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The Steeple

Oct 16, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Nancy Gill Named Dean of the Northeast Deanery

In thanksgiving I want to share the news that the Rev. Nancy Gill of Claremore has been elected to serve as Dean of the Northeast Deanery of the Diocese of Oklahoma. Nancy is a dedicated priest and a thoughtful leader. Her election reflects not only her own faithfulness but also the vitality of congregations here in northeastern Oklahoma.

You'll recall that the Diocese of Oklahoma is made up of congregations that stretch from the plains of the Panhandle to the rolling hills of Green Country. To make our shared work more manageable, the diocese is divided into several deaneries, which are geographical groupings of parishes and missions. Each deanery has its own council, made up of clergy and lay representatives from each congregation, and together they are supposed to help strengthen communication and cooperation across our common life.

In this system, the Dean serves as a connector, linking the bishop and diocesan staff with local congregations. The Dean helps organize meetings, facilitates conversation among clergy and lay leaders, and supports parishes in times of transition or renewal. The Dean is also a pastoral presence to other clergy, helping to foster collegiality and shared purpose.

The Northeast Deanery includes congregations in Claremore, Bartlesville, Pryor, Miami, Vinita, and the surrounding areas. Though each parish is unique, together we form a network of mutual support and mission, bound by our shared identity as Episcopalians in this corner of the diocese.

But our deanery is not simply just a bureaucratic layer. The deanery is a vital expression of our life together. Deanery gatherings give clergy and lay leaders a chance to exchange ideas, plan joint ministries, and strengthen the bonds of friendship across parish lines. They provide a space for collaboration in outreach, youth ministry, and formation, as well as a forum for prayer and discernment.

The deanery also plays an important role in preparing for Diocesan Convention, the annual gathering where clergy and lay delegates from across the state meet to worship, elect diocesan leaders, and discern the direction of our common life. Before convention, the deanery helps to review resolutions, nominate delegates, and ensure that every parish has a voice in the wider Church's governance.

In that sense, the deanery is where diocesan life becomes local, where large-scale decisions meet the needs and hopes of real congregations and communities.

Please keep Nancy in your prayers as she begins this ministry, and continue to pray for our bishop, diocesan staff, and all who serve the Church across Oklahoma. May this new season of leadership be one marked by renewed collaboration, open communication, and joyful service in Christ's name.

Every Blessing,
Nick+

At Luke's Place: Oct 17th – Oct 23rd, 2025

Oct 19th	**Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Oct 20th	**Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf**
	Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room
Oct 21st	**Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library**
	Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
	Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers Hall
Oct 22nd	**Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room**
	YD, 6:00pm, Rodgers Hall
Oct 23rd	**Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall**
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

Prayer List

Please pray for: Ben Baker, **Steve** McCraw, **Josh** Harris, **David** Swindell, **Connie** Finch, **Terry** Grogan, **Tyler** Roberson, **Jerry** Nezam**, Lynette** Beebe, **Jack** Smith, **Danny** Clem, **David** McAtee, **Shawn**, **Stephanie** Gallegos, **Pat** Sare, **Steve** Linn, **Jean** Mason, **Adam** Thomas, **Tom**

Oakes, **Bill** Pendley, **Mary** Wallace, **Lynda** Stephens, **Marcie** Zervas, **Audrey** Harris, **Peggy** Rockey, **Ken** Harvey, **Nan** Buhlinger, **Bill** Birk, **Carol** McSpadden, **Dionna** Cameron, **Betty** Rogers, **Dan** & **JoAnn** Gallery, **Freda** Bretz, **Kathleen** Turner, **Steve** Clark, **Lauren** Gandy, **Susan** Brooks, **Dea**n Zervas, **Graham** Hunt, and **Tim** Brooks.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Eighteenth Week of Pentecost
St Andrew's, Grove The Anglican Church of Tanzania St. John's, Vinita St. Thomas, Pawhuska
The Church of the Province of Uganda

Pack the Backpacks School Supply Item for October

For October please collect Crayola Crayons 8 count. Please stay with the Crayola brand

Theologian's Corner:
St. Luke The Evangelist
Our Patron
(October 18th)

