

# Epistle

NAN KEMP & DYNETTE HOFMANN, CO-EDITORS

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 1



January 2024



## St. Luke Presbyterian Church

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  
he is a new creation. The old has  
passed away; behold, the new  
has come.”*

*~ 2 Corinthians 5:17*

### Let's Get Social



3001 Bell Street  
Amarillo, TX 79106



806.355.6253 Office  
806.355.0629 Fax



[pastor@stlukeamarillo.com](mailto:pastor@stlukeamarillo.com)  
[admin@stlukeamarillo.com](mailto:admin@stlukeamarillo.com)



Visit our website  
[www.stlukeamarillo.com](http://www.stlukeamarillo.com)



Find us on Facebook  
[@stlukeamarillo](https://www.facebook.com/stlukeamarillo)



Find us on Instagram  
[Stlukeamarillo](https://www.instagram.com/Stlukeamarillo)



Download the Sharefaith App  
on the Apple App Store



Get St. Luke Pres, Amarillo, TX  
on Google Play

### Ruling Elders

#### Class of '23 ROTATING OFF

Ann Hefner  
Camille Hoy  
Bob McCracken  
Doug Tanner

#### Class of '24 JENNIFER DENHAM

Kendra Jones  
Tim Lacey  
Cruse Messer

#### Class of '25 ROSS CLOPTON

Bob Hansen  
Barbara Taylor  
Kary Wingo

#### Class of '26 ELDERS ELECT

Paige Hadley  
Priscilla Sheets  
Tim Sougstad  
Helen Thorsheim

2024  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



# EPISTLES

Dear St. Luke,

Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of the PCUSA and Presbyterian Women. PW is committed to supporting the mission of the church worldwide. Gifts such as yours make it possible to fulfill that commitment. Grace and Peace to you,

Kathy R,

Dear St. Luke Family,

Alexa and I wanted to thank everyone who generously brought us food and gift cards the first few weeks that we had **Eli** at home. I know we are late in saying this, but we are very grateful for everyone's support, and we know Eli will continue to be blessed by his church family as he grows up.

Wesley & Alexa

Dear St. Luke Family,

First, I want to say thank you to the ladies that volunteered their time to cover the church office while I was away in Dec. I also want to thank my new church family for being such warm, welcoming and caring individuals that make up this wonderful Christian community. Lastly, I want to thank **Melissa S.** for always being there to answer my questions and being a great friend!

Dynette

## Men's Breakfast January 9

All men of the church are invited to meet at 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) at HUD'S, 4411 Bell St., (east side of the street) for breakfast and fellowship.  
Bob McCracken will deliver the devotional.

# JOYS AND CONCERNS

- ☆ **Margaret H** is unable to walk or stand by herself. Please pray for her sake and **Tom's** that God's presence is felt in their time of need.
- ☆ **Quentin S** had heart bypass surgery on Dec. 18. He came home before Christmas. He and **Helen** appreciate your support and prayers.
- ☆ **Priscilla S** is home now after a brief stay in the hospital and says she's feeling better. She was diagnosed with a-fib but is now on meds that should prevent a recurrence.
- ☆ **Joyce B** broke her left arm in a fall. She is recuperating at Amarillo Center for Skilled Care – 6461 West Amarillo Blvd. We wish her a speedy recovery.
- ☆ **Steven** and **Dynette** have a new grandson. **Shiloh** was born on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, weighing 7 lb. 8 oz. and measuring 20.75". His parents are **Joshua** and **Annie** of Iowa. Congratulations!
- ☆ **Erin H**, daughter of **Michele S** is having some health issues and **Michele** is requesting our prayers.

## Presbyterian Women To Meet January 10

Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Nona Fulton will provide the brunch. Kendra Jones will lead a short business meeting, then Mary Holmlund will present the devotional. Lesson 5 is "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus" from the Horizons Bible Study. All women of the church are invited to attend.



# ST. LUKE LIBRARY CORNER

Your kindly St. Luke librarian has been too preoccupied with Christmas cantatas and such to add books to the library in December. But here is a list of Christian themed books recommended by Barnes and Noble booksellers for holiday reading. They are readily available in store or online.

