

NAN KEMP & MELISSA SHIELDS, CO-EDITORS | VOLUME 58, ISSUE 4 | APRIL 2023

Special Services Leading to Easter Worship Committee News

Hosanna! Alleluia! Palm Sunday begins HOLY Week on April 2 with our morning worship service at 11:00 a.m. We will be entering the sanctuary with palm branches so come a bit early to help.

We will share Communion during our MaUNDY THURSDAY service on April 6 at 6:00 p.m. A nursery will be available.

On GOOD FRIDAY, with the joy of Palm Sunday and the celebration of the Passover meal past, we will gather at 6:00 p.m. to share a service called "Seven Words of Love," which incorporates choral music, scripture (the seven last words), short meditations by various historic theologians, and congregational singing. A nursery will be provided.

We will celebrate the RESURRECTION OF THE LORD on Easter Sunday, April 9 at 11:00 a.m. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Put away the gloom of the grave; Christ is no longer there! The service will be preceded by flowering of the cross. Bring fresh flowers or greenery to add to our Easter cross. From your garden or from the grocery store, the more spring beauty that we can share, the better.

The Chancel Choir will present an EaSTER Cantata on Sunday, April 16. A brunch will start the morning at 9:30 a.m. Schubert's Mass in G with soloists and orchestral accompaniment will be featured during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Our Amarillo United Methodist Community Group friends will be worshipping with us. Good food, new friends, great music! What a great day of celebration!

Work at the Manse Continues

A workday has been scheduled for Saturday, April 1 to finish painting the manse. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and paint until finished. All are welcome. There will be small jobs around the house that need to be done also if you do not want to paint.

RULING ELDERS

Ann Hefner, Camille Hoy, Bob McCracken, Doug Tanner, Jennifer Denham, Kendra Jones, Tim Lacey, Cruse Messer, Ross Clopton, Bob Hansen, Barbara Taylor, and Kary Wingo



- 3001 Bell Street Amarillo, TX 79106-5037
- 806.355.6253 Office 806.355.0629 Fax
- pastor@stlukeamarillo.com admin@stlukeamarillo.com
- Visit our website: www.stlukeamarillo.com
- Find us on Facebook:

 (a) Stlukeamarillo
- Find us on Instagram: stlukeamarillo
- Download the Sharefaith App on the App Store
- Get St. Luke Pres., Amarillo TX on Google Play

Sharing Our Resources

During the past month, it came to the Session's attention that there is a community of United Methodists in the Panhandle area looking for a place to worship. Your Session reached out to this group, who is temporarily meeting at The Craig Chapel, and offered our building for their use. After several meetings, a final proposal was presented to the Session on March 19, and approval was granted to start sharing our space on Palm Sunday, April 2. The Amarillo United Methodist Community Group (they have not been chartered as a church yet) will be worshipping in our sanctuary from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., holding Sunday school classes from 10:30 to 11:30, and eventually using space in our education wing for a secretary's office and, hopefully by this summer, a pastor's office. The group will be paying a monthly fee to help with shared expenses and will also compensate Mila Abbasova to play for their worship services. There is not a timeline on this agreement, but it will be reevaluated at least every four months. Kary Wingo and Kendra Jones will be the liaisons for this group, so if you have questions or concerns about the new group, please reach out to Kary or Kendra. The Session anticipates there will be many opportunities for us to fellowship and worship together. The Methodist group has been invited to join us in worship during Holy Week and for our Easter Cantata. You will have a chance to meet our new neighbors on Palm Sunday, April 2, from 10 to 11 in the fellowship hall immediately following their worship service. There will be plenty of donuts and coffee to share. Please help us give them a warm St. Luke welcome.

Bunny to Make Appearance

St. Luke has received word that the Easter Bunny will be visiting on Easter Sunday, April 9 at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall for a "meet & greet" photo op with the children and the young at heart. An Easter Egg

Hunt will start at 10:00 a.m. with the toddlers /preschoolers in the courtyard and older children on the south lawn behind the parking lot. Bring your baskets (and coats if it's cold). There will be kid friendly refreshments to follow. All are welcome!