Almost all that we know about Luke comes from the New Testament. He was a physician (Col 4:14), a companion of Paul on some of his missionary journeys (Acts 16:10; 20:5; 27-28). Material found in his Gospel and not elsewhere includes much of the account of Our Lord's birth and infancy and boyhood, some of the most moving parables, such as that of the Good Samaritan and that of the Prodigal Son, and three of the sayings of Christ on the Cross: "Father, forgive them," "Thou shalt be with me in Paradise," and "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

In Luke's account of the Gospel, we find an emphasis on the human love of Christ, on His compassion for sinners and for suffering and unhappy persons, for outcasts such as the Samaritans, tax collectors, lepers, shepherds (not a respected profession), and for the poor. The role of women in Christ's ministry is more emphasized in Luke than in the other Gospel writings.

In the book of Acts, we find the early Christian community poised from the start to carry out its commission, confident and aware of Divine guidance. We see how the early Christians at first preached only to Jews, then to Samaritans, then to outright Gentiles like Cornelius, and finally

explicitly recognized that Gentiles and Jews are called on equal terms to the service and fellowship of Christ.

Luke is commonly thought to be the only non-Jewish New Testament writer. His writings place the life of Christ and the development of the early Church in the larger context of the Roman Empire and society. On the other hand, his writings are focused on Jerusalem and on the Temple. His Gospel begins and ends in the Temple, and chapters nine through nineteen portray Jesus as journeying from Galilee to Jerusalem. Similarly, the Book of Acts describes the Church in Jerusalem (and worshipping in the Temple) and then describes the missionary journeys of Paul as excursions from and returns to Jerusalem. Luke is a sweeping epic!

Together let us pray: Almighty God, who didst inspire thy servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of thy Son: Graciously continue in thy Church the like love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of thy Name; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Next Discussion 10/21: Discussion topic will be "Atonement: what is it?"

Concerns current needs are: sugar and "just add water" pancake mix.

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

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Brian Olsen	**(10/20)**	**Scott & Jen Peterson**	**(10/25)**
Kate Carroll	**(10/23)**		
Ruth Todd	**(10/23)**		

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

St Luke's has been asked once again to provide 300 pies for the Concern Thanksgiving Baskets. We are asking for donations to purchase the pies. We have until November 5th. Each pie runs around $6.00 each. Pam and Tim Hanson will be ordering & delivering the pies.

TELL OUT MY SOUL

A legacy of Faith A Future of Hope

The theme for Stewardship this year is an echo of the popular hymn "Tell Out My Soul". The hymn is a paraphrase of the Magnificat (Mary's Song) from Luke 1:46-55. It is a call for our entire being to proclaim God's greatness, live in the faith inherited from past generations, and find hope in God's promises for the future.

Lets join together... Sunday, Nov. 2nd

Stewardship Sunday

And proclaim God's greatness together as we place our offerings on the altar.

LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW... AFTER 10:30 SERVICE

St Luke's Trunk or Treat is Happening!
Oct 26th, 4:30pm- 6:00pm in Parking Lot

All ages are encouraged to participate. Bring guests! Anyone (youth or adult) who is in costume may trick or treat during this event. Please arrive around 4:00pm to park and prepare. Bring your trunk full of candy and your lawn chair. Lets fill up our lot with vehicles and fun time.
(in case of rain, we will move into Metcalf Hall)

YD “Street Tacos” and ARF

Last week we had a lovely Generation Connect event - with our 8:00 church members and a few volunteers from ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation). Our church leaders provided dinner and coordinated the visit.

Where is Jeff Birk and what has he been doing?

Jeff Birk is close to finishing his yearlong preparation in the field for ordination to the deaconate. Here is what he has been up to:

Jeff just finished his 9 month Field Education at Trinity Episcopal Church in Tulsa.
Opportunities he had:
Preached 3 Sundays (8 services)
Acolyte
Served Communion
Usher
Served meals at Iron Gate 4 times
Alter Guild-yes he had this opportunity
Set the Communion table
Annual meeting
Served at Wednesday noon Eucharist
And numerous committee meetings for cares of the church.

