



# The Steeple

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
210 SE Ninth St., Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003  
[www.episcopalbartlesville.org](http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org)

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## Arms Open to the Future!



The *Arms Open to the Future!* Stewardship Initiative for 2017 is underway. You should have recently received in the mail a pledge card and stewardship folder outlining the church's financial plans for a successful transition year as we prepare for a new rector. If you've misplaced your folder or pledge card, please contact the church office.

An increased level of giving next year will allow us to address important needs that have been underfunded in the past, particularly church building maintenance requirements and outreach efforts. Vestry members have already stepped forward and pledged to support the recommended budget increase, and they are happy to answer questions you may have about the budget as well as the budgeting process.

**Pledge Sunday is this Sunday, November 20.** You are encouraged to bring your pledge card with you and place it on the altar as we collectively underscore our continuing commitment to the mission of St. Luke's.

St. Luke's only exists because of the regular, predictable giving from our parish family. It's vitally important that – with arms wide open – we welcome our new rector into a church community that has a strong financial foundation and a bright future.

### *St. Luke's 2017 Stewardship Initiative*

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### Important Dates To Remember

- ✓ Christ the King & Pledge Sunday, November 20 (see article this pg.)
- Thanksgiving Day, No. 24 Holy Eucharist 10am
- First Sunday of Advent, November 27

## Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Day at 10am. The church office will be closed Thursday & Friday, Nov. 24 & 25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



## "How to Teach a Lamb to Sing"



Our Sunday mornings have been filled with children learning their lines for this special production! The play is almost a month away. Remember if you have a child that would enjoy performing with other "sheep," then join us for Sunday School at 9:15. The children practice from 9:15-9:40 and then head to their age appropriate class. Don't worry because we also have a class for parents! Join our Young Adult Bible Study (starts at 9:30...time to get coffee) in Metcalf Hall! If you have a child performing in this play, mark your calendar for two dates....

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> @10:00A.M. for play practice (should only take an hour)**  
**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30 service....the play will be performed!**

## From the Rector...



What a painful time we are living right now – and it must get better. For some people that has been true for at least eighteen months. For others it has been more like eight years. One would think it might get better once the election was over, but it seems to have intensified – for the winners and losers – at least from what I see and hear personally, in the news and on Facebook. The “hate monitor” is still running high even as some of the same people call for unity and reconciliation.

This is indeed an odd and painful time. I share in the responsibility for getting us here. And, I dare say each of us has been a contributor by our own thoughts, attitudes, words and actions – and sometimes by being quiet. That is why we started our celebration of the Holy Eucharist this past Sunday with the Litany of Penitence. None of us is entirely clean.

Reconciliation is a process. Indeed, with the intensity and longevity of our brokenness, the process for reconciliation can take a long time. This has to start with ourselves and ownership of our contributions great and small – otherwise the process can never really begin. Reconciliation calls for us to not only be honest with ourselves, but also to have a desire for unity and an unconditional commitment to creating an atmosphere for people to come together.

That is only the beginning. Reconciliation requires listening to each other without judgement or expectations. This calls for non-dualistic perceptions and conversations. This actually means being with people with whom we disagree on the one hand and with the voiceless on the other. There needs to be a letting go of what has been to envision what we can be and do together. As Christ-people we should already know we are called to lead with love, lead with grace, regardless of the response. I would go so far as to say we need to be another incarnation – that is Christ living in and through us in our mess.

I expressed some of these thoughts on Sunday in the sermon – which has been posted on our website and Facebook – for better or worse. The reality is that Mr. Donald Trump will be our president – like it or not. We cannot afford to let our arrogance and/or bitterness determine our future – our health and relationships.

We cannot afford to wait until our political preferences are secured or until our “neighbor” is ready for reconciliation. We must act with grace consistently on our part with no requirements for others. Again, this process begins with each of us.

I loved the time with my “Youngest Friends” yesterday and giving them their “ILAC” signs – “I’m Loveable and Capable.” Their facial expressions were telling as I tore off each little piece of my ILAC sign – the result of someone saying negative things about me. After I had torn off half of my sign, I asked them what was happening. One of my friends said, “You are dying” – now sit with that response for a moment. That is what we are doing to each other.

The alternative is to draw stars and flowers on each other’s ILAC signs – to give blessings – share God’s grace – to love as we have been and are loved.

