

# St. Luke Presbyterian Church EPISTLE



NAN KEMP & DYNETTE HOFMANN, CO-EDITORS • VOLUME 60, ISSUE 2 | FEBRUARY 2024

## ELIZABETH CALDWELL AND THE SEASON OF LENT

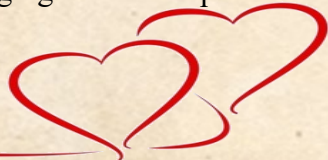
Lent is just around the corner. In the words of Elizabeth Caldwell, Professor of Pastoral Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary, the season of Lent encourages Christians to consider a different pace -- one of slowing down, noticing, pausing – than that of our dominant culture. Your invitation to push the “pause” button begins on Ash Wednesday. The following Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, during the Sunday School hour, we will be using Dr. Caldwell’s book, Pause -- Spending Lent with the Psalms, to take up the spiritual practice of encountering, sinking into, and deeply engaging with one psalm a week. We hope you will join us.

## RULING ELDERS

**Class of '24**  
Jennifer Denham  
Kendra Jones  
Tim Lacey  
Cruse Messer

**Class of '25**  
Ross Clopton  
Robert Hansen  
Barbara Taylor  
Kary Wingo

**Class of '26**  
Paige Hadley  
Priscilla Sheets  
Tim Sougstad  
Helen Thorsheim



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[stlukeamarillo](https://www.facebook.com/stlukeamarillo)
-  Find us on Instagram:  
[@stlukeamarillo](https://www.instagram.com/stlukeamarillo)
-  Download the Sharefaith App  
on the App Store
-  Get St. Luke Pres., Amarillo TX  
on Google Play



# JANUARY SESSION REPORT

The following is a short summary.

## A. Clerk's Report

1. December 2023 average attendance for worship – 57
2. Active membership as of December 31, 2023 – 145
3. Communion was celebrated on December 24, 2023 - **Stacy Clopton** presiding.
4. Communion was celebrated on January 7, 2024 - **David Kemp** presiding.

## Commendations:

- ♥ **Kary Wingo** for leading LOGOS committee in 2023. Her guidance was instrumental in opening the door to start WNL.
- ♥ **Helen Thorsheim, Kaci Jones** and **Bob McCracken** for fixing the courtyard gate that blew down during our wind storm.
- ♥ **Camille Hoy** for her leadership and continued support of the Mission committee.
- ♥ **Stacy Clopton** for talking to News Channel 10 about Laundry Love.
- ♥ Pulpit Supplies in December 2023: **Dr. Robert Hansen, Rev. Kristen Harris, Phillip Periman.**
- ♥ Those providing special music during December: **Mary Holmlund, Dr. Robert Hansen, and Rev. Robert Burke.**
- ♥ **Dynette Hofmann** for helping with the newsletter.
- ♥ **PNC** for their perseverance.

~ **Barbara Taylor**, Clerk of Session



## DONUT DONORS DESIRED

We need volunteers to bring donuts on Sunday mornings. There are dates open as soon as March. A couple of dozen will suffice and the Donut Stop is right down the street. Sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall near the coffee pots.

Thanks to all of you that have already signed up!

## *NEW MEMBERS*

**Daisy M** and **D. Martinez** were accepted into membership on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Their address is 79107.

Daisy's phone is (806)

D.'s is (806)

We welcome them into the St. Luke family.

## YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart will be held on Wednesday, February 21, at noon. Our guest speaker will be Susie Akers, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Amarillo. She will be talking with us about the impact the program has in our community, as well as the different components that make up the non-profit.

Bring your own lunch and we'll see you there.





# EPISTLES... EPISTLES



Dear St. Luke Family,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the cards, kind wishes, and especially prayers as I underwent heart bypass surgery and spent two tours of duty in the hospital afterwards. Your support meant the world to me and **Helen**. We knew that there was a large group of friends we could call on if needed for anything. It was a rough experience, but the entire medical community that took care of me at BSA was absolutely wonderful. They were very kind to let Helen stay with me the entire time after surgery, which meant a lot to both of us. I'm hopeful that my left diaphragm will start working so I can rejoin the choir, but that will apparently be a several-month process. We love our St. Luke family!

