

ST. LUKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EPISTLE

VOLUME 62 ISSUE 11 | December 2024

Nan Kemp & Brittany Forney, CO-EDITORS

Advent Schedule

- Dec. 1 – First Sunday of Advent. Hanging of the Greens service. Christmas Joy Offering celebrated.
- Dec. 11 – Pageant at 6:30pm. Everyone is invited to the play and reception to follow!
- Dec. TBD – GAP Christmas party at Wingo's. Watch bulletins for more information.
- Dec. 15 – Christmas Seekers Cantata 11 a.m. Family Movie Night at Discovery Center at 4:30 p.m. RSVP to Paige Hadley.
- Dec. 18 – Blue Christmas at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve candlelight and Communion service at 6 p.m. This will be a joint service with AUMC.

Presbyterian Women

St. Luke Women will meet Wed., Dec. 11th, at 9:30 a.m. Mary Holmlund & Donna Clopton will provide refreshments and Ann Hefner will present the devotional. After a short business meeting led by Moderator Kendra Jones, Nan Kemp will lead our discussion of Lesson 4: Water Justice. All women of the church are invited to attend.

CE News

The adult Sunday School class will have an Advent study Dec. 8, 15, & 22 at 9:45. We will be using the book, "Names for the Messiah" by Walter Brueggemann. You may purchase the book from Amazon or Westminster John Knox Press. There will be no adult Sunday School class on Dec. 1 or Dec. 29. Our regular class of "Comparative Religion" will resume on Jan. 5.

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Christmas Pageant

Join us for our annual Christmas Pageant on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Following the pageant, there will be a festive Fellowship Hour. All are encouraged to bring a sweet treat to share. We hope to see you all there!



December 2024

She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. Luke 2: 7-8

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our family is extremely grateful for the very warm welcome that you all have extended to us: the many kind words of encouragement, the old fashioned "pounding" with so many helpful items to set up house, the work that has been done on the manse, the generous love gift, and most of all your prayers, are very much appreciated!

Soon we will all be celebrating Christmas together at Saint Luke Presbyterian Church, Amarillo, with so much to thank God for. I look forward to this, and I hope you do too.

I praise God for the opportunity to serve alongside you all in 2025. It is a gift and responsibility that I do not take lightly. The church has a wonderful facility, dedicated staff, inspiring music, kindly welcoming members and friends of the church, and so much more. Saint Luke already has so many projects and ministries that speak to your willingness to be the hands and feet of Christ. Blessings abound.

My prayer is that Christmas will be a time of peace and joy for you and yours. May God bless you all.

In Christ's Service,
Reverend Bill Cotman





Family Movie Night at the Discovery Center

Sunday, December 15 at 4:30pm
Along with our AUMC friends, we will be having a family movie night at the Don Harrington Discovery Center! We will be watching a private screening of Dr. Seuss' "The Grinch" in the Space Theater, with popcorn of course. There is limited seating available so please RSVP to Paige Hadley as soon as possible.

Christmas Joy Offering

St. Luke will receive the annual Christmas Joy Offering every Sunday in December, although donations will be accepted at the start of 2025. Special envelopes will be available in the pews; simply place them in the offering plates.

The Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. It distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nursing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

See your Sunday bulletin for more information about this long-standing, worthwhile offering.

Men's Breakfast

The monthly men's breakfast will take place at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 10th, at Hud's, 4411 Bell. Kaci Jones will deliver the devotional. All men of St. Luke and AUMC are invited to attend.

Young at Heart

Young at Heart will not be meeting in December, but remember to save the date for Wednesday, January 15th, at noon! Linda Dominguez with Amarillo College will speak to us regarding their Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC), which is the home to four programs, including the AC Food Pantry.

GAP

The Growing Adult Presbyterian small group will be having their annual Christmas Party in December! Be on the lookout for communication regarding the specific date and time. Thank you to Alexa and Wesley Wingo for offering to host once again!

Mission News

St. Luke provided a meal to 65 people on November 5th at the Hope and Healing Place for their Generations Family Support Group, serving adults and children. Thank you to everyone for your support of this wonderful organization in our community.

Heal the City is another organization our church supports monthly. This is their tenth year providing free quality healthcare to the uninsured. Primary Care, prescription drugs, dental care, behavioral health care, and wellness classes are all offered at the free clinic.

A letter of thanks is posted on the bulletin board, so take a look at all the services offered and all that has been accomplished this year. Thank you for helping to make a difference in our community and providing hope to so many.

-Kary Wingo

New members

The session recently received three people into membership.

Teresa Cotman and Muriel Cotman were received by letters of transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Alpine, TX. They reside at 3613 Torre, 79109. They can be reached at tessacotman@gmail.com and murielcotman@gmail.com.

