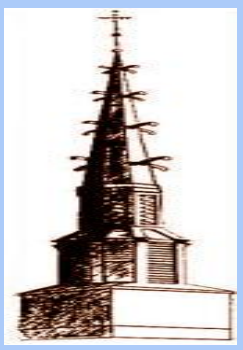
In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- March item for Pack the Backpacks
- Update your photo
- Shrove Tuesday
- Ash Wednesday Services
- Faith Forum New Study
- Ladies Prayer Partners
- Camp Registration
- News from the Greens
- Estate Sale
- Splash Club

The Steeple



February 27, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as we prepare to enter the sacred season of Lent. Lent, as you are well aware of, is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal—a journey that calls us to walk with Christ toward the cross and, ultimately, the joy of resurrection. As we prepare for these forty days, I invite you to engage in the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, deepening your relationship with God, and with one another in holy fellowship

Below, you will find opportunities to gather as a community for worship, fellowship, and devotion throughout this holy season.

Shrove Tuesday – March 4th, 2025

Before we begin our Lenten fast, join us for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Metcalf Hall. This traditional meal is a time of joy and fellowship as we prepare for the solemnity of Ash Wednesday. Consider staying afterward as we will burn the palms from years past to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday – March 5th, 2025

We begin Lent with the solemn Imposition of Ashes followed by Holy Eucharist - a reminder of both our mortality and need for repentance but also the promise that awaits us as the adopted heirs of Christ. Services will be held at:

12:15 p.m. in the Nave

2:00 p.m. Green Country Village

6:00 p.m. in the Nave

Our Lenten Devotional this Year will be "The Poetry of Lent"

Throughout Lent, we will be engaging in a congregational devotional study using the pamphlet entitled "The Poetry of Lent." The devotional is free. Nevertheless, I do whole heartedly suggest purchasing a copy of Mary Oliver's book of poems entitled "Devotions." Copies of The Poetry of Lent will be available in the narthex on Shrove Tuesday.

Midweek Manna – Wednesdays in Lent

Each Wednesday, join us for Midweek Manna, a simple soup supper followed by a sung Vespers service with a brief homily in the Nave. We will gather for supper at 6

p.m. in Metcalf Hall and then adjourn to the Nave for service afterwards. I will be in Texas for continuing education on Wednesday, March 12th, but not to worry, the service shall go on!

Stations of the Cross – Fridays in Lent

Please consider praying the Stations of the Cross at St. Luke's every Friday this Lent at 6 p.m. in the Nave.

Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum:

As we approach Holy Week, we near the Paschal Triduum, the most sacred three days of the Christian year:

Palm Sunday – April 13th, 2025

The Sunday of the Passion begins Holy Week and features readings from the Gospel according to Luke this year.

Holy Monday – April 14th, 2025

Includes Clergy Renewal of Vows and the Chrism Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral in OKC.

Maundy Thursday – April 17th, 2025 (The Beginning of the Triduum)

We remember the Last Supper and Jesus' command to love one another. This solemn service, including the washing of feet and the stripping of the altar, will be at 6 p.m.

All Night Vigil – April 17th to April 18th, 2025

Consider taking an hour to pray at the altar of repose located in the chapel throughout the night.

Good Friday – April 18th, 2025

We gather at the foot of the cross to remember Christ's passion and death. The Good Friday Liturgy will be at 12:15 p.m. in the Nave.

Holy Saturday – April 19th, 2025

A brief Holy Saturday service at 9 a.m. invites us to wait patiently at the tomb.

The Great Vigil of Easter – April 19th, 2025

This most ancient and powerful service of the church year begins in darkness and moves into the light of resurrection. Join us at 6 p.m. for the first celebration of Easter, including the lighting of the Paschal candle, the reading of salvation history, and the first joyful "Alleluia" of Easter.

