

St. Luke Presbyterian Church Epistle

NAN KEMP & HELEN THORSHEIM, CO-EDITORS | VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4 | APRIL 2024

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



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Wednesday Night Live

We had a sparse month of meetings in March due to Spring Break and Holy Week but did enjoy an evening of soups and another participating in a Mission Night at the High Plains Food Bank. Our group was able to help sort and pack hundreds of boxes of food during our evening at the food bank!

We will be picking back up in April for the following meals and evenings. Please continue to let **Kary Wingo** know if you will be joining us for the meal by the Tuesday before so we can make sure to have enough food. Suggested donation is \$5/meal/per person.

APRIL 3 - St. Luke will be hosting with cheeseburgers, fries and tater tots from Sonic.

APRIL 10 - AUMC Cooking Team

APRIL 17 - St. Luke will be hosting with breakfast (pancakes, eggs, bacon, and sausage).

APRIL 24 - AUMC Cooking Team

The committee will be meeting on Tuesday, April 2nd, at 5:30pm to discuss the end of the semester!

GAP News

GAP (Growing Adult Presbyterians) continues to meet during Wednesday Night Live for Bible study and fellowship. Dinner starts at 6, study starts at 6:45 - please feel free to come to one or the other or both!



ELDERS

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Jennifer Denham	Ross Clopton	Paige Hadley
Kendra Jones	Robert Hansen	Priscilla Sheets
Tim Lacey	Barbara Taylor	Tim Sougstad
Cruse Messer	Kary Wingo	Helen Thorsheim

SMALL GROUPS & GATHERINGS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly men's breakfast will be held at 7 a.m. on April 9th (Tuesday) at Hud's, 4411 Bell (east side of the street). **Doug Tanner** will deliver the devotional. See you there for breakfast burritos, coffee, and fellowship!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, April 10th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Sallie Amason** and **Sharron Fitzner** will host the brunch. **Kendra Jones** will lead a short business meeting, then **Susan Barnes** will present the devotional. Lesson 8 is "Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship, Acts. 16:11-15." All women of the church are encouraged to attend.

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON & PROGRAM

Young at Heart will be held on Wednesday, April 17, at noon. We have the privilege of hosting **Suzanne Talley**, the Executive Director of the 100 Club of the Texas Panhandle, as she comes to talk with our group. This community-based organization supports the needs of public safety agencies and their front-line officers and firefighters. It is one of many agencies who provided support to fire departments fighting the fires that recently tore through our region. Bring your own brown bag lunch and join us for fellowship and to hear from Suzanne!

Epistles

Travis Kemp is very excited and proud to announce that in March he celebrated his 20th anniversary as host of his radio show, All That Jazz, which is broadcast on FM 90 (KACV). He wants to thank his

St. Luke friends for their endless love and support of the show over the years. His last word - Stay jazzy, St. Luke! *(and we are all very proud of him! - the unrelated ed.)*

TOWN AND GOWN CONCERT

Alice Cooke invites everyone to a Town and Gown concert on Monday, April 8th, at 7:30 p.m. It will take place in the Mary Moody Northern Theatre at WT. She has been participating (their best oboeist!) in this recurring event for many years and will be retiring after this concert. Make plans to come for an enjoyable evening and to thank Alice for her contribution to the culture of this community.

Mission Committee News

The Mission Committee continues to support many in our community. Some highlights for March:

- On Saturday, March 16, another successful Laundry Love event was hosted.
- On Monday, March 18, the committee helped with the Mesa Verde Teacher Appreciation Lunch to welcome the faculty and staff back from spring break. Kudos to **Stacy and Donna Clopton** for organizing a delicious baked potato treat for this group of hardworking teachers. (The extras were enjoyed by Young at Heart attendees.)
- In response to Mesa Verde's request for tissues, St. Luke stepped up and donated boxes and boxes of tissues for those little noses. The need continues, so you can keep those boxes coming!
- The Mission Committee extends a huge thank you for the generous donations of bedding for the Children's Home! Your love and support for these children makes a huge difference!



PDP DISASTER RESPONSE

From Palo Duro Presbytery, here is a summary of how our church is responding to the recent wildfires to date:

The presbytery has received more than in donations; these funds are being distributed to the churches in Canadian and Borger. This total includes a grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and one from the Synod of the Sun.

FPC Borger is responding to their community needs, including housing vulnerability. Many homes burned down in their community, including the devastated Fritch. Rev. **Janelle Blair** reports that World Central Kitchen, as well as FPC Canadian, is responding.

Canadian is serving meals around the clock and has spent on food and initial needs. Their session is meeting and planning the next steps of who and how to help with resources, including money, and giving it to the front line of need immediately. The most urgent concern is the lack of livestock food.

