

In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Parish Picnis June 5th
- News from Roger and Joanne Green
- Theologian's Corner/ Augustine
- Pub Theology this week
- Schedule of events
- Birthdays & Anniversaries

The Steeple



May 25th, 2022

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



“21 and Counting”

... is a phrase that makes me grimace. And my guess is that it makes you do the same.

You know what I am talking about. Then there are our news feeds with prayers, calls for action, familiar and vehement divides, banal platitudes, trigger words and warnings, images, constant coverage, opinions – all reactions to grief, loss, and yet another tragedy.

Uvalde – Robb Elementary School.

Beloved, at the heart of our spiritual journey is grace and connection. I don't think anyone would disagree with me on that. Nor would you disagree, I think, with the fact that while grace and connection certainly are present - so are the realities of immense grief and great loss encountered along the way. Thus, our spiritual life will be and has been greatly fashioned by the interplay of all these forces and as such, the states of our heart that result from them are profoundly shaped by personal and communal experience.

As these experiences serve in forming our spiritual development, we begin to develop a sense of self-awareness especially, as it relates to the way our souls are interrelated with all of humanity through grace, connection, loss, and love. At times, crises of faith can arise when we try compartmentalizing what is collective or resist engaging with our reality as it is -- and a large part of our reality is grief right now – so know that and check in with yourself, a friend, and most certainly with Jesus.

Megan Devine, in her book *It's Okay that You're Not Okay: Meeting Grief and Loss in a Culture That Doesn't Understand*, once wrote that, “the truth about grief is that loss gets integrated, not overcome.” That's important to remember as the process of integration comes not just with time but through interaction with one another - namely through the mode of conversation where we hope that there will be several breakthroughs of substance in the coming days and weeks.

I am reminded that the solutions sought will not be perfect and “will not represent “my way” or “your way” – but I hope - that they will represent “our way” as a people united against violence. In short, the solutions that will last will be synergistic, meaning that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. And what is not a greater whole than the lives of God’s children.

Such synergy, we hope, will most likely manifest itself in a better decision-making process, better relationships, increased commitment to implement decisions made or a combination of two or more of these actions. My prayer will continue to be that through the process of integration we will find in ourselves the courage to do what we must, the patience we need to accomplish it, and the grace to bear one another in love through our grief especially when answering the questions of How Long? And Why? ourselves.

