



# EPIS<sup>TLE</sup>

## *St. Luke Presbyterian Church*

NAN KEMP & DYNETTE HOFMANN CO-EDITORS

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 9 | SEPTEMBER 2023

### St. Luke Seminar in September

**Dr. Anna Carter Florence**, the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church will lead our September seminar.

Looking for ways to breathe new life into your reading and interpretation of Scripture? In this workshop, Dr. Anna Carter Florence offers a fresh way to read Scripture in community—by entering it, encountering it, and coming back with something deep and true. What if we imagined ourselves as a repertory church, reading and rehearsing these biblical texts together, over time? What if Scripture was a text that needed to be practiced as well as studied? What if we learned to rehearse it until we find the script in the Scripture—our script? And what if people who fundamentally disagreed with one another could gather around Scripture in this way, and enjoy doing it? Maybe we could stop fighting about what the text means, and start listening to it, and one another—with real appreciation! Maybe we could find something true before we have to decide what's right.

Please join us Friday, September 22 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, September 23 from 9:00 a.m. - noon and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. to discover some new strategies for reading Scripture that are easy to grasp and easy to adapt to any setting. We'll learn to "read the verbs" in a biblical text as we walk through it, together. We'll consider a host of helpful, often hilarious ways for a group to broaden its reading: questions to ask, techniques to try, and rules of fair play to keep things steady. Based on Anna's book, *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, this seminar will be a lively and energizing deep dive into Scripture.

On Friday night, if you choose, you'll have the opportunity to preorder lunch for Saturday at noon. Please make plans to join us.

### 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

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# Session Report

The following is a synopsis of Session activity in August.

## Clerk's Report

1. July 2023 average attendance for worship – 59
2. Active membership as of July 31, 2023 – 145
3. Communion celebrated August 6, 2023, with **David Kemp** presiding.
4. Welcomed **Aubrey** and **Cailyn** into membership by profession of faith and **Jeslyn** by baptism and profession of faith (members of confirmation class) and **Ruth** and **Henry Suthard** by reaffirmation of faith.
5. Committee on Ministry commissioned Elder **Joe Gambill** to baptize **Jeslyn** on August 20, 2023.

## Commendations

- Congregational Care and Fellowship for two funeral dinners and teachers' luncheon.
- **Cruse Messer, Kary Wingo** and **Helen Thorsheim** for working at Laundry Love.
- Personnel Committee for hiring **Dynette Hofmann** as the new Office Administrator.
- St. Luke for maintaining a high level of activity.
- **Donna Clopton** and **Stacy Clopton** for designing, creating, and distributing the invitations and the informational booklets for the teachers' luncheon.
- All those who have served as pulpit supply.
- **Mary Holmland** and **Mila Abbosova** for their duets.
- Bell Choir

## Security Grant Update

All of the security-grant funded improvements are finished, the systems are fully functional, and we are nearing the end of the bureaucracy as well. Hallelujah! As we go forward, please remember to always check that the doors have latched behind you when you go through a door (in OR out). Also, if you have an evening meeting at the same time as others, coordination with each other on who locks up/activates the system is SUPER important. Also, please never prop open any door to the outside; speak to **Helen, Tim** or **Kaci** if you'd like advice on various ways to admit people through a doorway without having to stand at the door. If you have any issues, call/text **Kaci Jones, Helen Thorsheim, Kyle Hadley**, or **Doug Tanner**.

~Helen Thorsheim



## Additions to Library

The following books have been added to the St. Luke Library and are available for checkout:

- ♦ Augustine [of Hippo] (Saint); Sara Ruden, translator. *Confessions: A New Translation* (2018).
- ♦ Jefferson, Thomas. *The Jefferson Bible: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth Extracted Textually from the Gospels in Greek, Latin, French & English* (Smithsonian [Facsimile] Edition, 2011).
- ♦ Nouwen, Henri J.M. and Carolyn Whitney-Brown. *Flying, Falling, Catching: An Unlikely Story of Finding Freedom* (2022).
- ♦ Telford, W.R. *The New Testament: A Beginner's Guide* (2014).
- ♦ Wolff, Catherine. *Beyond: How Humankind Thinks about Heaven* (2021).