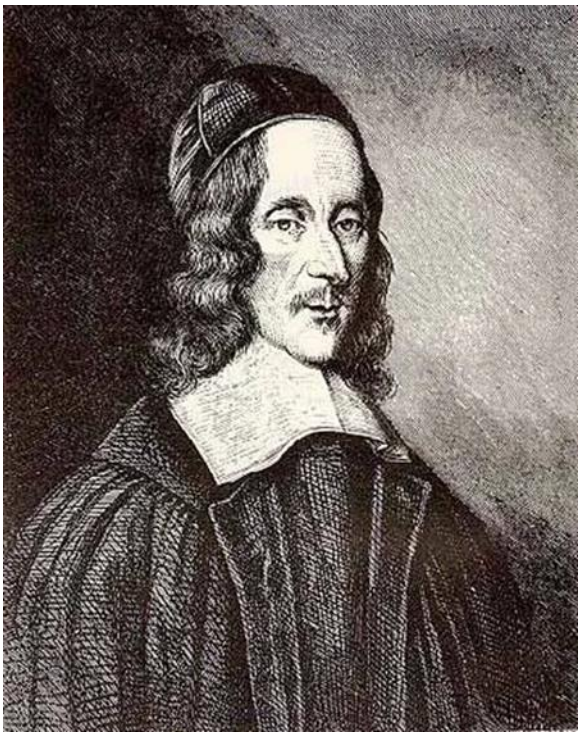
Easter Sunday – April 20th, 2025

Christ is Risen! Our Easter Sunday Celebration will take place at both 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with glorious music and the renewal of our baptismal vows.

May this season of Lent be a time of grace, growth, and deeper discipleship for us all. I look forward to walking this sacred path with you.

Faithfully,

Nick+



Theologians Corner:

George Herbert
Priest and Poet

I am partial to poets. Priests are okay… most of the time.

George Herbert was born in 1593, a cousin of the Earl of Pembroke. His mother was a friend of the poet John Donne. George attended Trinity College, Cambridge, and became the Public Orator of the University, responsible for giving speeches of welcome in Latin to famous visitors, and writing letters of thanks, also in Latin, to acknowledge gifts of books for the University Library. This brought him to the attention of King James I, who granted him an annual allowance, and seemed likely to

make him an ambassador. However, in 1625 the king died, and George Herbert, who had originally gone to college with the intention of becoming a priest, but had his head turned by the prospect of a career at Court, determined anew to seek ordination. In 1626 he was ordained, and became vicar and then rector of the parish of Bemerton and neighboring Fugglestone, not far from Salisbury.

He served faithfully as a parish priest, diligently visiting his parishioners and bringing them the sacraments when they were ill, and food and clothing when they were in want. He read Morning and Evening Prayer daily in the church, encouraging the congregation to join him when possible, and ringing the church bell before each service so that those who could not come might hear it and pause in their work to join their prayers with his. He used to go once a week to Salisbury to hear Evening Prayer sung there in the cathedral. On one occasion he was late because he had met a man whose horse had fallen with a heavy load, and he stopped, took off his coat, and helped the man to unload the cart, get the horse back on its feet, and then reload the cart. His spontaneous generosity and good will won him the affection of his parishioners.

Today, however, he is remembered chiefly for his book of poems, The Temple, which he sent shortly before his death to his friend Nicholas Ferrar, to publish if he thought them suitable. They were published after Herbert's death, and have influenced the style of other poets, including Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Several of them have been used as hymns, in particular "Teach me, my God and King," and "Let all the world in every corner sing." Another of his poems contains the lines:

Prayer, the Church's banquet, Angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, the heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth.

Still another:

LOVE III

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
guilty of dust and sin. But quicked-ey'd Love, Observing me grow slack
from my first entrance in, Drew near to me, sweetly questioning,
if I lack'd any thing.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:
Love said, You should be he. I the unkinde, engrateful? ah my deare,
I can not look on thee. Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I hav marr'd them: let my shame
go where it doth deserve. And know you not, sayes Love, who bore the blame?
My deare, then I will serve. You must sit down, sayes love, and taste my meat:

So I did sit and eat.

Glory to God on High And on earth Peace good will toward man.