Doug Tanner

- ★ **Anna's Healing**, by Vannetta Chapman. First in a series of fictional stories of love and family and Amish community in Oklahoma that tell of the miracles that can happen when lives are lived in service to God and to one another. eBook format.
- ★ **The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days**, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Ritchie. Offers creative, faith-based blessings that center on gratitude and hope while acknowledging our real, messy lives.
- ★ **Faith Still Moves Mountains: Miraculous Stories of the Healing Power of Prayer**, by Harris Faulkner. These true life stories and accompanying prayers explore the power of prayer to heal, to instill hope, and to feel God's nearness.
- ★ **The Watchmaker's Daughter: The True Story of World War II Heroine Corrie ten Boom**, by Larry Loftis. This Dutch watchmaker and her family sheltered and saved the lives of hundreds of Jews and other refugees during Nazi raids. Surviving concentration camp horrors, she continued to minister to people in need around the globe.
- ★ **Saving Aziz: How the Mission to Help One Became a Calling to Rescue Thousands from the Taliban**, by Chad Robichaux with David L. Thomas. Captivating and inspiring true story of how Marine and MMA fighter Chad Robichaux's fight to rescue his Afghan interpreter turned into a rescue of over 17,000 lives during the Fall of Afghanistan in 2021.

# Clerk's Report

Below is a brief summary of the December session meeting supplied by Clerk **Barbara Taylor**:

1. November 2023 average attendance for worship – 47
2. Active membership as November 30, 2023 – 143
3. Communion celebrated November 5, 2023 - **David Kemp** presiding.
4. Communion celebrated November 26, 2023 -**Stacy Clopton** presiding.
5. Received new members by reaffirmation of faith– **Daisy Mares** and **D Martinez**
6. Elected **Kaci Jones** 2024 Treasurer.
7. Committee leadership for 2024 was set...  
Christian Ed - **Kendra Jones**  
Congregational Care - **Priscilla Sheets**  
Fellowship – **Paige Hadley, Tim Sougstad**  
Finance – **Tim Lacey**  
Mission – **Kary Wingo**  
Outreach – **Jennifer Denham**  
Property – **Helen Thorsheim**  
Worship – **Cruse Messer**  
LOGOS – **Paige Hadley**  
Endowment – **Barbara Taylor** (Moderator), **Bob Hansen** (Session representative)  
Personnel – **Ross Clopton**  
Scholarship – **Jennifer Denham**  
PNC – **Bob Hansen**

## Commendations:

- ✍ **Doug Tanner** for being such a good moderator of the Finance Committee for the past 3 years (and providing food for meetings!)
- ✍ **Kaci Jones** for helping **Dynette** with the Church Windows issues.
- ✍ Pulpit Supply for November; Rev. **Rebecca Vardiman, Tim Lacey, Barbara Taylor, and Stacy Clopton.**
- ✍ Special music provided by all those presenting the Christmas Cantata.
- ✍ **Marcie Dunavin** and **Stacy Clopton** for coordinating and delivering the items for the AC Food Pantry.
- ✍ Elders rotating off session – **Camille Hoy, Ann Hefner, Doug Tanner, and Bob McCracken** – for their service
- ✍ Outgoing elders for selecting the 2024 committee moderators.
- ✍ Everyone directing and participating in the Christmas Pageant
- ✍ **Nicole Payne** for her service as Nursery Coordinator.

