

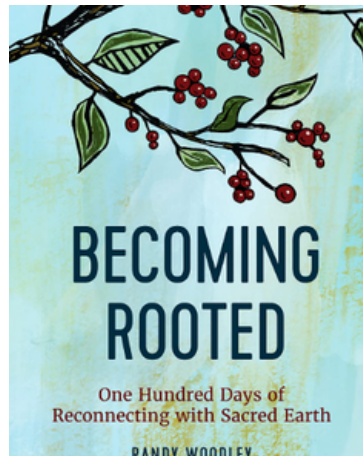
ST. LUKE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
EPISTLE

VOLUME 63 | ISSUE 11 | January 2025

Nan Kemp & Brittany Forney, CO-EDITORS

Would you like to begin 2025 with daily readings based on Native American spirituality written by a Cherokee spiritual leader? If so, join folks from St. Luke's and Amarillo UMC in reading *Becoming Rooted: 100 Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth* by Rev. **Dr. Randy Woodley** for Epiphany and Lent. After beginning the readings on Jan. 1 there will be an optional gathering on Jan. 8 at 6-7pm to connect with each other and also an optional texting thread to share thoughts and insights along the way.

If you're interested, purchase the book before Jan. 1 and let **Rebecca Vardiman** (301-268-1148) know that you're participating or contact her if you have questions.



Presbyterian Women and Mission will be joining forces to collect donations on January 5th in lieu of our "Souper Bowl" collection that usually takes place in February on Super Bowl Sunday.

All donations will go to Amarillo Housing First Warming Station. All are admitted (including pets) who seek shelter from cold and inclement weather.

Men's Breakfast



The monthly men's breakfast will take place at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 14 th , at Hud's, 4411 Bell. **Bob McCracken** will deliver the devotional. All men of St. Luke and AUMC are invited to attend.

St. Luke Women will meet Wednesday, Jan. 8th , at 9:30 a.m. **Susan Barnes and Nona Fulton** will provide the brunch and **Donna Clopton** will present the devotional. After a short business meeting led by Moderator **Kendra Jones, Nan Kemp** will lead our discussion of Lesson 5: Air Quality. All women of the church are invited to attend.

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Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet Wednesday, January 15th, at noon! **Linda Dominguez** with Amarillo College will speak to us regarding their Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC), which is the home to four programs, including the AC Food Pantry. Bring your own brown bag lunch if you'd like and we hope to see you there - any and all are welcome to attend this monthly speaker series!

Book Discussion Group

In preparation for the upcoming seminar with **Serene Jones** on February 7th and 8th, you are encouraged to read Serene Jones' book Call it Grace, Finding Meaning in a Fractured World. You are then invited to join in a group discussion on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6 pm. The discussion will be held in fellowship hall and led by **Rebecca Vardiman**, and all are welcome, whether you've started the book or not. If we need another session, we will meet again on Wednesday, January 29th. Hope to see you there!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Do you have a birthday coming up? The Endowment Committee encourages you to celebrate your birthday and the church together by donating the amount of your age. Your gift is added to St. Luke's Perpetual Endowment Fund to continue the mission of the church in years to come.

Mission/Outreach News

The committee voted to send the remaining discretionary funds available for 2024, over a thousand dollars, to Meals on Wheels to help cover an almost doubling of food costs. St. Luke for many years has sponsored meals for two persons each month, at a cost of \$100 a month. That \$100 will now only cover one person. We were informed this change in food cost was implemented in June. We hope this extra money will help with this year's shortfall and give an extra boost for 2025. Thank you for supporting Meals on Wheels and thank you to those members who volunteer their time to deliver meals each week!

The annual Souper Bowl Sunday collection by Presbyterian Women will happen on January 5th. Funds collected will go to Amarillo Housing First to help keep the Code Blue Warming Station open during our cold winter nights. Please look for the soup bowls to drop your donations in. Thank you!

Class of 2025

Ross Clopton
Robert Hansen
Barbara Taylor
Kary Wingo

Class of 2026

Paige Hadley
Priscilla Sheets
Tim Sougstad
Helen Thorsheim

Class of 2027

Sam Burnett
Julie Johnson
Kaci Jones
Mary McCracken

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26 following the worship service. Committee Moderators will share their annual reports, and the terms of call and the budget for 2025 will be presented.

The Fellowship Committee will provide soup. We ask that those with last names starting with A-H bring sandwiches and I-Z bring desserts.



Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

January 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,
Happy New Year!

Thank you all for the generous Christmas gift I was surprised with after the Cantata. Thank you to all those who helped with or attended the Children's Nativity Pageant, and/or the Family Movie Night at the Discovery Center. As I write this, I am preparing for our Blue Christmas Wednesday night service, Sundays: December 22 & 29, and Christmas Eve Candlelight service with our United Methodist friends.

What an exciting time for us all, as we begin the new year together. My prayer is that 2025 will continue to bring many possibilities for change, renewal, and growth – both personally, and as a faith community. Saint Luke Presbyterian Church certainly offers a plethora of ways to engage in the life of the Church, as we also remember those members and friends of limited means or mobility.

Please peruse the upcoming events calendar in this newsletter. You will see opportunities scheduled for worship, fellowship, and ministry. Many of you are very active in the ministries of the Church, and that is a blessing. If you have been on the fence about participating, consider this as an open invitation to become more involved. You will not regret it. Hopefully, some of the opportunities at Saint Luke speak to your heart; however, if that is not the case, maybe God is calling you to lead something new. The session and I are available to explore fresh ideas for your ministry. The people of Saint Luke welcome, appreciate, and affirm the gift of diversity in God's people.

Let us give all thanks and praise to a merciful and loving God for a new year. Let us encourage, uplift, and pray for one another as we do the important work of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Most of all, let us share his Good News.

