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

The Steeple



A Word from Father Steve

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

The Holy Season of Lent

The Holy Season of Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday service at 6 p.m. on February 26.

If you look up the word "Lent" in a Bible concordance you will be sorely disappointed. The word isn't there. And yet the church has set aside this time of Lent for most of its history. We have fairly clear proof from early historical documents that within the first 200 years of the church, a period of repentance and preparation for the coming of Easter was practiced by early Christians. By the time of the Council of Nicaea the mention of a 40-day fast for preparation and repentance is mentioned in the documents of that ecumenical council. But, whether or not the word Lent is found in the Bible or not, the words repentance and preparation are. The Bible is beset with people that are either repenting or in need of repentance. Preparation is also a major theme of both Testaments and we know that Jesus spent time in prayer and study in preparation for his ministry among God's people.

Ash Wednesday is a beginning point. It begins the church's long retreat in preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery: the celebration of the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the Christ. The Lenten journey is a journey for the sake of life, not only our lives but the lives of all of God's creation.

It begins with repentance which is the admission that our sinfulness leads to brokenness and separation from God, and this separation from God and this living for our own selves without regard to God or to the other is what deadens and what kills. Repentance is truth-telling. Repentance is witness. Repentance denounces, and in this, somehow we find hope.

The hope comes in glimpses of the kingdom, in those moments when the cacophony of suffering is drowned out by the playful laugh of a child or the smile from an adversary or the restoration of a penitent sinner. Repentance, restoration, healing, and justice are our collective focus during this Holy Lent.

Like Jesus asked the Pharisees, Jesus asks us:

Are we doing this for show or do we really want to repent and return to the Lord?

Are we doing this for ourselves or are we doing this for all of God's creation?

Enjoy the next fourteen days of Epiphanytide. The season of Lent is just around the corner.

Peace,
Father Steve

Coming in the Feb. 19 issue of the Steeple Newsletter - photos of Young Disciples presenting a check and food donations to CONCERN.



Retreat for High School Youth

The Oklahoma Episcopal Diocese will hold the "Created in the Image" Retreat for high school students on March 27 as part of a series of four separate retreats, held once a year, at which difficult topics our youth experience at school and in society and how our faith frames these experiences will be discussed. The retreats are facilitated by youth ministers from around the Diocese under the direction of the Director of Youth/Young Adults. The cost is \$125 each. Register at epiok.org or call the Diocese to learn more at 405-232-4820. Details of each year's retreat are on the website. Four-year participants will be recognized by the Diocese at their home congregations.



2020 GREATNESS OF OUR GOD TOUR NEWSBOYS UNITED

with special guests
Mandisa and Adam Agee

Sunday, February 16
7 p.m.

Bartlesville Community Center
Get Your Tickets Today:
BartlesvilleCommunityCenter.com
or by calling 918-337-2787.

Employment Opportunity>>>

*Nursery Worker needed on Sundays at 10 a.m. for 10:30 a.m. church service
This is a paid position. Please call the office to apply at 918-336-1212.*

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the upcoming Lenten Soup Supper and Programs on Wednesdays in March, and April 1, at 5:30 p.m. in Metcalf Hall. Disciples Christian Church will join St. Luke's for these suppers.

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, February 27:

9-11 am: Jim Liehr
10:45am – 1pm: Jeff Birk, Dean Zervas
Glenda Garrison, Darian Kedy, Jen Peterson,
1:00 – 2:45pm: Carol Murphy, Radomir Petrovich,
Becky Olsen

Thursday, March 12:

9-11 am: 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



St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Suzanne, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joyce, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Melt, Belinda, Wendy, David, Tracy, Linda, Terry, Leona, Connie, Tracy, 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 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.)

February 16, 2020 Volunteer schedule

Lay readers: Darian Kedy 8 a.m.; Penny Williams 10:30 a.m.

Intercessor: Kyle Peterson 10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Carol Murphy 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Dean Zervas 8 a.m.; Glenn Bonner and Jim Warring 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Plate Counter: Glenn Bonner

Sunday School Volunteers Needed:

Thanks to all who volunteered for January! Sunday School teachers are needed for February and March.

Doorkeepers/assistants too! Detailed lesson plan provided & video demo for each week's lesson. For info call 918-697-8509 or sign up online at

<https://volunteersignup.org/KDE74>

Keeli Droege, Christian Education Coordinator



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 or in person.
- Sun. verses: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37; Psalm 119:1-8.
- Sunday sermons may be accessed at our website: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>

Reminders: if you have meeting planned in any of the church rooms, let Roseanne McKee know via email or phone so that she can reserve it on the office calendar. Email: office@episcopalbartlesville.org
Phone 918-336-1212

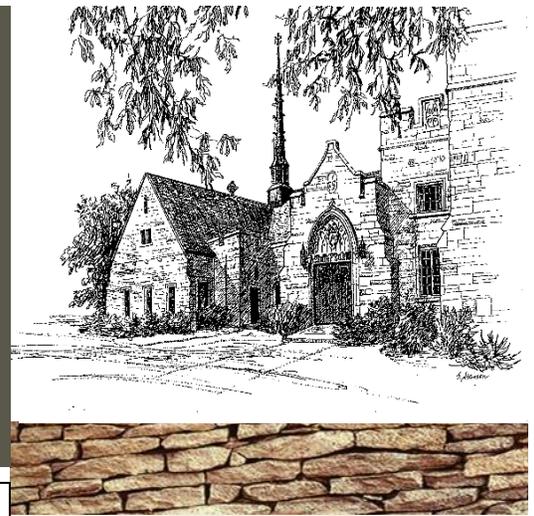
Also, some doors have been left unlocked after Sunday services. If you go out into the courtyard during coffee, please check to see that the door is locked. And, please check the right-hand north exterior door, as well as the left one, if you are the last to leave on Sunday.

Bereavement Team 1

Susie Clark, Nancy Woods,
Georgia Gates, Jeanne
Julstrom and Sally Lindsey.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:
The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector
fathersdhood@gmail.com 918-330-6108
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon, retired
dfreebern@gmail.com 918-914-0525
In an Emergency, contact any of the clergy listed above.
Roseanne McKee, Office Manager/Asst. to Rector (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