## Ezekiel 36:26

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Happy New Year</b>	The church office will be closed.	10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>	5:30 p.m. <b>LOGOS Comm Mtg</b>	10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>  2:00-4:00 p.m. <b>Threads of Love</b>	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. <b>Scrapbooking Club Fellowship Hall</b>	
7 <b>Mesa Verde Sunday</b>  <b>Elder David Kemp</b> will fill the pulpit.	8 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. <b>Piano Class</b>  5:30 p.m. <b>Mission Comm Mtg</b>	9 6:30 a.m. <b>Men's Breakfast</b>  10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>  5:45 p.m. <b>Worship Comm Mtg</b>	10 9:30 a.m. <b>St. Luke Women's Brunch</b>  Noon- <b>Finance Comm Mtg</b>	11 10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>  2:00-4:00 p.m. <b>Threads of Love</b>  6:00 p.m. <b>Bible Study @ Barbara Taylor's</b>	12	13 
14 <b>Bring a Friend Sunday</b>  <b>Holly Haines</b> will fill the pulpit. Ordination & Installation  5:00 p.m. <b>Sunday Meditation</b>	15 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. <b>Piano Class</b>  6:30 p.m. <b>Outreach Comm Mtg</b>	16 10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>  6:00 p.m. <b>Property Comm Mtg</b>	17 Noon—Young @ Heart	18 10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>  2:00-4:00 p.m. <b>Threads of Love</b>  5:30 p.m. <b>Seminar Comm Mtg</b>  6:00 p.m. <b>Bible Study @ Barbara Taylor's</b>	19	20 8:00-10:00 a.m. <b>Laundry Love</b>
21 <b>TBD</b> will fill the pulpit  4:00 p.m. <b>Stated Session Meeting</b>	22 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. <b>Piano Class</b>	23 10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>  11:00p.m. - 5:00 p.m. <b>AUMC Memorial Service</b>	24	25 10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>  Noon—Lunch <b>Bunch</b>  2:00-4:00 p.m. <b>Threads of Love</b>  6:00 p.m. <b>Bible Study @ Barbara Taylor's</b>	26	27
28 <b>TBD</b> will fill the pulpit.  Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship.	29 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. <b>Piano Class</b>	30 10:00 a.m. <b>Exercise Group</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Farkle Group</b>	31 	<div data-bbox="933 1428 1550 1879" data-label="Complex-Block" style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Each Sunday</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:45 am Adult Advent Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 am In person Worship and Live on Facebook. Children's church after the Anthem</p> </div>		

January 2024



# January Birthdays

01/08 Robin G	01/19 Terry B
01/08 Tom H	01/22 Melissa S
01/19 Mila A	01/29 Janelle I

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

## PER CAPITA MADE EASY

As a member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our church annually pays an assessment to the national church which for 2024 will total \$9.80 per church member.

Why do we pay this assessment known as per capita? Because we value our Presbyterian heritage and identity. As a congregation, we derive many material benefits from our Presbyterian association. At the General Assembly level, these include the oversight of preparation for ministers and the mechanisms for calling new ministers, the maintenance of the Presbyterian historical collection in Philadelphia, the biennial meeting of the General Assembly, resources ranging from training for ruling elders to assistance with immigration, and so much more.

Per capita goes to the General Assembly for the support of the whole denomination. In addition, our church helps support Palo Duro Presbytery, the group of PC(USA) churches roughly covering the Texas Panhandle. The work of the presbytery includes support and resources for clergy, lay pastors, and churches; Celebration Scholarships; youth programs such as Buffalo Gap and Youth Triennium; and support of a mission worker in Romania. The work of the presbytery is not funded by per capita, but by additional contributions from its member churches.

The Finance Committee is suggesting that each member pay their own per capita – that is, contribute \$9.80 right now to cover St. Luke’s per capita for 2024. And since the presbytery does not receive any of the per capita, we are asking each member to go the extra mile and add a little to your additional contribution to send to Palo Duro. For example, instead of \$9.80, consider giving \$20.00 for the support of PC(USA) both nationally and regionally.

We look forward to your participation in per capita giving, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond.

## NEWSLETTER

### DEADLINE

The deadline to submit information for the February edition of the *Epistle* will be Sunday, January 21. Send your news to editor **Nan Kemp**. If you are not on St. Luke’s emailing list and would like to receive the newsletter, please contact the church office to be added.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Joy Special Offering of 2023. In addition to your direct gifts, our congregation collectively contributed \$530 which has been forwarded to Presbyterian Missions.

If you missed the opportunity to give through our congregation, you may still make a donation through the Presbyterian Mission website ([pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy](https://pcusa.org/give/christmasjoy)) or you can text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

**Dear St. Luke Presbyterian Church family,  
please join us for a bowl of soup, black-eyed  
peas, and fellowship to welcome in 2024.**

**Come and Go**

**Monday, January 1, 2024 from 4 to 6 PM**

**705 S. Tyler, 5th Floor**

**Donna and Ross Clopton**

**Stacy Clopton and David Craig**

**RSVP greatly appreciated!**

**Donna: 806-676-2889 or**

**Stacy: [Stacy.D.Clopton@gmail.com](mailto:Stacy.D.Clopton@gmail.com)**

**DIRECTIONS:**

Enter downtown and turn onto SW 8th Ave.

Drive to Tyler St. and turn right.

(There is a big 705 sign in the middle of the block. Look up.)

Park on the street or in the parking garage where you see the sign.

