



Epistle

ST. LUKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS | VOLUME 57, ISSUE 3 | MARCH 2021

Building Reopens to Small Groups (with conditions)

Last Sunday, the Session 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.

Lenten Study: Emily Dickinson and the Poetry of Lent

Lent is a time of reflection and insight, a change of seasons — and Emily Dickinson, one of the world's most beloved poets, was also an avid gardener and a careful observer of the natural world. In this Lenten devotional, biblical texts and simple, accessible practices weave together with Dickinson's poetic vision, creating a 40-day journey into the heart of the holiest week of the year.

All you will need is your favorite Bible and a collection of Dickinson's poems (all the poems in the devotional can also be found online). Week by week, we'll walk through the garden together toward Easter morning — with Emily Dickinson as our guide.

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

St. Luke Women Studies "Creation Laments"

St. Luke Women will continue their study of *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament* on Wednesday, March 10 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. The study this month is Lesson 7, "Creation Laments". **Kendra Jones** will moderate the meeting, and **Nan Kemp** will direct the study. **Donna Clopton** will provide the devotional.

Please join us, even if Zooming is new or a challenge to you. We will do our best to get you connected. Contact Donna Clopton, our able and gracious host, or Kendra or Nan. We would love to see, or hear, you again.

Scholarship Application Deadline Nears

The application period for the St. Luke Scholarship is still open, and the deadline is March 1, 2021.

Details are available from the church office or **Cruse Messer** at or

Connect with us!



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



Pastor Kati's podcast:
The Sycamore Tree



Visit our website:
www.stlukeamarillo.com



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

MARCH Birthdays

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

1 Kis*	15 Scott
1 Myra	17 Jessica
3 Harry*	17 Blayne*
6 Donald	18 Donna
7 Travis	20 Mark
8 Szak	22 Blane*
8 Tim	26 Wesley
9 Marcie	27 Daryl*
15 "Bo"	27 Andrew
15 Bob	* friend of St. Luke

Epistles

Dear St. Luke Family,

Thank you to St. Luke friends and **Sallie Amason** for the delightful surprise delivery of Valentine cookies! **John** and I enjoyed every bite. You guys have a special place in our hearts. Hugs!!
John & Jan [Pennington]

Dear St. Lukens,

Thank you so much for the cards and notes which you have sent me recently. And particular thanks to **Donna Clopton** who recently showed up at my apartment door (how she got in I'm not sure) with a card and cookies. We did have a good visit and it was certainly good to see someone from St. Luke. I am immensely grateful for your prayers and concern.

I really want to commend the congregation for laypeople who have led worship during Pastor Kati's maternity leave. The cadre of laypeople who lead worship and preach which the congregation has developed through the years is really exceptional and to be highly commended in my opinion. In Christ, *Murray Travis*

Dear St. Luke,

We would like to thank the Congregational Care Committee for the Valentine card and yummy cookies. Also, thank you to everyone for the prayers and cards when we lost my aunt and Mother's sister-in-law.

Sincerely, *Sharen Baker*

Dear Cheri, Kyle, (and anyone else involved in extricating my car from the snow-filled church parking lot),

Thank you, thank you, thank you! What would I do without you?!

Melissa Shields



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. on **Sunday, March 14** (or before you go to bed Saturday night).

Joys and Concerns

- We extend our love and prayers for comfort to the **Heyde** family upon the death of Tom's father, **Joseph P. Heyde**, on Sunday, February 21.
- **Bonnie Carson** is at Bivins for rehab following a stay in the hospital.

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.

Newsletter Reminder

The deadline for the April edition of the Epistle will be March 21. The newsletter will be mailed on March 25.

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.

Year-to-Date

Strokes of Grace

Pastor Kati will be back soon.

Pastor **Kati**'s maternity leave ends March 2.
Please see page 7 for details about her return.

Mission Report

The Mission Committee is deeply grateful for the successful collection of facial tissue for Mesa Verde Elementary School. You all came through with flying colors, and we were able to provide the school faculty and staff with enough tissues to last the rest of the school year. The Committee has decided not to conduct the annual spring clothing drive for the Amarillo Children's Home, because we recently gave gifts of clothing to the children in the fall. We are reconsidering how and whether to continue the spring campaign and would like to hear your feelings on the subject. Let us know by contacting **Camille Hoy** or **Ann Hefner**, and we will pass your comments on to the Committee. Meanwhile we are continuing to offer our support to the Amarillo Children's Home, as well as to the Hope and Healing Place, the Amarillo College Food Pantry, the KHU Bakery, Meals on Wheels, and other organizations which serve our community in times of need.



