

In this Thanksgiving Issue >>>

A word from Father Steve

Christmas Star Tree

Fellowship Dinner at Community Center

Santa Shop volunteers sought

Stewardship campaign underway

St. Luke's children's schedule

Reading tutor's needed at Kane

A note of thanks from Susie Clark



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 SE Ninth St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

The Steeple



current topics >>>

Christmas Star Tree Giftgiving Opportunity

Gifts accepted through Dec. 15.

The Christmas Star Tree will be in the narthex on Nov. 24 for Bartlesville area foster children.

Please take as many stars as you like and return the gifts to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 15. (Star colors identify caseworker assigned.)

The gifts should be unwrapped with the stars firmly attached. If you have family or friends who would like to purchase gifts, please take stars for them.

Have questions? Call Steve Van Aken at 918-914-9041 or Cheryl Van Aken, 918-914-0257.



A Word from Father Steve

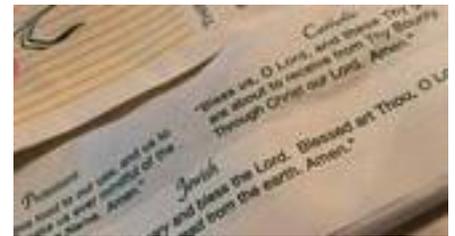
Phone: 918-330-6108 email: fathersdhood@gmail.com

Mealtime prayers

Tracy and I were eating at Chuy's in Tulsa last week. I could go on about how much I love the food there, but one thing that stuck out to me on this particular visit was the wax paper wrapper used to protect the clean silverware. On the wrappers are printed three prayers or blessings to pray before your meal -- one Protestant, one Jewish, and one Roman Catholic. These prayers have been printed on the wrapper for as long as I can remember.

Seeing the prayers reminded me of the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday and the fact that many of you may be asked to give a prayer before your holiday meal. One of the things most Episcopalians dislike to do is to pray extemporaneously, so I thought I could give you a couple of options that you might use should you be asked to pray in the days and weeks ahead.

One of my favorite prayers to use in public is to pray, "May the One who blesses bless." I love this prayer because of its brevity, and it is unlikely to offend anyone. It is also unexpected, and it causes people to think and may even serve as a conversation starter. The tried and true prayer I hear used most often is this one: "Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and us to your service, and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others, in Christ's name. Amen." Now, there are slight variations on this prayer, but I hear it used by both Roman Catholics and Protestants, so it probably serves us in the Episcopal Church fairly well.



The prayer I find myself using most often is this prayer: "Almighty God, we give you thanks for this day, for (add petitions here), we ask you to bless (us, this food, the hands that prepared it, et al), and keep us mindful of the needs of others, especially (add concerns and petitions), in Jesus name we pray, Amen."

Ultimately, pray from your heart. I don't think you can get it wrong. I like brevity and simplicity. Others may want a long, thoughtful prayer. The purpose of the meal blessing is always to offer thanksgiving to the God who created us and loves us and continues to provide for us. If you'd like some other options, open The Book of Common Prayer to the Prayers and Thanksgiving section found on pages 814-841. Grace at meals are found on page 835. The same information can be found in the online version at <https://www.bcponline.org/>. Please be safe in your travels and have a great Thanksgiving holiday!

Fr. Steve

More news >>>

Fellowship & free dinner at Bartlesville Community Center 6 p.m. Nov. 25

Everyone is welcome to join us for multi-faith gathering, free pizza dinner at 6 p.m. Nov. 25 at the Bartlesville Community Center.



Hosted by: First Presbyterian, Good Shepherd Presbyterian, First Christian, Disciples Christian, St. Luke's Episcopal and Dewey United Methodist Church.

Give a canned good for a local food pantry if you're able and enjoy this time of fellowship before Thanksgiving.

The Bartlesville Community Center,
300 SE Adams Blvd., Bartlesville.

For more information call 918-333-1708.