THANK YOU

for your faithful giving!

Detailed financial reports are available for review by church members. Stop by the church office during regular hours and request to examine the previous month's financial documents.





News for Happy Campers

Buffalo Gap Summer Camp 2023, "Practice Joy," will take place in June. Register now at www.buffalopgapcamp.org. Deadline for guaranteed free t-shirt: May 22. For more information, email them at office @buffalogapcamp.org. Here's the schedule:

High School Retreat

Grades 9-12 | June 1-3 \$120

Mini Camp

Grades 1-3* | June 6-9 | \$180

Elementary Camp

Grades 3*-5 | June 11-16 | \$300

Middle School Camp

Grades 6-8 | June 18-23 | \$300

(*Completed 3rd graders may attend Mini or Elementary camp at parents' discretion.)

GAP and LOGOS Volunteer at HPFB

The GAP and LOGOS groups had a wonderful time on March 22! Twelve St. Lukians and a couple dozen WTAMU students worked on an assembly line at High Plains Food Bank and packaged food boxes for senior adults. They exceeded expectations by completing sixteen pallets of food for delivery. (They were expecting us to accomplish

only about half that amount).

A good time was had by all! Thank you to those who were there and those that kept the little ones so

parents could

attend!



PNC Starts Work

The Pastor Nominating Committee has had its first two organizing meetings, which were moderated by **Scott Campbell**, Executive Presbyter of Palo Duro Presbytery. We will be meeting regularly as we continue the orientations and start the work of calling a new pastor to St. Luke. We seek your participation, and to that end will be providing a survey within the next several weeks to receive your input. We covet your support and prayers as we begin this exciting process in the life of our church. —*PNC*

Session Report

The following is a short summary of the Session meeting held on March 19:

Clerk's Report

- 1. February 2023 average attendance for worship 66
- 2. Active membership as of February 28, 2023 140
- 3. Adopted the St. Luke Family Assistance Fund Policy.
- 4. St. Luke will become a Matthew 25 Church.
- 5. Approved an agreement with the Amarillo United Methodist Community Group to share our church facilities. **Kary Wingo** and **Kendra Jones** will serve as liaisons with the group.

Commendations and Suggestions

- ✓ **Donna Clopton** for providing tea, etc. for our tea parties.
- ✓ Fellowship Committee for helping with Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.
- ✓ St. Luke Women for the Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser.
- ✓ Krista Berry for Laundry Love Minute for Mission.
- Security Task Force for their devoted work coordinating the installation of the security system.
- ✓ **Doug Tanner**, **Darcy Hargis**, and **Cruse Messer** for filling in for **Ann Hefner** during worship.
- ✓ Kary Wingo for leading the Adult Lenten Study.
- ✓ Officer Nominating Committee for selecting the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- ✓ Kary Wingo and Kendra Jones for serving as liaisons with the Methodist group.
- ✓ Suggestion that we celebrate Mr. Rogers Day next year.
- ✓ To the Session and individuals who collaborated with the Amarillo United Methodist Community Group to make it possible to share our facilities.

Called Congregational Meeting

On March 12, 2023, the congregation elected seven members to the Pastor Nominating Committee. They are Bob Hansen, Wesley Wingo, Kyle Hadley, Ashley Denham, Linda Peirce, Nan Kemp, and Stacy Clopton. The meeting was moderated by Rev. Don McDonald.

Security Upgraded for Doors

The new intercom system on the north door (the one near the handicap parking) and the fellowship hall door both work to call the office and get entrance remotely during business hours (push the little bell symbol at the bottom of the rectangular silver unit. The black square unit with lighted red circle below it is the fob reader.) Please do not use the tower entrance or its intercom anymore. The new doors are in and functioning with electronic latches, and Session members now have key fobs to enter the building. Others with special groups will be getting them shortly, and we will have trainings in April for everyone with fobs. The locks will be changed, and everything will go live after we've had a little time to practice with the fobs. The fobs also work for the education wing door, so people having meetings in that wing can enter through there. If you are late arriving for a meeting and the doors are locked, there are also red doorbells installed on the LEFT side of the doorways of fellowship hall and the education wing that ring in those areas, so someone can let you in. Outside of business hours, the silver intercom is not useful since it only rings in the church office. As we progress this month, we will keep everyone informed of any changes.