26th Annual Lunch Series Is "Bach"

The Bach's Lunch Series has been very well received for the last twenty-five years, so plan to attend the five recitals during the twenty-sixth annual Bach's Lunch season! Held at various churches on selected Fridays during Lent, each program will begin promptly at 12:05 p.m. with a twenty-five minute organ recital.

- ♪ Friday, February 26, 2021
First Christian Church, Rev. Dr. **Jacob Miller**, Organist
- ♪ Friday, March 5, 2021
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, **Jim Gardner**, Organist
- ♪ Friday, March 12, 2021
Westminster Presbyterian Church, **Michael Raillard**, Organist
- ♪ Friday, March 19, 2021
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, **Michael Mitchell**, Organist
- ♪ Friday, March 26, 2021
First Presbyterian Church, **Norman Goad**, Organist

Due to COVID-19 guidelines and protocols, please contact the listed churches for concert information including if the concert will be live-streamed on the internet and if the host church will offer a location for a "Bach's Lunch" after the concert. [Following the recital, if allowed, the host church will provide tea, coffee, and a place to eat the box (Bach's) lunch that you bring.]

This annual event is sponsored by the Amarillo Chapter of the American Guild of Organist.



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

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through rebuilding hope (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), growing food (Presbyterian Hunger Program), and partnering in progress (Self-Development of People).

St. Luke joins this effort each year, and you are encouraged to designate your OGHS special offering; 100% of funds go to Presbyterian Mission Agency.

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 \$10.
- 3) Donate online through St. Luke's website. Select "Other" and "One Great Hour of Sharing" from the dropdown. (This option becomes active March 1.)
- 4) *If you are unable to give through any of the means above, you may send a check payable to St. Luke to the church. Note "OGHS" on the memo line.*

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! To learn more, go to pcusa.org/oghs or call 800-728-7228 x5047.

Additions to the Church Library

Thanks go to **Bob McCracken** for donating these books to the St. Luke library:

- ♦ Armstrong, Karen, *The Battle for God: A History of Fundamentalism* (2001).
- ♦ Augustine of Hippo, Saint; Vernon J. Bourke (editor), *The City of God: An Abridged Version... with a Condensation of the Original* (1958).
- ♦ Bennett, Rod, *Four Witnesses: The Early Church in Her Own Words -- Clement of Rome, Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus of Lyons* (2002).
- ♦ Boyarin, Daniel, *The Jewish Gospels: The Story of the Jewish Christ* (2012).
- ♦ Bright, John, *A History of Israel, Third Edition* (1981).
- ♦ Chesterton, G.K., *The Everlasting Man* (1993).
- ♦ Ibid, *Orthodoxy* (2007).
- ♦ Ibid, *Saint Thomas Aquinas* (1956).
- ♦ Currie, David B., *Born Fundamentalist, Born Again Catholic* (1996).
- ♦ Ibid, *Rapture: The End-Times Error That Leaves the Bible Behind* (2003).
- ♦ DeHaan, M.R., *Hebrews: Twenty-Six Simple Studies in God's Plan for Victorious Living* (1959).
- ♦ Ibid, *Portraits of Christ in Genesis* (1966).
- ♦ Ibid, *The Romance of Redemption: The Love Story of Ruth and Boaz* (1958).
- ♦ Ibid, *The Tabernacle: The House of Blood* (1955).
- ♦ deSilva, David A., *The Jewish Teachers of Jesus, James, and Jude: What Earliest Christianity Learned from the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha* (2012).
- ♦ Gaustad, Edwin S. & Leigh E. Schmidt, *The Religious History of America, Revised Edition* (2004).
- ♦ McDermott, Gerald R., *God's Rivals: Why Has God Allowed Different Religions? Insights from the Bible and the Early Church* (2007).

