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The Steeple

Nov 13, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Thankfulness and Praise

As we move deeper into this season of gratitude and generosity, I want to take a moment to celebrate the many ways our parish continues to show what it means to be the Church, not just in tending our building or because it is our Sunday obligation, but because this is home.

First, a heartfelt thank-you to Karen Lewey and Steve Heidorn, who chaired our Stewardship Campaign this year. Their intentionality and steady encouragement have helped us reflect on how our giving is a response to God's grace. Stewardship isn't simply about budgets or pledge cards, it is about gratefully tending to what God has entrusted to us, and Karen and Steve have embodied that spirit with humility and joy. We are stronger because of their ministry.

Thank you as well to our Game Night crew, who hosted an absolutely wonderful fellowship event last week. The laughter, the conversations, the shared meal, the spirit of community, these are the threads that weave us together. Fellowship reminds us that holiness is found not only in worship but also in the sacred gift of being together. You helped make that evening a blessing for everyone who walked through the doors. Thank-you.

I also want to offer praise and deep appreciation to Dan and Dennis for their tireless work monitoring and addressing our heating and cooling projects. The work is not glamorous, but it is essential. Their diligence ensures that our worship space remains warm, safe, and welcoming, and they handle these challenges with patience and care. They have helped us steward our building so that it remains a place where we can gather, pray, and grow.

Thank-you to the Altar Guild who joined our Young Disciples this week and showed them how to make communion bread. Thank-you to Nancy Woods who staffed the office this week while Andrea and I went to Clergy Conference. To Tom who kept up discussion group and prayer group at Green Country; thank you.

And how about this? We rejoice with Jeff, who has now been cleared for ordination this coming January. This is a moment of great joy not only for him, but for all of us. Ordination is a sign that the Holy Spirit continues to raise up leaders from within our own community, people formed

amongst us, shaped by our prayers, and upheld by our love. Jeff's call reminds us that the Church is alive, evolving, and being renewed. We celebrate with Jeff and Laura on this day.
Stewardship, fellowship, and ordination - three different expressions of the same truth: the Church becomes a home when each of us offers our gifts, our time, our joy, and our prayers for the flourishing of the whole community. Whether you are prepping for the boiler to turn on, hosting a game night, pledging your support, or answering God's call to ministry, you are helping make St. Luke's a place of welcome, warmth, and hope.
Thank you for all the ways you continue to build up this parish we love.
Nick+

At Luke's Place: Nov 14th – Nov 20th, 2025

Nov 16th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet, 4pm
Nov 17th Ladies' Prayer Partners
Nov 18th Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
Clericus, 10am, Vestry Room
Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers Hall
Nov 19th Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room
YD, 6:00pm, Rodgers Hall
Nov 20th 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 **Frank** Molina.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Twenty-Second Week of Pentecost

All Saints', McAlester **St Andrew's, Lawton** **The Church in the Province of the West Indies**

Theologian's Corner

Herman of Alaska
Missionary to the Aleut
November 15th 1837

This one is for Judy and Sam.
Herman of Alaska (born 1756 or 1760 in Serpukhov, Russia – died December 13 or November 15, 1837 on Spruce Island, Alaska) was one of the first Eastern Orthodox missionaries to the New World, and is considered by Orthodox Christians to be the patron saint of the Americas.
Herman was born in the town of Serpukhov near Moscow around 1756. Herman is his name in monasticism; his birth name is unknown. At 16, he entered the Russian Orthodox monastic life at the Trinity-St. Sergius Hermitage near St. Petersburg. Eventually he was tonsured a monk, though he was never ordained to the priesthood. A request was made for a mission into the Alaskan territory. Herman was selected to go, along with seven other monks.
Herman and the other monks arrived on Kodiak Island on September 24, 1794. The monks converted the native Aleuts, and as time progressed they found themselves protecting the natives from exploitation and abuse. Because of this moral stance the monks themselves were abused, arrested and physically threatened. In time, enduring hardship, inclement weather, illness and more, Herman stood as the only remainder from the original band of missionaries, the others either being martyred for their faith, dying of natural causes or returning to Russia.
Herman eventually built a hermitage on Spruce Island, about a mile and a quarter from Kodiak Island. A small chapel was built as well, along with a school and guest house. The local people would visit him often. He devoted his life to prayer and to performing those services he could do as a simple monk who had not been ordained to the priesthood.
He died on November 15, 1837, but was not buried on Spruce Island until December 13 because a priest could not come to serve the funeral, and was forgotten until the first investigation of his life in 1867 by Bishop Peter of Alaska. He was named a saint by the Orthodox Church in America on 9 August 1970.
Together we pray: Almighty God, who didst raise up thy servant Herman to be a light in the world, and to preach the Gospel to the people of Alaska: Illuminate our hearts, that we also in our own generation may show forth thy praise, who hast called us out of darkness and into thy marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION GROUP: Next Discussion 11/18: Discussion topic will be **'Angels'**

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

CALLING ALL ST. LUKE'S ARTISTS/CRAFTERS

The Bookstore would like to feature the talent here at St. Luke's. Paintings, sketching, sewing or handwork, beading, jewelry making etc. Items will be displayed and can either be for sale or for display only.

Contact Cathy Perrier at 918-336-7974 or 918-520-9927 for further information.

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

Looking for a few good men and women!

DO YOU LIKE TO PLAY IN THE DIRT?
OR...TRIM BUSHES?
OR...PLANT STUFF?

Then you too could be part of an ELITE team of helpers taking care of our grounds!
Contact Kathy Zervas for more details! Text: (918) 766-1445

Game Night

St. Luke's
Episcopal Church
Bookstore & Gifts

Christmas Open House

Saturday
Dec. 6th
10am–3pm

Sunday
Dec. 7th
11:30am–3pm

A selection of inspirational books, gifts, and seasonal items perfect for Christmas giving will be available.

ENJOY HOLIDAY TREATS
& DOOR PRIZES

What Brought the Heat on….

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Nov 16th- Nov 22nd

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Sandy Whitson	(11/17)	Peter & Jeanne Julstrom	(11/17)
Tonya Thurman	(11/18)	Ben & Katherine Powell	(11/18)
		Dennis & Debbie Mueggenborg	(11/22)

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

YD See Veterans Quilts Display

This past Wednesday, Laura Birk gave us a tour of the Veteran Quilts at the Community Center and we enjoyed some pizza, various games, and Verse of the Week back at St. Lukes. Thank you to Father Nick, the Birks, and Tom Droege for their help with dinner!

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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

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