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The Steeple

Mar 5, 2026

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Lenten Curiosity

Lent is a season when we naturally look inward and ask deeper questions about the story of our faith. This year our Lenten program is doing just that through a study of an ancient and fascinating text: the Gospel of Nicodemus, sometimes also known as the Acts of Pilate.

This text is not part of the Bible, but it comes from the early centuries of the Church when Christians were still wrestling with how to tell the story of Jesus. The work expands on the trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate and even imagines what happens between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. It's dramatic, imaginative, and sometimes a little strange. And precisely because of that, it gives us a window into the hopes, fears, and arguments of early Christians trying to make sense of their faith in the complicated world of empire and religion

Our study is not about deciding whether these stories are "true" in the same way Scripture is true. Instead, it's about learning how to read texts like this with curiosity and wisdom.

Along the way we'll explore questions like these:

Who might have an axe to grind in this text?

What polemics are at work, and who are they directed toward?

Is there a meaningful difference between fan fiction and propaganda when it comes to religious storytelling?

What is midrash, that ancient practice of creatively expanding on sacred stories in order to explore their meaning?

And perhaps most importantly: what happens when stories of faith are co-opted to legitimize empire or power?

These questions are not just historical. They help us think carefully about our own time and about how Christians today tell the story of Jesus in a complicated world. If nothing else, the study reminds us that Christians have always been storytellers, and that the way we tell the story matters.

During Lent we will also gather for a special intergenerational activity led by Dolores, where we will explore the symbolism found throughout the nave of our church.

Church buildings are never just buildings. The placement of the altar, the shape of the nave, the windows, the font, the direction we face in prayer, each of these carries meaning that connects us to centuries of Christian worship. Together we'll look at these symbols through fresh eyes and consider what they reveal about the story we inhabit when we gather for worship.

It will be a wonderful opportunity for younger and older members of the parish alike to learn from one another while rediscovering the beauty and theology embedded in the space we share each week.

Finally, mark your calendars for March 25, when we will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation. This day remembers the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary that she would bear the Christ child a moment when the divine promise begins to take flesh in the world.

To celebrate, we will gather for a parish hymn sing, lifting our voices in songs that reflect the wonder of that moment when God's future quietly entered human history through Mary's "yes."

It will be a joyful and prayerful evening together, and a fitting way to pause during the season of Lent and remember the mystery at the heart of our faith: that God's life meets ours in the most unexpected ways.

Lent is often described as a journey. This year that journey will take us through ancient texts, sacred symbols, and shared song. My hope is that along the way we become more attentive readers of our tradition, more thoughtful stewards of our stories, and more joyful participants in the life God continues to unfold among us.

I'll see you around.

Nick+

At Luke's Place: Mar 6th – Mar 12th

Mar 6	Pack the Backpacks Bingo, 5:30pm, Metcalf
Mar 7	Ed Beasley Memorial Service, 2pm
Mar 8	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am,
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Mar 9	Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
Mar 10	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
	Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers
Mar 11	Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
	Midweek Manna Lenten Program, 6pm, Metcalf
	YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Mar 12	Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf
	Bible Study, 9"15am, Metcalf
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Mar 15	Brunch Bunch Brunch, 11:30am, 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, **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, and **Jackie** Lynch

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

In the next week, you should receive a request for donations for the Easter lilies that adorn the sanctuary during the Easter Season. These are usually in memory or honor of loved ones. Please join us in bringing beauty into our worship space by donating to the flower fund for the Easter lilies.

