

# Epistle

## St. Luke Presbyterian Church

NAN KEMP & BRITTANY FORNEY, CO-EDITORS  
AUGUST 2024 | VOLUME 58 ISSUE 8

### FAMILY FOAM PARTY AND OUTDOOR GAME NIGHT

Join us and our AUMC friends Sunday, August 11 at 4pm with an outdoor night of family fun! All are invited! We will have a foam party pit, outdoor games, and popsicles. If you plan to participate in the foam party pit, wear clothes you don't mind getting bubbly and bring a towel. If foam-free fellowship time is more your speed, bring a lawn chair or any outdoor games to play. We hope to see you all there!



### FALL FUN KICK-OFF - FELLOWSHIP HOUR

**Sunday, August 18 10am-11am**

Come by Fellowship Hall to check out the happenings of both St. Luke and AUMC congregations this fall! There will be multiple information booths providing upcoming opportunities to become involved in a variety of committees, missions, youth activities, studies and more. We hope to see you between worship services for a light snack, coffee, opportunities to get involved and fellowship! Please let Paige Hadley know if you would like to have an information booth by Sunday, August 11 in order for the set up to include enough tables.

### Stay in touch!

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

### ELDERS

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

## SESSION REPORT

### Session report

Below is a brief summary of the stated session meeting of July 21:

#### Clerk's Report

1. May 2024 average attendance for worship – 51
2. June 2024 average attendance for worship- 47
3. Active membership as June 30, 2024 – 146
4. Communion celebrated June 9, 2024 –

**Stacy Clopton** presiding

5. Communion celebrated July 7, 2024 –

**Stacy Clopton** presiding

#### Commendations

A. Rev. **Janell Blair** for her faithful service as moderator of session for 18 months

B. Church Nominating Committee for nominating members to the elder Class of 2027 and at-large members for ONC, Scholarship and Endowment.

C. **Tyler Wingo**, with help from **Kary** and **Eldon Wingo**, for taking the initiative to check the camera in the sanctuary and making repairs so that it is now functional.

D. **Kary Wingo**, **Mary McCracken**, and **Susan Barnes** for faithfully working in the church office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, and **Helen Thorsheim** for continuing to work in the office as needed and advising **Brittany** as she continues to learn the ropes.

E. **Kary Wingo** for her long-term service as our liaison with AUMC.

F. **Kary Wingo** and **Helen Thorsheim** for babysitting during the GAP night.

— BARBARA TAYLOR, Clerk of Session

## Young at Heart

At noon on August 21<sup>st</sup> Young at Heart will be hosting Refugee Language Project, a non-profit organization that welcomes refugees through programs that overcome language barriers and honor culture diversity here in Amarillo. They "use language as a doorway to welcome displaced people for the flourishing of the community and the glory of God." Their Executive Director, **Ryan Pennington**, and Director of Church Engagement, **John McMeans**, will come to present how their faith plays out in their work, about their mission and all of the impact they have in our community. Please bring your own lunch if you would like and we hope to see you there!

## Seminar to Feature the Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie

**Date and Time:** Friday, September 20 (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.); Saturday, September 21 (10:00 a.m. – Noon, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.). Lunch will be offered on Saturday. Joint worship service with AUMC on Sunday (10:00 a.m.) with our speaker filling the pulpit.

**Speaker:** Rev. Dr. **Alyce M. McKenzie**, the George W. and Nell Ayers Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

Dr. McKenzie, an ordained United Methodist elder, is a member of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. She joined the faculty at Perkins in 2000. In the spring of 2011, she was named an Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor, SMU's highest teaching honor. Dr. McKenzie is the Director of the Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence at SMU, a Center dedicated to fostering excellence in preaching through innovative courses and workshops, peer groups, and mentoring/coaching. One of her passions is helping younger preachers gain competence and confidence in their vocation of sharing God's Word.

#### Some recent books are:

- The Parables for Today (2010).
- What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes that Can Sink Your Sermon. (2011).
- Parental Guidance Advised: Adult Preaching from the Old Testament, co-edited with Charles L. Aaron. (2013)
- Wise Up! Four Biblical Virtues for Navigating Life (2018)
- Making a Scene in the Pulpit: Vivid Preaching for Visual Listeners (2018).
- Humor Us! Preaching and the Power of the Comic Spirit, (2023).

Dr. McKenzie is a popular speaker and lecturer and while we have not settled on a topic, we believe everyone would enjoy and benefit from attending this series. There is no fee, and we hope to see you there.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Synod of the Sun, in partnership with Crisis Cleanup, is looking for phone volunteers for Hurricane Beryl response. Volunteers serve from home and must have phone, computer, and internet access. Spanish language skills especially needed. Email [Kathy.lecornell@synodsun.org](mailto:Kathy.lecornell@synodsun.org) to volunteer.