Stewardship Campaign Underway

Our annual stewardship initiative is underway from now through Sunday, Dec. 8. Soon you'll be receiving a flyer summarizing what's involved in the budget for 2020 and how your generosity underpins the many good works of St. Luke's. Please take time to read this brief flyer.

The mailing also includes your 2020 pledge card, which you're encouraged to bring with you to services on **PLEDGE SUNDAY, DEC. 8. This will be a special day – with a luncheon provided by a hospitality team of church volunteers – and a visit from Bishop Ed, who will be confirming several new members. Please make plans to attend this celebratory event starting at 12 noon.**

Next year's expenses are anticipated to be slightly above this year's. While some uncontrollable expenses (such as property insurance) are expected to rise again next year, we've been able to hold down other costs, especially in the area of staff expenses. On the income side, however, the number of families pledging to support the church has declined somewhat as several faithful members have moved out of town. The stewardship flyer will explain how this shortfall can be made up if we all participate.

More volunteer opportunities>>>

Volunteer at Jane Phillips School Santa Shop

December 10 – 4:30-7 p.m. Help us wrap gifts

Jane Phillips Elementary Gym. Pizza provided!

December 13 – Help us set up for the wonderful event, from 2:30-8:30 p.m.

December 14 – *The Day of Santa Shop! The best day of the season!*

Shifts are 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Call 918-336-9479.



St. Luke's keeps its arms wide open only through the regular, predictable support from our congregational family. During next Sunday's services, members of the finance committee will provide an overview of next year's financial plan. This will provide you the opportunity to ask questions and further appreciate your part in walking The St. Luke's Way.



St. Luke's Fall Music and Godly Play Schedule

Prior to church, parent(s) sign child(ren) into to Sunday School at table in narthex.

10:30 am – Children enter sanctuary carrying the cross and banner after choir for opening hymns and children's homily.

10:40 am – Children walk out after homily.

10:45 am – Children walk upstairs with volunteers/teachers to music room for music time.

10:55 am – Godly Play I and II begins. (*separated by age*)

11:15 am – Children return to sanctuary after sermon during the peace to meet up with parent(s). (*Activity bags will be available in Narthex.*)

Reading Tutors sought at Kane Elementary

After St. Luke's adopted Kane Elementary School 20 years ago, we have had much success in the reading program for students that were falling behind in their skill level. Our team of tutors/mentors has meant much to so many Kane Kids over the years. Because of moving, poor health and other personal issues, we have seen a great drop in those St. Luke's members who can assist our Kane Kids this year.

The good news is that our tutoring times have become more flexible.



We thank Robyn Crow, former parish secretary, for her dedication to St. Luke's. We wish her success in her new business, Robyn's Nest, located at 101 SE Frank Phillips Blvd. adjacent to Bambino's, open weekdays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Her shop offers home décor, baby gifts, custom wreaths, silk and wood floral stems, framed art and candles. In addition to her expertise in home décor, Robyn offers event planning at Robyn's Nest. Her mail is robynprice@gmail.com and her phone is 918-213-5863.

Here are the possible times to help: Wednesday, Thursday or Friday at 9 a.m. (finished at 10 a.m. helping two students) and 9:30 a.m. (finished at 10 a.m. helping one student).

Tutors can volunteer during the lunch hour on any weekday (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) from 11:50 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (only 25 minutes as they go straight to lunch) or 12:50 - 1:30 p.m. (hopefully beginning almost on time from their lunch break).

To volunteer, please email Jo Baughman jybokla@aol.com and Vanessa Wallace, Kane Specialist, wallacevd@bps-ok.org if you can help this year. Vanessa will have you sign the paperwork and go over what you need to know individually before you begin tutoring. New tutors do need to go to the Education Service Center to go through the vetting process.

Many thanks,
Jo B., Kane Reading Chairman
for St. Luke's



St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joyce, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Lu, Suzanne, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, 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 TPBGEM@aol.com or the church office at 918-336-1212 or office@episcopalbartlesville.org. (Names on the Prayer List are rotated off every 4 weeks. If there is need for continued prayers, please let us know.)

