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The Steeple



October 1, 2026



Ordinary Time

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



*From YD Leader, Blair
Ellis*

Finding Sanctuary (and Sanity) in the Stillness

At 9:00 AM on any given Sunday, the chaos begins. Chad wrangles the kids to get ready for church; and he's met with the inevitable groans and protest that the service is still an hour and a half away. Then comes the ritual of fighting over the front passenger seat...a valuable position for the two-minute car ride. Our teen driver opts to transport himself for a few minutes of solitude.

Once we cross the St. Luke's threshold, the battle begins to steer the kids away from the office candy dish. Despite our best efforts, they manage to smuggle out a few pockets full, which they will unwrap throughout the quietest parts of the service. Next comes the last-second shuffle of who gets to sit next to Mom. Even the teenagers compete to sit directly on top of me.

As we settle into position, the pew becomes a workshop of hangman and book-reading, complete with intermittent sibling rivalries. We wrap up with the highlight of the service: getting "a snack" at the communion table, immediately followed by a comparison between the younger two of who received the larger piece of bread.

Needless to say, getting the kids to and through a St. Luke's service is a process, but when we don't have a conflicting swim meet or sleepover, we show up.

My kids often ask why we go, especially because they sometimes see me question traditional aspects of faith. But for me, and likely for them, Sunday mornings aren't necessarily about theology, formal prayers, or recitations.

Years ago, I spoke with Father Lee, bringing him my doubts and struggles around the Episcopal service, along with what I actually enjoy: the silence, the ritual, the community. In response, Father Lee gave me permission to show up in a way that worked for me - to lean into the quiet, well-rehearsed order of service, and the close-knit community. By giving me that space, going to church transformed from something I struggled through into something I enjoyed.

I pass on that permission to our kids. They can read a book, bring crayons, or whisper quietly. Because the value they get from our Sundays at St. Luke's isn't necessarily found in the readings or hymn lyrics. It's broader and deeper.

With our kids (and all of us) inundated with news, notifications, and endless to-do lists, the calm of a Sunday service is a blessing. We step out of a hyper-connected culture into a sanctuary of stillness.

A Sunday morning gives us a break from devices and deadlines. Our minds can wander and our souls can settle. We give our children and ourselves permission to slow down, unplug, and embrace the art of sitting still.

Thank you to each of you for giving our kids a place where they can experience belonging across generations. You meet them with kindness, love, and grace. They are learning that they are seen, known, and valued exactly as they are. They know that they have a family broader than their own.

We are incredibly grateful for the compassion and generosity you show our children anytime they enter those red doors. We appreciate having all of you as role models in their lives.

The chaos of getting to church and the arguments we referee in the pew are part of the journey. The peace we find inside and the grace you extend along the way make every Sunday morning worth the effort.

At Luke's Place: Oct 2nd – Oct 8th, 2026

Oct 3rd	Patricia Legatski's service, 2:30pm
Oct 4th	Holy Eucharist, rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Oct 5th	Ladies Prayer Partners. 11:30am, Metcalf
Oct 6th	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
	Icon Group, 5:30pm, Icon room
	Bible Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Metcalf
Oct 7th	Walking the Mourner's Path, 2:00pm, WTMP room

Choir, 6pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Oct 8th Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Morning Prayer, 1pm, GCV

Prayer List

Please pray for: Ben Baker, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Connie Finch, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Lynette Beebe, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Steve Linn, Jean Mason, Mary Wallace, Lynda Stephens, Marcie Zervas, Audrey Harris, Nan Buhlinger, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, JoAnn Gallery, Kathleen Turner, Steve Clark, Dean Zervas, Frank Molina, Diane Mitchell, Frank Traylor, Steve Hand, Donna Steward, Penny Johnson, Shaina Smith, Ann Morrow, Miriam Petrovich, Jason Elmore, June Mosley, Larry Mueggenborg, Sherry Breitman, Barbie Hirst, Jack Stoecker, Dorothy Buchanan, Bob Lambert, Linda & Robert Preece.

Please add to your prayers:

Holland Hall School, Tulsa Casady School, OKC Oak Hall School, Ardmore
The Church of Bangladesh

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Oct 4th – Oct 10th , 2026

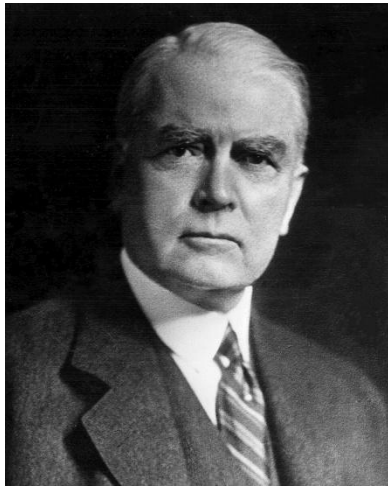
Birthdays

Anniversaries

If your or a love one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday and/or wedding anniversary.

Concern

Concern's current needs are: canned corn, peas, 16oz peanut butter and unisex deodorant.



Theologian's Corner: John Raleigh Mott Ecumenist and Missionary 1955

A dedicated missionary for the worldwide spread of the gospel, John Raleigh Mott connected ecumenism and evangelism as related tasks for modern Christianity.

John Mott was born in Livingston Manor, New York, on May 25th, 1865, and moved with family to Iowa in September of that same year. After graduating from Cornell University in 1888, Mott became student secretary of the International Committee of the YMCA and chairman of the executive committee of the Student Volunteer Movement. In 1895, he became General Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation, and, in 1901, he was appointed the Assistant General Secretary of the YMCA. During World War I, President Woodrow Wilson appointed him to the National War Work Council, for which he received the Distinguished Service Medal.

His ecumenical work was rooted in the missionary slogan “The Evangelization of the World in this Generation.” Convinced of the need for better cooperation among Christian communions in the global mission field, he served as chairman of the committee that organized the International Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910, over which he also presided. Considered to be the broadest gathering of Christians up to that point, the Conference marked the beginning of the modern ecumenical movement.

Speaking before that Conference, Mott summed up his view of Christian missions: “It is a startling and solemnizing fact that even as late as the twentieth century, the Great Command of Jesus Christ to carry the Gospel to all mankind is still so largely unfulfilled...The church is confronted today, as in no preceding generation, with a literally worldwide opportunity to make Christ known.” Mott continued his involvement in the developing ecumenical movement, participating in the Faith and Order Conference at Lausanne in 1927, and was Vice-President of the Second World Conference on Faith and Order in Edinburgh (1937). He also served as Chairman of the Life and Work Conference in Oxford, also held in 1937.

In 1946, he received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in establishing and strengthening international organizations which worked for peace. The World Council of Churches, the founding of which was largely driven by Mott's efforts, elected him its life-long Honorary President in 1948. Although Mott was a Methodist, the Episcopal Church recognized his work by making him an honorary canon of the National Cathedral. Mott died in 1955.

EVERLASTING God, who leads your people's feet into the ways of peace; Raise up heralds and evangelists of your kingdom like your servant John Mott, that your church may make known to all the world the unsearchable riches and unsurpassed peace of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

October Item: 24ct Colored Pencils



ALL THINGS PAUL

If you like to study the Pauline books of the New Testament or anything in the Holy Scriptures about the subjects discussed in Paul's writings, join us in Metcalf Hall every Tuesday at 6:30 pm for one hour.

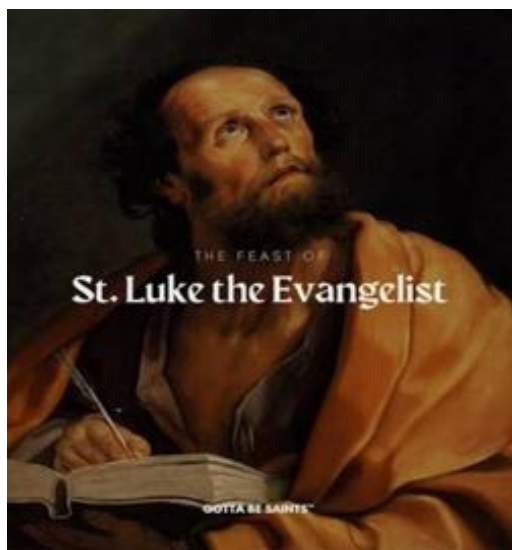
The topic for Oct 6th is : **Love is not boastful.**

Fall is in the air

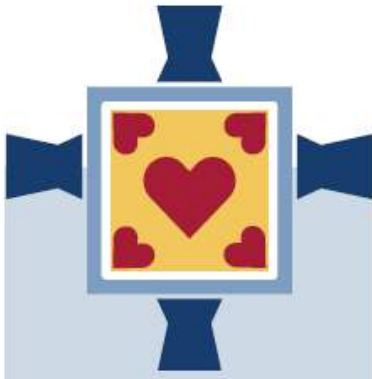




Please keep all our delegates in your prayers as they meet to do the work of the Church.



Oct 19th , 5:30pm. Lets honor our patron saint with a celebration of the Eucharist in the nave and a lite supper afterward in Rodgers. Fr Thom Crowe will be joining us for the evening. Let's celebrate St Luke at Luke's Place!



Plenty Good Room

There's Always Room for One More

Questions for Reflection:

So who's missing from your table?
Is there space at your table or do you need to add another in response to God's generosity and abundance?



The Rev. Debra Q. Bennett is rector of the Church of our Saviour, Akron and is past-president of the board of TENS.

In our household when I was growing up, and it is still true today, there was always room for one more in our home and at our table. It was not uncommon to awaken and find someone asleep on our sofa – whether an old friend of the family who just happened by or a family acquaintance who was experiencing a challenging time in their life. It could even have been the children of one of our upstairs neighbors who were experiencing conflict in the family. My parents opened our home to our schoolmates to keep them from going to a shelter while things were resolved with their parents. We shared our room and a space at our table to accommodate three additional guests. No matter the season there was always room at the Bennett Inn, there were loaves and fishes, and there was always plenty good room at our table.

Praying shapes believing and practice not only gets you to Carnegie Hall, it also makes perfect. 'You give them something to eat.' Jesus' words – an admonition to some an invitation to others – we get to embody in table fellowship where all are treated equally and all are fed. This way of being, this way of discipleship, this spirit of generosity and compassion was modeled for us by our family, in our church, and at our babysitter's home where no child was a stranger and tables were set in the eat-in kitchen and railroad length hallway and Sunday morning we were all given our envelopes with a dollar enclosed for the collection plate (if we didn't already have one). There was always room for one more and enough to share. There was plenty good room. Even now at our family gatherings we prepare for the unknown guest who may be invited to share our table.

A spirit of generosity and abundance finds its root in the beatitudes, in the story of the walk to Emmaus, in the wedding feast at Cana, and in the commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." Jesus made space for the vulnerable, the marginalized, the poor, and the list could go on ending with all of us. There was plenty good room at his table. When we respond to God's generosity in kind, there will always be enough, there will always be loaves and fishes, and there will always be plenty good room.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Karole Cozby, Sr. Warden
- Karen Lewey, Jr Warden
- Becky Liehr
- Chase Almy
- Lisa Beeman
- Steve Heidorn
- Dolores McCreary
- Steve VanAken
- Fred Whitson
- Robert Lonski
- Cathy Perrier

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