

# St. Luke PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Epistle

VOLUME 64 | ISSUE 11 | February 2025

Nan Kemp & Brittany Forney, CO-EDITORS

### New Members Reception

Have you noticed that there are new people among us? Come join us for a New Members' Reception following Sunday service on February 23! New members and visitors – this is your chance to get to know everyone better! Already a member? This is your time to get to know these new faces! All are welcome.

Additionally, we will have some yummy snacks to munch on.

Hope to see you there!

### Young at Heart-

Bring your own lunch and join us on February 19 at noon for Young at Heart! This month's speaker will be **Ryan Parnell**, the Harrington Cancer and Health Foundation Director of Operations and Special Programs. He will be sharing the multitude of ways the HCHF serves our community to reduce the burden of cancer.



### Men's Breakfast



The monthly men's breakfast will take place at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, at Hud's, 4411 Bell. All men of St. Luke and AUMC are invited to attend.

Christian Education, Kaci Jones  
Congregational Care, Priscilla Sheets  
Fellowship, Mary McCracken, Paige Hadley  
Stewardship, 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

*2025 Standing  
Committees*

**St. Luke Women** will have their monthly meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. **Ann Hefner** will provide refreshments and **JoAnn Jolley** will give the devotional. We will be discussing Lesson 6, "Climate Change."

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# JOIN US

## Uncertainty

A Faith Seminar with  
Rev. Dr. Serene Jones

February 7  
through 9

St. Luke  
Presbyterian  
Church



Please  
join us  
for any  
or all of  
these  
sessions!

Friday, February 7 at 6:30 PM

*An Uncertain Jesus*

Saturday Morning at 10 AM

*An Uncertain God*

Saturday Afternoon at 1 PM

*An Uncertain Human & Why It's Important*

Sunday Morning Worship at 10 AM

*The Road of Uncertainty: Luke 24:13-35*

A highly respected scholar and public intellectual, the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones is the 16th President of the historic Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York.

The first woman to head the 188-year-old institution, Jones occupies the Johnston Family Chair for Religion and Democracy. She is a Past President of the American Academy of Religion, which annually hosts the world's largest gathering of scholars of religion. Jones came to Union after seventeen years at Yale University, where she was the Titus Street Professor of Theology at the Divinity School, and Chair of the University's Program in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

She is the author of several books including *Trauma and Grace* and, most recently, her memoir *Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World*. Jones, a popular public speaker, is sought by media to comment on major issues impacting society because of her deep grounding in theology, politics, women's studies, economics, race studies, history, and ethics.

The St. Luke Seminar seeks to provide modern and relevant Biblical Scholarship in an instructional and conversational setting. There is no charge to attend the seminar and all are welcome. Lunch is available on Saturday.



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.

**MEDITATION Service**

Second Sunday of every month in the Sanctuary.  
5:00 - 5:30 pm

All are welcome, even if you feel you can't meditate.

## Library News

Bolinger, Chris. Daily Strength for Men: A 365-day Devotional (2018).

Carson, Robert M., Jr. A God Who Makes Motorcycle Jackets, Cowboy Boots, and Chaps: A Fresh and Creative Study for Church School Teachers, Lay People, and Pastors on How to Mine the Spiritual Treasures of the Book of Genesis, Chapters 1-11 (1992, pre-publication copy).

Jones, Serene. Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World (2019). Gift of Phillip Periman. The Rev. Dr. Jones is our seminar presenter on February 7-9, 2025. She is president of Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Kimmerer, Robin Walls. Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants (2013). Gift of Rebecca Vardiman and Regina Knorpp.

Long, Kimberly Bracken & David Maxwell, editors. Inclusive Marriage Services: A Wedding Sourcebook (2015). Gift of Rebecca Vardiman and Regina Knorpp.



