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The Steeple

Sept 25, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Convention Edition

This weekend the whole Diocese gathers for the 88th Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. Let me just take a few moments to tell you how the Convention is planned, what its rhythm is meant to accomplish, and how what is happening there is deeply connected to what we are doing here in Bartlesville, especially as we approach our patronal feast and enter stewardship season.

Convention isn't just a business meeting; it's truly as a microcosm of diocesan life in worship, formation, decision-making, and fellowship. It opens with worship; the Eucharist - after which there will be workshops, offerings for clergy and lay leaders on topics such as evangelism, congregational vitality, mission strategy, governance, and faithful stewardship. The business session the following day covers the election of diocesan officers, adoption of budgets and resolutions, canonical matters, reports of ministries, presentation of grants, and so on and so forth. It's a busy weekend.

The theme for the coming year is: "The Harvest is Plentiful" from Matthew 9:37 which is a reminder of our baptismal calling to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. At its heart, Convention is the moment when the Diocese as a whole, discerns: Where is God calling us? How shall resources (people, funds, energy, etc.) be allocated? How do we support congregations like ours to live out mission more faithfully?

It may feel distant, "That's the Diocese," you may say, or "Let the delegates worry about that," or "What is a delegate anyway?" but the reality is: what happens at Convention shapes what we do here, and what we do here shapes the Diocese.

Moreover, this year's diocesan theme, "The Harvest is Plentiful," is not just a slogan. It is a summons: in Oklahoma, in Bartlesville, we are being called to see the fields ripe for harvest, to understand that God is at work, and that our calling is participation in that work. Thus, as we move into stewardship season, when we pledge to give, to invest our time, talent, and treasure in God's work we can lean into that theme. Our giving is not just sustaining a building or paying salaries; our giving is sowing seed, trusting that God brings growth. We can root our stewardship language in the same gospel imagery that the diocese is using and Tell Out Our Soul!

As mentioned above, there will be workshops led by people like Deacon Carrie Headington who offers some fresh ideas about evangelism, outreach, church planting, formation, and discipleship. Those conversations and resources, I hope, will make their way back to all congregations, including ours. We can benefit from them: adopt new approaches, test fresh experiments, learn from other congregations' successes and failures. And so, the convention isn't a showcase, rather it's a planning session for growing vitality that each parish can adapt.

True… budgets are adopted, grant funds allocated, and diocesan ministries are affirmed there. But, the Diocese cannot do everything everywhere, so it invests in ministry that benefits congregations and the common good. When we pledge faithfully, we are not just funding ourselves, we are supporting diocesan ministries that serve all of us: formation, campus ministries, social outreach, camp ministries, clergy support, canonical processes, etc. This shouldn't be lost. It's truly putting our money where our mouth is. The Diocese is our partner and our health is tied to that mutual network.

Because St. Luke's is part of this larger body, we have both privilege and responsibility. The delegates we send to Convention from our parish are your voices. Through them, you affirm diocesan direction, express concerns, vote on matters that affect us all. Remember that.

So, a few seeds: As we celebrate our patronal feast this month let that feast anchor us in gratitude and kindle in us a vision for where God is calling us next.

Let our stewardship season be more than a campaign; let it be an invitation to discipleship: to live as people who trust God with all we are and all we have, and to invest in God's work in Bartlesville, in Washington County, and beyond.

May we continue to be a congregation that listens to what the diocese is doing, discerns what is ours to do, and supports those efforts, not from obligation, but from joy and shared ownership.

Let us continue to pray for our diocesan leadership, delegates, and all the work of Convention, that God's Spirit would guide their decisions, inspire the workshops, ignite boldness in mission, and knit us more closely together as one Body of Christ in Oklahoma.

May this weekend's gathering sharpen our vision, deepen our commitments, and help us return to Bartlesville more united in purpose. And may we, here at St. Luke's, step into this stewardship season with faith and courage, as workers in God's harvest field.

I look forward to journeying with you in these weeks ahead.

Nick+

At Luke's Place: Oct 3rd – Oct 9th, 2025

Oct 5th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Oct 6th	Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
Oct 7th	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
	Altar Guild Meeting, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
	Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers Hall
Oct 8th	Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room
	YD, 6:00pm, Rodgers Hall
Oct 9th	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, and **Graham** Hunt.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Sixteenth Week of Pentecost

Holland Hall School, Tulsa **Casady School, Oklahoma City**

Oak Hall School, Ardmore **Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan**

Theologians Corner
Thérèse of Lisieux

Thérèse of Lisieux (2 January 1873 – 30 September 1897), was a French Catholic Discalced Carmelite nun who is widely venerated in modern times. She is popularly known as "The Little Flower of Jesus" or simply "The Little Flower".

Thérèse has been a highly influential model of sanctity for Catholics and for others because of the "simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life". Together with Francis of Assisi, she is one of the most popular saints in the history of the church.

Thérèse felt an early call to religious life, and in 1888 at the early age of 15, she became a nun and joined two of her elder sisters in the cloistered Carmelite community of Lisieux, Normandy. After nine years as a Carmelite religious, she died at aged 24, following a slow and painful fight against tuberculosis.

Thérèse is best known today for her spiritual memoir, L'histoire d'une âme (The Story of a Soul). It describes her "little way" of a simple life of prayer and small, good deeds. It was published a year after her death and became immediately very popular, likely leading to her canonization in 1925.

Together we pray: O Gracious Father, who didst call thy servant Thérèse to a life of fervent prayer; Give unto us the spirit of prayer and zeal for the ministry of the Gospel, that the love of Christ may be known throughout all the world; through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Next Discussion 10/7: Discussion topic will be "Can Evolution and Genesis co-exist?"

Concerns current needs are: canned chicken, Spam and small jars of peanut butter; and for the homeless: unisex deodorant, toothpaste and bars of soap.

Birthdays and Anniversaries Oct 5th – Oct 11th, 2025

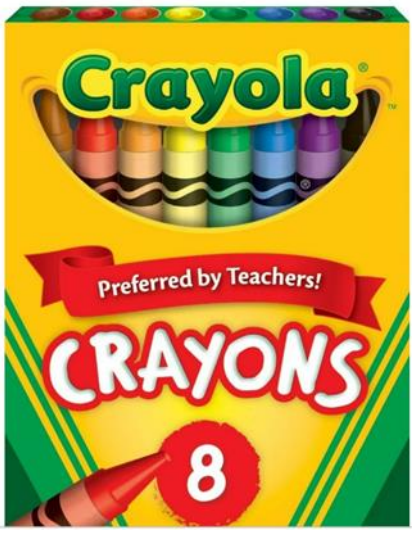
Birthdays

Anniversaries

Becky Olsen	**(10/11)**	**Robert & Karen Dahlgren (10/8)**
Scott Peterson	**(10/11)**	

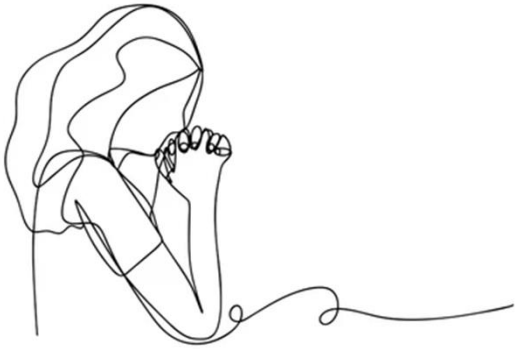
If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

YD Activities- Yardwork around the Church



Pack the Backpacks School Supply Item for October

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



Ladies' Prayer Partners is holding a votive Mass the first Monday of every month, 12:15pm, in the Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
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Bereavement Team 2
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