



# 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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December 21, 2016



## SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS & SERVICES

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00pm Holy Eucharist, with the baptism of Cate Mueggenborg, granddaughter of Debbie & Dennis Mueggenborg.

10:30pm Pre-Service Music

11:00pm Midnight Mass. Fellowship will follow this service in Metcalf Hall with homemade goodies. Please bring a plate of goodies to share and leave them in the kitchen as you come in for the service. Hot cider and eggnog provided.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

One service today: 10:30 Eucharist, no nursery provided today.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017

One service today: 10:30 Eucharist, nursery provided.

*Please Note: The Church Office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23 & Monday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas Holiday, and Monday, Jan. 2, 2017 for the New Year's Holiday.*

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### Important Dates To Remember

Church Office Closed Fri., Dec. 23, Mon., Dec. 26, Mon., Jan. 2, 2017

Feast of the Epiphany, Friday, Jan. 6, 2017.  
Holy Eucharist, 6pm.

Bishop's Visitation & Confirmation, Sunday, Jan. 8 (see pg. 3)

**NO "STEEPLE"  
NEWSLETTER NEXT  
WEEK, DECEMBER 28.  
THE NEXT ISSUE WILL  
GO OUT ON  
WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 4, 2017.**

## SPECIAL REMINDERS

- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Christmas or New Year's Day.
- NO Children's Chapel or Nursery on Christmas Day.
- Sunday School will resume on January 8, 2017 (be on the lookout for our new schedule!).
- Have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy little ones around you.



## From the Rector...



The journey is almost complete again. I say again because we have been down this path before just like those before us over the centuries. Yet, every time the liturgical cycle comes around there is always a sense of something new in what we are doing, needing and anticipating – indeed who we are becoming.

**Star Tree Presents:** The stars disappeared and presents appeared in record time this year. Last week the pile in the office kept growing as stars came back attached to presents. There will again be happy Foster Children on Christmas morning – a bit of joy in difficult circumstances.

**Uganda Orphan Sponsors:** No sooner than the appeal went out, the responses started coming back. We already have sponsors for six orphans in Uganda. Of course we can sponsor more – so call me if you are interested. Six has been the minimum for eighteen years and St. Luke's has been faithful. These gifts make for happy orphan students – again, in difficult circumstances. In doubt read their letters on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

**The Children's Pageant:** Yesterday we enjoyed the children in Dolores' "How to Teach a Lamb to Sing." It was frigid outside, but hearts and bodies were warm inside. What a delight to see and hear our children proclaim the Christmas Message. And, I wish you could have seen the children's faces when I did my Children's Homily with them around the Nativity – so eager, excited and full of joy – in whatever circumstances they are living.

**All Four Candles Burning:** What fun to have the Sutton family light the fourth candle of Advent – their circumstances of expecting another child – how appropriate! So now the Altar Guild will have their work day on Friday – polishing everything in anticipation of Christmas Eve – and changing all the candles to Christmas White.

**Christmas Parties and Events:** One by one the gatherings and happenings are becoming history – good memories with friends who are important to me – and I trust the same for you. I don't know why we put so much in the schedule in this season to be with each other – perhaps Christmas is the motivation or excuse. We would do well to think of when we could do these joyful gatherings through the year – just a thought.

**A Christmas Eve Baptism:** This year at the early Christmas Eve celebration (5pm) of The Feast of the Incarnation we will experience a baptism. Something about that seems especially right. In every birth there is a new incarnation – the divine spark in a new child coming into the world. The birth of the Christ Child can help us to see God and ourselves in fresh and wonderful ways – regardless of our circumstances. Sharing in the baptism of Cate Mueggenborg will enrich our Christmas celebrations wherever we are in life right now.

**The Birth of God:** The liturgy for The Feast of the Incarnation is essentially the same as any other celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Of course the church is dressed up beyond beautiful with flowers, candles, vestments and music – but there is more. Of all the seasons, there is an intimacy with God at Christmas full of wonder, mystery and love – that embraces us beyond our understanding and in our personal life circumstances whether happy or challenging.

Meet you at the stable – bring a friend who needs Christmas too.

Blessings,  
Fr. Lee+

## Weekly Activity Calendar

**Sunday, December 25, 2016**

*Christmas Day*

10:30am Rite

**Monday, December 26, 2016**

*Church Office Closed*

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, December 27, 2016**

**Wednesday, December 28, 2016**

**Thursday, December 29, 2016**

12:00pm Holy Eucharist

**Friday, December 30, 2016**

**Saturday, December 31, 2016**

**Sunday, January 1, 2017**

*New Year's Day*

10:30am Rite II

**Monday, January 2, 2017**

*Church Office Closed*

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

*Mark your calendars...!*

**COMING SOON TO A  
METCALF HALL  
NEAR YOU!**

**St. Luke's  
Treasure Sale  
5<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**Friday February 17 &  
Saturday, February 18,  
2017**

Read *The Steeple* newsletter  
for more *information in the  
coming weeks!*



**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

**Friday, January 6, 2017**

**Holy Eucharist**

**will be celebrated at 6:00pm.**

### 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.)*

Jim, Mary Lou, Thelma, Peggy, Mike,  
Lynette, Rose, Jenny, Joseph, Trudi,  
Patty, David, Kristen, Elizabeth,  
Mary, Jeanne, Max, Emma, Helen,  
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).*



### Doors and Floors

It is a little hard to see progress on the ADOOR Project, but you must trust me when I say things are moving—likely not as fast as we would like, but moving (remember this is a construction job). We have five new doors at the contractor's shop in Bartlesville that have had windows put in them, and are ready to hang. I have ordered panic bars for the Sacristy and Sound Room

Doors since they are important exits. The power door mechanisms and installation have been ordered for the two North Entry Doors. Funding (about \$4,000) is still needed for the Rogers Hall doors.

