

The Steeple

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Oct 23, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Major Maintenance Begins at St. Luke's

At St. Luke's, our life together begins and ends with the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ - in the prayers we offer, the hymns we sing, and in the sacred space that has been handed down to us through the generations of the faithful. Every pipe, beam, and brick plays its quiet part in that story. The church building is not simply where we gather; it really is an instrument of ministry, one we are called to steward with the same care and reverence that we bring to our sacraments.

Over the past months, Dan Droege, Dennis Mueggenborg, your vestry and finance committee have been hard at work discerning the best way to care for one of the most vital (though unseen) parts of our building. After years of faithful service, the old piping and equipment that heat and cool our campus has reached the end of their lifespan. The system has been replaced, repaired, and patched countless times, but this year, the time came for something more enduring.

Following careful consultation, we received and approved a proposal from Integrity Mechanical Systems to re-pipe our system; a project valued over \$86,000. This includes the removal of the old chiller, installation of a new welded steel piping system, and full insulation and configuration to ensure efficiency and longevity. The work will be fabricated in their shop ahead of time to minimize system downtime, and the installation will come with a full one-year labor and materials warranty.

This is no small undertaking. It is a once-in-a-generation project, the kind of work that will serve not only us but generations yet to come; children who will grow up hearing the Word in a warm chapel, parishioners who will find comfort in the steady hum of a well-cared-for building, and guests who will feel the quiet welcome of a space that has been lovingly maintained.

As we commit to this work, I'm reminded of St. Paul's words to the Corinthians: "You are God's building... For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." Our stewardship of this place is an extension of that foundation. Maintaining the physical church is an act of faith, a sign that we believe this ministry will endure, that God's people will continue to gather here long after we have gone.

I want to offer heartfelt thanks to our Vestry, the Finance Committee, and especially to Dan and Dennis, who have worked diligently to ensure that this project is done with integrity, transparency, and fiscal responsibility. Their leadership reflects the best of who we are: a community rooted in prayer, dedicated to service, and mindful of the trust handed to us by those who built these walls long ago.

So, as the pipes are replaced and the boiler hums anew, may we see this not merely as maintenance but as ministry, a visible sign of our care for the house of God, and a reminder that every act of stewardship, no matter how practical, is also an act of love.

Peace,
Nick+

At Luke's Place: Oct 24th – Oct 30th, 2025

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| Oct 25th | Pack the Backpacks Bingo, 5:30pm, Metcalf |
| Oct 26th | Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel |
| | Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf |
| | Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave |
| | Trunk or Treat, 4:30pm-6pm, Parking Lot |
| Oct 27th | Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf |
| Oct 28th | Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library |
| | St. Simon & St Jude feast day Eucharist, 12:15pm, chapel |
| | Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers Hall |
| Oct 29th | Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room |
| | YD, 6:00pm, Rodgers Hall |
| Oct 30th | Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall |
| | Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall |
| | Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV |
| Nov 2nd | Stewardship Sunday luncheon after 10:30 service |
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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, Dean Zervas, Graham Hunt, and Frank Molina.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Nineteenth Week of Pentecost
St Paul's, Claremore **The Episcopal Church**

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. James of Jerusalem

James of Jerusalem is referred to in the New Testament as the brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ. He was for many years the leader of the Christian congregation in Jerusalem and is generally supposed to be the author of the Epistle of James, although the Epistle itself does not state this explicitly.

James is mentioned briefly in connection with Jesus' visit to Nazareth (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3). We are told that Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him (John 7:2-5), and from this, and from references in early Christian writers, it is inferred that James was not a disciple of the Lord until after the Resurrection.

Paul, listing appearances of the Risen Lord (1 Cor 15:3-8), includes an appearance to James. Peter, about to leave Jerusalem after escaping from Herod, leaves a message for James and the Apostles (Acts 12:17). When a council meets at Jerusalem to consider what rules Gentile Christians should be required to keep, James formulates the final consensus (Acts 15:13-21).

Paul also speaks of going to Jerusalem three years after his conversion and conferring there with Peter and James (Gal. 1:18-19), and speaks again of a later visit (perhaps the one described in Acts 15) on which Peter, James, and John, "the pillars," placed their stamp of approval on the mission to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:9).

A few verses later (Gal. 2:11-14), he says that messengers from James coming to Antioch discouraged Jewish Christians there from eating with Gentile Christians. (If this refers to the same event as Acts 15:1-2, then Paul takes a step back chronologically in his narration at Gal. 2:11, which is not improbable, since he is dictating and mentioning arguments and events that count as evidence for his side as they occur to him.)

On his last recorded visit to Jerusalem, Paul visits James (others are present, but no other names are given) and speaks of his ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 21:18).

Outside the New Testament, James is mentioned by the Jewish historian Josephus, who calls him "the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ," and reports that he was much respected even by the Pharisees for his piety and strict observance of the Law, but that his enemies took advantage of an interval between Roman governors in 62 AD to have him put to death. His death is also reported by the second-century Christian writer Hegesippus.

