



The Steeple

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 SE Ninth St., Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003
www.episcopalbartlesville.org

Volume XX, Number 44

November 16, 2016

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 17th @10:00A.M. for play practice (should only take an hour)
Sunday, December 18th @ 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

1st 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 or the church
office at 918-336-1212 or
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 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. 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*

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. See the list of participating organizations at www.BartlesvilleChristmas.org.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th Street
Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003
(Return Service Requested)
<http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org/>

The Rev. Dr. T. Lee Stephens, Rector (leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Sean Ekberg, Assoc. to the Rector (seanekberg@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon (dfreebern@yahoo.com)
The Rev. Lauri Watkins, Deacon (lwatkins@episcopalbartlesville.org)
The Rev. Mike Watkins, Deacon (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)
Steve Forsythe, Parish Administrator (sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director (dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Erin Perry, Christian Educ. Dir. (erinperry@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Kathy Zervas, Sr. Warden (kzerv@aol.com)
Amy Borg, Jr. Warden (amy.a.borg@p66.com)
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 9th 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

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.

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!