Quentin Smith

Dear St. Luke Family & Threads of Love Ministry,

Thank you so much for the gorgeous prayer blankets for both myself and my mother (Michele Sivets.) I appreciate the time and work that goes into the blankets ~ what a comfort to have when things are a bit overwhelming!

What a wonderful church family! I am so grateful for your support, for both my mom and I!!

Have an amazing, blessed week!

Love and Appreciation,  
Erin Howard

Dear St. Luke Session,

Thank you all most sincerely for your generous gift to me at Christmas. I'm certain that no session has ever surprised anyone in such a gracious and positive fashion! You are all most kind and such a delightful group to work with.

I pray that 2024 will be a year of great blessings at St. Luke!

Yours in Christ's Peace,  
Janell Blair



Dear St. Luke Family,

Thank you is simply not enough for the outpouring of love, cards, visits, food and Door Dash gift cards that the congregation has given to **Tom & Margaret Heyde** over the past few months. I also need to mention the many rides to various places that my mother has needed to go to. As I sit here and construct this thank you with my parents, my dad wanted to be sure to thank these specific people:

**Donna Clopton, Bob McCracken, Kary Wingo, Ann Hefner, Helen Thorsheim, Kendra Jones and Cheri & Roger Castleberry.** Margaret gets emotional when thinking about the outpouring love the congregation has given them. BSA Hospice is caring for mom as her mobility declines. She needs 100% assistance moving from the bed to the chair and so forth. We are grateful and very blessed!

Thank you,  
Jennifer Denham

P.S. If we've forgotten anyone, please forgive us.



## ST. LUKE WOMEN CONTINUE STUDY

Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Cruse Messer** and **Mary McCracken** will provide the brunch. **Kendra Jones** will lead a short business meeting, then **Ann Hefner** will present the devotional. Lesson 6 is "A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus" from the Horizons Bible study. All women of the church are invited to attend.

~ 1 Peter 5:6 ~

**"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you."**



## MEN'S BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 13

All men of the church are invited to meet at 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 13<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. Let's hope the weather cooperates this month.

## THE 2023 BUDGET AS OF DECEMBER 31

### Dec. Finances

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Fiscal Year 2023

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*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. The office administrator will be happy to provide them.*

## LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 14

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### ASH WEDNESDAY - February 14

We will be celebrating the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service, Wednesday, February 14 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please come as you are and join us for the imposition of ashes.

#### PALM SUNDAY - March 24

Hosanna! Alleluia! Palm Sunday begins Holy Week on March 24 with our morning worship service at 11:00 a.m. We will be entering the sanctuary with palm branches so come a bit early to help.

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 28

Come share Communion during our Maundy Thursday service on March 28 at 6:00 p.m.

#### GOOD FRIDAY *Tenebrae* - March 29

The joy of Palm Sunday and the celebration of the Passover meal are past. We will share this somber day's service on March 29 at 6:00 p.m.

#### EASTER - March 31

He has risen! He has risen indeed! Put away the gloom of the grave; Christ is no longer there! Easter Sunday service will begin at 11:00 a.m. We will flower the cross, so please bring your garden's flowers, and of course, flowers from the super-market work as well.

## BIRTHDAYS *in February*

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

Sue D	3	16 Kaci J
Victoria H	5	16 Choice Y
Farley M	6	16 David C
Peter R	6	17 Tyler W
Holland H	8	19 Hudson H
Jesse P	8	20 Blaine M
Tim L	9	24 Sharron F
Shona M	9	25 Ashley D
Nicole P	10	26 Bob C
Mary M	14	26 Laquita E
Matthew R	14	26 Steve P
Anne S	14	27 Jim W



# FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>EACH SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 9:45 am Adult Advent Study 10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am In person Worship and Live on Facebook. Children's church after the Anthem				<b>1</b> 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group 2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry 6:00 p.m. Bible Study @ Barbara Taylors	<b>2</b> 5:00 p.m. AUMC Wedding	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Mesa Verde Sunday</b> Dr. <b>Robert Hansen</b> will fill the pulpit. Communion will be celebrated.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group 4:00 p.m. Congregational Care Comm Mtg 5:45 p.m. Worship Comm Mtg 6:00 p.m. Property Comm Mtg	<b>7</b> 8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice 6:00 pm.. Wed Night Live	<b>8</b> 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group 2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry 6:00 p.m. Bible Study @ Barbara Taylors	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Bring a Friend Sunday</b> <b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> Stacy Clopton will fill the pulpit. Communion will be celebrated. 5:00 p.m. Sunday Meditation	<b>12</b> 10 & 11 a.m. Adult Piano Class	<b>13</b> 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group 5:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday	<b>14</b> 8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice 9:30 a.m. St. Luke Women's Brunch & Bible Study Noon Finance Comm Mtg 6:00 pm <b>Ash Wednesday Svc.</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group 2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry 6:00 p.m. Bible Study @ Barbara Taylors	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Laundry Love
<b>18</b> Elder <b>Ann Hefner</b> will fill the pulpit.	<b>19</b> 10 & 11 a.m. Adult Piano Class  <i>Presidents' Day</i>	<b>20</b> 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group	<b>21</b> 8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice Noon Young @ Heart 6:00 pm. Wed Night Live	<b>22</b> 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group 2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry 6:00 p.m. Bible Study @ Barbara Taylors	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Pulpit Supply TBD 4:00 p.m. Stated Session Meeting  <b>Epistle deadline</b>	<b>26</b> 10 & 11 a.m. Adult Piano Class	<b>27</b> 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group 7:00 p.m. Farkle Group	<b>28</b> 8:30 a.m. Yoga Practice 6:00 pm. Wed Night Live	<b>29</b> 10:00 a.m. Exercise Group 2:00 p.m. Threads of Love Ministry 6:00 p.m. Bible Study @ Barbara Taylors  <b>Leap Day</b>	<b>LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 14</b> Wednesday, Feb 14 • Ash Wednesday Sunday, Mar 24 • Palm Sunday Thursday, Mar 28 • Maundy Thursday Friday, Mar 29 • Good Friday Sunday, Mar 31 • Resurrection of the Lord	



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Christian sympathy is extended to Rev. **Elaine Besthorn** upon the death of her sister, **Jodi**, of Wichita, KS. (Pastor **Elaine** served as St. Luke interim a few years ago.)



**Margaret and Tom Heyde:** **Margaret** is now receiving hospice care. They are providing her with much needed assistance with daily routines and **Tom** with a small bit of respite. Please pray that God's divine love is felt during their time of need.



**Quentin Smith** is recuperating and getting stronger after heart surgery. He is coming to church, so we know he's on the mend.



**Roger Osburn**, husband of **Karen Osburn**, is in the hospital with health concerns.



**Travis Ellis** has entered the Church Triumphant. He passed away on the evening of January 23, 2024. Please remember his son, John Ellis of Oklahoma City and the rest of his family in your prayers.



*Continue to remember:*

**Judy C ; Grace A ; Dorothy B ; Joyce B ; Rev. Bob C ; Andy C** (Steve Parker's husband);

**Lucille D ; Leslie H** (Kyle's mom); **Mindy H ; Erin H** (Michele Sivets daughter); **Sarah K ; Roger O ; Aaron P ; Dennis P** (Melissa Shields' father); **Donna P ; Sharon R ; Priscilla S ; Marilyn S ; Rev. Karl T** ; the St. Luke Session; the Pastor Nominating Committee; the staff and residents at Amarillo Children's Home; the people of our sister church Johnson Chapel A.M.E.; Glenda Moore and Kind House Ukraine Bakery; our participants and helpers at Laundry Love; and the students, teachers, and staff at Mesa Verde Elementary School.

