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The Steeple

Feb 26, 2026

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Is This the Fast That I Choose?

Last week we reflected on what happens when intelligence becomes separated from consciousness, when information consumption eclipses the slow revelation of wisdom, and when technological power grows without a corresponding growth in moral depth? As we begin Lent, the Church offers a practice that feels remarkably suited to this moment. We fast.

Traditionally, fasting has meant abstaining from food, luxury, or habit in order to create space for God. But every age must discern its own excess. In our time, one of the most pervasive forms of excess is not simply consumption of goods but consumption of information. We live within systems of constant notification, algorithmic prediction, and data extraction. Technology is not merely a tool we use. It increasingly shapes how we see, think, desire, and relate.

The concern is not so much that technology exists. The concern is that information is becoming uncoupled from humanity, from moral responsibility, and from embodied relationship. We are witnessing what some have called a form of "non-conscious intelligence," systems that process vast amounts of data without awareness, compassion, or wisdom. These systems can optimize outcomes but cannot love. They can predict behavior but cannot understand meaning. They can generate knowledge without understanding truth. Lent invites us to ask whether our technological habits draw us deeper into the incarnational life or distance us from it.

I would suggest that a technological fast is not a rejection of modern life but a spiritual discipline that restores proportion. It asks us to step back from practices that erode our attention, fragment community, or substitute virtual engagement. Such a fast might include: Limiting algorithm-driven media that feeds anxiety more than wisdom; reducing compulsive checking of news, social

platforms, or automated feeds; setting aside periods each day free from screens; choosing presence over productivity when possible; examining how our devices shape our perception of others. "But this is where I get my news," you may say!

The Church does not call us to ignorance or withdrawal from the world. Christians are called to remain attentive to the needs of society, to injustice, to suffering, and to truth. The question is not whether we stay informed but how.

Lent offers alternatives that keep us connected while grounding us in a more human way of knowing. Here are some ideas: practice intentional reading; recover embodied conversation; engage locally versus digitally; practice silence and discernment; read deeply rather than widely. These alternatives do not remove us from the world. They return us to it more fully.

At the heart of Christian faith stands a profoundly countercultural claim: truth is not merely transmitted as information. Truth becomes flesh. The Word becomes embodied and the Word's Wisdom is inseparable from relationship. Perhaps the most probing question then is, "Where are most of my relationships found?"

Faithfully,
Nick+

At Luke's Place: Feb 27th – Mar 5th

Mar 1	**Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**
	Faith Forum, 9:15am,
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Mar 2	**Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf**
Mar 3	**Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library**
	Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers
Mar 4	**Choir, 5pm, Choir Room**
	Midweek Manna Lenten Program, 6pm, Metcalf
	YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Mar 5	**Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf**
	Bible Study, 9"15am, Metcalf
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Mar 6	**Pack the Backpacks Bingo, 5:30pm, Metcalf**

Prayer List

Please pray for: Ben Baker, **Steve** McCraw, **Josh** Harris, **David** Swindell, **Connie** Finch, **Terry** Grogan, **Tyler** Roberson, **Jerry** Nezam**, Lynette** Beebe, **Danny** Clem, **David** McAtee, **Shawn**, **Stephanie** Gallegos, **Pat** Sare, **Steve** Linn, **Jean** Mason, **Adam** Thomas, **Bill** Pendley, **Mary** Wallace, **Lynda** Stephens, **Marcie** Zervas, **Audrey** Harris, **Peggy** Rockey, **Nan** Buhlinger, **Bill** Birk, **Carol** McSpadden, **Dionna** Cameron, **Betty** Rogers, **Dan** & **JoAnn** Gallery, **Kathleen** Turner, **Steve** Clark, **Lauren** Gandy, **Susan** Brooks, **Dea**n Zervas, **Frank** Molina, **Diane** Mitchell, **Frank** Traylor, **Steve** Hand, **Donna** Steward, **Clay** Smith, **Penny** Johnson, **Kim** Shipman, **Matt** Clark, **Jackie** Lynch, and **Nancy** Casteel.

Please add the following to your prayers for the First Week in Lent:
St. Martin of Tours, Pryor The Church of Ireland

February requested Item:

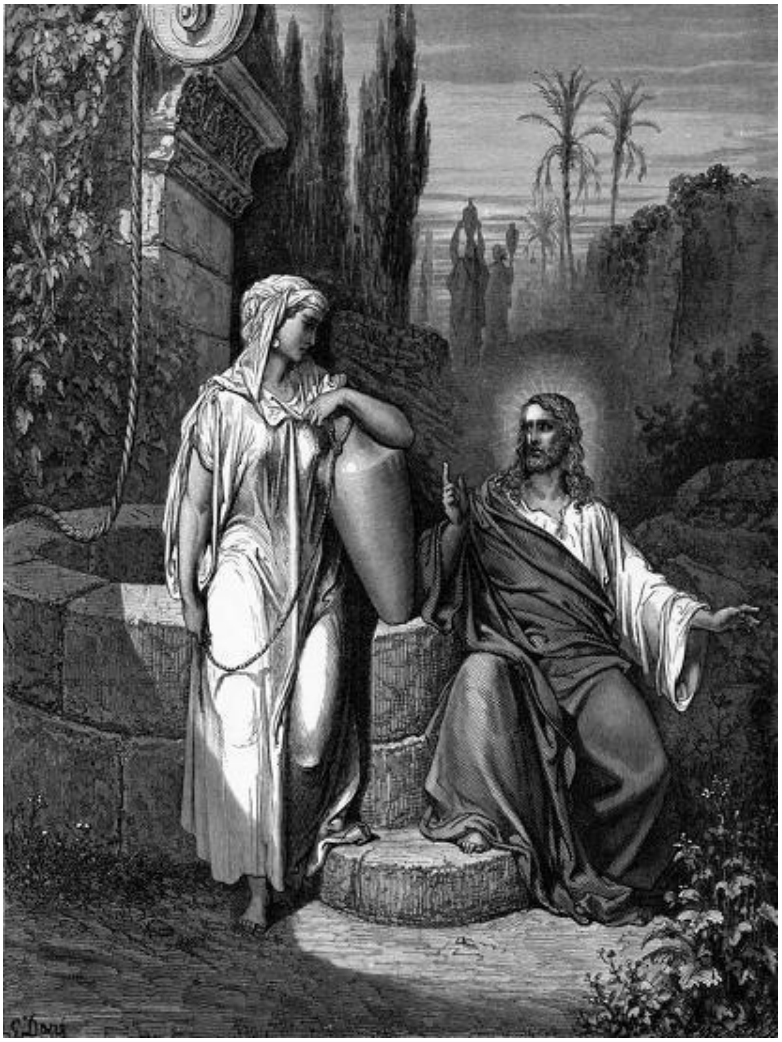
8 or 16 Watercolors, Crayola preferred but any brand

