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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

All: In-person worship has been suspended by Bishop Ed until further notice; and he has indicated in a message to the clergy on March 21 that this suspension will extend beyond Easter. Since it will be awhile before we can meet again in person, St. Luke's will begin offering worship online beginning this Sunday at 10 AM. I also want to pass along some other things that are happening, so please read through this whole message. Links to all the things we are doing digitally will be finalized and available on our parish website by Saturday. If you get confused or cannot find something, please use the parish website as a starting point ([episcopalbartlesville.org](http://episcopalbartlesville.org)).

1. I will be leading Morning Prayer this Sunday morning at 10 AM on the Zoom meeting app. Zoom can be accessed on a computer or a Smart phone. There will be links to the service on the parish website and the St. Luke's Facebook page. I encourage you to look at the Zoom app in advance if you plan to attend the worship service. If we can get it to work on Facebook or YouTube live, the service will be offered there too. Again, links will be up on the webpage and Facebook.
2. The order of service has been sent to you in a packet you should have received this week. The readings for each Sunday through Easter were sent as well. The readings for future Sundays and Holy Week will be printed in *The Steeple*.
3. Audio version of the Sunday sermons will be available on the parish website. Video versions of the sermon will be available on Youtube at the St. Luke's YouTube site at <https://bit.ly/2QIgY7c>. Last Sunday's sermon is available now.  
For people that do not like Facebook, I've created an Instagram page. It will be used to post pictures and prayers and other encouraging items. You can find St. Luke's by searching on Instagram for episcopalbartlesville. Online giving will be available soon using an app called Tightly. More information will be available later this week.
4. Bishop Ed tested negative for coronavirus. He had been exposed but he is doing well.
5. The consecration for Bishop-elect Reed is rescheduled for Saturday, May 30. It will be held at a small venue and attendance will be minimized. It will be lived streamed and a public celebration will be held when we can do one safely.
6. If you need anything picked up and delivered to your home, please let the office know. We have a few volunteers willing to help our members that aren't leaving their homes.

Thanks for your patience over the past week. Trying to figure out how to serve the church remotely has been a challenge. The parish leaders and I are trying to make decisions that are prudent as well as sustainable. Additionally, a lot of what we are doing, we haven't done before, so please give us a chance to figure it out. We want your feedback and suggestions, but please remember that all of this is a work in progress.

Christ's Peace, Father Steve

## A-B-C-D-E-F-G

By Guest Columnist Mother Andrea Jones

Can you remember the tune that goes with these letters? Sure you do. You learned it in first grade. The tune is the “Alphabet Song.” The amazing thing is that even after more than sixty years the song is still used. Anything you need to find can be assisted by singing (under your breath) that little tune. For a short period of time I had a filing land abstracts-the tune was essential. Organizing legal papers in Iowa City, Iowa required the alphabet song over and over. Sometimes I would hear a colleague singing A-B-C-D in the next aisle. We would smile at each other on the way out of the Records Room. The song is just sooo familiar.

There are other songs, rhymes and selections that get into our minds, our hearts, our bones, and pop up in times of joy, boredom or stress.

I find songs used in advertising irritating, especially the new one for Alfa Romero automobiles. Using the opening bars to Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy* is just wrong, even if the words fit *their* idea for good retailing. *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*, for a car?? Like I said, irritating. Often advertising music is meant to be catching, meant for us to sing in our heads, so we will buy with our pocketbooks.

*Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep.* I prayed those words as a child, perhaps you did also. Did we understand at that tender age what a soul was? Not likely, but those words, they are ingrained.

*Our Father who art in heaven.* Now there is a set of words that gets into our souls. I have sat at the side of a dying person, lying in a coma, and when friends and family begin that prayer together, their lips move in sync.

Are people today aware that what we say, what we sing, what we think is part of who we are? That our minds follow what we allow within our thoughts? Where we go imprints on our bodies? Keeping our hearts and minds filled with good stuff is not easy. Much of our language is used to entice us to act and think in ways advantageous to the desires of other parties.

As a Christian I find it helpful to keep my ideas fixed on the good, the kind, the joyful. So, sing *The Ode to Joy* using the words. *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Look the rest of the words in our hymnal #376.*

Now if I could just get that tune out of my head. (A-B-C-D-E-F-G)

### **The Theology of Gratitude: Convocation and Scholars Conference**

***Register now to participate online at:***

[https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/theology\\_of\\_gratitude\\_registration](https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/theology_of_gratitude_registration)

The Theology of Gratitude Conference, which is now being offered at no charge, will be held online in order to ensure the health and safety of all involved and to include more participation. The one-day live webinar conference will take place on **April 24** and will be posted for later viewing at: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/conference/>. Participants who paid to register will receive a reimbursement. However, all participants will need to register at the website listed above to ensure there is enough space on Zoom to accommodate everyone wanting to attend.

