In this week's Steeple >>>

- Fr Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Luke's Place Schedule
- Pack the Backpack needs
- Discussion Group
- Concern Needs
- YD Blessing of the Animals
- Family Fun Night

The Steeple

Oct 9, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

History in the Making: A New Archbishop of Canterbury

On October 3, 2025, the Church of England announced that the Rt. Revd. and Rt. Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally, DBE, currently the Bishop of London, has been named the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. She is the first woman ever appointed to this ancient see, founded in the year 597, and will be formally confirmed and installed in early 2026. This is a genuinely historic moment for Anglicans worldwide.

Within the worldwide Anglican Communion, the Archbishop of Canterbury serves as a "focus of unity," traditionally described as primus inter pares (first among equals) among the leaders (primates) of several *autonomous* member churches. The Archbishop convenes and helps guide the Communion's shared life but does not function as a global pope!

In England, the Archbishop also leads one of the Communion's 42 member churches: the Church of England. The appointment Bishop Sarah follows a distinctive process: a Crown Nominations Commission prayerfully discerns a candidate and submits the name to the Prime Minister, who advises His Majesty the King. After legal steps of election and confirmation, the new archbishop is installed at Canterbury Cathedral.

With that being said, it's a good moment to remember who "we" are as Episcopalians and how we relate to the see of Canterbury.

As mentioned above, the Anglican Communion is a global family of *autonomous* churches, in communion with Canterbury, bound by common faith, worship, and mutual consultation - not centralized control. Think of the Anglican Communion as a fellowship, not a single global denomination.

The Church of England is one of those autonomous churches. It is the historic, established church in England, with bishops who serve in the House of Lords and structures intertwined with the British constitution.

The Episcopal Church (TEC) is another autonomous church, governed not by Parliament but by a democratic, bicameral General Convention (House of Bishops and House of Deputies). We elect a Presiding Bishop as our primate, not an archbishop.

So, I hope you can see that the new Archbishop of Canterbury is not our hierarchical superior. Instead, she is a vital symbol and servant of unity across the Communion, including our own Episcopal Church.

Bishop Sarah's appointment affirms the Church of England's journey in recognizing the gifts of women in all orders of ministry. The Church of England began ordaining women as priests in 1994 and consecrated its first woman bishop, Libby Lane, in 2015. Naming a woman as Archbishop of Canterbury marks a further, historic step.

In the Episcopal Church, that affirmation came even earlier: General Convention approved the ordination of women to the priesthood and the episcopate in 1976, with the "Philadelphia Eleven," and set January 1, 1977 as the date for such ordinations. In 2006, we elected the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori as Presiding Bishop, the first woman to serve as a primate in the Anglican Communion.

This new appointment in England therefore resonates deeply with our own story. The Holy Spirit continues to raise up women to preach, teach, sanctify, and lead Christ's Church at every level.

This matters friends. While our churches are structurally independent, we share prayer, mission, and friendship across the Anglican world. A new Archbishop offers a renewed opportunity for collaboration in evangelism, justice, and reconciliation.

At a time when churches everywhere are addressing the safeguarding of God's people, rebuilding trust, and inviting a new generation to faith, Bishop Sarah brings experience as a cancer nurse and senior health leader, alongside pastoral depth as a diocesan bishop to the table. Her charge is a lofty one which will include shepherding unity amid real differences - a task all Anglican leaders share.

Certainly, moments like this invite us to pray for the Archbishop-elect and for the Anglican Communion as a whole, and to renew our local commitment to the Gospel, welcoming, serving, and witnessing here in Bartlesville.

Please join me in praying for Archbishop-designate Sarah Mullally, for the Church of England, and for the whole Anglican family as we step forward together in Christ. Shall we sing to Lord a new song!?

Indeed, Nick+

At Luke's Place: Oct 10th – Oct 16th, 2025

Oct 12th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Oct 13th	Office Closed- Indigenous People Day, Columbus Day
Oct 14th	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
	Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers Hall
Oct 15th	Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room
Oct 16th	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 Seventeenth Week of Pentecost

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

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

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: Wilfred Grenfell
Medical Missionary, October 9, 1940

Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, KCMG (February 28, 1865-October 9, 1940) was a medical missionary to Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen sent Grenfell to Newfoundland in 1892 to improve the plight of coastal inhabitants and fishermen. That mission began in earnest in 1893 when he recruited two nurses and two doctors for hospitals, at Indian Harbor, Newfoundland and later opened cottage hospitals along the coast of Labrador. The mission expanded greatly from its initial mandate to one of developing schools, an orphanage, cooperatives, industrial work projects, and social work. Although originally founded to serve the local fishermen the mission developed to include the aboriginal peoples and settlers along the coasts of Labrador and the eastern side of the Great Northern Peninsula of northern Newfoundland. For his years of service on behalf of the people of these communities he was later knighted by King George V. Grenfell died of a coronary thrombosis at Kinloch House on 9 October 1940, and his ashes were brought to St Anthony, where they were placed inside a rock face overlooking the harbor.