### Clerk's Report

1. December 2024 average attendance for worship – 63
2. Active membership as December 31, 2024 – 147
3. Communion celebrated December 1, 2024
4. Communion celebrated January 5, 2025
5. Approved baptism (1-19-2025) and membership for Evelyn McIntosh.
6. Received new members, Daniel McIntosh, Berlin McIntosh and Chance Autry, all by reaffirmation of faith.
7. Transfer John Watson membership to Westwood PC, LA, CA.



### Commendations.

- A. SLPC and AUMC members for shoveling the sidewalks and parking lot.
- B. Rebecca Vardiman for Harp solo
- C. Donna Clopton and Stacy Clopton for coordinating meal for Mesa Verde staff in January.
- D. Sam and Teresa Burnett for taking food and supplies to two families in need.
- E. Kary Wingo for submitting the grant to Palo Duro Presbytery.
- F. Thank you to Tim for being a 2024 fellowship moderator and welcome Mary McCracken as a 2025 committee moderator.
- G. Scott Taylor for shoveling Pastor Bill's driveway and sidewalks and finding his phone in the process.
- H. Kaci Jones for all his work keeping such good track of our finances.
- I. Nan Kemp for her long-time caring and attention to the stewardship of St. Luke
- J. Helen Thorsheim for her work on the Narrative Budget and also for agreeing to continue taking minutes.
- K. Bill Cotman, for providing ample office hours, making diligent efforts to learn who we all are and attending committee meetings.

*Jesus told his followers: You are the light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one lights a lamp and puts it under a clay pot. Instead, it is placed on a lampstand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (CEV)*

February 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are in the second month of 2025, it has been cold, and no one knows for sure what might happen tomorrow. None of us knows what the future may bring, but our Lord gives us assurance that the future is in God's hands. My family and I continue to enjoy life in Amarillo, and with Saint Luke. There is so much going on in the life of this congregation.

I am pleased that you have adopted Mesa Verde Elementary, and that you help people with laundromat expenses get their family's clothing and linens washed, allowing them to use those funds for food, school supplies, and other necessities. I have benefitted from our monthly sanctuary meditation services; and have enjoyed fellowship with the Farkle group. (Meditation is at 5pm on the second Sunday of each month, and Farkle is played in the Fellowship Hall from 2 to 4 on last Tuesdays.) There are also group adult piano lessons, exercise group and yoga practice in the Fellowship Hall every week.

The often-quoted verse from the Gospel According to Matthew, printed above, has our Lord clearly telling us that as Christians, we are to be light to the world. At Saint Luke Presbyterian Church, we are all continually seeking God's guidance in the best way to live out this calling. It is incumbent on each of us to responsibly examine how we are spending, not only our time, but our talents, and our resources as well.

We all know that if we say "yes" to one opportunity, we are often saying "no" to another. There are myriad obligations with family, work, friends, and worthy organizations vying for our time. As busy people, it can be easy to get caught up in minutia, or unnecessary details of any project, or situation. This can sometimes keep us from seeing the bigger picture. When (if) we are able to push aside some of the more insignificant parts, or moving pieces, we can shift our focus and pay attention to the big picture.

Those of us who call Saint Luke home are called to be light to one another, and to our larger community and ultimately the world. We must continually remind ourselves to "not sweat the small stuff", and we know it's almost all small stuff. Let's prayerfully ponder how we as individuals can use our agency and our many gifts from God to be light for the world, as our Lord tells us we already are.

In Christ's Service,  
Reverend Bill Cotman





## Mission/Outreach News

Thank you for supporting Mesa Verde this past month! Donna C. and Stacy C. coordinated a meal for the teachers and staff and several others donated funds to help provide much needed hand sanitizer for the classrooms.

Thank you to St. Luke Women! \$572 was raised for Amarillo Housing First, and was given in memory of Mike Croft.