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 13

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held Tuesday, February 13, from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Join us for pancakes (flipped by Chef Bob Hansen) and all the fixings. Donations will be accepted and will benefit supply drives and teacher appreciation for Mesa Verde Elementary School.

Please contact [Cruse Messer](#), [Paige Hadley](#) or [Tim Sougstad](#) if you are interested in helping set up, clean up, serve or bring food supplies ahead of time for this enjoyable and yummy tradition!



## POSTSCRIPTS

The National Opera Association's **Robert Hansen** Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition was held recently and a team of 3 WT students came in second. (The contest was named after Bob in tribute to his decades of service as NOA's executive director.)

**Bob** is WT's Regents Professor of Music. He has stepped down as director of WT's School of Music and will retire officially following the '23-'24 academic year. Congratulations to **Bob** and his talented students!

**Doug Tanner** wishes to thank the Almighty for giving him the strength to swim 150 miles of laps this past year, many more than the 110 miles of 2022. Concern: The Town Club is closing its Aquatic Center for a month starting February 12, to replace the ceiling. There are few alternative locations. (*Church Mouse: Lake Meredith?*)

Thanks go to Chris Forbis with the Randall County Sheriff's Department for coming to speak at Young at Heart. And, a big thank you also to **Tim** and **Kim Lacey** for coordinating his visit.

## Elders Installed

During the worship service on January 14, ruling elders were installed: **Paige Hadley, Priscilla Sheets, Tim Sougstad and Helen Thorsheim** (all in Class of 2026).

## EPISTLE DEADLINE

The deadline for the March edition of the *Epistle* will be February 24. As always, please send your news to editor  
**Nan Kemp.**



This semester we're trying something new – cooking teams! The benefits of this setup are two-fold. One, this presents an opportunity to cut the cost of meals, and secondly, it creates a fellowship opportunity for the cooking teams. Mealtime is still 6:00 p.m., followed by adult Bible study and classes for our elementary and middle and high school youth at 6:30. St. Luke will be responsible for the meals every other week, sharing this duty with the Amarillo United Methodists.

Our semester will end on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and there will be nights off on:  
 February 14<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday                      March 13<sup>th</sup>, Spring Break  
 March 20<sup>th</sup>, Mission Night (no meal)              March 27<sup>th</sup>, Holy Week

As you did last semester, please let **Kary Wingo** know if you will be joining us for the meal by the Tuesday before so we can make sure we have enough food. We will have a basket out to collect the suggested donation of \$5 per person to cover the food. There will be no charge for any St. Luke Youth, as these costs will be covered by the generous Baggerly Youth Funds set up by **Max and Dorothy Baggerly**.

Schedule for January and February:  
 January 31<sup>st</sup> – Pizza supplied by St. Luke      February 7<sup>th</sup> – meal prepared by AUMC  
 February 14<sup>th</sup> – no WNL (Ash Wednesday)      February 21<sup>st</sup> – chili dogs and tater tots  
 February 28<sup>th</sup> – meal prepared by AUMC

If you would like to be part of a cooking team, please let **Paige Hadley** or **Kary Wingo** know. WNL will offer another activity for young adults as GAP will be hosting a Bible study from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., as well as helping at Meals on Wheels on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. to pack pet food for the AniMeals program. For more information, please contact **Paige Hadley**.

JOEL 2:1-2



Blow a trumpet in Zion, sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

**KEYS TO THE KINGDOM**

If you need a fob for access to the church for occasional (e.g., monthly) meetings or special events, the office administrator has a limited number of fobs that can be checked out beforehand. Please stop by the church office a day or two beforehand, during work hours, to sign one out. If that timing is not convenient, you could alternatively arrange to check one out from Kaci Jones or Helen Thorsheim on the Sunday before you need it. Fobs should be returned soon after the event, so that they will be available for others.

And remember, if you lose or damage your fob, please notify Helen immediately so that she can disable it in our system. Replacement fobs can be purchased for \$10 for the first replacement. The cost rises to \$25 for the second.

