

## *In this week's Steeple >>>*

- Message from Father Nick
- A Prayer for a New School Year
- Faith Forum
- Pub Theology – August 26, at 7 p.m.
- Diocesan Newsletter
- Thank You St. Luke's!

# *The Steeple*



August  
12, 2021

## The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



### Off You Go

I think if you were to ask most folks what their favorite time of year was, they would probably refer to the time frame between October 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. I can think of several reasons why that is the case for me but I know that such feelings might not be the same for everybody.

If you were to ask my mom on the other hand, she would have said her favorite time of year was right now; the day before school starts. My mom taught first grade for over thirty years and nothing gave her more delight than stocking her classroom, organizing her lessons, and anticipating the arrival of her new class. Teaching was her passion and there was not a day more promising than the first day of school.

That day is upon us whether we have kids heading back to school or not. Today, with all of its uncertainty, is the day when our kids will wake up wondering where summer has gone, eat breakfast, shoulder their packs and head back to the classrooms that have been prepared for them. And it is my most ardent prayer that they will have a safe and wonderful year ahead of them.

In moments of uncertainty, as well as in moments of great anticipation, I often turn to God in hopes of finding a steadying peace. The peace I seek in those moments, I pray, gives me the strength I need to see the weary times through and the perspective I need to give thanks for the time that has been given to us.

My guess is that you know by now that the beginning of this year holds with it the usual unknowns as well as the ones that are driven by COVID-19. Understandably this has all of us searching for answers. And as people who care a great deal for one another it is natural to seek those solutions that will serve to make our community healthy and safe. So, as these solutions present themselves and become part of the fabric of what makes our community whole, I encourage you to join with me in holding our kids, teachers, healthcare workers, police officers and firefighters in your daily prayers.

While our children remain at the heart of our devotions there is, in fact, an entire social apparatus that surrounds them that is in great need of our faithful witness and prayer too. Of your charity and love I pray that our collective effort will meet the days ahead with a renewed sense of not only our confidence in one another, but our call and command to love our neighbor as ourselves. “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.” And as charged as this moment is, beloved, give grace and speak love. And let such prayerful energy join parents in their words, “Off you go.”

Deep Peace,  
Fr. Nick+

### A Prayer for a New School Year

God of Wisdom we come before you to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. It is a time filled with what we hope will be joy and excitement as well as uncertainty and wonder. We give you thanks for schools, classrooms, and virtual learning spaces and for the teachers, parents, and students who inhabit them each day. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. We give you thanks especially for your children and we ask that you bless them with curiosity and understanding. Give them open minds and open hearts to learn and to experience more fully the majesty of the world you have created. May this year be full of promise for them, and for their parents and teachers, as together they experience new beginnings and fresh starts. May they be guided by your love and protected by your never-failing care. Above all keep them safe O God. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the Temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. Amen.

## Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

### Thursday, August 12

10:45 am – 1 pm: Fr. Nick Phares, Becky Liehr, Kris Bonner,  
Dolores McCreary, Kathy Zervas, Jim Perrier

12:45 pm – 2 pm: Jeanne Julstrom, Peter Julstrom, Wendy Hall

### Thursday, August 26

10:45 am – 1 pm: Jeff Birk, Darian Kedy,  
Becky Olsen, Dan Droege, Jo Baughman

12:45 pm – 2 p.m.: Steve Clark, Steve VanAken, Carol Murphy

### *St. Luke's Prayer List*

The prayer list can be found in the Sunday bulletin and on the St. Luke's website.

Call or email our office with prayer requests at 918-336-1212 or [StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com](mailto:StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com)

## Summer Faith Forum Series



**Will resume August 22, 2021.**

## Pub Theology

Pub Theology is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will be at **7 p.m. Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Crossing 2nd.**

What is 'Pub Theology'? It's a time to gather informally and talk about different subjects around our core values of faith. What feeds your faith? Where did you see Jesus this week?

What literature are you reading that has had some inspiration for you?

A host of topics are brought up and discussed over drinks and appetizers.

(We pay our own tabs). There is usually a facilitator to throw out topics for discussion.

No politics, no gossip, and what is discussed in Pub Theology that is personal stays in the group. Respect the dignity of every person. It's a fun and relaxed time to get to know each other. Call the church office and let us know if you will be joining us so we can have enough tables set up at Crossing 2nd.

If you have any questions, contact Fr. Nick, Penny Williams, or Nancy Megee.

We will be happy to share. Let's share some theology!



## St. Luke's Makes Diocesan Headlines

In response to the outpouring of praise for the Backpack Program and our effort to respond to the Bishop's COVID update, St. Luke's made the Diocesan Newsletter. Please visit the [www.epiok.org](http://www.epiok.org) to sign up and learn more.



Thank-you to everyone who gave of themselves last week but thank-you especially to the Altar Guild, the Bereavement Team, our Muscisans, and of course the Flower Guild. Everything was so beautiful and done with love, care, and with arms wide open.

Well Done!

# Alert on solicitations...

Be aware – No one from St. Luke’s will request gift cards or other monetary support through email. If you receive such a message in your email, it is spam. 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.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries, August 12th – 19th

### Birthdays

Gretchen Matthews, 12<sup>th</sup>  
Angela Nelson, 12<sup>th</sup>  
Walter Allison 13<sup>th</sup>  
David Hall 14<sup>th</sup>  
Juanita Green, 16<sup>th</sup>

### Anniversaries

If your or a loved one’s name doesn’t appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

### St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector  
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## St. Luke’s Vestry Members

- Dan Droege, Sr. Warden – [dbdcomm.2@gmail.com](mailto:dbdcomm.2@gmail.com) 918-331-7936
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- Nancy Megee – [sc4me81@yahoo.com](mailto:sc4me81@yahoo.com)

Sunday’s altar flowers are given by Steve and Susie Clark:  
“In Loving Memory of Dave and Barb Clark”