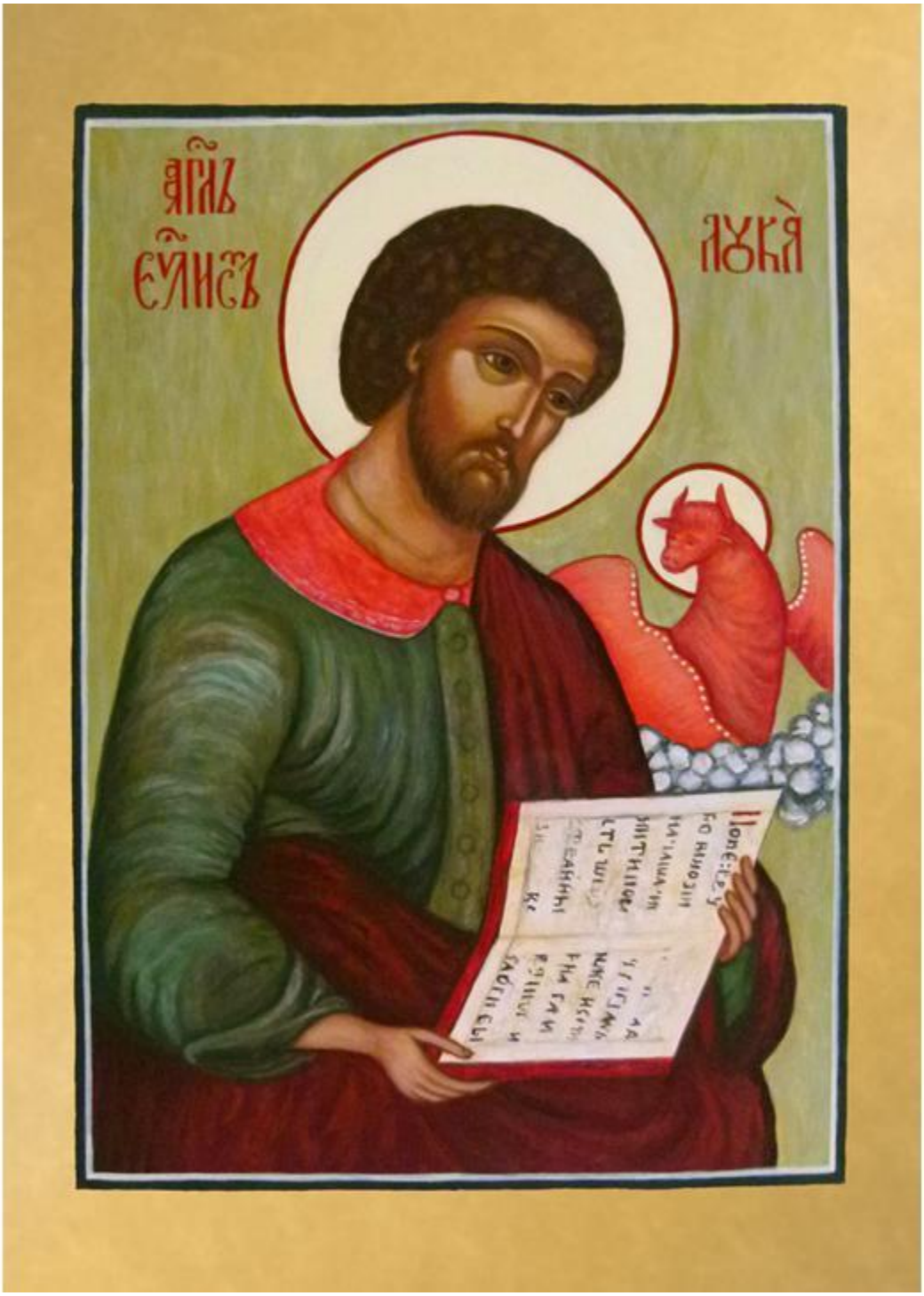
October 5th he will start his 3 month Field assignment at Espiritu Santo Episcopal Church in Tulsa.

He will be ordained at the Cathedral in OKC on January 17th at 4pm.

Jeff will continue with his classes through his Iona classes June 12-14.

Busy times for Jeff; please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

St Luke's hopes to have a caravan heading down to the Cathedral the day Jeff is ordained. Please plan on joining us on January 17th.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