In Hope,

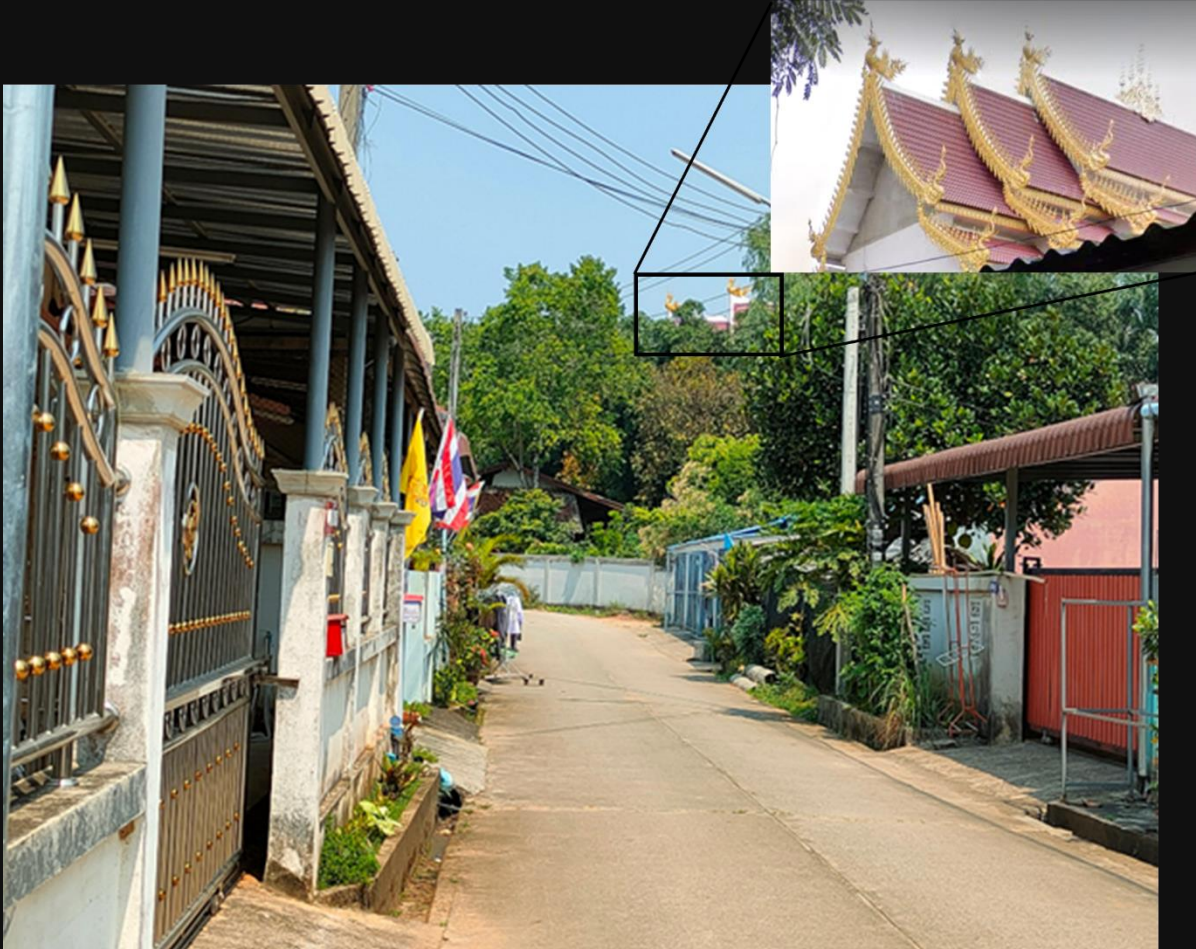
Nick+



June 5th, 2022 at Timber Oaks 1639 US HWY 60 West
No 8:00am service that day. Picnic will begin with the 10:30am
service at the venue. Meal provided. See you there!



Our neighbors sometimes take food for community meals at the Buddhist temple down the street. Other times people walk by in black for a funeral at the crematorium next to the temple. Recently a long white string was run from the temple to the neighborhood houses to show the flow of blessing to each house. These kinds of activities are part of the rhythm of life on our street.



Our house gate is on the front left of the photo. The golden curved spires of the temple can barely be seen in the upper middle of the photo, just above the tree line.

We are also a mile from the foot of a mountain range where 12 boys and their coach were trapped in an underwater cave in 2018. In a spectacular rescue they were all rescued by divers. This mountain range is called Doi Nang Non, which means "Mountain of the Sleeping Lady." A couple of legends are associated with the mountain. One is about a princess who fell in love with a horse handler and ran away with him. The young man was killed by the king

when he went out to find food. The princess then killed herself. The mountain range is said to be the profile of the pregnant princess lying on her back.



At the bottom of the photo is the back wall of our rented home. We can see the mountains in the distance. Our best guess is that those particular mountains are showing the profile of the "lady's face."

As with the entire country of Thailand, the area of Doi Nang Non has spirits associated with it. Our neighbors sometimes make offerings to these and other spirits. As we live in our home, please ask God to fill us with His peace and help us to be a blessing to our neighbors.

We are thankful to be visiting family in the U.S. until mid-June when we return to Thailand. Please ask God to provide abundantly:

- for Luke, Juliette and Oliver's getting settled in Austin, Texas, and for managing health challenges.
- for Katie (and Colin) in her last four months of physician assistant grad school, rotating in various clinics. Katie has very much enjoyed

some aspects of her training but has found some of the experiences to be challenging.

- for Daniel as he broadens his skills as a physical therapist
- for Esther as a medical assistant in a dermatology clinic this summer. One more year until she graduates from college.
- for Nathan who has done well with living in the U.S. and is continuing as a Project Search intern at Kaiser hospital two days a week despite chronic feet pain.