A Laundry Love National Quarterly Zoom meeting was held last month where we learned that over 300,000 loads of laundry and over 100,000 people were served nationally in 2024! There are currently 304 vetted locations throughout the country offering Laundry Love, of which St. Luke is one. St. Luke helped clients wash approximately 3,500 loads of laundry in 2024. St. Luke just recently received a grant from Palo Duro Presbytery for \$2,708 to help fund this year's Laundry Love. Starting in 2025, we will need to start recording the number of people we are serving. When we report our laundry loads and people served each month, that will give us access to receive free laundry soap. If you have not participated in Laundry Love, you are invited to attend! We are at the 10 th Street Laundry every third Saturday of the month from 8 to 10 a.m. If you would like more information, please contact Kary W. 806.679.9531.

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Ross Clopton	Paige Hadley	Sam Burnett
Robert Hansen	Priscilla Sheets	Julie Johnson
Barbara Taylor	Tim Sougstad	Kaci Jones
Kary Wingo	Helen Thorsheim	Mary McCracken

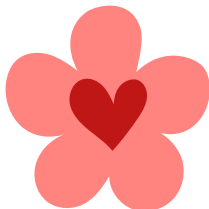
## Farkle Fun

"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.

## Post Scripts



- Thanks to everyone for their best wishes, cards, and love to **Alexa and Ian** on their recent marriage. It was a lovely event and went just as they had hoped it would. Your support over the years has been so valuable to Quentin, me, and our family! **Helen Thorsheim and Quentin Smith**
- **St. Luke** donated \$597 to Amarillo Housing First Warming Stations in memory of **Mike Croft**, brother of **Donald & Melissa Croft**.



# THANK YOU

*for your faithful giving!*

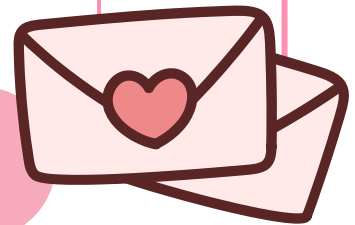
*Detailed financial reports are always available for review by church members. Stop by the church office during regular hours and request to examine the previous month's financial documents.*

For 21 Months of the Year

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>FEBRUARY</b>						<b>1</b>
<b>2025</b>						
<b>2</b> Adult Sunday School  Communion	<b>5</b> 10 & 11 am Piano Class  4 pm Cong. Care 5:30 pm Mission	<b>4</b> 10 am Exercise Group  5:30 pm Property	<b>5</b> 8:30 am Yoga Group	<b>6</b> 10 am Exercise Group  2 pm Threads of Love	<b>7</b>   6:30 p m Seminar	<b>8</b>  10 am – 4 pm Seminar
<b>SEMINAR</b>						
<b>9</b> Adult Sunday School 10 am Joint Service with AUMC 5 pm Meditation Service	<b>10</b> 10 & 11 am Piano Class 12 pm Stewardship 5:30 pm Christian Ed.	<b>11</b> 7 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Exercise Group 5:45 pm Worship 6 pm Fellowship	<b>12</b> 8:30 am Yoga Practice  9:30 am St. Luke Women	<b>15</b> 10 am Exercise Group  2 pm Threads of Love	<b>14</b>   	<b>15</b>  8-10 am Landry Love
<b>16</b> Adult Sunday School  4 pm Session	<b>17</b> 10 & 11 am Piano Class  Church office closed  <i>Epistle</i> deadline	<b>18</b> 10 am Exercise Group  5:30 Property	<b>19</b> 8:30 am Yoga Group	<b>20</b> 10 am Exercise Group  2 pm Threads of Love	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b> Adult Sunday School  12 pm New Members Reception	<b>24</b> 10 & 11 am Piano Class	<b>25</b> 10 am Exercise Group  2 pm Farkle Game afternoon	<b>26</b> 8:30 am Yoga Group	<b>27</b> 10 am Exercise Group  2 pm Threads of Love	<b>28</b>	

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



*Save*  
~~THE~~  
**DATE**

Tuesday, March 4 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper