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The Steeple

January 16, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

A Note from the Office-

No message from Fr Nick this week, so I will highlight some things coming up and some needs within the parish. Pack the Backpacks is having a Bingo Night next Saturday January 25th here at St Luke's. I haven't gotten the details yet, but we, as a parish, always support the School Supply Drive here in Washington County. It is a remarkable service they provide. Check with Steve Clark, for tickets and time. I'm sure there will be concessions and bring extra money for the mini games.

We have mentioned the Annual Meeting is coming up and for those of you wondering what that means and what happens, here is a quick synopsis: The Annual Meeting is basically a business meeting for us. We will have a quick bite to eat (our wonderful Brunch Bunch will provide the brunch!) and then get down to business. We have a budget to review and approve for the coming year, elections for vestry (3-year terms), Diocesan Convention delegates, and Nominating Committee for this year, and remarks from our Rector and Senior Warden. Plans and goals for the coming year will be laid out and a look back at the accomplishments and highlights from this past year. Just gathering as a parish family, enjoying each other's company, and learning the plans for the coming year is a good reason to attend the meeting.

We still need some Sundays covered in February for the High Altar Flowers. If you have a Sunday that you would like to cover for a memorial or thanksgiving, please let Jo Baughman or the office know, and we will guide you on what to do to provide the funds for the flowers.

Another need is lay readers for the 10:30am service. I have been lay reading for over 30 years, but I still mess up, mispronounce, or forget something every time I serve. I am no public speaker, but reading the lessons and epistles, proclaiming God's Word can give you the confidence you need. Sometimes I am so caught up in the liturgy or

the Presence, I forget I need to be doing something, but according to past Acolyte Leaders, there is nothing I can do or not do, that will keep God from showing up. And I also know that this parish is very forgiving for any of my mistakes. So, if you have the slightest tug to serve at the Altar, please reach out to any of the lay readers who now serve. We will be happy to train and show you the ropes.

January is always a planning month around here. Planning the budget, planning the events for the coming year, planning YD for the last half of the school year, planning schedules of meetings, services, and celebrations. Sometimes we get so busy planning, we don't get to the usual things we provide. Meetings for this planning take up time that is usually spent putting the Steeple together or the bulletins or communication to you. After the Annual Meeting, we will be looking ahead to Lent and Midweek Mana gathering. Life will eventually even out around here.

Monday is Martin Luther King Day as most of you are aware so the office will be closed for the holiday. Fr Nick, Keeli, Courtney and I will be enjoying the long weekend as I hope you all will.

Stay warm this weekend with the frigid temps heading our way. I may just wrap up in a blanket and read a good book! Blessings!

Penny

At Luke's Place : Jan 16th- 22nd

Jan 16th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Jan 19th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Jan 20th MLK Day – office closed
Jan 21st Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
Jan 22nd Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall

Theologians Corner:
Confession of St. Peter
January 18, 2025

"When Jesus' disciple Simon confessed, "You are the Christ," Jesus responded, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church." This fisherman and his brother Andrew were the first disciples called by Jesus. Peter figures prominently in the Gospels, often stumbling, impetuous, intense, and uncouth.

It was Peter, you'll recall who attempted to walk on the sea, and began to sink; it was Peter who impulsively wished to build three tabernacles on the mountain of the Transfiguration; it was Peter who, just before the crucifixion, three times denied knowing his Lord.

But it was also Peter who, after Pentecost, risked his life to do the Lord's work, speaking boldly of his belief in Jesus. It was also Peter, the Rock, whose strength and courage helped the young church in its questioning about the mission beyond the Jewish community. Opposed at first to the baptism of Gentiles, he had the humility to admit a change of heart, and to baptize the Roman centurion Cornelius and his household. Even after this, Peter had a continuing struggle with his conservatism, for Paul, writing to the Galatians, rebukes him for giving way to the demands of Jewish Christians to dissociate himself from table-fellowship with Gentiles.
Though the New Testament makes no mention of it, the tradition connecting Peter with Rome is early and credible. According to a legend based on that tradition, Peter fled from Rome during the persecution under Nero. On the Appian Way, he met Christ, and asked him, "Domine, quo vadis?" ("Lord, where are you going?") Jesus answered, "I am coming to be crucified again." Peter thereupon retraced his steps, and was shortly thereafter crucified, head downwards. "I am not worthy to be crucified as my Lord was," he is supposed to have said.

As we watch Peter struggle with himself, often stumble, love his Lord and deny him, speak rashly and act impetuously, his life reminds us that our Lord did not come to save the godly and strong but to save the weak and the sinful. Simon, an ordinary human being, was transformed by the Holy Spirit into the "Rock," and became the leader of the Church.

Since 1908, the eight days between the feast of the Confession of Saint Peter and the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul have been observed ecumenically as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity."

Together we pray: Almighty Father, who didst inspire Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God: Keep thy Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer List

Please pray for: **Liz** Green, **Michelle** Sheffield, **Catherine** Sheffield, **Ben** Baker, **Steve** McCraw, **Josh** Harris, **David** Swindell, **Connie** Finch, **Tony** Clapper, **Terry** Grogan, **Tyler** Roberson, **Jerry** Nezam**, Miriam** Petrovich**, Lynette** Beebe, **Jack** Smith, **Danny** Clem, **David** McAtee, **Shawn**, **Stephanie** Gallegos, **Pat** Sare, **Jim** Carroll, **Kate** Carroll, **Steve** Linn, **Bob** Baughman, **Jean** Mason, **Adam** Thomas, **Bob** Lambert, **Tom** Oakes, **Bill** Pendley, **Mary** Wallace, **Connie** Freebern, **Lynda** Stephens, **Marcie** Zervas, **Margaret** Holden, **Audrey** Harris, **Peggy** Rockey, **Lauren** Barlowe, **Ken** Harvey, **Luke** Karel, **Nan** Buhlinger, **Bill** Birk, **Marty** Burke, **Kathy** Stewart, **Carol** McSpadden, and **Rebecca** Landreth.

Please add the following to your prayers this First Sunday after the Epiphany
St Mark's, Perry **The Church of the Province of West Africa**

Birthdays and Anniversaries Jan 19th – Jan 25th, 2025

Birthdays

Grace Stephens (1/19)
Glenn Bonner (1/20)
Ryan McIver (1/25)

Anniversaries

DJ & Jerry Nezam (1/25)

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!

Pilgrimage to England & Scotland - June 22-July 3, 2025

***** PLEASE NOTE *** *** PLEASE NOTE *** *** PLEASE NOTE *****
This pilgrimage replaces the "Pilgrimage to England" previously announced.
The destinations, travel dates, cost,
and registration deadline have all changed.

*** Please click here for the updated information. ***

The following is an invitation from The Rev. Dion Crider, Dean of the Iona School for Ministry, Diocese of Oklahoma.

I am thrilled to share that Fr. Nathan Carr and I are joining forces to combine our individual pilgrimages into one incredible journey to England which I will be leading June 22nd through July 3rd. This unified pilgrimage will not only celebrate our rich Anglican heritage but also include an expanded list of destinations that promise to inspire and deepen our faith.

A pilgrimage is so much more than just a trip - it's a sacred journey. As we visit these historic sites, their stories, beauty, and holiness will invite us to experience God's presence in new and profound ways. Together, we will walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before us, worship in spaces steeped in centuries of prayer, and reflect on what it means to follow Christ in our time.

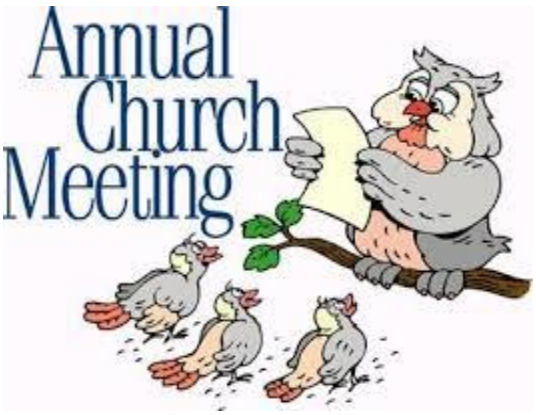
Here's the great news: **Spaces are still available, and the deadline to register has been extended to February 1!**

I would love for you to join us on this transformative journey. If you're interested, please feel free to reach out to me for more details. For a full itinerary, pricing, and information on the amazing places we'll visit, click the link below.

If you have any questions at all, please contact The Rev. Dion Crider at dcrider@epiok.org.

*** Please click here for the updated information. ***

YD Pizza and Bowling Night



Our Annual Parish Meeting is February 9th, after the 10:30am service. Our wonderful Brunch Bunch will provide the brunch during the meeting. The budget for 2025 will be presented, ministry reports, and the election for Vestry, Diocesan Convention Delegates, and Nominating Committee.

January Pack the Backpacks Item

12 count colored pencils, any brand will be the item for January 2025.
Wal-Mart prices
Pen + Gear $0.97
Crayola $1.97
Cra-Z-Art $1.22

Altar Flowers

All Sundays between Feb 2nd and Ash Wednesday on March 5th are open for flowers placed on the High Altar.
Please let me or the office know as soon as possible those that you would like to honor/memorialize on any of these Sundays. Fresh flowers always look so special on the High Altar and your message is noted in the bulletin.

The cost remains $50 minimum for each Sunday and if you have special requests for colors, tell us so we can let the florist know.

Many thanks,
Jo Baughman, Flower Fund Chairman
jybokla@aol.com

YD Annual Canned Food Drive for Concern will be soon. Let's make this the biggest year yet! Beginning February 1st, please make a point to bring as many canned goods as you can every time you come to worship until February 18th.

Province VII 2025 Forma Gathering @ St. Crispin's

Hope you can join us January 27-30 for the Forma regional gathering at St. Crispin's!

