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The Steeple



October 6,
2021

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Children and Youth Practices

I am excited to announce that we will resume the practice of Godly Play on October the 24th. Last Thursday, I had the chance to meet with Teresa and Keeli about our hopes for children's ministry here at St. Luke's and I came away from that meeting feeling confident in the direction our leaders are taking us. I'll let them speak for themselves, however, I would like all of you to know that we are blessed to have both Keeli and Teresa leading the way.

Over the years I've learned that Godly Play is more than just a Sunday School curriculum. It's a game changer. Children who take part regularly in what Godly Play has to offer end up shifting weight around in the life and culture of the parish. This is a good thing my friends. For children already possess an innate spirituality and what Godly Play ends up doing, is it gives them a theological vocabulary with which to engage their own spiritual journey. In turn, this ends up enriching our own spiritual identity as our shared common language begins to encompass not just adult lived experience but the wonder of children. Mind you, this is just one of the benefits of a solid practice, there are other gems yet to be uncovered.

If Godly Play is anything it is a practice for all involved, meaning not just children but storytellers and doorpers alike. It's important to recall that practices are a little different than programs and if seen in such a way add quite a depth to our spiritual experience – just ask anyone who has sung in choir or who has served on the altar guild. These are practices as well and I am glad that we will again be offering a practice for our children - one that will be nurtured by superstars.

In YD (Young Disciples) we have decided to forge ahead with Living Compass. Please visit: <https://www.livingcompass.org/> to learn more if you are interested. I've been a fan of L.C. ever since I learned about it and took measures in seminary to become a trained advocate. Our group seems to be uniquely built for this program. Indeed, there is a subject matter expert that can handle each point of the compass and that is something you don't see every day. So, if you see Jennifer, Tom, or Brad give them some time. They continue to guide and love our youth in ways that make me so filled with gratitude.

I hope you all remain well, and I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Every Blessing,
Fr. Nick+

Calling all Souls!

Old soles, new soles, good soles and bad soles. We want them all!

Do you have a pair of shoes that's falling apart? Or a pair that hurts your feet? Maybe shoes the kids have outgrown. Or a dressy pair you wore a few times and they've been sitting idle in a closet ever since. It's time to kick off the dust and make some good things happen.

St. Luke's Young Disciples are collecting shoes to redistribute to those who can use them right away for everyday use, job interviews, school, sports, church and more. Those old soles too far gone to wear much longer... you know those favorite, completely thrashed sneakers... YD has a plan for those too.

Instead of throwing them away and creating more waste, why not reduce your carbon footprint and recycle them? Nike Grind takes old, worn-out shoes and turns them into play surfaces, courts, tracks, floor, playgrounds and much more. They even recycle them into new shoes! YD will make sure your big stinkers get to the right place to make this happen.

So hurry! Run, don't walk, to the YD Shoe Drive. The clock is ticking! Race ends October 25!



photo caption: YD associate Heid Droege is pleased with the outpouring of shoes in only three days, but she knows there are many, many more pairs hiding in closets awaiting their next adventure.

photo by: YD member Daisy Droege

St. Francis Day Service with Blessing of Pets





CONCERN Needs

CONCERN is in need of the following items: Ramen Noodles, Sugar, Tea Bags, Complete Pancake Mix, Jiffy Mix, Toothbrush Kits, and Deodorant.

Also, believe it or not, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Please consider offering a contribution towards our annual fundraiser for Thanksgiving Pies. Please make your check out to St. Luke's and in the memo write Thanksgiving Baskets.

Summer Faith Forum Series



Sundays 9:15– 10:15 a.m. in Metcalf Hall

Rector's Bible Study



Thursday September 30th 9:00 a.m.

BARTLESVILLE OBSERVES ARBOR DAY

OCTOBER 9TH



PLANTING TREES FOR OTHERS

BY: REV. SCOTT STONER

My wife and I recently returned from a week spent in Voyageur's National Park, located on the border of northern Minnesota and Canada. It is a breathtakingly beautiful place with the unique claim that it is the only National Park that must be accessed via the water. Motors are allowed in this 225,000-acre park, and everyone must enter in a boat. Many people enter in fishing or pontoon boats, while some prefer to enter by canoe or kayak. People who want to stay awhile can camp in sites scattered over 55 miles of park shoreline.

We had the good fortune to rent a houseboat for the week we spent in Voyageurs. Each day we would move to a different sand beach and tie up for the night. Campfires on the beach and unparalleled views of the night skies were balms for our tired souls. We lost count of how many bald eagles we saw, including the awe of numerous occasions where we saw them swoop down and take fish right out of the

water. One night we moored right next to a tall grove of trees where a large group of eagles slept. We discovered this when at 4:30 the following morning, we were awakened by their loud screeching as they greeted the coming dawn. While I wouldn't want to experience this every morning, I am beyond grateful that I got to experience it this one time.

I love the history of places, and so between a visit to one of the park's visitor's stations (accessible by water, of course) and some further reading, I learned that a large group of people worked for decades to fight to create this park. After almost fifty years of work, they finally succeeded in 1975 to officially establish the park.

While enjoying some quiet time in the park, I wrote in my journal an expression of gratitude to those who had worked so hard to protect the sacred space that we were currently enjoying. Their work was a true gift to us, and even though we will never be able to thank them directly we gave thanks for their efforts.

During my quiet time, the quote above came to mind: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit." While the people who worked to establish Voyageurs may not have planted the trees we were sitting under, they fought to preserve the space, thus creating the possibility for us to be there.

As I get older, I think more about metaphorically planting trees under whose shade I do not expect to sit. How can I show up and give back to my friends, family, and community in ways that will, in some small manner, create a space for others to experience well-being they may not have experienced otherwise? I'm now thinking about how I can do this with my words, my actions, giving of time or money, and getting involved in supporting causes, communities, and institutions that will live on long after I am gone.

We have learned this past year a half how interdependent we all are and how the choices we make can affect people we may never know.

I'll close by simply asking you to join me in reflecting upon the question, how are you and I planting trees under whose shade we do not expect to sit?

From Bartlesville's City Beat:

The City Council declared Oct. 9 Arbor Day in Bartlesville during its regular meeting on Monday.

With the exception of 2020, Arbor Day is celebrated each year with a tree planting ceremony conducted by the Parks Department.

This year the ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Oct. 9 in Douglass Park, 509 S.W. Bucy Ave.

The public is invited to attend

This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Philip J. Fickling:
"In loving memory of of loved ones who have passed on to greater glory."

Birthdays and Anniversaries, September 30 – October 7

Birthdays

John Hood 7th

Robin Wiseman 8th

Becky Olsen 11th

Scott Peterson 11th

Lynda Stephens 13th

Anniversaries

Gene & Janet Holland 10th

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 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

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, October 14

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, October 28

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

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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.

Pub Theology

Please join us on October 28th !!!

Pub Theology is scheduled for the 4th Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 28th 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 Vestry Members

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