Blessings,

Fr. Lee+

## Weekly Activity Calendar

### Sunday, November 20, 2016

*Christ the King & Pledge Sunday*

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Sunday School Classes

10:30am Rite II

### Monday, November 21, 2016

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday, November 22, 2016

10:00am Spiritual Discipline Group,  
library

### Wednesday, November 23, 2016

Office & Building closed at 12noon

### Thursday, November 24, 2016

*Thanksgiving Day, church office  
closed*

10:00am Holy Eucharist

### Friday, November 25, 2016

*Church bldg. closed*

### Saturday, November 26, 2016

### Sunday, November 27, 2016

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Sunday School Classes

10:30am Rite II

### Monday, November 28, 2016

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist



**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20, 6:00 PM,**

**EAST CROSS**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**820 S. Madison Blvd.**

*Join with others from around the city in  
unity and gratitude*

- **Community Choir** (*all singers welcome – rehearsal at 5:00 pm*)
- **City-Wide Communion**
- **Refreshments following the service**

### **THE NAKED NOW**

***Learning to See as***

***the Mystics See***

By Fr. Richard Rohr

**Sunday Discipleship Forum** and the **Tuesday Morning Spiritual Direction Group** are using this book as the resource for their current study. The book is available in St. Luke's Bookstore. The chapters are divided into three parts in the book. Two sessions will be given to each part and participants are asked to read each part in advance twice.

### ST. LUKE'S PRAYER LIST

Please keep them in your prayers  
*Names on the Prayer List are rotated  
off every 4 weeks.*

*If there is need for continued  
prayers, please let us know.)*  
Joseph, Joyce, Jenny, Karl, Lily,  
Thelma, Becky, Rose, Jim, Mike,  
Peggy, Jeanne, Kristen, Bob, Ellie,  
Carmen, Donna, Helen, Mary,  
Elizabeth, Emma, Bid, Georgia,  
Glenn, Max, Cory, and all members  
of our armed forces and their  
families.

*If you have a prayer request, contact  
our Prayer Ministry Coordinator  
Thelma Blackburn 918-333-7902 or  
[TPBGEN@aol.com](mailto:TPBGEN@aol.com) or the church  
office at 918-336-1212 or  
[annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org).*

### Prayer for the New Rector Search Process

*Please continue to pray for our Search  
Committee and Vestry during their  
discernment process for St. Luke's next  
Rector.*

### Prayer for the Selection of a New Rector

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift:*

*Look graciously on your Church, and so  
guide the minds of those who shall  
choose a rector for this parish, that we  
may receive a faithful pastor, who will  
care for your people and equip us for  
our ministries.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**MARTHA'S TASK  
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17  
11AM- 6PM  
718 S. Johnstone Ave.  
918-336-8275**

**Celebrating our Sweet 16 with  
Food, Drink and Shopping**

Martha's Task is a training and work  
program for homeless and  
disadvantaged women in the  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma area. At  
Martha's Task, trained and talented  
seamstresses support themselves by  
selling their professionally  
handmade gift items through our  
unique gift store. Visit their website  
<http://www.marthastask.com/>.

### DAILY ADVENT MEDITATIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

This year during Advent I wanted to offer you a different approach to daily meditation. Yes, I just typed the words 'daily meditation'. In a social culture that isn't listening to its neighbor very well right now, it seems like a perfect opportunity to receive reflections from our immediate neighbors--the people of St. Luke's. In that spirit, I have asked people to write their remembrances or insights to be shared with all of you. The Advent calendar will be available beginning Sunday, November 27th at [www.episcopalbartlesville.org](http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org) under the 'Advent' tab on the top drop down menu.

I hope you enjoy this and I hope you are looking forward to Advent as much as I am.

Faithfully, Fr. Sean,

### ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STAR TREE

The Annual Star Tree, decorated with stars, will be in the narthex this Sunday, Nov. 20. It will be decorated with stars, each one representing an area foster child's "wish list" for Christmas. Please take a star (or stars), ship for the requested gift(s), and return the gift (UNWRAPPED with the star firmly attached) to the church office no later



than Sunday, December 11. If you have any questions, please call Steve or Cheryl Van Aken, 918-333-5570, or the church office, 918-336-1212 or email [annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org). Thank you for making this Christmas a bit brighter for a child in need!

### Fall Sale in St. Luke's Bookstore

**The Bookstore is having a big fall sale. All through November, all crosses, pictures, and jewelry will be 25% off. There will be a 50% off table with new items added every week. Also if you check out our back room, our new Christmas items are coming in and being priced. You can get first choice during this sale. Be sure to check us out every week.**



**Door and Floor News** Last week we discovered that the North Entry Doors were taller than the other doors and that they are also seriously rotted on the bottom. I had hoped they were restorable, but it was not to be and new doors will be ordered. While that is taking place, the work will start on the Sacristy Door for which we have a replacement. I am also working on getting another estimate on the power door mechanism for the North Entry Doors.

I am about to receive two estimates for replacing the quarry tile in the newer part of the church. The work will not occur until after the Christmas season—sort of a present to ourselves! It helps that we have an insurance check.