## Missing records

In preparation for eventual transfer of original church records to the Presbyterian Historical Society, it was found that the Session minute book for November 1979 through July 1988 is missing. If you have it or know of its whereabouts, please let the Office Administrator know as soon as possible.

~Doug Tanner

## Postscripts

- ♦ **Cailyn**, 7<sup>th</sup> grader, has been chosen to play on the "A" volleyball team at her school, River Road.
- ♦ **Stacy Clopton** is pleased to announce that the Amarillo Public Library is one of only 30 libraries in the U.S. to be chosen to participate in the Stories of Exile project created by the Yiddish Book Center. Ask **Stacy**, call any library or do a search at the Globe News website for more information.



**Helen Thorsheim**  
Distributing OAC bags at Ama-Con

## Epistles

*Dear St. Luke,*

Thank you so very much for all of the visits and the food and most especially for all the prayers for our momma, **Lois Ball**.

Love in Christ,

KAREN HUBBARD, SHAREN BAKER,  
& BEVERLY JOHNSON

*Dear St. Luke Family,*

Thank you so much to the Fellowship Committee for throwing a farewell party for me and Roscoe and to everyone who stayed after church to wish us well. We had a fabulous time visiting with you all! Roscoe and I appreciate all the cards, gifts, messages, and hugs. Sunday afternoon was another beautiful day to add to the host of wonderful memories that I have of my time with you all. And **Nan**, thank you for the laughs; "Jeopardy" was spot on. We won't be far away and hope to stay in touch. I will send my permanent mailing address—when I figure out where that will be. (I am pretty sure that Roscoe left some dog hair behind for you to remember him by.)

All our love and thanks,  
MELISSA AND ROSCOE

*Dear St. Luke Family,*

We want to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and many cute outfits for baby **Eli**. We have felt enveloped in love and prayer over this past year and we are ready for everyone to meet **Eli** in person within a month! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Love,  
WESLEY AND ALEXA

## St. Luke's Silent Auction

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a Silent Auction on October 1, benefiting Laundry Love.

They are now collecting donations that can be left in the pastor's office. There will be silent auction forms available if donors wish to put a specific price as a starting bid for their items. Donations can be an art or craft you have made, holiday items, a coupon/certificate for a service you will provide (such as housecleaning, car wash, leaf raking, snow shoveling, or homemade dessert), or an item taking up space that is like new/never used. Use your imagination! (No clothing, please.)

If you have questions, contact **Camille Hoy** or any member of the committee.



## Wednesday Night Live!



Have you found yourself missing our LOGOS Wednesday night meals and fellowship? If so, you're in luck! Starting Wednesday, September 6, St. Luke will be partnering with the Amarillo United Methodists to host Wednesday Night Live! There are many things that will be similar to LOGOS, but many things are different, hence the new name. First off, this is for everyone, from our tiniest St. Lukians to our most senior. The evening will start at 6:00 p.m. with a catered meal from Cracker Barrel; please see calendar and menu below. At 6:30 there will be several offerings for classes, or you can simply stay and enjoy the fellowship. There will be an adult class led by Rev. **Margie McNeir** in the education wing. The GAP group will be joining with other young adults for fellowship (nursery to be provided from 6:00 to 7:30). Middle and high school youth will meet in the SLY room. Elementary age children will meet in the craft room.

The LOGOS Committee would like to invite each of you to attend our first night on us. Our committee will cover the cost of the meals for all St. Luke folks on September 6. Thereafter, if you choose to come enjoy a meal mid-week with us, the cost will be \$8 for adults, \$6 for youth from 11 to 18 years old, \$4 for children 3 to 10 years old, and free for 2 and under. There will be sign-up forms available on the first night if you would like to sign up for meals for the semester in advance or would like to request a scholarship to help cover the meal cost for children/youth.

