



St. Luke Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

VOLUME 62 ISSUE 11 | November 2024

Nan Kemp & Brittany Forney, CO-EDITORS

A congregational meeting

was held October 27 to hear the Pastor Nominating Committee's report. The committee, consisting of Bob Hansen, Moderator, Stacy Clopton, Kyle Hadley, Linda Peirce, Ashley Denham, Wesley Wingo, and Nan Kemp, recommended Rev. Bill Cotman as St. Luke's next minister. The terms of call were also presented. Votes were held and both recommendations were approved unanimously. Welcome to Pastor Bill and his family, wife Teresa and daughter Muriel!

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Coming this November

Have you ever wondered what to say to people who are going through hard times – whether due to bereavement, illness, being homebound, or having mental difficulties? If so, please join the Congregational Care committee as **Rev. Robin Gantz** discusses with us what to do and say when we visit someone who is sick or hospitalized, homebound, or bereaved. We'll meet Monday, Nov. 4th, at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to seeing you. **Priscilla Sheets**

PW to discuss “Food Justice” in Bible study

St. Luke Women (PW) will meet Wednesday, Nov. 13th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The brunch is being provided by Suzi Q., and Priscilla Sheets will present the devotional. Moderator Kendra Jones will lead the business meeting. The lesson is “Food Justice” from the Horizons Bible Study. All women of the church are encouraged to attend.

Men's Breakfast

Men of the church are invited to attend the monthly breakfast on Tuesday, Nov. 12th, at 7 a.m. at Hud's (4411 Bell). **Ridge McNeir**, of AUMC, will deliver the devotional.



About Reverend Bill Cotman

Biography

Bill comes to us from the First Presbyterian Church in Alpine, Texas, and the Tres Rios Presbytery.

He was born in Virginia, and began school in Trinidad, West Indies. He will always consider New Orleans his home; that is where he graduated from Ben Franklin High School. He started working at age 15, and has been a busboy, grocery store stocker, building maintenance man, and worked offshore. Bill met his wife **Teresa** at college. After college, he worked in the natural foods industry as a sales broker. Then he taught public school on the Mexican border while working part time as a Youth Director at a Presbyterian (PCUSA) church. There he became increasingly interested and involved in ministry. With much encouragement, he sold his family home and moved with his wife and young daughter to attend Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 2006, and has served churches in Wyoming, New York, and Texas. Bill's parents live in Austin, with one of his two younger sisters living right next door. Bill and Teresa find joy in evening walks together, and the family likes a good game of Bananagrams.

Theological Insights

“I am on a journey of faith, and together we discover new ways to live out God’s will for our lives. In response to the unshakable love God has for us, we are all called to share God’s love with all people.”

“Throughout all my years of parish ministry, I’ve come to appreciate how significant it is to comfort a grieving family; to counsel someone experiencing the pain of divorce or loss of a job; to visit hospital patients; to hold someone’s hand as they’re dying; to be with people as they celebrate a wedding, a birth, a baptism, a milestone birthday or graduation. These are the moments and events that make up the lives of God’s people.”

“I believe...

- The Triune God is the maker of all things. God loves all of creation. Jesus of Nazareth is God incarnate, who lived among us, was executed for his counter-cultural message, and rose from the grave, defeating death & human sinfulness that we too may have new life.
- The Holy Spirit is God’s presence working in the here and now in each of us - always. Christians are members of Christ’s body, the one universal church. Followers of Christ are joined into this family through the sacrament of baptism. In baptism, we are sealed into the body of Christ with new life.
- God wants all of humanity to love and care for all creation, including each other. Christ Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper as a means by which his followers commune with him and with all the saints of every time and space.
- The church is called to be a loving servant, not an arbiter of rules. The church is to share the love and caring of God with all people. The holy scriptures are God’s message to the world written by human hand under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- God’s message to humanity is, “I love you, treat each other well, I love you”. This message is primary in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Service to others is an act of worship by which Christians demonstrate their love of God.
- The priesthood of all believers means that all Christians are called to service in the kingdom of God. This call is to spread the Good News of Jesus to all people. I pray to God regularly in the name of Christ Jesus, giving thanks for everything God is doing in my life and in the lives of others.”

Introducing the Cotman Family

Teresa Cotman, wife of Bill and mother of Muriel, began life in Atlanta, Georgia. One of four children, Teresa and her family of origin lived in Georgia; Tampa, Florida; and McAllen, Texas. Her childhood summers were spent in the panhandle of Texas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico, due to her father's work. She attended McAllen public schools and college at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches, Texas, and Austin Community College. She lived for 4 years in Houston. She holds an Associate degree in Communications. She was employed by The University of Texas system as an administrative assistant (secretary) for 15 years. Teresa's parents and older sister are deceased. Her older brother and his wife live in California, and her younger brother and his husband reside in New York City. Teresa likes to research family history and has fun traveling and exploring new places with her family by car.