We remember James the brother of our Lord today.

Together let us pray: Grant, we beseech thee, O God, that after the example of thy servant James the Just, brother of our Lord, thy Church may give itself continually to prayer and to the reconciliation of all who are at variance and enmity; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Next Discussion 10/28: Discussion topic will be "Can you be a Christian and not go to church?"

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



The Star Tree will be making its appearance in the Narthex around Nov 9th. This is when we purchase a specific toy item for DHS foster kids. More information coming.....

Birthdays and Anniversaries Oct 26th – Nov 1st , 2025

Birthdays



Anniversaries

Ben Powell	(10/28)
Rhonda Cerveney	(10/29)
Rob Dahlgren	(10/29)
Grayson Ellis	(10/29)
Elaine Ryan	(10/30)
Lisa Beeman	(10/31)



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.



We will celebrate All Saints' Day on November 2nd . If you have any loved ones you would like on the Necrology prayer list read that morning, please call the office or email at :
stlukesbartlesville@outlook.com.



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.

Lots 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



Jo Baughman, recipient of the St Luke's Cross



Altar Guild Commissioning



St Luke's Trunk or Treat is Happening!
Oct 26th, 4:30pm- 6:00pm in Parking Lot
(or Metcalf Hall, if it rains)

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. Let's fill up our lot with vehicles and fun time.



STS. SIMON AND JUDE

APOSTLES

October 28th



Eucharist will be held October 28th , 12:15pm, in the Chapel

This day the Church honors Saints Simon and Jude, two of the Twelve Apostles chosen by our Lord. They were two of the first bishops through whom our Lord established His Church and from whom every bishop, priest, and deacon is a spiritual descendant.

Very little is known about these two Apostles, other than what is briefly mentioned about them in the New Testament, and even that is a little confusing. They are both listed among the Twelve whom Jesus names Apostles: [Matthew 10:2–4](#); [Mark 3:16–19](#); [Luke 6:13–16](#); [Acts 1:13](#).

Today's Simon is not Simon Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, but rather "Simon the Cananean" (Matthew and Mark) and "Simon the Zealot" (Luke and Acts). Both names mean the same thing. "Cananean" does not refer to the Land of Canaan but is a translation of an Aramaic word meaning "zealous."

It's interesting to note that Jesus chose a variety of different people as His Apostles. Perhaps the most stark contrast is found between Simon the Zealot and Matthew the tax collector. As a zealot, Simon would have been very committed to his Jewish identity and would have been firmly opposed to Roman oppression and taxation. He would have had an immediate aversion to Matthew, who previously served the Romans by collecting taxes for them from the Jews. The fact that Jesus did not choose like-minded Apostles shows His inclusion of all people. Jesus did not have a favorite type of person. He was not bound by cultural ties, ideologies, or social classes. He was not nationalistic in the sense of being a separatist or isolationist. He was interested in all people, those of every background and experience, and His Apostles reveal that fact. Jesus might

have chosen Simon because He wanted to reach out to those who were firmly committed to their Jewish heritage, traditions, and beliefs, and Simon was able to reach those people. Jude is referred to as “Judas son of James” (Luke and Acts) and “Thaddeus” (Matthew and Mark). The only other reference that is certain about Jude comes from John’s Gospel during the Last Supper in which Jude is referred to as “Judas, not the Iscariot...” ([John 14:22](#)). During the Last Supper, Jesus compassionately instructed His Apostles that He would soon be leaving them, but they should have courage and wait for His Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Jude, expressing a bit of confusion, asked Jesus, “Master, [then] what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” In other words, Jude was asking Jesus why He doesn’t just manifest His divinity to everyone, in a clear and convincing way, so that they will all believe in Him. Jesus’ answer is mysterious, but He essentially points out that belief in Him must come by the inspired gift of faith, and that obedience to that faith, and to the will of God, will result in divine union.



Ladies Prayer Partners will be having a Eucharist on the first Monday of every month as scheduled. Everyone is invited to join them for this service. The service is held in the chapel at 12:15pm. The next eucharist will be November 3rd.



Our Advent program will start Wednesday, Dec 3rd at 6:00pm with a soup and bread supper and end with evening prayer. Please consider bringing a soup or bread on one of the Wednesdays during Advent. A sign up sheet will be posted on the hall bulletin board mid-November.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk – lpbirk73@gmail.com
- Steve Heidorn- sgheidorn@yahoo.com
- Dolores McCreary – dolomc37@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Fred Whitson- sandyswhit@gmail.com
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com

Bereavement Team 2
Laura Birk, Nancy Megee,
Wendy Hall, Karen Lewey,
Debbie Mueggenborg

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector
269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
918-697-8509 keelidroege@gmail.com



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F
Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157