Nov. 24 volunteers

Lay readers: Darian Kedy, 8 a.m.; Lauren Green, 10:30 a.m.

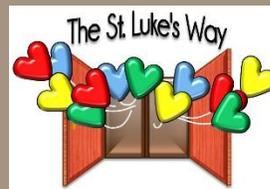
Intercessor: Darian Kedy, 8 a.m.; Penny Williams, 10:30 a.m.

Greeters: Sally Canfield, 8 a.m.; TBA, 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Dean Zervas, 8 a.m.; Jim Grillot, and Nancy Megee, 10:30 a.m.

Nursery Volunteers: Blair Ellis

Sunday Plate Counter: Jim Grillot



Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, November 28:

* Agape closed for Thanksgiving *

Thursday, December 12:

9-11am: Jeanne Julstrom, Becky Liehr
10:45am – 1pm: Kris Bonner, Rita Childers, Becky Liehr, Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary

1:00 – 2:45pm: Peter Julstrom, Miriam Petrovich, Wendy Hall

Thursday, December 26:

* Agape closed for Christmas *



final thoughts...

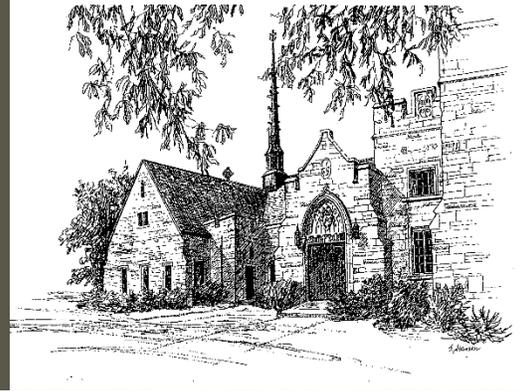
- Sunday's 8 a.m. services will continue to be held in the chapel.
- Be aware -- Father Steve will not request gift cards or other monetary support through email. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke's go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone call or in person.
- Sunday verses: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.
- Sunday sermons may be accessed at our website: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>
- There will not be a Nov. 27 newsletter. The next one will be prepared Dec. 4.

A note of thanks from Susie Clark: Thank you to Team Two...Laura Birk, Sally Canfield, Rita Childers, and Thelma Blackburn! Don's wife, Jean, was so grateful for all you did for Don's Celebration of life reception.

I am working on the Teams for this next year. We would love to have more team members and/or those that would be able to provide food/bake goods. So grateful for Jean Mason and Darian Kedy for becoming new team members and for Sigrid Williams for offering to help with the food.

Because of the nature of our ministry and the rotating of the teams, you might be called on just once a year or maybe a few times a year. I know there are those that can't be on a team but are willing to provide one food/bake good for the reception. This is so important and helps especially with the larger funerals. Please email or call me and I will explain more. In gratitude and love, Sueie Clark. Email: susstecla@gmail.com, 918-519-7580.

A little bit from the Bereavement mission statement written by our sweet Barbara Martin who we all so miss and will forever keep in our hearts: *"I love our Episcopal sendoff. The service and reception truly is 'A Celebration of One's Life.' I find it very humbling to be a part of this special ministry at St. Luke's. It is important that we continue offering this loving tradition for the members of St. Luke's and those they love."*



St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:
The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector
fathersdhood@gmail.com 918-330-6108
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon
dfreebern@gmail.com 918-914-0525
In an Emergency, contact any of the clergy listed above.
Roseanne McKee, Office Manager
office@episcopalbartlesville.org
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director
dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org
Dan Droege, Sr. Warden
dbdcomm.2@gmail.com
Doug McIver, Jr. Warden
dmciver@susandickcpa.com
Office Phone: 918-336-1212

Contact us at **918-336-1212**

<http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St.
Bartlesville, OK 74003