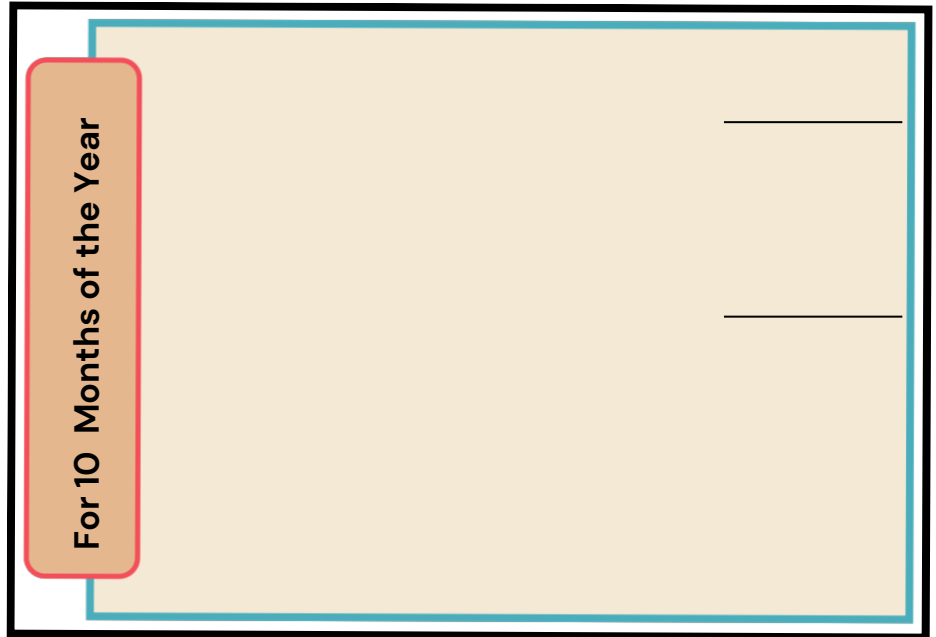
Karen Sandlin was received by letter of transfer from FPC, Plainview. She resides at 6609 Slater Circle, Amarillo, TX 79110 and her contact information is kos2608@hotmail.com, (806) 292-6247.

We welcome these three and look forward to welcoming them formally at an upcoming worship service.

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.



Please pray for:

Congratulations

After many months of study and preparation, Stacy Clopton was commissioned on Nov. 15 by Palo Duro Presbytery as a Commissioned Pastor. The meeting took place at St. Luke by zoom, but Stacy was surrounded by her parents Ross and Donna Clopton and church friends. Stacy will be installed at FPC Borger, where she has been serving for several months. Congratulations, Stacy, we're proud of you and wish you well!

Session Summary

Session Clerk Barbara Taylor has provided a brief summary of the November meeting:

Clerk's Report

1. October average attendance for worship – 54
2. Active membership as October 31, 2024 – 144
3. Communion celebrated November 3, 2024
4. Approved the baptism of Eli Wingo on December 8 if the way be clear.
5. Received Karen Sandlin by letter of transfer from FPC Plainview.
6. Received Teresa Cotman and Muriel Cotman by letters of transfer from FPC Alpine.



Commendations.

- A. Congregational Care Committee for helping with Laundry Love in October.
- B. Paige Hadley and Cheri Castleberry for Mesa Verde gifts to staff in November
- C. Nicole Payne for Minute for Mission on Welcome Home Veterans.
- D. Nicole Payne, Jennifer Denham, Ashley Denham and Stacy Clopton for their work facilitating the St. Luke Booth for Welcome Home Veterans.
- E. Kary Wingo and Linda Peirce for volunteering at KHUB (Kind House Ukrainian Bakery).
- F. Stacy Clopton on being commissioned as Lay Pastor at FPC Borger.

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

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.

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.

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



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.



December 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 No Adult Sunday School Communion	2 10 & 11 am Piano Class 4 pm Cong. Care	5 10 am Exercise Group	4	5 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	6	7
8 Adult Sunday School Advent Study 5 pm Meditation Service	9 10 & 11 am Piano Class 12 pm Finance Comm 5:30 pm Mission	10 7 am Men's Breakfast 10 am Exercise Group 5:45 pm Worship	11 8:30 am Yoga Practice 9:30 am St. Luke Women 6:30 pm Pageant	12 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	15	14 10 am- 10 pm AATAG Dinner
15 Adult Sunday School Advent Study Cantata 2 pm Session 4:30 Movie Night	16 10 & 11 am Piano Class	17 10 am Exercise Group 5:30 pm Property	18 8:30 am Yoga Practice 6 pm Blue Christmas	19 10 am Exercise Group 2 pm Threads of Love	20 Mesa Verde Noon Meal	21 8-10 am Landry Love
22 Adult Sunday School Advent Study Epistle deadline	25 10 & 11 am Piano Class	24 6 pm Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27	28
29 No Adult Sunday School	30 10 & 11 am Piano Class	31 2 pm Farkle Game afternoon				

Christmas



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