You can register here:
https://onrealm.org/epiok/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MTJmYTI4NmMtMDE1MS00MzYyLTliYmYtYjIxODAxNDY2OTUy

Monday Jan 27 (12:00 pm) to Thursday Jan 30 (4:00 pm), 2025

St. Crispin's Conference Center + Camp

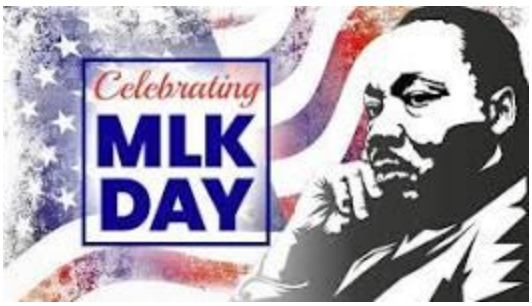
36302 OK-9
Wewoka, OK 74884
Monday Jan 27 (12:00 pm) to Thursday Jan 30 (4:00 pm), 2025
St. Crispin's Conference Center + Camp

Join us for an in-person gathering during the 2025 FORMA Conference, Come Away Together, Jan. 27-30. Enjoy attending the online conference with fellow formation leaders from other Province VII dioceses. We will have conference rooms available to watch different workshops, spend time together collaborating on what we learned, and share fun and fellowship in the evenings.
We look forward to gathering together for the FORMA annual conference and sharing what we learn and ideas that are sparked.
All meals and lodging while you are at St. Crispin's are included in the cost. The conference registration is NOT included in this cost.
***Be sure to ALSO register yourself for the online conference here.**

CONTACTS

Teresa Phares

To Jim and Cathy Perrier and family on the death of Jim's mother, Norma. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.



Monday, January 20th

Church Office will be closed for the Federal Holiday

To mark the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination in federal and state law.

Episcopal Relief & Development

Working Together for Lasting Change

Episcopal Relief & Development is actively supporting diocesan leaders in communities impacted by the Southern California wildfires and working with them to identify the needs of the people in their communities that have been severely affected.

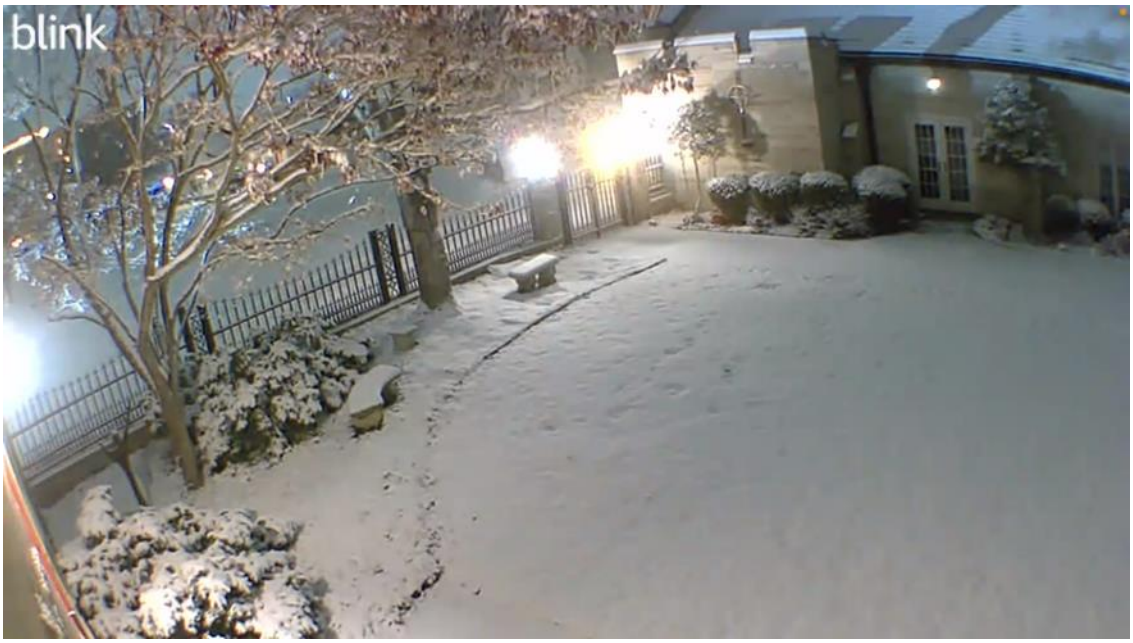
Here are some recent updates as the event continues to unfold:

- At least 24 people have died from the fires and 180,000 have been displaced.
- The winds have made the fires hard to contain and predict.
- A new fire, the Auto Fire, ignited late Monday. It is now fully contained.
- Episcopal Relief & Development has been providing spiritual support, technical resources and guidance to clergy and lay leaders who have been impacted by the fires.
- Episcopal Relief & Development is working with community leaders to plan and implement emergency, mid and long-term responses.

This is an active disaster. All are reminded **not** to send goods or to make plans to travel to the area to volunteer until the community is ready. Instead, consider making a contribution to the Wildfire Response Fund to support people in impacted communities now and in the long-term.

Please pray for the people being affected by the multiple wildfires in California.

St Luke's Courtyard during the last snow



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