As we spend time with each of our children, we are asking God to strengthen them so they can send us back to Thailand with joy and excitement. We are eager to continue recording the Bible, make Bible phone apps and audio Bibles and teach pastors and leaders to use these among 15 people groups in a nearby country. Please ask God to open access to these groups soon.

Thank you for joining us with your prayer and care!

Joanne

I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

John 10:16

Our

[Ministry-at-a-Glance](#)

Our

[Newsletter](#)

[with](#)



[Photos](#)





Theologians Corner: Augustine

First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605

Although Christianity had existed in Britain before the invasions of Angles and Saxons in the fifth century, Pope Gregory the Great decided in 596 to send a mission to the pagan Anglo-Saxons. He selected from his own monastery on the Coelian hill in Rome, a

group of monks, led by their prior, Augustine.

They arrived in Kent in 597, carrying a silver cross and an image of Jesus Christ painted on a board, which thus became, so far as we know, “Canterbury’s first icon.” King Ethelbert tolerated their presence and allowed them the use of an old church built on the east side of Canterbury, dating from the Roman occupation of Britain. Here, says the Venerable Bede, they assembled “to sing the psalms, to pray, to say Mass, to preach, and to baptize.” This church of St. Martin is the earliest place of Christian worship in England still in use.

Probably in 601, Ethelbert was converted, thus becoming the first Christian king in England. About the same time, Augustine was ordained bishop somewhere in France and named, “Archbishop of the English Nation.” Thus, the see of Canterbury and its Cathedral Church of Christ owe their establishment to Augustine’s mission, as does the nearby Abbey of SS. Peter and Paul, later re-named for Augustine. The “chair of St. Augustine” in Canterbury Cathedral, however, dates from the thirteenth century.

Some correspondence between Augustine and Gregory survives. One of the Pope’s most famous counsels to the first Archbishop of Canterbury has to do with diversity in the young English Church. Gregory writes, “If you have found customs, whether in the Roman, Gallican, or any other Churches that may be more acceptable to God, I wish you to make a careful selection of them, and teach the Church of the English, which is still young in the faith, whatever you can profitably learn from the various Churches. For things should not be loved for the sake of

places, but places for the sake of good things.” This counsel bears on the search for Christian “unity in diversity” of the ecumenical movement of today.

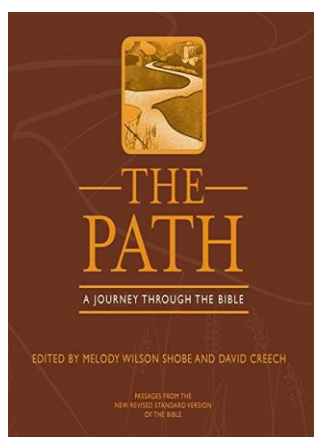
Augustine died on May 26, probably in 605.

FAITH FORUM on Sundays 9:15 a.m.- 10:15 a.m. Metcalf Hall

Easter Series – A 5 Week Series- Atonement.

May 29 Transformed Lives Reconsidered (Week 5)

June 5th Pentecost - No Faith Forum (Parish Picnic).



Starting June 12th

The Path- A Journey Through the Bible
(Forward Movement). Passages from the New
Revised Standard Version of the Bible.





Lectionary for the
Seventh Sunday of
Easter:

- [Acts 16:16-34](#)
- [Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21](#)
- [John 17:20-26](#)
- [Psalm 97](#)



Let us gather again **May 26th, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's.**
Good talk, good brew, good food, good friends, good time!

Dear Sunday School Parents,

We just finished a great school year of Godly Play and music classes! Thank you for sharing your precious children with Teresa and me. We will be taking a break from Sunday School during the summer months and will resume when school starts again. We may get together for an activity sometime during the summer and we will keep you posted. Teresa Phares will be at St. Crispin's all summer as camp

director. There is still time to sign up for this amazing opportunity at <https://stcrispins.org/camp>. Also, in order to have a successful program again next fall, we will need more storytellers and volunteers. If you would like to become involved, please call or email me.