Muriel Margaret Cotman, daughter of Bill & Teresa, is a native Texan, born in McAllen. Muriel began her college years at Victoria College, Victoria, Texas, earning an Associate of Arts degree then graduated from Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, with a Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Performance in December 2023. She hopes to continue her higher education, working on a Master's of Music at West Texas A&M University. Muriel served as Music Director at First Presbyterian Church Alpine from April 2023 until October 2024 and frequently substitutes for church musicians on piano and organ, playing at worship services, weddings, and funerals. She taught piano for the Alpine School of Music after graduation. Muriel is a member of the American Guild of Organists, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She is fond of spending her spare time with the family's 16-year-old dachshund, Missy.



The Cotmans are very excited to get to know everyone at St. Luke PC and make Amarillo their new home!

APCE Annual Event and Scholarship

The Association of Partners in Christian Education Annual Event (APCE AE) offers stellar keynote speakers, inspiring and creative worship, nearly seventy workshops on every area of Christian formation, and opportunities for fellowship and connection, all fashioned for pastors, commissioned pastors, Christian educators, youth ministry workers, and volunteers (definitely volunteers!). With APCE's six partner denominations under the Reformed theological umbrella, it's the premier conference for those engaged in guiding and shaping Christ-followers at all stages of life and faith development. The Palo Duro Presbytery is offering a scholarship to this event – Deadline of November 5. If you have questions about any aspect of the APCE Annual Event or the presbytery scholarships, please contact SarahLee Morris (sarahleemorris@hotmail.com; 806-441-1346), Better Together for Christ Task Force member and APCE Leadership Council member.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SX4B7HON23Qc532kAcfi_iT8U7b3wESqGMKH74RQFq4/edit

Our grant application for \$150,000 has been tentatively funded!!!

We should get a formal letter from the Texas Office of the Governor soon, but the grant official I spoke with after seeing the status change said “congratulations”!!

There are the usual steps that we had to do last time, but hoorah! Just a reminder- the updates we requested (conditional on actual costs, of course). Listed in kinda order of what we thought is important not absolutely accurate:

- Getting tower doors functional
- Enclosure of nursery desk area
- New door and hardware for west door.
- Two more entry video intercoms for east and west doors (with remote door unlocking ability)
- Two more door answering stations – one for Methodists and one for nursery
- New doors and fob readers for all three doors going to courtyard
- More lighting outside in dark areas
- More cameras here and there (such as in technology closet and kitchen)
- Bollards to protect against ramming at tower (this was an extra one in case we have loads of money but probably will be the first to be dropped.)
- Security programs for computers.

Here we go again! Helen Thorsheim

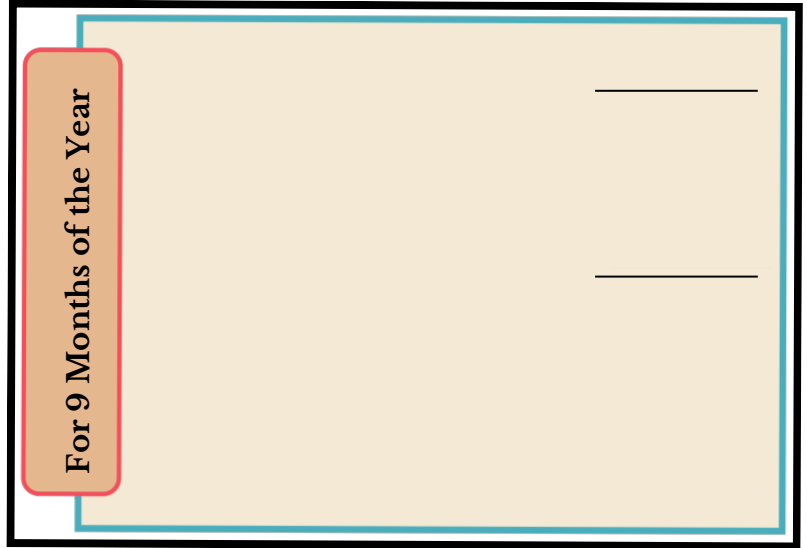
Thanksgiving Lunch

We will be celebrating our Annual Thanksgiving Lunch on Sunday, November 24, following the worship service. The Fellowship Committee will be supplying the turkey, ham, rolls, mashed potatoes, gravy and stuffing. We would appreciate the congregation’s help with side dishes and desserts! We ask that those with last names starting with A-F bring desserts and G-Z bring side dishes. Please let Paige Hadley know if you would be willing to help with set up, serving or clean up.

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.

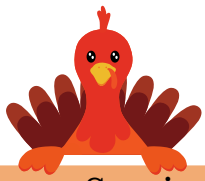


Young at Heart

Bring your own lunch and come listen to our November speaker – **Chantell Hicks** with Sharing Hope Ministry. This ministry’s mission is to assist at-risk and incarcerated women in changing their story by sharing hope through Christ’s love. Sharing Hope provides multiple services such as jail ministry within Amarillo’s county jails on a weekly basis, Patsy’s Place Transitional Home, and provides Live Recovery Bible services in 50 states. This brown bag lunch and speaker will take place on Wednesday, November 20, at noon in Fellowship Hall – any and all are welcome to attend!