## Joys and Concerns

The following appeared on St. Luke's prayer list since the last newsletter was published. Thankfully, many have improved or recovered since they were first listed.

We pray for:

- ♥ **Krista Berry** and her parents, **Paul and Kathy**.
- ♥ **Donald Croft**, who saw a neurosurgeon this past week with hopes to get some options for relief from back pain.
- ♥ **Alice Cooke** who fell recently and spent time in rehab, but is back at home now. Prayers for continued healing.
- ♥ **D Martinez** who can use our prayers and support during a difficult time. She would appreciate words of encouragement. If you would like to write to her, her address can be obtained by contacting the church office.
- ♥ **Alvin Wingo** and all his family as he heals from surgery to install an LVAD, as he isn't currently a candidate for heart transplant.
- ♥ **Doug Tanner** – Prayers for continued healing in his leg and patience as he recovers. (We were happy to see him at church recently!)
- ♥ Family of **Rev. Bob Carson**, who passed away June 2. Rev. Carson was St. Luke's minister in the 1980's and '90s and he and **Bonnie** were members for many years.
- ♥ **Nate Dobbins** (friend of **Mary McCracken's** son) who has colon cancer. Prayers for him and his family.
- ♥ **Ridge McNeir** - prayers for healing from shingles. (**Ridge and Margie** are AUMC members and St. Luke friends.) Prayers also for their daughter– in-law who is going through chemotherapy in Houston.
- ♥ **Paul Goad** (friend of **Henry and Ruth Suthard**) who has been impacted by fires.
- ♥ **Jackie Wood** (friend of **Robin Gantz**) who had a long-awaited kidney transplant and has had a good recovery. However, her husband, has had brain bleeds from a fall and has been in a rehab facility in El Paso.
- ♥ The family of **Thomas Holmlund** (**Mary Holmlund's** stepson) who was killed in a motorcycle accident recently.
- ♥ **Mike Hamilton** (**Mary and Harry Graff's** nephew. Prayers for healing from continued health issues.

Highlights of the General Assembly meeting that was held in Salt Lake City late June & early July (by Zoom and in person) are available for anyone interested. Please email the office and they can be forwarded to you, or you can drop by the office to read a printed copy.

# Mission News

**Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is one of the organizations St. Luke supports financially every month. Below is a nice thank you card we received from a student at the seminary:**

*Dear St. Luke Presbyterian Church,*

*Thank you for your recent gift to Austin Seminary. I am a Master of Divinity student ending my first year and have grown and learned so much since starting this program. I hope to get my Master of Social Work as well so I can better support kids who have experienced trauma. Each time you send a gift to Austin seminary you are having a direct and positive impact on my life and theological education! With Gratitude, **Lucas***

Thank you for supporting this as well as other wonderful organizations each month! Just to update everyone, Friends of Mesa Verde met in July and set up the schedule for supporting our Partner in Education school, Mesa Verde Elementary. We will be hosting four meals during the school year of 2024-2025, as well as treating the staff each month with a meal or small appreciation gifts. Other ways we show support involve helping with copying needs once a month. A new email group has been put together for this group based off those attending our meeting in July. If you would like to be part of the support team for Mesa Verde, please let **Kary Wingo** or anyone on the Mission Committee know.

One last note – the Mission committee will be collecting Kleenexes and Clorox wipes to start off their school year.

Donations can be dropped off in the box in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!



### New Member Welcomed

**Julie Johnson** has been welcomed into membership of St. Luke.

### Newsletter Reminder

The deadline to submit information for the September edition of the *E-pistle* will be August 22. The newsletter will be mailed on August 31. As always, please send your news to editor **Nan Kemp**. If you are not on the newsletter e-mail list and would like to be included, contact the church office.



The Officer Nominating Committee is pleased to submit the following list of officers for the Class of 2027.

**Four Session member for the Class of 2027**

- Sam Burnett
- Julie Johnson
- Kaci Jones
- Mary McCracken

Other at large committee assignments are:

**Three members at large for the 2025 Officer Nominating Committee**

- Susan Barnes
- Nan Kemp
- Wesley Wingo

**One member to the 2025 Endowment Committee**

- Quentin Smith

**Two members to the 2025 Scholarship Committee**

- Linda Peirce
- Daisy Mares

Our Congregational meeting to vote on these recommendations for office will be held the first part of September. Watch for that announcement.

- Cruse Messer

Men's breakfast

Men of the church (AUMC, too!) are invited to attend the monthly breakfast on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. at Hud's (4411 Bell). **Dave Kemp** will deliver the devotional.