*Steve Forsythe, Parish Administrator, 918-336-1212,  
[sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org)*

### HOLIDAY WREATH PREVIEW SALE

**WHERE:**  
Haskell's Event Space  
115 SE Frank Phillips Blvd.



**WHEN:**  
Thurs., Nov. 17, 5:30-8:00pm  
Light Refreshments will be served

40 wreaths, created for local community non-profits, will be hung throughout the Event Space. Bid during the Silent Auction, or choose to "Buy It Now". A People's Choice for Best Wreath starts Nov. 17 through Dec. 2. Vote for your favorite wreath by donating online. Questions? Contact Karen Wilson at [karenbwilson@gmail.com](mailto:karenbwilson@gmail.com). See the list of participating organizations at [www.BartlesvilleChristmas.org](http://www.BartlesvilleChristmas.org).

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
**210 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003**  
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The Rev. Dr. T. Lee Stephens, Rector ([leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Sean Ekberg, Assoc. to the Rector ([seanekberg@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:seanekberg@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon ([dfreebern@yahoo.com](mailto:dfreebern@yahoo.com))  
The Rev. Lauri Watkins, Deacon ([lwatkins@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:lwatkins@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Mike Watkins, Deacon ([mike.watkins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mike.watkins@sbcglobal.net))  
In an Emergency, call 918-397-3683, 580-977-4969, 918-766-2473 or 918-914-0525  
Ann Bell, Parish Secretary ([annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
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Office Phone: 918-336-1212 Office Fax: 918-336-2557  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:00pm, Fridays 8:30am-3:00pm  
Holy Eucharist: Sunday 8am & 10:30am; Monday 5:30pm, Thursday 12pm

*"The Steeple" is a weekly publication of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 SE 9<sup>th</sup> St., Bartlesville, OK 74003*

## LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE 11/20/16 through 11/27/16

*Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.*

### Acolytes

**Nov. 20**

#### Servers

Nick Olsen, Greta Olsen

#### Torchbearers

Kyle Peterson, Charlie Olsen

**Nov. 27**

No Acolytes scheduled today

### Layreaders

**Sunday, Nov. 20**

8:00am

Darian Kedy, Kate Carroll

10:30am

Penny Williams, Lauren Green

Nick Conner Judy Currey

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

8:00am

Jeff Birk, Darian Kedy

10:30am

Kate Carroll, Judy Currey

Lauren Green, Juanita Green

### Nursery Volunteers

**Nov. 20**

Barbara Todd

**Nov. 27**

Diana Crawford

**Dec. 4**

Travis Sutton

### Scripture Lessons for

**Sunday, Nov. 20**

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46;

Colossians 1:11-20;

Luke 23:33-43

**Music for Sunday, Nov. 13**

#477 – "All Praise to Thee, For  
Thou, O King Divine"

#589 – "Almighty God, our Word  
is Cast"

#306 – "Come, Risen Lord, and  
Deign to Be Our Guest"

#334 – "Praise the Lord, Rise Up  
Rejoicing"

#494 – "Crown Him With Many  
Crowns"

### Coffee Fellowship Hour

**Nov. 20**

Glenda Garrison

**Nov. 27**

Karen Lewey

**Dec. 4**

*Volunteer needed*

*To volunteer, contact Rita*

*Childers, 918-519-8470 or*

[puvey45@gmail.com](mailto:puvey45@gmail.com)

### Sunday Plate Counter

**Nov. 20**

Steve Clark

**Nov. 27**

Jim Grillot, Jim Malone

**Dec. 4**

Amy Borg

### Bereavement Committee

**Team 2**

Barbara Martin, Laura Birk,

Thelma Blackburn, Sally Canfield,

Debbie Mueggenborg

### Greeters

**Sunday, Nov. 20**

8:00am

Monica Martin

10:30am

Carol Murphy

Steve & Maureen Forsythe

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

8:00am

Sally Canfield

10:30am

D. J. & Jerry Nezam

Jim & Nancy Warring

### St. Luke's Bookstore

*The Bookstore is open  
Sundays between the two  
services and after the  
10:30 service. All proceeds  
from sales go to St. Luke's  
Outreach Projects.*

**\*To volunteer, contact**

Melinda Wesneski,

918-333-7758 or

[mcwesne@gmail.com](mailto:mcwesne@gmail.com).

### Ushers

**Sunday, Nov. 20**

8:00am

Michael Kemp, Dean Zervas

10:30am

Glenn Bonner, Jim Warring

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

8:00am

Robert Babcock, Dean Zervas

10:30am

Jim Grillot, Max McCreary

### Children's Chapel

**Nov. 20**

Blair & Chad Ellis

**Nov. 27**

Erin & Travis Perry

**Dec. 4**

Heather Boyle, Bob Tedstrom

### Agape Mission

**4th Thursday,**

**Nov. 24**

*Thanksgiving Day,*

*mission closed*

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have articles that  
you would like printed in  
*The Steeple* to the church  
office no later than  
Tuesdays at 10am.

*Thank you!*