Thank you for your prayers and your donations. Needs will emerge as recovery continues, so our work is far from done. Please continue to donate to other recovery organizations. You can also donate to Palo Duro Presbytery's disaster fund at

www.paloduropresbytery.org.

David Kemp, Clerk

Birthdays IN APRIL

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

1 Martin Salgado*	13 Cheri Castleberry
3 Hayden Payne	13 Steve Evett*
5 Sharen Baker	15 Dorothy Baggerly
6 Jeff Mba	15 Raji Bolton
7 Kaleigh Goetz	16 Dave Kemp
8 John Watson	17 Melissa Croft
10 Krista Berry	17 Kendra Jones
12 Bronwyn Butchart	29 Paige Hadley
12 Kelsea Goetz	

* friend of St. Luke

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.

FELLOWSHIP HALL AND KITCHEN SUPPLIES LIST

There is now a sheet hanging in the kitchen that anyone can list needed supplies on. We do our best to keep inventory of what everyone needs but would certainly appreciate help if there is a supply that we are running low on or are out of. Thank you for helping us keep an eye on supplies!

Your Fellowship Committee Team

THANK YOU

The office received a donation, which has been sent to the Presbytery for additional fire recovery efforts, and the following note:

Dear St. Luke, Please accept this donation to help wildfire needs. My daughter attended your church while at TTUHSC Medical School in Amarillo. She thought pretty highly of y'all. So I am sending this to you, knowing that you can use the money for things that other programs can't help with. I am sure the churches in the Panhandle feel very needed right now.

May you be blessed in your work.

Regards, Becky Kusko, Houston, TX

SESSION REPORT FOR MARCH

Clerk's Report

1. February average attendance for worship - 53
2. Active membership as of February 28, 2022 - 145
3. Communion was celebrated on March 3, 2024 with **David Kemp** presiding.

Other Session news:

A new Manual of Operations for St. Luke has been prepared with changes to several committee bylaws, a new fob/security system policy, and the addition of a manse agreement. An electronic copy is available from the office upon request.

Commendations:

- **Mary Holmlund** for setting up monthly communion for homebound members.
- **Cheri Castleberry** for the Minute for Mission regarding the Children's Home bed sheet drive on Feb 25.
- Thank you to **Bob Hansen** for making the pancakes and everyone who helped with the Shrove Tuesday meal that raised funds for Mesa Verde.
- Thank you to the St. Luke Women for their Souper Bowl collection for AC Food Pantry.
- **Helen Thorsheim** and **Kaci Jones** for stepping up to cover the office and accounting tasks while we are without an office administrator.
- **Doug Tanner** for proofreading the Security Grant documents.
- Those who have filled the pulpit through March 10: **Bob Hansen, Stacy Clopton, Ann Hefner, David Kemp, Doug Tanner.**
- Special music: **Mary Holmlund** and **Mila Abbasova.**
- Meditation service helpers: **David Kemp** and **Judy Periman.**
- Those volunteering to staff the church office and/or take on office administrator duties: **Helen Thorsheim, Kaci Jones, Cheri Castleberry, Susan Barnes, Kendra Jones, Kary Wingo, Sallie Amason, Michele Sivets, Linda Peirce, Cruse Messer, Mary Holmlund, Mary McCracken, Doug Tanner.**
- PNC for their perseverance and patience.
- **Ross Clopton** for agreeing to moderate the Finance Committee after **Tim and Kim Lacey** move.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to OGHS.

Ways to give:

Through the offering plate

Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs

Text OGHS to 91999 to give

You also can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by OGHS by making an online gift at any time in the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

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



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 around 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

- **Hillary Carrington** and her 7-month-old son, **Wyatt Harmon** who is still in ICU. They are **Ann Hefner**'s step-granddaughter and great grandson.
- **Steven Hofmann**, **Dynette**'s husband, has been placed on the heart transplant list. Please pray for him and the family. Dynette has moved to Kentucky to be with him. Their new address is
- **Henry and Ruth Suthard**. Henry has learned that he has severe A-Fib and Ruth will have a pulmonary function test later this month.

Presbytery News

Palo Duro Presbytery met via zoom on February 2nd. Below is a summary:

- Disaster Assistance – The theme was the work the Presbyterian church does regarding disaster relief. Rev. Dr. **Jim Kirk**, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, gave the sermon.
- Welcomed was Rev. **Kathy Lee-Cornell**, Director of Synod of the Sun Partnership for Disaster Recovery.
- Ruling Elder E. Ben Davidson, FPC Littlefield, was recognized as the Moderator of the Synod of the Sun for 2024.
- Outgoing Moderator of PDP **Gene Deason** was recognized, as were incoming moderator Pastor **Joe Gambill** and Vice-Moderator Rev. **Becky Fox**.
- Overtures approved – 2 overtures approved.
 - ◇ Commissioned pastors allowed to perform their duties and serve as commissioner to presbytery after their original commission ends.
 - ◇ Position of Affiliate Member of Presbytery established. A minister who is a member of one presbytery, but resides elsewhere, can be an affiliate member of the presbytery of residence.
- Policies approved – a new Anti-Harassment Policy and Parental & Family Leave Policy were approved.