**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

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

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1 • Kiran   | 15 • Don       |
| 1 • Tera    | 18 • Jessica   |
| 3 • Lucille | 19 • John      |
| 4 • Joyce   | 19 • Priscilla |
| 4 • Quentin | 22 • Colton    |
| 12 • Julie  | 31 • J.T.      |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING**

**2024 Budget 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.*

**Year-to-Date**



Reaching Out

Facebook Stats  
June 4 through July 28

- Facebook reach since June 2 = 2.3 K
- Facebook visits= 1.4k
- Engagements ( reactions, comments, shares) = 104
- New followers = 4
- Highest reach on a post: Prayer Brunch and PRIDE Worship
- Most comments on a post: June 23rd Worship Service

Website visits (last 90 days)- 16,318  
Visitors to website (last 90 days) 3,016



## Additions to the Library

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

- Barton, John. *The Word: How We Translate the Bible -- and Why It Matters* (2023).
- Chodron, Thubten. *Awaken Every Day: 365 Buddhist Reflections to Invite Mindfulness and Joy* (2019).
- Cline, Eric H. *From Eden to Exile: Unraveling Mysteries of the Bible* (2008).
- Coogan, Michael. *The Ten Commandments: A Short History of an Ancient Text* (2014).
- Krause, Bernie. *The Power of Tranquility in a Very Noisy World* (2021).
- Martin, James. *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone* (2021).
- Mikva, Rachel S. *Dangerous Religious Ideas: The Deep Roots of Self-Critical Faith in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (2020).
- Smith, Robert Lawrence. *A Quaker Book of Wisdom: Life Lessons in Simplicity, Service, and Common Sense* (1999).

Thanks go to all those who donated last month and in all the preceding months to our library. Stop by some time; you may be surprised by the variety and quality of the collection. — **Doug Tanner**

### *What light through yonder window breaks?*

**The sanctuary blinds were removed to be restrung and are back, except for on one window that needs to be re-restrung. Anyone raising or lowering them will need to learn how to do it properly so that they don't get so messed up again. Apparently being an usher has its ups and downs.**

## Remember Cursillo?

A Cursillo-like opportunity is being offered in September in the form of Austin Pilgrimage 53. It will be Sept. 26-29 at Camp Buckner, Burnet, TX. For more information, go to [austinpilgrimage.org](http://austinpilgrimage.org).

## POSTSCRIPTS

**Travis Kemp** is very excited and proud to announce the launch of his new jazz podcast, "Stayin' Jazzy with Travis Kemp". New episodes will be released every other Tuesday. Be sure to like & subscribe on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Goodpods, or wherever your favorite podcasts can be found. (As always, he can be heard on FM90 every Sunday at 5 p.m.) Stay jazzy, Amarillo!

**Stacy Clopton** has completed all the program requirements of the Certificate in Ministry program through Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, which required completion of seven (of nine) courses. Only seven are required to earn the certificate but she plans to take the final two courses this fall. Completing the Certificate means she can pursue a call as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. Congratulations, Stacy!

### **AMA-CON is back!**

AMA-CON is a celebration of comics, anime, sci-fi, gaming, and everything else that is geeky and awesome. It is a fundraiser for Friends of the Amarillo Public Library and St. Luke participates each year as part of our membership in Open and Affirming Congregations of the Texas Panhandle. AMA-CON will take place August 3 and 4 at the Amarillo Civic Center. People interested in volunteering at the OAC should contact **Stacy Clopton**.

**Aubrey** attended ALT theater class and earned a leading role in "Happily Ever After". She played an evil stepsister which was a speaking and singing role. Congratulations Aubrey on your debut performance!

**Bob and Jennifer Denham** would like to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, **Ashley Denham**, to **Tony Hadaway**. While on vacation in Colorado, Tony surprised Ashley and asked her to marry him. Tony will be a great addition to the Denham clan along with his children.

# AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship Service				1	2	3
				10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry		OAC table at AMACON
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Mesa Verde Sunday</b>	10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class 4:00 pm Congregational Com. Mtg.	10:00 am group Exercise	8:30 am Yoga Practice	10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Invite a friend to church!</b> 4:00 pm Wednesday Night Live Family Foam Party 5:00 pm Meditation Service	10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class 5:45 pm Mission Com Mtg.	7:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Exercise Group 5:00 pm Property Com. Mtg. 5:45 pm Worship Com Mtg.	8:30 am Yoga Practice 12:00 pm Finance Committee	10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry		8:00 - 10:00 am Laundry Love @ 10th St. Laundry (Logos Committee volunteering)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 am Bell Rehearsal 10-11 am Fall Kick-Off Fellowship 4:00 pm Stated Session Mtg.	10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	10:00 am Exercise Group	8:30 am Yoga Practice 12:00 pm Young at Heart	E-pistle deadline 10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	10:00 & 11:00 am Adult Piano Class	10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Farkle Group 5:30 pm Seminar Com.	8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice	10:00 am Exercise Group 2:00 pm Threads of Love Ministry		