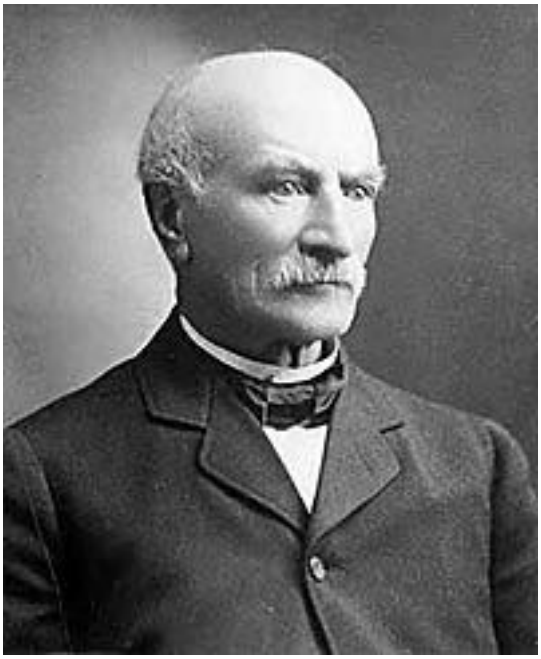
March requested Item:

3in X 5in Ruled Index Cards 100 count package

YD at Concern

A BIG Thank You to everyone who donated to our

"Breakfast of Champions" campaign



Theologian's Corner: William W. Mayo Pioneer in Medicine

This Friday the church remembers William Worrall Mayo (May 31, 1819 – March 6, 1911) who was an English born medical doctor and chemist, best known for establishing the private medical practice that later evolved into the Mayo Clinic. His sons, William James Mayo and Charles Horace Mayo, joined the private practice in Rochester, Minnesota in the 1880s.

Dr. William Worall Mayo was born in Eccles, near Salford, Lancashire, England and studied science and medicine in Manchester, Glasgow, and London before leaving for the U.S. in 1845. Mayo received his medical degree at Indiana Medical College in La Porte, Indiana in 1850. While the training there would be considered poor by modern standards, the school did have a microscope, an uncommon tool at the time. Knowledge of this instrument proved to be useful in Mayo's future practice.

Mayo worked at a number of jobs in a number of places before settling in LeSeur, Minn., where his first children (including oldest son William James) were born.

In 1863, he opened a medical practice in Rochester, also spending time as a city mayor, alderman, and member of the school board.

The event where the Mayo Clinic story usually begins happened in 1883, when a tornado devastated Rochester. With the assistance of his sons, other doctors who came to help, and the local Sisters of Saint Francis of Rochester, Minnesota, he organized treatment of the injured. Mother Alfred Moes of the Sisters of St. Francis convinced him to help her establish a new hospital under her direction, forming St. Mary's Hospital in 1889. At the time, only three people were on the surgical staff: William Worrall Mayo as chief, and his two sons as the medical practitioners (their father was 70 by this time). No other doctors accepted invitations to join at the time, perhaps because St. Mary's was a Catholic Hospital. The alliance between the Episcopalian Mayos and the Roman Catholic Franciscan religious order caused some controversy at the time.

In 1892, William Worrall Mayo asked Dr. Augustus Stinchfield to join the Mayo practice, as a partner sharing in the profits. Once Stinchfield accepted the offer, W. W. Mayo promptly retired at age 73. As the practice grew, Drs. Christopher Graham, E. Starr Judd, Henry Stanley Plummer, Melvin Millet, and Donald Balfour were also invited to join the practice as partners. In 1919, the remaining partners of the private practice created the Mayo Properties Association and established the Mayo Clinic as a not-for-profit entity.

Together we pray: Divine Physician, your Name is blessed for the work and witness of the Mayos and the Menningers, and the revolutionary developments that they brought to the practice of medicine. As Jesus went about healing the sick as a sign of the reign of God come near, bless and guide all those inspired to the work of healing by thy Holy Spirit, that they may follow his example for the sake of thy kingdom and the health of thy people; through the same Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Discussion Group

The Tuesday Discussion Group will meet March 10th ,at 6:30pm in Rodgers Hall.
The topic is : "Is there a Hell?"

Birthdays & Anniversaries for March 8th -14th

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Jackie Gallery	(3/8)	Steve & Cheryl VanAken	(3/13)
Judy Chamberlain	(3/11)	Tom & Martha Reyburn	(3/13)

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 : Spam and for homeless orders: small pull top canned vegetables, single serve fruit cups and pudding, and single serve dry milk.

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 <u>Gospel of Nicodemus or the Acts of Pilate</u>

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

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Bereavement Team 3

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

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