Together we pray: Almighty God, who didst call thy servant George Herbert from the pursuit of worldly honors to be a poet and a pastor of soulst: Give us grace, we pray, joyfully to dedicate all our powers to thy service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer List

Please pray for: **Liz** Green, **Michelle** Sheffield, **Catherine** Sheffield, **Ben** Baker, **Steve** McCraw, **Josh** Harris, **David** Swindell, **Connie** Finch, **Tony** Clapper, **Terry** Grogan, **Tyler** Roberson, **Jerry** Nezam**, Miriam** Petrovich**, Lynette** Beebe, **Jack** Smith, **Danny** Clem, **David** McAtee, **Shawn**, **Stephanie** Gallegos, **Pat** Sare, **Steve** Linn, **Bob** Baughman, **Jean** Mason, **Adam** Thomas, **Tom** Oakes, **Bill** Pendley, **Mary** Wallace, **Connie** Freebern, **Lynda** Stephens, **Marcie** Zervas, **Margaret** Holden, **Audrey** Harris, **Peggy** Rockey, **Lauren** Barlowe, **Ken** Harvey, **Nan** Buhlinger, **Bill** Birk, **Carol** McSpadden, **Rebecca** Landreth, **Dionna** Cameron, **Betty** Rogers, **David** Anderson, **Joann** Gallery, **Freda** Bretz, and **Kathleen** Turner..

Please add the following to your prayers for the Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

St Martin of Tours, Pryor **Igreja Episcopal Anglicana de Brasil**

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

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Steve McCraw	**(3/2)**
Jackie Gallery	**(3/8)**

Jim & Becky Liehr	**(3/3)**
Doug & Jen McIver	**(3/3)**

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!

At Luke's Place : Feb 28th – Mar 5th , 2025

Mar 2nd	Morning Prayer, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Morning Prayer, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Mar 3rd	Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom
Mar 4th	Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30pm, Metcalf
Mar 5th	Ash Wednesday Services, noon & 6pm, St Luke's
	Ash Wednesday Service, Green Country Village, 2pm, GCV
	Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
	YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall
Mar 6th	Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

March Pack the Backpacks Item

3in X 5in Ruled Index Cards 100 count package. They need to be the same size, quantity and "ruled".

Walmart price is $0.72 per package. This is a comparison price.

This past year we distributed over 1,100 of the 3in X 5in Ruled Index Cards. Our current inventory shows we have 120.

Thank you for your monthly donations. Each package of index cards will help fill the backpack for a student that needs help in Washington County.

Updated Photos for the Wall/Directory

Sara Clements will be taking new and updated photos for the Hallway Wall Directory between the 8am and 10:30am services and then again after the 10:30am service Sunday**, March 2nd** .

She will be located in the Walking the Mourners' Path room upstairs by the Beard Library.

In the Episcopal Church, Lent is a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and self-examination that leads up to Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday.

Purpose of Lent

- To prepare for the Paschal feast, or Pascha
- To remember Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness after his baptism

Its HERE! Shrove Tuesday will be March 4th beginning at 5:30pm in Metcalf Hall. Pancakes and the Fixins' will be prepared and served by Our Vestry! Bring the family for dinner before we begin the Lenten Season. Donations will be taken at the door.

Ash Wednesday Services at St Luke's, March 5th :

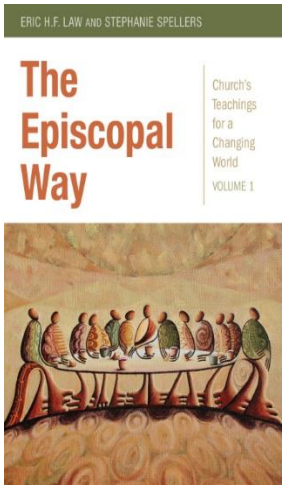
12:00 (noon)

6:00pm

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return BCP 265

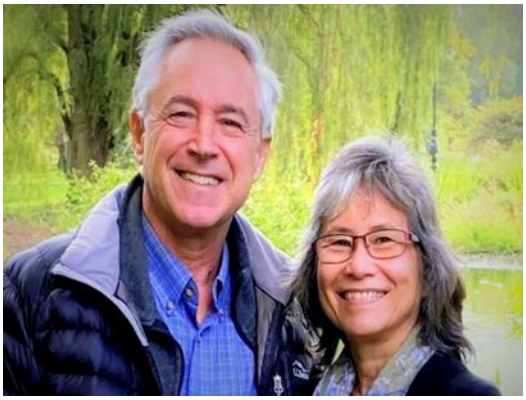
Midweek Manna will begin the 12th of March on Wednesdays. Light supper at 6pm then service. A sign up sheet for the meals is on the blue bulletin board. Please consider helping with a soup, bread, or cookies. Our YD will be joining us for dinner.