By 1914 the mission had gained international status. In order to manage its property and affairs, the International Grenfell Association, a non-profit mission society, was founded to support Grenfell's work. The Association operated, until 1981, as an NGO. It had responsibility for delivery of healthcare and social services in northern Newfoundland and Labrador.

Together we pray: Compassionate God, whose Son Jesus Christ taught that by ministering to the least of our brothers and sisters, we minister to him: Make us ever ready to respond to the needs of others, that, inspired by the ministry of Wilfred Grenfell to the sick and to seafarers in Labrador and northern Newfoundland, our actions may witness to the love of our Savior Jesus Christ; who with thee and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Next Discussion 10/14: Discussion topic will be "Atonement: what is it?"

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

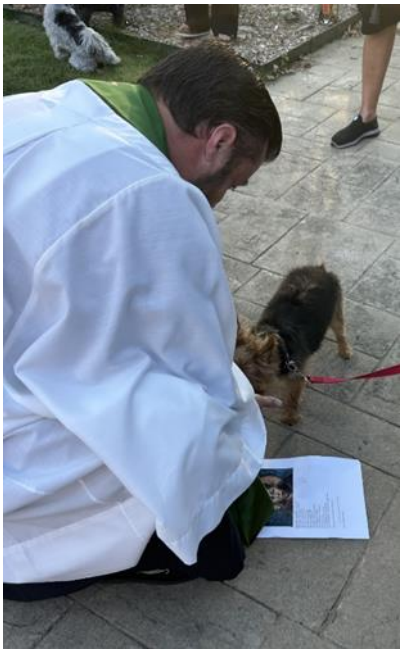
Birthdays and Anniversaries Oct 12th – Oct 18th, 2025

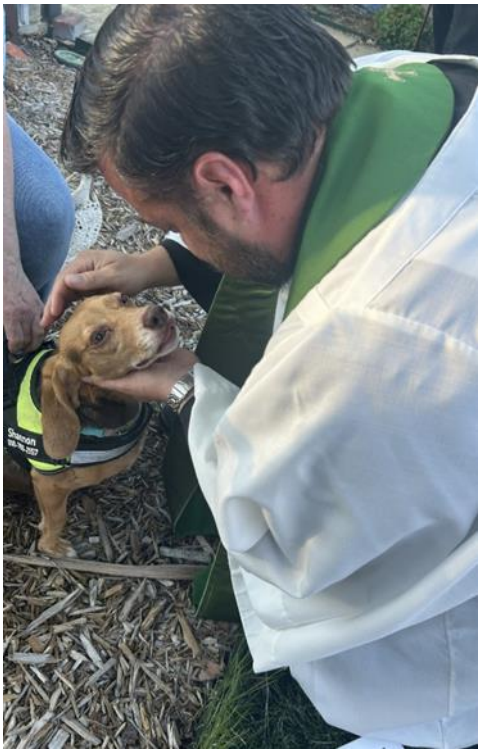
Birthdays **Anniversaries**

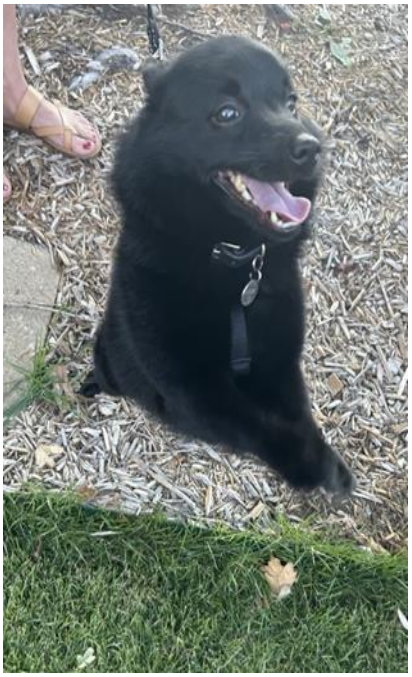
Michael Hutchinson	**(10/12)**	**Marvin & Linda Huffman (10/14)**
Doug McIver	**(10/13)**	
Jim Perrier	**(10/13)**	
Lynda Stephens	**(10/13)**	
Sandra Wells	**(10/13)**	
Andrea Jones	**(10/15)**	

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 Blessing of the Animals







Church Office will be closed Monday, Oct 13th for the Federal Holiday

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