Please register at [www.amarilloumc.org](http://www.amarilloumc.org) or let **Kary Wingo** know if you are planning to attend. The registration deadline for dinner is the Tuesday before by 11:00 a.m.

Meals for September:  
9/6 Chicken Tenders  
9/13 Meatloaf  
9/20 Pancakes & Eggs  
9/27 Chicken & Dumplings



# THANK YOU

*for your faithful giving!*

## July Finances

## Year-to-Date

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



## Welcome to Our New Office Administrator

We are excited to welcome St. Luke's new Office Administrator, **Dynette Hofmann**, who began training at the beginning of August. She was born here in Amarillo but just recently moved back from Washington state. She's been married forty years and has three sons, four grandchildren with another on the way, and one great-granddaughter. She's been working in office administration for many years.

## St. Luke Women

September is here! The theme of the Horizons Bible Study for 2023-2024 is "*Sacred Encounters, the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*." If you need a study book, you may order directly at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/product/sacred-encounters-english-edition/>. Meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 13, in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin with brunch at 9:30 a.m., to be hosted by **Sallie Amason**. All women are welcome to attend.

**Margaret Heyde** would like us to know that the author of the study, Olive Mahabir, invites us to consider three questions.

- How can the 21<sup>st</sup> century church exhibit mercy and compassion with and beyond the traditional congregation?
- How can we go beyond a façade of caring to achieve true inclusion in our communities of faith?
- What are the potential implications for the church (and for us) if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformational love of Christ?

The author asks us to explore these sacred encounters with Jesus and his disciples as they encountered human beings being transformed by Jesus. See you at St. Luke Women!



- |              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1 • P.J.     | 12 • Tim             |
| 2 • Keegan   | 14 • Mindy           |
| 4 • Grace    | 17 • Cruse           |
| 4 • Nan      | 18 • Lillie          |
| 6 • Hadlee   | 19 • Yvette          |
| 8 • Jude     | 19 • Doug            |
| 9 • Ross     | 25 • Alexa           |
| 12 • Jessica | * friend of St. Luke |

## Joys and Concerns



- † Our dear friend and church member, **Lois Ball**, has entered the Church Triumphant. She passed away on the morning of August 4, 2023. Please remember her daughter, **Sharen Baker**, and the rest of her family in your prayers.
- † **Ashe Wall**: We extend our love and sympathy to the family of **Ashe Wall**, who passed away on August 15, 2023
- † **Dr. Farley Mba's** father passed suddenly at his home in Cameroon in August. May his gentle soul rest in peace. Please keep the family in your prayers.
- **Sallie**
- **Grace**
- **Delma**
- **Lahaina, Maui**: Prayers for those families with missing loved ones and the families with lost loved ones, and for a fast and successful recovery. To make a donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for disaster relief for those affected by wildfires, go <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000165/>
- **Mary and Daryl** latest great grandson, **Elias**, was born on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Amarillo. Parents are their granddaughter **Brittany** and partner **Josh**. Congratulations!
- The confirmation class of 2023 was confirmed and received into membership during the worship service on August 20. Confirmands are **Jeslyn**, **Cailyn**, and **Aubrey**. **Jeslyn** was also baptized. Also welcomed into membership were **Henry** and **Ruth**.
- **Kenneth**
- *Continue to remember:* Dorothy; Joyce; Rev. Bob; Andy (Steve husband); Lucille; Leslie (Kyle's mom); Mindy; Margaret; Tom; Sarah; Roger; Aaron; Dennis (Melissa father); Donna; Sharon; Marilyn; Rev. Karl; Alexa, Delma; 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 and Kind House Ukraine Bakery; our participants and helpers at Laundry Love; and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

## Men's Breakfast

The September men's breakfast will be held on the 12th at 6:30 a.m. Location @ HUD'S • 4411 Bell Street (east side of the street.) **David Kemp** will deliver the devotional. All men are invited.