Congregational Care News

The Congregational Care Committee is so pleased to see that **Harry Graff** and **Lois Ball** are back home, out of the hospital and rehab, and are doing well. Please remember **Camille Hoy** and family in your prayers. Her mother, a resident of Albuquerque, has passed away. Also, please continue to name in your time with God, all the loved ones on our prayer list. Each one is special and important to the life of this St. Luke community.

Wright Attends WARP'D Retreat

This February, Cailyn and her friend Jesslyn attended WARP'D at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Lubbock. This



annual youth retreat was led by the AC ACtivators and Rev. Dr. John Williams and followed the theme "Every Living Creature." Thank you to Melissa Croft for attending as their sponsor!

New Tree Adds Life

The courtyard now has a new tree! The red oak is dedicated to the children of St. Luke in honor of **Scout Wingo**, with funds generously donated by **Joyce Clark**, a friend of the Wingo family, and several members of St. Luke as well. A memorial plaque will be placed in the next couple months. **Alexa** and I still cherish all the love and support we have received from our church home, and we hope many children of St. Luke get to enjoy the new addition to our courtyard in the years to come.

-Wesley Wingo

April 2023 | 3

SMALL GROUPS & Gatherings

Men's Breakfast & Devotional —

The monthly men's breakfast will be at HUD'S (on Bell, just north of 45th on the east side) at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 11. **Eldon Wingo** will deliver the devotional. Much coffee will be swigged and fellowship enjoyed. All men are welcome to attend.

SLW Study & Brunch

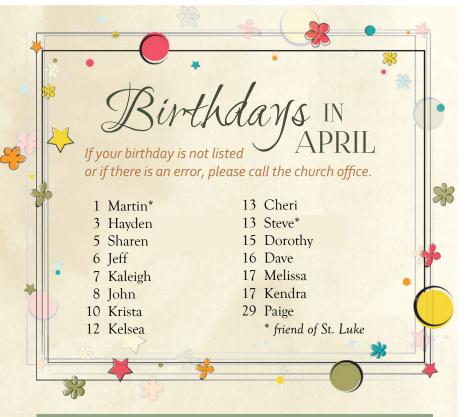
The next meeting of St. Luke Women will be on Wednesday, April 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Nan Kemp and Priscilla Sheets will host the brunch. Kendra Jones will lead a short business meeting, then Mary McCracken will provide the devotional. Nan Kemp will introduce the lesson, Chapter 8, "Sabbath and Justice," from the *Horizons* Bible study. Next month, we will conclude the study with "Sabbath and Community" as we enjoy a salad luncheon.

Young at Heart —— Luncheon & Program

Young at Heart will meet on Wednesday, April 19, at noon in the fellowship hall. The program will be presented by the Rev. (HR) **Robin Gantz**. To reserve a lunch, contact the church office by noon on Tuesday. The fee is a mere \$8 for lunch and a beverage. If you forget to call, show up anyway and BYOB (bring your own bag). See you there for an enjoyable lunch and an informative talk about cultural depictions of Jesus.

Fundraiser in the Works

The Mission Committee is planning a silent auction/fundraising dinner for Laundry Love this coming fall. You can help us by considering what you have that you would like to donate and by saving up your pennies so that you can bring home a treasure. Our many thanks to the Outreach Committee who joined us to help with Laundry Love on the 16th of March. We appreciate all of your support as we continue this most needed project. God's hands and feet on Bell Street have been busy in March, motivated by your generosity and love. Yeah, St. Luke!



One great hour of sharing

You shall be called repairers of the breach.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work together in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

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

1) Donate by bank account or credit/debit card online at pcusa.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) 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.

Restoring God, you have called us to repair what in this world you love so much that has been broken.

May the repairs made through our gifts bring life to communities in need and bring praise to your holy name.

