

The Steeple

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Nov 20, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Mutual Ministry



Dear friends in Christ,

As we settle in for the Thanksgiving holiday, I am pleased to share that our annual Mutual Ministry Review has been completed. This is one of those quiet but essential practices that keeps a parish healthy and grounded. It may not be glamorous work, but it strengthens the very fabric of our life together and ensures that our ministry remains faithful, transparent, and aligned with the mission God has entrusted to us.

The Episcopal Church invites congregations to undertake a Mutual Ministry Review because ministry, at its best, is shared. No single person, committee, or office carries the whole weight of the Gospel. Instead, we hold this work together. The MMR allows us to reflect on how faithfully we are living into our mission, how well we collaborate, what gifts we are nurturing, and where God may be calling us to grow. It provides a way for clergy, staff, and the vestry to listen to one another with honesty and generosity, and it helps us name both our strengths and the areas where we can continue to mature.

The purpose of this review is not to criticize each other but to clarify our desires, hopes, and expectations. Through thoughtful feedback, evaluations, and reflection, we look closely at the ministries entrusted to us: worship, pastoral care, outreach, communications, and the many ways we serve God and one another. The process offers us a way to renew our focus and helps us deepen the trust that makes shared ministry possible.

Locally, the Mutual Ministry Review remains a living document. Its insights shape our staff, clergy, and vestry evaluations, guiding us toward healthier communication and more intentional collaboration. It serves as the foundation for our annual goal-setting day, helps us choose priorities that reflect who we are and who we feel called to become here in Bartlesville. And it provides the

first layer of reflection in preparation for our annual parish meeting scheduled in February, framing the story of our past year and setting the tone for the season ahead.

Some might wonder why we take the time to do this at all. Wouldn't it be easier simply to keep going and hope everything works itself out? But ministry is too important, and community too precious, to leave it to chance. Honest reflection is a form of stewardship. It teaches us to listen deeply, to speak the truth in love, to learn from one another, and to care for the well-being of the whole body. These reviews help us stay attentive to the Spirit's leading, strengthen our shared witness, and foster the kind of relationships that make a church feel like home.

I am deeply grateful for everyone who participated and for the thoughtful, prayerful engagement each of you brought to this process. Your openness and your commitment to our life together continue to inspire me.

Let us pray:

Gracious and loving God,
You have called us into fellowship in this place
and entrusted us with the work of your kingdom.
Guide our hearts, strengthen our hands,
and deepen our compassion for one another.
Bless the ministries of St. Luke's; seen and unseen
and make us faithful stewards of your love.
Grant us wisdom, courage, and joy
as we continue the work you have begun in us
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wishing each of you a joyful, peaceful, and blessed Thanksgiving, and every grace for the days to come.

In gratitude,
Nick+

At Luke's Place: Nov 21st – Nov 27th, 2025

Nov 23rd Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave

Nov 27th & 28th Office closed

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 Twenty-Third Week of Pentecost
Retired Clergy, Spouses, Widows, and Widowers The Episcopal/Anglican Province
Of Alexandria



Theologians Corner

Edmund of East Anglia

King and Martyr

November 20, 870

When the heathen Anglo-Saxons invaded Christian Britain in the 400's, they eventually established seven kingdoms: Essex, Wessex, Sussex (East Saxons, West Saxons, and South Saxons), Mercia, Northumbria, and East Anglia (three kingdoms of the Angles), and the Jute kingdom of Kent. (The borders between these ancient kingdoms are still borders between regions speaking English with different accents today.) Under the influence of missionaries from the Celts and from continental Europe, these peoples became Christian, only to be faced themselves by a wave of heathen invaders.

Edmund was born about 840, became King of East Anglia in about 855, and in 870 faced a horde of marauding Danes, who moved through the countryside, burning churches and slaughtering villagers wholesale. On reaching East Anglia, their leaders confronted Edmund and offered him peace on condition that he would rule as their vassal and forbid the practice of the Christian faith. Edmund refused this last condition, fought, and was captured. He was ill-treated and killed. His burial place is the town of Bury St. Edmunds.

Together we pray: Merciful God, who didst give grace and fortitude to Edmund to die nobly for thy Name: Bestow on us thy servants, we beseech thee, the shield of faith, wherewith we may withstand the assaults of our ancient enemy; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION GROUP: Will not meet on the 25th of November

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

Bookstore will be closed the week after Thanksgiving to prepare for the Holiday Open House December 6th.

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 is in the Narthex by the tree. 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



SAVE THE DATE!
saturday 12•13•2025
— Ho Ho Ho!



***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

Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra Veteran's Concert





*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**

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Nov 23rd- Nov 29th

Birthdays

Anniversaries

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

Thanksgiving Collect

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



YD Learn How to Make Communion Bread

This past Wednesday, we had the pleasure of learning how to make Altar bread with the Altar Guild and then were treated to some tasty chili and fall dessert. Did you know our communion bread is made fresh each week before our Sunday service?? Now we know why it's so tasty!! Then we hit the road to try to see the Northern Lights...maybe just some city lights, but it was an adventure with us ALL piled in the church van!





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Bereavement Team 2

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