## Christian Education

The adult Sunday School class will resume September 10 at 9:45 a.m. in the education wing classroom. This year, we will be exploring the Great Courses video series entitled, "The Apocryphal Jesus". **Cruse Messer** and **Kendra Jones** will facilitate the class. This series is presented by Prof. David Brakke, M.Div. from Harvard and Ph.D from Yale. The New Testament gives us 27 canonical texts—gospels, letters and more—but these works are only a tiny fraction of the many volumes written about the life of Jesus, his family, and the apostles. This alternative body of literature falls under the category of "apocrypha," which means "hidden" or "secret," and it offers fascinating insights into the early Christian world and how different groups understood the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. All are welcome to join in viewing the videos, followed by lively discussion.

Children's Church will also resume September 10 following the anthem during the worship service. Children in grades K-5 are invited to join in a time of lessons and activities in the nursery classroom. We will have three teams of leaders who will rotate monthly, **Mary McCracken/Kendra Jones, Teresa Burnett/Ashley Denham** and **Camille Hoy / Helen Thorsheim**.

### Add to your Directory:

#### Henry and Ruth Suthard

**Henry** and **Ruth** have been welcomed by reaffirmation of faith. Their contact information is as follows...



Young at Heart is welcoming ideas for future speakers. Please contact **Bob McCracken** with your suggestions.

# September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>  9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship Service & Children's Church					1 National Suicide Prevention Month begins	2
3 Mesa Verde Sunday Ruling Elder <b>Doug Tanner</b> will fill the pulpit.	4 <i>Labor Day</i> The church office will be closed. <del>10:00 &amp; 11:00 am</del> No Piano Class	5 <b>Melissa's</b> last day in the office. 10:00 am Exercise Group	6 9:00 am Yoga Practice* 6:00 - 7:30 pm Wednesday Night Live 6:30 pm UMC Bible Study	7 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study @ Taylors'	8	9
10 "Invite a friend!" Communion will be celebrated. Adult Sunday school class & Children's Church starts for fall Elder <b>David Kemp</b> will fill the pulpit.	11 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class 5:30 pm Mission Com. Mtg.	12 6:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Exercise Group 4:00 pm Cong. Care Com. 5:45 pm Worship Com. Mtg. 6:00 pm Property Com Mtg.	13 9:00 am Yoga Practice* 9:30 am St. Luke Women 12:00 noon Finance Com. Mtg. 6:00 - 7:30 pm Wednesday Night Live	14 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study @ Taylors'	15 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Fellowship Hall is reserved for the Scrapbook Club	16 8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love @ 10th St. Laundry
17 Elder <b>Phillip Periman</b> will fill the pulpit. 4:00 pm Stated Session Mtg.	18 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	19 10:00 am Exercise Group 6:00 pm Fellowship Com. Mtg.	20 <i>Native American Day</i> 9:00 am Yoga Practice* TBD Young at Heart 6:00 - 7:30 pm Wednesday Night Live	21 <i>International Day of Peace</i> 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study	22 7:00 - 9:00 pm St. Luke Seminar With Dr. Anna Carter Florence	23 <i>Autumn begins</i> 9:00 a.m. - noon and 1:00 -3:00 pm St. Luke Seminar With Dr. Anna Carter Florence
24 Dr. <b>Anna Carter Florence</b> will fill the pulpit. E-pistle deadline	25 10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	26 10:00 am Exercise Group 7:00 pm Farkle Group	27 9:00 am Yoga Practice* 6:00 - 7:30 pm Wednesday Night Live	28 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love 12:00 noon Lunch Bunch 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Taylors'	29	30 Fellowship hall will be set up for the silent auction,

\* Kary Wingo will notify participants if the yoga schedule changes.