Amen.



On Being a Matthew 25 Church

During the 2016 and 2018 General Assemblies of the PC(USA), an initiative challenged the national church to "embrace Jesus' call in Matthew 25:31–46 to take our living faith into our communities and the world. As a Matthew 25 church, we are called to live out true discipleship by acting boldly, compassionately, and fearlessly serving people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor." I am happy that the St. Luke Session voted YES to answer this call, and our church will be a Matthew 25 church.

What does that mean? We keep doing what we have been doing and share our stories with other churches in the PC(USA). It is a positive way to share evangelism, to identify even further our mission of St. Luke, and to continually improve how we build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and work to eradicate systemic poverty.

What is congregational vitality all about?

Vitality isn't a number. It's not about how many members you have, or how large your budget is, or even how many baptisms you celebrate each year. Rather, it's a mindset and commitment to re-energize and live out your church's faith in your community and the world. Vitality is a passion for following Jesus—growing in faith and discipleship, embracing people beyond your church walls, working for justice and reconciliation, and serving your neighbors in need. It's a way of life that sees with Christ's eyes and uses your collective gifts to really make a difference. Of course, every community is different and faces its own challenges. Growing in vitality always requires prayer and discernment to figure out how you are called.

We believe that "Where Christ is, there is the true Church" (F-1.0303). Matthew 25 shows us that Christ is with people who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, or in prison. If we wish to serve Christ, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) must be with these same people in our witness, work, and worship. In this mission, we encounter Christ, the life of the world, and congregations find true vitality. (Presbyterianmission.org)

To find out more information, visit https://www.presbyterian mission.org/ministries/matthew-25/ or find a printed brochure in fellowship hall or the narthex.

—Jennifer Denham, Outreach Moderator

By the Numbers

Worship services on Facebook Live:
February 26 through March 26
Average reach = 58.6 (high of 72, low of 47)
Average engagements = 11.2 (high 16, low 4)
Average peak "live" viewers = 6.4 (high 10, low 4) This means that at least four individuals or households were able to attend each week's service through Facebook and that ten participated virtually on at least one of the Sundays. (We are unable to observe how many view the service later in the day or week.)

St. Luke recently received a generous donation in honor of Mila Abbasova.

Please take the time to put on your nametag as we get acquainted with our new Methodist friends.

Epistles

Dear St. Luke,

Thank you for your gracious hospitality to the Impact Team from Grove City College. [This group of college students stayed overnight on their way to New Mexico.] After a long day driving, a warm and spacious place was very appreciated. If you're ever in Western PA, we are here for you!

—Sincerely, Students of GCC

Dear St. Luke,

Mother [Lois Ball] would like to thank the many who sent her get well cards this past week. She appreciates you all. Also, thanks for the prayers and calls.

-Sharen Baker

Pancakes Turn into Money

St. Luke's annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper raised \$590 for the Laundry Love mission project. Attendance was stellar! Thank you to **Bob Hansen** for preparing delicious pancakes and to the Fellowship and Mission Committees for hosting this fun event. A special "Thank You!" to all who attended, spread the word, invited friends, brought food, and contributed to the Laundry Love Fund.

Joys and Concerns

We rejoice at the good news that:

We pray for:

We extend our condolences and prayers to all who have lost loved ones. May God bless and comfort these families during this time of grief.

† Lucy Bartlett, Camille Hoy's mother, of Albuquerque, NM passed away on March 22. Please pray for Camille, David, and their family.

Continue to remember those with COVID-19 and also

the St. Luke Session; the Pastor Nominating Committee; the staff and residents at Amarillo Children's Home; the people of our sister church Johnson Chapel A.M.E.; **Glenda Moore** (Kind House Ukraine Bakery); our participants and helpers at Laundry Love; and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

Dear St. Luke Readers

In the activities room in the education wing, there is a cart with a top shelf that is full of duplicate religious books that are free for the taking to enrich your home library. Please take and enjoy. You don't even have to leave one in its place!