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Thank You, Keeli Droege keelidroege@gmail.com 918-697-8509



Luke's Place May 26th -June 1st , 2022

- May 19th - Men's Breakfast, 7-8:30am Metcalf Hall
Rector's Bible Study, 9:15am Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm GC Village
- May 29th - Rite I Eucharist, 8am, Chapel
Rector's Forum- 9:15am-10:15am
Rite II Eucharist- 10:30am
COFFEE HOUR Metcalf Hall, after 10:30am service
- May 30th - Memorial Day- Office closed
- June 5th - Rite II Parish Picnic, 10:30am Timber Oaks

Morning Prayer is held every Monday- Thursday at 9am, Chapel

Evening Prayer is held every Monday-Thursday at 4pm, Chapel (or via Facebook)

Rector's Bible Study
Thursdays, Metcalf Hall 9:15am-10:15am
Studying the Book of Isaiah

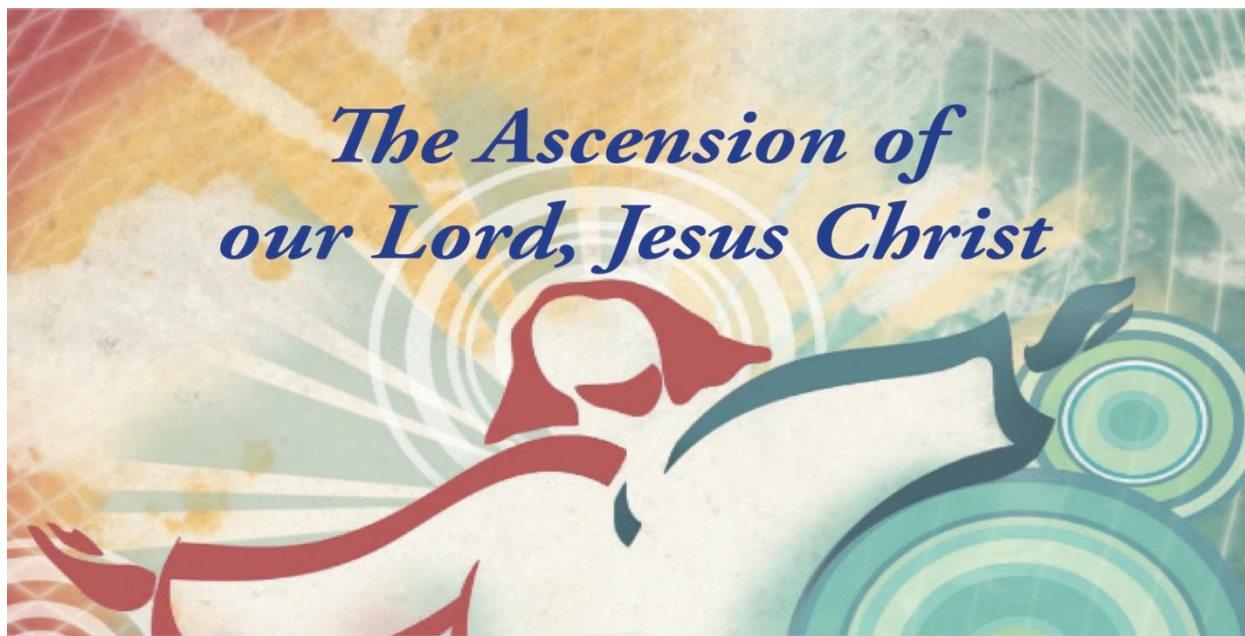
Birthdays and Anniversaries, -May 25th – June 1st , 2022

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Jim Liehr	5/28
Betty Hardin	5/28
Betty Hardin	5/29
Bob Gates	5/31

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 Vestry Members

- Doug McIver, Sr. Warden -- dmciver@susandickcpa.com 785-342-4328
- Nancy Woods, Jr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
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Or contact

Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157



From the Courtyard



Summer is almost here!