pastor, I'd be happy to share with you about some of my treatments and show you the beanbag under my desk to help keep my feet elevated!

While I have been healing, I have also witnessed a healing in our church. Many of our members who have been participating from home are returning to worship and service on Sundays and throughout our weekly activities. This past Sunday, we had sixteen people singing in the choir! Incredible! We have had many visitors, and we will accept two new members this coming Sunday. I am so excited about our upcoming Holy Week activities and worship. Laughter, solemn beauty, and great music await! I hope to see you all there!

Copies of the second quarter of *These Days: Devotions for Living by Faith* are available from tables around the church.

Outreach News

Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31, is an annual awareness day celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender-nonconforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice. Saturday, April 16 at noon, there will be a parade to Canyon to support queer youth who live in the Canyon area. On that day, 1:30 - 6:30 p.m., a celebration of the queer kind.
JENNIFER DENHAM

PEANUT
BUTTER
SUNDAY

On April 3, you are encouraged to bring jars of peanut butter to contribute to the High Plains Food Bank. Non-perishable grocery items, empty egg cartons, and paper sacks are also accepted. Collection baskets are located in the fellowship hall.

Donate to Humanitarian Feet on the Ground Serving Now

Palo Duro Presbytery is accepting donations for New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children (NOROC) from the forty churches that make up the presbytery. Donations can be given by clicking a button on the presbytery web site (paloduropresbytery.org) or by mailing a check to the PDP office (PO Box 16267, Lubbock, TX 79490) with NOROC on the memo. Please put St. Luke on the memo as well so that PDP can keep track. You may also send or give your donation to the church office, and Melissa will be sure it reaches PDP.

April Stewardship Focus

Through Lent, we are taking a broader view of stewardship by thinking about stewardship of the Earth, as well as acts of kindness and generosity. Our focus is “Tread Lightly for Lent” and encourages us to move toward sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God’s children and Creation. Presbyterian Mission has provided a calendar to promote more mindful behaviors throughout the year.

You will find a suggestion for each day of Lent in the weekly bulletin and the Thursday email update from the church office.



Town & Gown

Alice Cooke invites us to the spring Town and Gown concert at WT on Monday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. The venue is the Mary Moody Northern Hall. She hopes to see you there; these concerts are always fun.

HAPPY
Easter

A service of Witness to the Resurrection will take place in honor of **Jim Hefner** at 11 a.m. on May 14, 2022 at St. Luke Presbyterian Church. More news to come.

Check It Out!

New volumes for the St. Luke Library are as follows:

- 📖 Bangley, Bernard (compiler), *A Little Daily Wisdom: Through the Year with Saint Teresa of Avila* (2011). Gift of **Doug Tanner**.
- 📖 Lewis, C.S., *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life* (1955). Gift of **Lucille Dunn**.
- 📖 Shroyer, Danielle, *Where Jesus Prayed: Illuminating the Lord's Prayer in the Holy Land* (2015). Gift of **Doug Tanner**.
- 📖 Spiegelman, Art, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale; Vol. I: My Father Bleeds History* (1986); *Vol. II: And Here My Troubles Began* (1991). Gift of **Doug Tanner**.

Pancake Supper a Success

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper brought in \$420 to use toward courtyard improvements. Thank you to the hosts and pancake flipper (we're looking at you, **Bob Hansen**) and generous guests.

Pictured:
Tim Lacey and Bob Hansen

Postscripts

In March, the new audiobook, “Mister Rogers - Now, More Than Ever” was released. It features interviews with some of his friends, fans, and colleagues. **Travis Kemp** was one of those interviewees. Travis Kemp is also third-place winner of the “2nd Annual How I Fell in Love with Jazz Video Contest”. His video entry received a total of 652 votes. (Thanks go to those who voted for him.)

Lucille Dunn will soon be moving to an apartment at The Craig. Watch future announcements for her new address.