Daily Office

The Daily Office is an ancient Christian practice of set-time prayer, commonly known as the "Liturgy of the Hours," designed to consecrate the day through Scripture, Psalms, and prayer. Primary services include Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Evening Prayer (Vespers), with options for Noonday Prayer and Compline (night prayer), often found in the Book of Common Prayer.

Daily office is offered at St. Lukes every morning, Monday-Friday at 9am in the chapel. Evening Prayer is offered Monday -Thursday at 4pm, also in the chapel.

Noon Day and Compline may be said on your own and are found in the Book of Common Prayer.



Theologian's Corner: Photini The Samaritan Woman (c.67)

The Samaritan woman at the well is a figure from the Gospel of John, in John 4:4–26. In Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Catholic traditions, she is venerated as a saint with the name Photine (also Photini, Photina, meaning "the luminous one").

In Eastern Christian tradition, the woman's name at the time of her meeting Jesus is unknown, though she was later christened "Photina". Her continuing witness is said to have brought so many to the Christian faith that she is described as "equal to the apostles". Eventually, having drawn the attention of Emperor Nero, she was brought before him to answer for her faith, suffering many tortures and dying a martyr after being thrown down a dry well.

Together we pray: O Almighty God, whose most blessed Son didst reveal to the Samaritan woman that He is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the World; Grant us to drink of the well that springeth up to everlasting life that we may worship Thee in spirit and in truth through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Discussion Group

The Tuesday Discussion Group will meet March 3rd,at 6:30pm in Rodgers Hall.
The topic is "How does God speak to us today?"

To Susan Hunt and family on the death of her father, Ed Beasley. Ed passed away Feb 17th . Ed and his wife Sydney were active members of St. Luke's for many years. Ed's memorial service and interment will be March 7th , 2pm, at St Luke's. In leiu of flowers the family is asking that donations be made to St. Luke's to benefit the Young Disciples.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for March 1st-7th

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Jerry Nezam	(3/1)	Jim & Becky Liehr	(3/3)
Steve McCraw	(3/2)	Doug & Jen McIver	(3/3)

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.

Concern

Concern's current needs are **canned green beans** and **canned peas**.

Lent(il) Study and Supper

When? Every Wednesday in Lent, 6pm
Where? Metcalf Hall
What? Light Supper of soup and bread, then study on the Gospel of Nicodemus or the Acts of Pilate

JOIN US

Lenten Dinners sign up is on the bulletin board across from the office. It's the usual request of soup, bread, and cookies. The YD will be joining us for dinner.

Back to the Basics!

Next month, we will begin a new program of faith formation to be known as "Back to the Basics." This will be a study of the Catechism of the Episcopal church. The catechism can be found in the Book of Common Prayer, pages 844 through 862. If you have ever wondered why we do what we do and worship like we worship, this course will be for you.

Who should participate in this study?

- Anyone who is desiring membership in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bartlesville. Oklahoma should attend this study in advance of the bi-annual visit of our Diocesan Bishop. Aspirants who have been baptized in another church will seek "Reception" while someone who has not been the member of another church will seek "Confirmation" from the Bishop.
- Any current member of St. Luke's who did not have the opportunity to participate in a course of study in the ways of the Episcopal Church can benefit from this study.
- Any worshiper at St. Luke's who just wants to learn – or relearn the essentials of the Christian faith as practiced at St. Luke's will benefit from this study.

What is the time and place of this study?

- We will meet at St. Luke's in a room suitable to the size of the group.
- We will meet once per month for ninety minutes starting in March and ending in October. A total of eight meetings.

If you are interested in this program or would like to learn more about it, please call our Lay Catechist, Tom Reyburn at 970-209-4695 or email him at SjMtnMan@gmail.com.

Brunch Bunch is at it again!

Our wonderful Brunch Bunch is serving up brunch March 15th after the 10:30am service. Come and join in for joyful fellowship and delicious food. And maybe a libation or two.

Pack the Backpacks Presents

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Doors open at 5:30pm, games start at 6pm

Tickets $12

Includes: Admission price and 10 cards

for tickets, call 918-331-6924 or message us on Facebook-Washington County School Supply Drive

We are a nonprofit run solely by donations and grants. All proceeds from bingo will go towards buying school supplies and backpacks.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Karole Cozby, Sr. Warden- kscozby916@gmail.com
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- Becky Liehr – jbliehr@gmail.com
- Chase Almy – chasealmy88@gmail.com
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Bereavement Team 3

Becky Liehr, Cathy Perrier, Kris Bonner, Mary Jo Peterson

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