Check out St Luke's Bookstore for Lenten Devotionals and Studies.



Faith Forum will begin a new study March 9th. "The Episcopal Way" Vol. 1. Order it through the Bookstore, Church Publishing, or Amazon.

News from Roger and Joanne Green in Thailand



Hi friends,

Thank you for praying for the recent Marriage Retreat with two Thai couples. As we focused on Song of Songs chapters 5 to 8 as compared to the first four chapters, we could see an expansion of the journey of love. Chapters 5 and 6 record the "hiccup" in the relationship and how each party handled it--from the inviting but non-pressuring stance of the husband, the woman's desire to pursue, the friends' encouragement to remember what was good about the husband, the husband's affirmation of his wife and then reconciliation. Chapters 7 and 8 seem to describe a mature love, especially with the declarations in Song of Songs 8:6-7:

Place me like a seal over your heart,
like a seal on your arm;
for love is as strong as death,
its jealousy unyielding as the grave.
It burns like a blazing fire,
like a mighty flame.
Many waters cannot quench love;
rivers cannot wash it away.
If one were to give
all the wealth of his house for love,
it would be utterly scorned.

As part of the activities of the retreat, we also reflected on the account of the daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27:1-11 and Numbers 36:1-12) for a description of healthy, open communication between people and with God, showing how relationships can adjust and be resilient.

In addition, we practiced some listening exercises as described by the online version of The Marriage Course from HTB Church, London. Our conclusion was that Song of Songs is helpful for putting in place the mindset, but it's not a how-to manual. Marriage courses are usually helpful for understanding the how-to's of marriage, but they will be augmented if they can build on having a prior mindset from Song of Songs.

One of the beauties of Song of Songs is that the poetry works for both a husband/wife relationship on earth and for an individual's relationship with God. I once talked about Song of Songs with a mature Thai Christian single woman, and she easily related Song of Songs to her relationship with God. When seen through the poetry of Song of Songs, she had no glitch in her understanding of how beautiful our relationship is as the Church with our Savior Jesus. She could readily see (on her own and without any prompting from me) how a husband and wife relationship can be a picture of the joy we have with Jesus.

Thank you also for praying for the last mother and daughter session, which was held last month (January). For this last mother and daughter session, the Thai mothers and daughters made plans together. They had discussed Bible concepts from one session to the next. They were ready to think through what they wanted to commit to. Praise God for this investment in the lives of these four mothers and their daughters. From the story of Naomi and Ruth to the spiritual reality of the Tabernacle to Ephesians 5:22-33 to 1 Corinthians 7 to Genesis 2:24 to Song of Songs 2 to the blessings in Ruth 4:11-17, the journey shows how important it is for mothers and daughters to build unity now and to be ready to be blessed by God and by the community, whether single or married.

Thank you for praying for us. It's been a lot of effort for these two endeavors, but we thank God for His provision and see much fruit from the investment.

For prayer, our first request for prayer is for my dad, who had a stroke last week. Please ask God to heal him from the effects of the stroke.

In addition, attached is a photo of Fai with her husband Ohm. Fai is a poet. In addition to the ability to analyze literature, she has abilities in writing curriculum and managing events. She has been inspired by the Song of Songs retreats. We told the group that it was our last time to lead a Song of Songs retreat for Thai Christians. Now it's time for Thai Christians to lead. We can help them, but we should not lead any more. Now it is up to the Lord for what opportunities He will open up for them. Our second request for prayer is to ask God to build up Fai and Ohm so that they, in turn, will become a big blessing for many others.