- ♦ Merton, Thomas, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander* (1989).
- ♦ Noll, Mark A., *America's God, From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln* (2002).
- ♦ Ibid, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind* (1994).
- ♦ Rudolph, Kurt; Robert McLachlan Wilson (translation editor), *Gnosis: The Nature & History of Gnosticism* (1987).
- ♦ Scherman, Rabbi Nosson, Tanach, *The Stone Edition: The Torah/Prophets/Writings: The Twenty-Four Books of the Bible, Newly Translated and Annotated* (2013).
- ♦ Scott, J. Julius, Jr., *Jewish Backgrounds of the New Testament* (1995).
- ♦ Smith, Huston, *The World's Religions: Our Great Wisdom Traditions* (1991).
- ♦ Ibid, *Why Religion Matters: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief* (2001).
- ♦ Stenger, Victor J., *God: The Failed Hypothesis; How Science Shows That God Does Not Exist* (2008).

Doug Tanner has donated these books to the library:

- ♦ Crossan, John Dominic & Sarah Sexton Crossan, *Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision* (2018).
- ♦ Felix, Antonia (text); Christopher Measom (photo editor), *Notre Dame de Paris: History, Art, and Revival from 1163 to Tomorrow* (2019).
- ♦ Heyrman, Christine Leigh, *American Apostles: When Evangelicals Entered the World of Islam* (2015).
- ♦ McCormack, Catherine, *The Art of Looking Up* (2019).
- ♦ Martin, Dale B., *Biblical Truths: The Meaning of Scripture in the Twenty-First Century* (2017).
- ♦ Wengert, Timothy J. & others (editors), *Dictionary of Luther and the Lutheran Tradition* (2017).
- ♦ Yazykova, Irina; Paul Grenier (translator), *Hidden and Triumphant: The Underground Struggle to Save Russian Iconography* (2010).

Make the Most of Your Online Gift!

We are excited to offer online options for giving to our ministry! In addition to cash and check, you can give online through our website or on our app using your bank account or a credit or debit card.

Two ways to make your gift go further:

- 1) Please keep in mind that **giving through your bank account** (entering your account and routing number) allows your gift to go further, as the processing fees are lower.
- 2) You may also **opt to cover processing fees**.

However you choose to give — please know we appreciate your generosity and partnership as we extend

**Hands of Service
Hands of Faith
Open Hands of Love**

to impact our church, our community, and our world!

I'd Like To Give By

Credit Card

Bank Account

NAME ON ACCOUNT: _____ ACCOUNT TYPE: Please select one...

ROUTING NUMBER: _____ ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

Add 1.75% to help cover costs of processing. \$1.75

TOTAL: **Example** \$101.75

GIVE

SECURE BANK ACCOUNT PAYMENT

MARCH

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

**SCHEDULE
for
SUNDAYS**

11:00 am
Worship Service
(via Facebook)

	1 St. Luke Scholarship application deadline 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	2 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group Pastor Kati returns to the office.	3 5:30 pm LOGOS Com. Mtg. (Z)	4 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 - 4:00 pm Threads of Love Small Group 6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	5 World Day of Prayer 12:05 - 1:00 pm Bach's Lunch @ St. Thomas the Apostle Church	6
7 Peanut Butter Sunday Pastor Kati Returns to the pulpit. Communion will be celebrated.	8 International Women's Day 5:30 pm Christian Educ. Com. Mtg. (Z) 5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg. (Z) 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	9 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg. (Z)	10 9:30 am St. Luke Women (Z)	11 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg. (Z) 2:00 - 4:00 pm Threads of Love 6:30 pm - ACA* 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	12 12:05 - 1:00 pm Bach's Lunch @ Westminster Presbyterian Church 6:15 pm Outreach Com. Mtg. (Z)	13
14 Daylight Saving Time begins	15	16 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 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*	19 12:05 - 1:00 pm Bach's Lunch @ St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	20 Mr. Rogers Day Spring begins
21 4:00 pm Stated Session Mtg. (Z) Epistle deadline	22 World Water Day Garden Well 8:00 pm - AA* 8:00 pm - Al-Anon*	23 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 5:30 pm Property Com. Mtg. (Z)	24	25 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*	26 12:05 - 1:00 pm Bach's Lunch @ First Presbyterian Church	27
28 PALM SUNDAY Holy Week Begins	29	30 10:00 - 11:00 am Exercise Group 6:00 - 8:00 pm Farkle Group	31	<p>Thursday, April 1 ➤ Maundy Thursday ◀</p> <p>Friday, April 2 ➤ Good Friday ◀</p> <p>Sunday, April 4 ➤ Resurrection of the Lord ◀</p>		

(Z) = Zoom Mtg.
* = Virtual Mtg.