The Scholars Conference will feature speaker Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D., Duke University, who will identify two ways in which gratitude is defined: as an exchange and as abundant grace given by God which all are called to share. Butler Bass will serve as keynote speaker and will unpack ways that gratitude is a radical practice that is needed now. Butler Bass is an award-winning author and internationally known public speaker and thought leader on issues of spirituality, religion, culture, and politics. In addition, six scholars from a wide-ranging set of disciplines, generations, and cultural groups will also present their diverse perspectives and experiences on “The Theology of Gratitude: Human Expressions While Living in a Complex World.”

## 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.*

### Ordination and Consecration moved to May 30

The Right Reverend Dr. Edward J. Konieczny and the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma have postponed the Ordination and Consecration of The Reverend Poulson C. Reed as Bishop Coadjutor in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church and Sixth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma until May 30. It will be held at a small venue and attendance will be minimized. It will be lived streamed and a public celebration will be held when we can do one safely. Additional details will follow as they are made available.

To read Bishop Elect's bio, visit: <https://www.epiok.org/bishop-elect>

### Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

#### Thursday, March 26:

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, April 9:

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, 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, Leaona,  
Connie, Tracy, Mark, Diana F., Jim,  
Bid, 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.)

### Habits of Grace: An invitation for you, from Presiding Bishop Curry

As we learn how to adjust our lives given the reality of the coronavirus and the request to do our part to slow its spread by practicing social distancing, I invite you to join me each week to take a moment to cultivate a 'habit of grace.' A new video meditation will be posted on Mondays through May. They can be found on YouTube by ping in the search bar: Habits of Grace by Bishop Curry.

### Pope Francis Invites Christians to Pray on March 25th

Pope Francis on Sunday invited all Christians to respond to the coronavirus pandemic "with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness", adding, "Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt toward those persons who are the most lonely and tried". Speaking after the traditional recitation of the Angelus, the Holy Father called on all Christians to join together in prayer. "In these trying days, while humanity trembles due to the thread of the pandemic, I would like to propose to all Christians that together we lift our voices towards Heaven," he said.



# Other thoughts...

- Although services have been suspended, the chapel will remain open Sunday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. with the stations of the cross posted.
- 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.
- Sermons may be accessed at our website: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>
- **St. Luke's is now on Instagram! Follow St. Luke's at [episcopalbartlesville](#).**

Dear Sunday School Parents,

Please check your email. I have sent out digital copies of the Godly Play lessons for Lent. I'm also going to send out prints of the plates for the story. If you don't have a printer, please let me know and I will mail you some.

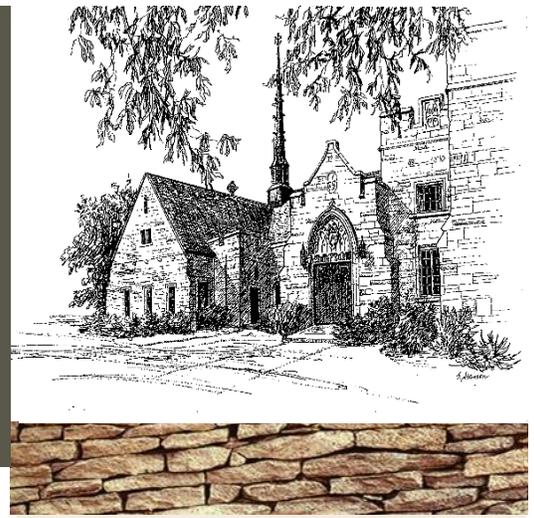
It would be great if you could go through these lessons with your children the next few Sundays. If they attended Sunday School the first three weeks of Lent, a few of the lessons may be review.

I'm also going to post a video on the church website (I will email the link as well) of the lesson for you and your children to review.

Please call, text or email me if you didn't receive my email or if you have any questions.

Gods Blessings,  
Keeli Droege  
Christian Formation  
[keelidroege@gmail.com](mailto:keelidroege@gmail.com)  
918-697-8509

**Office Info: Roseanne McKee, office manager/assistant to rector, is in the office Monday – Thursdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The north doors will be locked, but if you need anything, please call the office at 918-336-1212.**



St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:  
The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector  
[fathersdhood@gmail.com](mailto:fathersdhood@gmail.com) 918-330-6108  
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon, retired  
[dfreebern@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director ([dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Dan Droege, Sr. Warden ([dbdcomm.2@gmail.com](mailto:dbdcomm.2@gmail.com))  
Doug McIver, Jr. Warden ([dmciver@susandickcpa.com](mailto:dmciver@susandickcpa.com))  
Office Phone: 918-336-1212

## **Bereavement Team 1**

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



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