Thank you for being our friends,
Joanne

Some thoughts from Fai after the retreat: "Song of Songs is not only love between spouses but also GOD's purpose for my own Christian life. . .The journey of love is a long journey and beyond (the) 'happy ending' in chapters 1 to 4. . .There is a hidden question for the journey of love. The question is 'How do we love each other more?'. . .If we spend time pondering over this poetry, we will meet the great 'guidance to living life with great love.'. . .It's an impressive picture. . .I had asked and prayed to GOD. . .'Please tell me about how to love you more' and 'What is the Christian life?' After that God led me to the 'Song of Songs.'

Ladies, if you are looking for a special way to "give to" for Lent this year, join us at 11:30 Mondays for Ladies Prayer Partners. We have recently passed our one year anniversary of praying together each week from the beautiful prayers in our *Book of Comon Prayer*. We are finished by noon for those who have a schedule to keep; otherwise, there is time after prayer for catching up with the happenings in each other's lives or going out to lunch. Think of this group as a type of prayer support group for the church and our congregation.
If you have questions or are interested in joining us, please call or text Sandy Whitson at 903-748-9401 or email to sandyswhit@gmail.com

Ladies Prayer Partners

Spring Forward **March 9th**!

Daylight Savings Time begins ***March 9th***, so be sure to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before you go to bed Saturday night!

2025 ST. CRISPIN'S SUMMER CAMP

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1

NEW

All Ages Camp

June 1st - 7th $550
Grades 4th - 2025 HS Grads
*with Leadership Training and Outreach Service for Senior High Campers

Senior High

June 8th - 14th $550
Grades 10th - 2025 HS Grads

Intermediate

June 15th - 21st $550
Grades 4th - 6th

Junior High

June 22nd - 28th $550
Grades 7th - 9th

NEW

Optional Saturday Stayovers

June 7th - 8th $150
Grades 10th - 2025 HS Grads

June 28th - 29th $150
Grades 7th - 9th

ABC Camp

June 28th - 29th $225
Grades K - 3rd (with an adult companion)

Mini Session

June 29th - July 2nd $325
Grades 2nd - 5th

Intensives

June 29th - July 2nd $375
Grades 6th - 2025 HS Grads
*Arts & Crafts, Musical Theatre, Ropes

*Rates listed are the Early Bird Rates, and will increase to the Regular Rates after April 1
**Grades are based on 2025-26 school year
***See our website for more details about discounts, scholarships, staff applications, and more

Questions? Reach out to our Camp Director, Teresa Phares, at tphares@epiok.org

stcrispins.org/camp

2025 Theme:
"I Have Called You Friends"

Estate Sale-

Sat. Mar 1st 9am-4pm

Sun. Mar 2nd 10:00am-4pm

Address: 2356 Country Rd 2706

Bartlesville, OK 74003

(Molly Ferguson's Home)

Directions: Turn on 2706 Rd by Smoke Shop on Hwy 123. Turn off is about 2.2 miles on CR 2706 (look for Torpedo Switch sign)

St Luke's Medical Response

St Luke's medical response guidelines were reviewed at the annual meeting. These guidelines are intended as congregational preparation for responding to a medical event, and as a call to activate EMS quickly. The objective is to have Bartlesville Ambulance on-site within 10 minutes of recognition of a medical need.

Brief (15 minute) drills using these guidelines will be held, targeting 3/9, 3/23, and 4/6 for Care Team members, AV Crew, Ushers, Officiant, and anyone else interested. The drills will occur just after the 10:30 service.

-Chad Ellis

Thank you for letting Splash Club use Rodgers Hall tonight! We had a ton of excited swimmers enjoy a pasta dinner in preparation for their meet this weekend. - Blair Ellis

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Sherry Deason -
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk – lpbirk73@gmail.com
- Steve Heidorn- sgheidorn@yahoo.com
- Dolores McCreary –dolomc37@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Fred Whitson-
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com

Bereavement Team 3

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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector
269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
918-697-8509 keelidroege@gmail.com

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918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157