Join your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ in PDP for an online prayer event from 10 a.m. to noon on November 6th, the day after the national election. This time is designed for you to come and go. For the zoom code email nekemp52@gmail.com





Session Summary

Clerk's Report

1. September 2024 average attendance for worship – 44
2. Active membership as September 30, 2024 – 144
3. Communion celebrated October 6, 2024 – David Kemp presiding

Commendations and Suggestions

- A. Mary Holmlund and Mila Abbasova for the beautiful piano duet last Sunday.
- B. Personnel Committee for helping with Laundry Love in September.
- C. Mary Holmlund for Mesa Verde gifts in October.
- D. Sam Burnett for the Minute for Mission on Amarillo Housing First
- E. Heartfelt commendation to the PNC for their diligence, patience, and hard work!
- F. Camille and David Hoy for being in the PDP video presentation about Laundry Love.
- G. Cruse Messer for securing pulpit supplies for the past two years.
- H. Seminar Committee for a successful September Seminar.
- I. Rev. Don McDonald for serving as moderator of session.
- J. Congregational Care and Fellowship Committees for a successful transition into one committee.



Class of 2024

Jennifer Denham
Kendra Jones
Cruse Messer

Class of 2025

Ross Clopton
Robert Hansen
Barbara Taylor
Kary Wingo

Class of 2026

Paige Hadley
Priscilla Sheets
Tim Sougstad
Helen Thorsheim



Growing in Gratitude Fall Stewardship Campaign

We look forward to growth in many areas of our lives here at St. Luke in 2025: growth in our understanding of God's purposes for us and for our church, in our pastoral leadership, in our mission projects and involvement in our community, and especially, in our gratitude for all the gifts we have been given.

It is now time to provide your information on how you can help St. Luke grow in 2025, by filling out and returning your Estimate of Giving and Time and Talent forms as soon as possible. We are hoping to receive most of the forms online through our new mobile app "My Church" through Ministry Brands. If you have not yet downloaded the app, any member of the Finance committee can help you, or contact Helen and she can email to your step-by-step instructions. We also have a tablet available on Sundays that can be used to fill in the forms- someone will be under the TV with it after worship to help. If you really prefer to fill in a paper form, there will be forms available in the Narthex on the table under the courtyard window.

For a little inspiration, here is what one anonymous giver says "What I think about and pray about before I fill in the boxes: I want to be obedient. I want to give as the scriptures and the still small voice of God tells me. I want my giving to be my private expression of what is important in my life. I want my giving to be an expression of gratitude for all the good that has showered into my life. I want my church to reflect the same things in its life and my giving helps to make that possible." Please prayerfully consider how you can help our church grow and flourish in 2025. HT/Stewardship Committee

The Mission Committee is coordinating a meal for the Hope and Healing Place for Tuesday, November 5th. Check your email and please help us support this organization that does so much for the Amarillo community, as well as being so supportive to members of our own congregation! **Kary Wingo**

Epistles

Dear St. Luke,

I want to extend my appreciation for all the visits, cards, calls, and meals following the two surgeries on my knee. "And, the loaner wheelchair is a godsend. What would we do without our St. Luke family? You're the best! Much love, the Kemps

Joys and Concerns

PLEASE PRAY FOR :



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.



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.



Thank you for your donations of tarps and ponchos for Amarillo Housing First, and thank you to Sam and Teresa Burnett for getting them delivered so promptly!



New Library Additions

- [First Nations Translation Council]. First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament (2021).
- McKenzie, Alyce M. and Owen Hanley Lynch. Humor Us! Preaching and the Power of the Comic Spirit (2023). Subject of St. Luke Seminar led by Rev. McKenzie on Sep. 20-22, 2024.
- McKenzie, Alyce M. Making a Scene in the Pulpit: Vivid Preaching for Visual Listeners (2018).
- Ibid. Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons (2010).
- Ibid. Wise Up! Four Biblical Virtues for Navigating Life (2018).
- McLaren, Brian D. Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart (2024). Subject of book discussion group led by Rev. Rebecca Vardiman, Fall 2024.



November 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
5	4 10 & 11 am Piano Class 4 pm Cong. Care 4:30 pm Christian Ed. 5:30 pm Mission/Outreach	5 10 am Exercise Group	6 8:30 am Yoga Practice 6 pm Book Study	7 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	8	9
10 1:30 pm Elder Training 5 pm Meditation Service	11 10 & 11 am Piano Class	12 7 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Exercise Group 5 pm Property Comm. 5:45 pm Worship	15 8:30 am Yoga Practice 9:30 am St. Luke Women 12 pm Finance Comm. 6 pm Book Study	14 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	15	16 8-10 am Landry Love
17 1:30 pm Elder Training 4 pm Session Meeting <i>Epistle</i> deadline	18 10 & 11 am Piano Class	19 10 am Exercise Group	20 8:30 am Yoga Practice 12 pm Young At Heart 6pm Book Study	21 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love 5:30 pm Seminar Comm.	22	25
24 12 pm Thanksgiving Lunch	25 10 & 11 am Piano Class	26 2 pm Farkle Game afternoon	27 8:30 am Yoga Practice	28 	29	30

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 Facebook