Here are some additions to the permanent collection, with thanks to donors. These items may be checked out on

Of particular interest this month is Neil MacGregor's Living with the Gods. Copiously illustrated in color, this multicultural history of people and their shared beliefs through the ages was written by a former director of London's National Gallery and British Museum. While not a history of religion per se, it draws from and illuminates many religious strands and their influence in world history. —Doug Tanner

- Alcorn, Randy. The Goodness of God: Assurance of Purpose in the Midst of Suffering (2010). Gift of **John** Kangerga
- Alexander, Eben. Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife (2012). Gift of John Kangerga
- Barclay, William. Barclay's Guide to the New Testament: Every Book of the New Testament Introduced and Explained (2008). Gift of Mary Holmlund
- Bible, New International Version. NIV Live: A Bible Experience (61 audio DVDs, 2013). Gift of John Kangerga
- Bible, New Testament. Acts: A Dramatic Presentation of the Birth of Christianity (2 DVDs, 2002). Gift of Ann
- Coogan, Michael D., editor. The New Oxford Annotated Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha (2010). Gift of John Kangerga

- Cope, Stephen. The Great Work of Your Life: A Guide for the Journey to Your True Calling (2015). Gift of **Doug Tanner**
- Durant, Will & Ariel. The Lessons of History (2010; originally published 1968). Concise summary of lessons to be gleaned from authors' 10-volume *The Story of* Civilization. Gift of Doug Tanner
- Gibran, Kahlil. The Prophet (2020). Chinese binding. Gift of Doug Tanner
- MacArthur, John. Matthew: The Coming of the King (2007). Gift of John Kangerga
- MacGregor, Neil. Living with the Gods: On Beliefs and Peoples (2018). Gift of Doug Tanner
- Mehrotra, Rajiv, editor. The Essential Dalai Lama: His Important Teachings (2006). Gift of Doug Tanner
- Melin, Eddie. Stories from an Old Man (2009). Gift of Linda Peirce
- Missler, Chuck. Learn the Bible in 24 Hours (2002). Gift of John Kangerga
- Nhat Hanh, Thich. The Art of Living (2017). Gift of **Doug Tanner**
- Norman, Alexander. The Dalai Lama: An Extraordinary Life (2020). Gift of Doug Tanner
- Ryrie, Alec. Unbelievers: An Emotional History of Doubt (2019). Gift of Doug Tanner
- Straub, Gerard Thomas. The Sunrise of the Soul: Meditations on Prayerful Stillness, Silence, Solitude, and Service of the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi (2020). Gift of Doug Tanner
- Tolle, Eckhart. A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose (2016; originally published 2005). Gift of **Doug Tanner**
- Wilson Shobe, Melody & David Creech, editors. The Path: A Journey through the Bible (2016). Gift of John Kangerga

We accept donation for...

Mesa Verde Elementary School

- Facial tissue
- Disinfecting wipes
- Lip balm

Kind House Ukraine Bakery

- ✓ Baking ingredients
- Disposable pans
- Cling wrap, foil, etc.
- Paper towels

High Plains Food Bank

✓ Brown paper sacks ✓ Empty egg cartons

Do you have news for May?

The deadline for the May edition of the *Epistle* will be April 23. The newsletter will be mailed on April 28. As always, please 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.

Bulletin Board

The **Burnetts** invite you to Visible Revolution Celebration in Paul Lindsey Park (1501 28th St., Canyon) on Saturday, April 1 from noon to 5 p.m. The event is hosted by the Amarillo Area Transgender Advocacy Group. There will be lots of entertainment, vendors, and an egg hunt.

Alice Cooke invites us to the spring WTAMU Town and Gown Band Concert on Monday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Northen Recital Hall.

Travis Kemp encourages you to celebrate International Jazz Day on Sunday, April 30, as well as Jazz Appreciation Month throughout April. Tune in FM90, Sundays 5-8 p.m., s'il vous plaît.

Congratulations to our organist, Mila Abbasova. High Plains Public Radio played her original song on March 26 and March 30 (7 p.m.). We hope you were/are able to tune in to hear her sing.

Hassy Easter!