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The Steeple

Oct 30, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Signs of the Season

Every year about this time, something subtle changes on the shelves of the grocery store. The familiar red and green label of Cranberry Sprite suddenly appears again, bright and festive. For me, that's one of the signs that we've entered that season when the days are certainly growing shorter even while our light of our hearts grows brighter. It's not just the flavor of the days ahead; it's the taste of community of people leaning toward one another in generosity, remembrance, and hope; a time when our hearts are drawn more closely towards our neighbor.

This week, I watched Bishop Reed's latest video message on food insecurity across our diocese and State. His reflections reminded me that as we move toward Thanksgiving and Advent, the work of feeding others both in body and in spirit is at the heart of who we are. Here in Bartlesville, our own City Beat has highlighted the growing collaboration of the Homeless Task Force and local churches, civic groups, and nonprofits working to ensure that no one is left hungry or alone as the cold settles in. Meanwhile, the launch of the B the Light Mission is reminding us all that compassion is not seasonal but continual.

All around town, feeding ministries are gearing up not just for holidays but for suspected shortages: food pantries are stocking shelves, Agape is still planning hundreds of menus, and volunteers are preparing to give up a few hours of comfort so that others might have a warm meal and a kind word. That is critical and meaningful work friends. Here at St. Luke's, we are part of that holy rhythm: a community of saints, living and departed, who know that love multiplies when it is shared. And so, we shall.

As we mark All Saints' Day this weekend, we remember that our faith is not a private treasure but a public witness. Every act of stewardship, every pledge, every backpack packed, every check written for pies, every prayer offered becomes part of that great communion of care. To steward

St. Luke's is to steward the light of Christ shining in this part of Bartlesville - making sure that this place of grace is a part of the healing and feeding of this city we call home.

As you turn back the clock on Saturday evening, please join with me in the thanking God for the time that we have been given: a time to serve and to rest, time to remember and to give thanks, time to feed and to be fed, time to love and to be loved.

May Christ, who gathers the saints in every age, gather us too into the fullness of His light, His peace, and His joy.

Nick+

At Luke's Place: Oct 31st – Nov 6th, 2025

Nov 2nd	**Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
	Stewardship Luncheon, 11:30am, Metcalf
Nov 3rd	**All Souls' Day Eucharist, 12:15pm, Chapel**
Nov 4th	**Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library**
	All Souls Day Eucharist, 12:15pm, chapel
	Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers Hall
Nov 5th	**Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room**
	YD, 6:00pm, Rodgers Hall
Nov 6th	**Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall**
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Nov 8th	**Family Fun Night, 5:30pm, Metcalf**

All Souls' Day November 3rd. Eucharist 12:15pm Chapel

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 **Frank** Molina.

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

St Luke's, Bartlesville **The Church in Wales**

Pack the Backpacks School Supply Item for November

For November please collect 0.7mm (lead size) Mechanical pencils. 1000 are needed for all the students.

Theologian's Corner: John Wyclif

Translator October 30th, 1384

John Wyclif (also spelled Wycliffe, Wycliff, Wicliffe, or Wiclif) was born in Yorkshire around 1330, and was educated at Oxford, becoming a doctor of divinity in 1372.

In 1374, King Edward III appointed him rector of Lutterworth, and later made him part of a deputation to meet at Brussels with a papal deputation to negotiate difference between King and Pope. About this time Wyclif began to argue for "dominion founded on grace." By "dominion" he meant both the right to exercise authority in church or state and the right to own property. He maintained that these rights were given to men directly from God, and that they were not given or continued apart from sanctifying grace. Thus, a man in a state of mortal sin could not lawfully function as an official of church or state, nor could he lawfully own property. He argued that the Church had fallen into sin and that it ought therefore to give up all its property and that the clergy should live in complete poverty. This disendowment was to be carried out by the king.

From 1376 to 1378 Wyclif was clerical advisor to John of Gaunt, who effectively governed England until his nephew, Richard II, came of age in 1381. It is not clear what influence each man had on the other, but it is conjectured that John of Gaunt, who had his own reasons for opposing the wealth and power of the clergy, may have used a naive Wyclif as his tool. In 1377, King and Parliament asked his judgement on whether it was lawful to withhold traditional payments from Rome, and he responded that it was. Pope Gregory XI issued five bulls against him, but without effect. Wyclif's last political act was in 1378, when he argued that criminals who had taken sanctuary in churches might lawfully be dragged out of sanctuary. He then retired to private life in Lutterworth in 1381.

From Lutterworth, he published a series of severe attacks on corruption in the Church. These, although bitterly worded even for the time, might have found agreement, were it not that he also attacked the doctrine of transubstantiation (that, once the Eucharist has been consecrated, the bread is no longer present in reality, but only in appearance). He taught instead that the bread remains, but that Christ is truly present in the bread, though not in a material manner. This view cost him the support of John of Gaunt and of many other friends whose support he could not afford to lose. In all his controversies, he declared himself a loyal churchman, willing to submit his cause and his opinions to the judgement of the Pope.

In 1381, disaster struck with the Peasants' Revolt. It is unlikely that Wyclif's teachings, circulated chiefly among the learned, had any role in instigating the revolt, but the fact that many peasants were setting out to put to death all landlords, lay and clerical alike, made Wyclif's "dominion founded on grace" look extremely dangerous; and Wyclif's movement was bloodily suppressed along with the Revolt. In 1382, all of his writings were banned. In that year Wyclif suffered a stroke, and on 31 December 1384 a second stroke killed him. After his death, his opponents finally succeeded in having him condemned for heresy, and in 1428 his body was removed from consecrated ground. Later generations saw him as a precursor of the Protestant Reformation of the 1500's, but his direct influence on the beginnings of that movement appear to be surprisingly slight. (Only John Hus seems to have read any of his work.)

Wyclif is chiefly remembered and honored for his role in Bible translating. In the early 1380's he led the movement for a translation of the Bible into English, and two complete translations (one much more idiomatic than the other) were made at his instigation. (How much of the translating he did himself, if any, remains uncertain.) He proposed the creation of a new religious order of Poor Preachers who would preach to the people from the English Bible. Today, the Wyclif Foundation, named in his honor, is committed to translating the Bible into all the languages spoken anywhere in the world.

Together we pray: O God, whose justice continually challenges thy Church to live according to its calling: Grant us who now remember the work of John Wyclif contrition for the wounds which our sins inflict on thy Church, and such love for Christ that we may seek to heal the divisions which afflict his Body; through the same Jesus Christ, who livest and reignest with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Next Discussion 11/4: Discussion topic will be 'Demons'.

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

Star Tree

This year we have been asked to provide 40 Barbie dolls for girls 7 to 9 years old that are in foster care. The sign up sheet will be in the narthex beginning November 9th. Please bring all Barbies to the church by November 30th so they will be available for the DHS Christmas party the following week. Thank you as always for your support of this ministry.
Steve and Cheryl Van Aken

Birthdays and Anniversaries Nov 2nd – Nov 8th , 2025

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Janet Holland	**(11/2)**
Jeff Birk	**(11/3)**
Laura Birk	**(11/8)**

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!

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.

We are so close! $360 is all that is left needed to buy the pies! Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. 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.

THIS SUNDAY

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

THIS WEEKEND

YD

We had a great YD last week - Cooking with the Cutts! Calvin's mom taught us how to make beef enchiladas that we enjoyed together. Reid led us through the Verse of the Week and we enjoyed the beautiful fall weather playing outside.

Trunk or Treat

STOP

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
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- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
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Bereavement Team 2
Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Wendy Hall, Karen Lewey, Debbie Mueggenborg

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