8:00 pm - AA*
8:00 pm - Al-Anon*

Your Tithes & Offerings Matter to...

Students at Amarillo College

Here at St. Luke Presbyterian Church, we believe God has called us to embody our three WHYS: "Hands of Service, Hands of Faith, Open Hands of Love". In living out this call, we are blessed to become a pipeline of blessing to others. When you donate, we want you to recognize that your gift impacts lives of individuals, both locally and globally through our ministry and ministries we support.

Outreach giving is one of the many ways that your donated money and items are used. Through the guidance of our Mission Committee, we give to several organizations—both local and far-reaching. One such group that recently received a special donation from St. Luke is the Amarillo College Foundation. (We gave both funds and items to the AC Pantry through our "Purposeful Poinsettias" drive.)

So, in the end, how does your contribution make an impact to someone (or several 'someone's)?

Here is a "thank you" letter from Amarillo College that demonstrates one way your gifts influence positive change.

Dear Kati and Congregation:

VALENTINE'S DAY, the Day of Love, involves heart-shaped boxes of candy, wine, roses, date nights, special dinners, marriage proposals, and sometimes weddings. But, always, it is about LOVE!

At Amarillo College, we have been intentionally 'loving our students to success' for years. You have been helping us accomplish this through your generous financial support, the most recent example being your response to the end of year Annual Appeal. I wanted you to know that because of your generosity, and the generosity of 273 other donors we received gifts totaling \$390,158 supporting the First Responders Academy, the Badger Fund as well as the scholarships and programs of your choice. This is you joining us in 'loving our students to success.' We are also proud to announce that 91% of our Amarillo College Board of Regents and 97% of our Amarillo College Foundation Board joined you in this year-end initiative to support these incredibly bright students we are privileged to call our own. At Amarillo College, we believe that Love Always Wins. We see it evidenced daily on our campuses as our faculty, staff, and students bring to life the Culture of Caring in ways that transform the education process. The support our students receive has taught them the importance of helping others. We are now graduating students who are already giving back. This, my friends, is love in action!

Thank you for your continued dedication and support of Amarillo College. Your generosity reflects your belief in what we are doing for AC students and the community. Love is a verb, and verbs are action words. Your actions make transforming students' lives a reality at this institution. We are very grateful and We. Love. You!

Happy Valentine's Day and much love!
Russell Lowery [President of Amarillo College]

FEBRUARY SESSION REPORT

Below is the clerk's report of the Stated Session Meeting held on February 21:

1. January 2021 average attendance for worship – 46
2. Active membership as of January 31, 2021 – 158
3. Communion was celebrated on January 3 and February 14.

Of special interest:

- ✓ **Helen Thorsheim**, under the direction of the Property Committee, is working on a Non-Profit Security Grant.
- ✓ Due to lessening of pandemic protocols by the city, small group meetings in the church are now permitted. Scheduling is through the church office.
- ✓ Signatories for the church deposit box were confirmed. Now we can (finally!) find out what's in there.
- ✓ LOGOS was authorized to meet at the church on February 24.

Commendations:

- **Melissa Shields** for compiling the Online Worship Preparation, Plan - Prepare - Participate, and adding it to our website.
- **Bob Hansen** and **Ashley Denham** for taking down the two Christmas trees and putting away Christmas decorations.
- January 10: **Bob Hansen** for filling the pulpit, leading the hymns, and singing special music; **Mila Abbasova** for her glorious music throughout the service; **Stacy Clopton** for the children's sermon and recording the service; **Mary Holmlund** for being liturgist.
- January 17: **Dave Kemp** for filling the pulpit and **Travis Kemp** for the children's sermon puppet show, Samuel. Love the snore, Travis! **Nan Kemp** for being liturgist. The Kemp family for recording the whole worship service. Mila and Bob for the music. It was wonderful!
- January 24: **Adrian White** from More Light Ministries for the sermon. **Bob Hansen** for being liturgist, and **Stacy Clopton** for the children's sermon. Bob Hansen and Mila Abbasova for beautiful music.
- January 31: **Kary Wingo** for filling the pulpit, and **Eldon Wingo** for serving as liturgist. **Alexa** and **Wesley Wingo** for the children's sermon; youth and children for the scripture reading.
- February 7: Rev. **Scott Campbell**, Executive Presbyter for Palo Duro Presbytery, for filling the pulpit; **Lucille Dunn** and **Ann Hefner** for being liturgists. **Ashley Denham** for the children's sermon and recording the liturgists. Bob and Mila for inspiring music.
- **Robbie Collins** for compiling and editing all worship services during Pastor Kati's maternity leave.
- **Bob Hansen** for choosing and recording all hymns until March 7 when Pastor Kati returns to the pulpit.
- **Mark Morey** for Midday Prayer presentation on the history of Candlemas on February 2.
- **Ashley Denham** for Midday Prayer sharing on how scripture tells us not to worry (so relevant in these times.)