I am obtaining a second estimate to replace the quarry tile with stained concrete. This will clearly be a project for 2017.

### Entry Policy

Please note in the December 14 "Steeple" the new Vestry policy (in Fr. Lee's column) on entering the church buildings. This is an important aspect of security and safety for our building and our members. If you did not see the policy, just know that the building alarm system is armed from 11 pm to 6 am each night, so avoid entering the church during that period.

Final note-- at the end of this year I will have been your Parish Administrator for two years (my how time flies when one is having fun!). I know more about rental properties, air handlers, personalities, and a host of other "aspects" than I could ever have thought possible. I genuinely appreciate all the support and assistance you have offered me.

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

### PRAYER FOR THE NEW RECTOR SEARCH PROCESS

We ask you to pray for the rector candidates, Search Committee, and Vestry during our mutual discernment process for our next rector.

*Father,*

*It is time to find a new spiritual leader  
to guide us. We pray individually and  
together to further this search process.  
We know that you have already chosen  
a path for St Luke's. We pray earnestly  
for your guidance in seeking out Your  
plan for us.*

*We ask You to send the Holy Spirit to  
fill each of our hearts and minds, keep  
our arms wide open, and guide us to  
find the new Rector who will lead us on  
this path.*

*Father, we ask that You bless the hearts  
of our Rector candidates and each  
member of our parish family to ease  
this transition for them.*

*All this we ask through our savior,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### ♪ COME SING IN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS! ♪

Christmas Eve Choir is open to all who love to sing! Would you enjoy singing with our choir for the late Christmas Eve Eucharist? We would love to have you come sing with us. There will be one special rehearsal for the music for Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Eucharist. It will be Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. If you can sing most of the familiar Christmas carols, and if you want a really, really good "front-row" seat for the service you should come sing with the choir! And, yes, your presence in the choir would be a gift to all of us!

### THE BISHOP IS COMING – THE BISHOP IS COMING!

**Sunday, January 8, 2017**

Bishop Ed (The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward Konieczny) will make an episcopal visit to St. Luke's on Sunday, January 8, 2017. This visit will be of particular importance for Confirmation, but also for this time of transition in our parish. Everyone will want to hear what he has to say about the process and the future of St. Luke's. He will also join us in commissioning Jeff Birk for his mission trip to Uruguay.

This will be a time for Confirmation and Reception. A list is being generated for children (sixth grade and above) and adults who are joining St. Luke's. If you want to experience Confirmation or Reception, please contact either Fr. Lee or Fr. Sean. They will help with preparation for this sacramental experience.



**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
**210 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
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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))  
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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 12/25/16 through 1/1/17

*Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.*

**Acolytes**  
**Sunday, Dec. 25**  
*No acolytes scheduled today*  
**Sunday, Jan. 1**  
*Servers*  
Harald Borg, Robert Boyle  
*Torchbearers*  
Emma Perry, Emma Boyle

**Layreaders**  
**Sunday, Dec. 25**  
Lauren Green, Bob Wesneski  
Nick Conner  
**Sunday, Jan. 1**  
*10:30am - one service today*  
*No schedule available*

**Nursery Volunteers**  
**Dec. 25**  
*No Nursery today*  
**Jan. 1**  
Erin Perry  
**Jan. 8**  
Travis Sutton

**Scripture Lessons for**  
**Sunday, Dec. 25**  
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus  
2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20  
**Music for Sunday, Dec. 25**  
#83 – "O Come All Ye Faithful"  
#96 – "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
#87 – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"  
#107 – "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"  
#115 – "What Child is This"  
#100 – "Joy to the World"

**Coffee Fellowship Hour**  
**Dec. 25 & Jan. 1**  
*No coffee hour*  
**Jan. 8**  
Confirmation Reception  
*To volunteer, contact Rita Childers, 918-519-8470 or [puvey45@gmail.com](mailto:puvey45@gmail.com)*

**Sunday Plate Counter**  
**Dec. 25**  
Jim Grillot  
**Jan. 1**  
Amy Borg  
**Jan. 8**  
Bruce Ramzel

**Greeters**  
**Sunday, Dec. 25**  
*10:30am - one service today*  
D. J. & Jerry Nezam  
Jim & Nancy Warring  
**Sunday, Jan. 1**  
*10:30am - one service today*  
Glenn & Thelma Blackburn

**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).**

**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!*

**Ushers**  
**Sunday, Dec. 25**  
*10:30am - one service today*  
Jim Grillot, Max McCreary  
**Sunday, Jan. 1**  
*10:30am - one service today*  
Hugh Harrison, Tim Simmons

**Children's Chapel**  
**Dec. 25**  
*No Chapel*  
**Jan. 1**  
Heather Boyle, Bob Tedstrom

**Agape Mission**  
**4th Thursday, Dec. 22**  
*9-11am*  
Jim Liehr, Fr. Lee Stephens  
*10:45am-1pm*  
Jeff Birk, Molly Ferguson,  
Glenda Garrison, Darian Kedy,  
Jen Peterson

**Bereavement Committee**  
**Team 3**  
Wendy Hall, Connie Freebern,  
Glenda Garrison, Gretchen Hoyt,  
Becky Liehr, Carol Murphy