Enter the glass doors inside the parking garage and take the single elevator (#4) to the 5th floor. Turn right, and follow the noise.





# Update from the Pastoral Nominating Committee



The PNC continues to face the challenge of discerning God's plan to lead us to a new pastor and we appreciate everyone's patience as we work through the process. We want to remind everyone that the PNC is not permitted to discuss our deliberations with anyone, including the Session. We realize that may make some think we are dragging our feet, but that is not the case. We can give you this summary of our activity thus far.

Since late May, we have been matched with 27 possible candidates and we invited 17 of them to apply. Of those, 9 declined our invitation for various reasons and 8 candidates applied. We have had at least one interview with 5 of them who seemed to be a possible "good fit" for St. Luke and decided not to consider 3 of them. We have hosted one candidate in Amarillo with the possibility of discussing a call, but that candidate has since accepted another call.

We are currently reviewing 3 recent applicants.

We continue to need your prayers for God to lead us to our new pastor and for the committee's efforts to discover His plan for St. Luke.

~**Bob Hansen**



## ***Worship Streaming Training***

*AUMC has offered to train St. Lukans on the use of their video/computer system so that we can determine if we would prefer to stream worship services with their system (which has additional cameras and capabilities). We would like to set up one or two training sessions with **Emily Larsen** of AUMC. Would you like to learn more about their system and how to use it? Please contact **Helen Thorsheim** by text or email to indicate your interest. We would love to have several people trained to record and stream our services.*

## **Wednesday Night Live Continues in 2024**

Wednesday Night Live will resume in January. The meals haven't been finalized yet, but will probably start back up on the 17th. Watch the bulletin for more details. The adult Bible study on the Old Testament is wrapping up and a new study on the New Testament will start on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 p.m. If you need a book, please let Kary know ASAP.

Our first semester ended with the Christmas pageant on December 13th. There were over 20 children involved, either as kings, narrators, cute little animals, or energetic tiny angels. A good time was had by everyone and it really helped us all get into the Christmas spirit. Special thanks to **Stacy Clopton** for directing, **Helen Thorsheim** for outfitting us, and **Mary Holmlund** for accompanying us!







**M  
I  
S  
S  
I  
O  
N  
  
A  
P  
P  
E  
A  
L**

The Mission for January is Kind House Ukraine Bakery. After the holidays, the Bakery will be in need of the following items: flour, sugar, powdered sugar, evaporated milk, and pecans. They now require a receipt so they can verify that food donations come from a reputable vendor.

Please include this with your donation or give to a member of the Mission Committee. Of course, a cash donation is always welcome! Thank you for your support.

**Camille Hoy**

# Thank You

We are so grateful to God for your gen-

## NOVEMBER 2023

Actual **Income** for November \_\_\_\_\_  
 Budgeted Monthly Income \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount over expected income \_\_\_\_\_

Actual **Expenses** for November \_\_\_\_\_  
 Budgeted Monthly Expenses \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount under expected expenses \_\_\_\_\_

## YEAR-TO-DATE

Actual **Income** for 11 months \_\_\_\_\_  
 Budgeted Income for 11 months \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount under expected income \_\_\_\_\_  
 LESS

Actual **Expenses** for 11 months \_\_\_\_\_  
 Budgeted Expenses for 11 months \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount under expected expenses \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

## Report from Finance

It is a better thing to weigh and measure priorities in the illuminating light of your own mission than to have your activities formed by the impressions and expectations of others.

~ Mary Anne Radmacher

At its December meeting, Session unanimously adopted a budget for St. Luke for the coming year. The budget was based on a reckoning between requests received by Finance from heads of committees and anticipated revenues, including your estimates of giving received during the fall stewardship appeal. The budget takes into account such uncertainties as when we might receive a new minister. It follows the admonition in Proverbs 15: 22: Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

The new budget will be included in the annual report to be presented at the annual congregational meeting in the new year. (Also, at that time, St. Luke tote bags will be distributed to show the Finance Committee's appreciation.) The budget forecasts total income for the year to be \_\_\_\_\_ and expenses to total \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, there is a projected deficit of \_\_\_\_\_. In building the budget, we were not able to rely on income from the Permanent Investment Fund, due to a general stock market decline. However, we anticipate a fulfilling new year, with income sufficient to fund essential programs and mission commitments. As recorded in Matthew 6: 33: Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Doug Tanner**