Continued on page 7.

Commendations continued from page 6.

- **Kyle Hadley** for dead tree removal and snow removal.
- **Eldon Wingo** for inside cold prevention.
- **Cheri and Roger Castleberry** for snow removal and safety procedures.
- All the children and youth who read scripture for the January 31 church service, their parents, who did the recording, and the members of the LOGOS Committee who facilitated the recording.
- Members of St. Luke who provided meals for people who needed some support: **Susan Barnes, Donna Clopton, Stacy Clopton, Lucille Dunn, Ann Hefner, Mary Holmlund, Helen Thorsheim, and Kary Wingo.**
- **Helen Thorsheim** and **Kaci Jones** for their work in obtaining the PPP loan for St. Luke.
- **David and Nan Kemp** and **Helen Thorsheim** for completing the financial review.
- **Melissa Shields** for keeping the records straight and organized. This made the financial review possible.
- **Helen Thorsheim** for undertaking the process of applying for the security grant.
- **David Barrow** for a thoughtful annual report to the congregation that will be distributed in March.
- **Melissa Shields** for attending a stewardship webinar and sharing ideas and materials.
- All those who contributed facial tissues or funds to purchase them for our Partners in Education School, Mesa Verde Elementary.
- **Kendra Jones**, for the January 27 Midweek Devotional on trusting God.
- **Kary Wingo** for the February 17 Midweek Devotional to welcome us to the Lenten season and also for leading the Lenten study which begins on Sunday, February 28, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.
- To the **Cloptons/Yates** for leading the worship service on February 21: **Donna**, for filling the pulpit; **Ross**, for serving as liturgist; **Stacy**, for the children's sermon; and **Choice**, for the anthem.

High Plains Food Bank Benefits from Souper Bowl Collection

Thank you to all who participated in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 7. Proceeds totaling \$1,305 have been directed to High Plains Food Bank. This project was sponsored by St. Luke Women.

Sunday, March 7 would typically be a "Peanut Butter Sunday" at St. Luke. Even though we won't be in the building to drop jars of peanut butter in the collection basket, we continue to support this important and long-standing mission. To make a contribution, you can send a check to St. Luke with "HPFB" on the memo line or give online and select "Other" and "Special Missions" from the dropdown.

Contactless Pick-Up / 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.

Postscripts

Elanna (Freshman), **Hadlee** (Junior), and **Myra** (Senior) were recently recognized as Superintendent's Scholars at Amarillo High School. Congratulations!

A couple of churches in our presbytery were damaged by the cold, and at least one of our churches is covered by the disaster declaration issued by FEMA. There is much human and infrastructure damage.

The Presbyterian Disaster Agency is among the many organizations providing disaster relief in Texas resulting from the recent storm and extreme cold. If you would like to contribute to help with the work of the church, go to

<https://pma.pcusa.org/donate>.

In the alternative, you can mail a check to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Rev. Collins Returns in March

Rev. Kati Collins will return to the office on Tuesday, March 2, and to the pulpit on March 7. If you would like to visit with her, please call or email her after Tuesday to schedule a time on Zoom or to discuss a low risk in-person situation. **Abby Rose** will frequently be accompanying Pastor Kati, so scheduling conversations and meetings ahead of time can allow for Pastor Kati to make arrangements as necessary.

*Holy One, whom alone we worship and serve,
your Word and Spirit sustain us in the wilderness.
Keep us faithful in times of struggle and testing
so that we may enter into your glorious realm with
Jesus Christ our Savior.*

"Prayers for Lent" from the PC(USA) website