In Christ's Service
Reverend Bill Cotman

Post Scripts

- **Cailyn Wright** is the 2024–2025 River Road Middle School spelling bee champ! She will go on to compete at the county level on Jan. 30 th . Be sure to congratulate her (and wish her well with her injured ankle – ah, the life of an athlete).
- **Alexa Smith** (daughter of **Quentin and Helen**) and **Ian Halka** were married on December 30th in Granbury, Texas. The joyous event was celebrated with their families and afterward everyone was fed a delicious dinner created by Alexa.
- We have begun streaming worship services on our YouTube channel: @StLukePresbyterianAmarillo, using the much nicer system that AUMC is letting us use.
- **My Church App**– If you have not yet downloaded the My Church app from Ministry Brands, you are missing out! There are links for our website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel as well as our directory and calendar. We will be using it more and more as we learn the ins and outs.
- The \$150,000 grant for improved security at the church was officially awarded (finally!) on December 12th. We will begin the serious work of putting ducks in their rows in January but do not expect any actual work to start until later in the year.
- Please try to remember to check the doors after you leave to make sure that they have latched. There have been some issues with the south fellowship hall doors.

St. Luke Seminar – You'll Want to Get this on your Calendar Now!

Serene Jones, President of Union Theological Seminary in New York City, will be our speaker for this year's seminar. The dates will be Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8. Dr. Jones is the first woman to head the 180–year–old institution, and has held that position since 2008. She is originally from Enid, Oklahoma, has taught at Yale University Divinity School, and written several books. Her book, *Call it Grace, Finding Meaning in a Fractured World*, will be available through The Burrowing Owl prior to the event and available for sale during the event. The cost will be \$20. Please let Kary Wingo know ASAP if you will need one so we preorder enough. Also, please read about the book study opportunity regarding this book coming up in January (see monthly calendar for day and time). The Seminar Committee is very excited about this accomplished theologian coming to St. Luke, so please help spread the word!

THANK YOU

for your faithful giving!

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.

For 11 Months of the Year



Session Summary

Session Clerk Barbara Taylor has provided a brief summary of the December meeting:

Clerk's Report

1. November average attendance for worship – 61
2. Active membership as November 30, 2024 – 147
3. Communion celebrated December 1, 2024
4. Baptism of Eli Wingo on December 8, 2024, Rev. Bill Cotman presiding.
5. Reception of new members – Teresa and Muriel Cotman by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian, Alpine, TX and Karen Sandlin by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian, Plainview, TX.

Commendations.

- A. Linda Pierce for coordinating meal for Mesa Verde staff in December
- B. To all St. Luke members who have or currently volunteer with Meals on Wheels.
- C. Helen Thorsheim for her continued work on the directory.
- D. Ross Clopton for stepping in to serve as moderator of Finance/Stewardship after Tim Lacey moved, in addition to his role as Personnel Moderator.
- E. Cruse Messer for her excellent leadership of the Worship Committee for three years.
- F. All those who helped with worship services, either actively or in a support position in 2024.
- G. Class of 2024 elders, Kendra Jones, Cruse Messer, Jennifer Denham and Tim Lacey.
- H. AUMC for purchasing paper goods
- I. Bob Hansen, Mila Abbosova, Melissa Croft and the choir for the beautiful Christmas Cantata.
- J. Mary Holmlund, Jade DeAngelis and Muriel Cotman for the instrumental offertory.

Ordination and Installation of Elder Class of 2027 will be held on January 5, 2025.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 26, 2025.

The 2025 budget was approved.



Farkle Fun

"But I don't gamble." Neither do we; we use dice as a way to have conversations with our friends, old and new. FARKLE gametime at St. Luke is held on the **last Tuesday afternoon every month**. Join us at 2:00p.m. for fellowship.

Please pray for:

2025 Standing
Committees

Christian Education, Kaci Jones
Congregational Care, Priscilla Sheets
Fellowship, Mary McCracken, Paige Hadley (v-mod)
Finance/Personnel, Ross Clopton, Julie Johnson
Mission/Outreach, Kary Wingo, Sam Burnett
Property, Helen Thorsheim
Endowment, Bob Hansen, Tim Sougstad
Scholarship, Tim Sougstad
Worship, Bob Hansen, Barbara Taylor



JANUARY

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Happy New Year</i> Church office closed	2 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	3	4
5 Adult Sunday School Warming Station Donations Communion Ordination & Installation of Elders	6 10 & 11 am Piano Class 4 pm Cong. Care Meeting 5:30 pm Mission	7 10 am Exercise Group 5:30 pm Fellowship Meeting	8 8:30 am Yoga Group Noon Finance 6 pm Book Study: Becoming Rooted	9 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	10	11
12 Adult Sunday School Advent Study 5 pm Meditation Service	13 10 & 11 am Piano Class	14 7 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Exercise Group 5:45 pm Worship	15 8:30 am Yoga Practice 9:30 am St. Luke Women 12 pm Young at Heart	16 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	17	18 8-10 am Landry Love
19 Adult Sunday School Advent Study 4 pm Session Epistle deadline	20 10 & 11 am Piano Class	21 10 am Exercise Group 5:30 Property	22 8:30 am Yoga Group 6 pm Book Discussion: Call it Grace	23 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	24	25
26 Adult Sunday School 12 pm Annual Congregational Meeting	27 10 & 11 am Piano Class	28 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Farkle Game afternoon	29 8:30 am Yoga Group	30 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	31	

EACH SUNDAY

9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship
 9:45 Adult Bible Study Classroom A
 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal unless otherwise stated
 11 am In-Person Worship and service will stream Live on YouTube