The next presbytery meeting will be held April 26-27 at First Central, Abilene.
David Kemp, Presbytery Clerk

“Take One, Leave One” Little Library

The “Take One, Leave One” library at St. Luke has been moved into the west side of the youth room (big, divided room on south side of the education wing). Books of all genres, jigsaw puzzles, and DVDs are available for your pleasure. Please stop by and peruse at your leisure. St. Luke Women and Kendra Jones oversee it, if you have any questions.

St. Luke Library

The Library has received the following donations recently, which are excellent choices for when you have a few minutes while waiting for a meeting or some-one.

- BBC History Magazine. *The New Story of the Holy Land* (2015).
- Biblical Archaeology Review. *Dig the Adventure* (January/February 2014).
- Biblical Archaeology Review. *Jesus & Archaeology* (2016).
- Biblical Archaeology Review. *Masada -- From the Roman Viewpoint* (July/August 2014).
- Biblical Archaeology Review. *The Conception of Jesus -- From the Roman Viewpoint* (November/December 2014).
- National Geographic. *The King James Bible: Making a Masterpiece* (December 2011).
- National Geographic History. *Herod I: Visionary or Villain* (November/December 2016).
- Newsweek. *The Birth of Christ* (2015).
- Time. *What Jesus Saw: Jerusalem Then and Now* (April 16, 2001).

Easter Reminders

The Easter Bunny will make a stop in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, March 31st. There will be Hot Cross Buns for everyone to enjoy (instead of donuts) before and after worship. Remember to bring a blossom to flower the cross. Rev. Lynn Brack will deliver the sermon.

April 7th FAURE'S REQUIEM & Holy Humor

The combined AUMC and St. Luke choirs, accompanied by an orchestra, will present Faure's Requiem at 10 a.m. There will be cookies and punch in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

Holy Humor Sunday is based on a custom started in several Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries. The week following Easter Sunday was a time of joyful singing, dancing, and jokes, with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

In 1988, the Fellowship of Merry Christians took up this practice on the Sunday after Easter, often known as Low Sunday because of the usual letdown after the Easter services. Many churches responded enthusiastically, naming it "Holy Humor Sunday," and the practice continues to spread.

If you're so inclined, come join in the spirit of the day as we laugh at ourselves and celebrate the great cosmic joke God played on 'the devil' by raising Jesus from the tomb. Don't be shy--wear your Crazy Hat or your Wild Tie (or both!) and maybe win a prize!

For good measure, here's a useful quote from the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook, though I don't know what year--

"God, help us rest in the curve of your smile."

Rebecca Vardiman



April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<p>Bring a Friend to Church Sunday!</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Adult Piano Class</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Congregational Care & Fellowship Mtgs</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Mission Mtg</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p> <p>5:30 p.m. WNL/Logos Mtg</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice</p> <p>6:00 p.m. WNL & GAP</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Cantata Rehearsal</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bible Study at Taylors</p>		<p>10:00 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal</p>	
<p>8:45 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Cantata Faure Requiem with SLPC & AUMC choirs and Orchestra Snacks afterward</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Adult Piano Class</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Outreach Mtg</p>	<p>7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Worship Mtg</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice</p> <p>9:30 a.m. St. Luke Women's Brunch & Bible Study</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Finance Mtg</p> <p>6:00 WNL & GAP</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bible Study at Taylors</p>			
<p>Elder Kary Wingo will fill the pulpit.</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Sunday Meditation</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Adult Piano Class</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Property Mtg.</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Young at Heart</p> <p>6:00 p.m. WNL & GAP</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bible Study at Taylors</p>		<p>8:00 a.m. till 10:00 a.m. Laundry Love @ 10th Street Laundry</p>	
<p>Elder Tim Lacey will fill the pulpit..</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Adult Piano Class</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Farkle Group</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice</p> <p>6:00 p.m. WNL & GAP</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bible Study at Taylors</p>			
<p>Kathy Lee-Cornell (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) will fill the pulpit.</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Adult Piano Class</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Exercise Group</p>	<p><i>Each Sunday</i></p>				<p>9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p> <p>9:45 am Adult Sunday School Class</p> <p>10:15 am Choir Rehearsal (until further notice)</p> <p>11:00 am In-Person Worship and Children's Church during worship</p> <p>11:00 am Service will stream Live on Facebook</p>