In this week's Steeple >>>

- Fr. Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Pack the Backpacks request
- Presiding Bishop's message
- Concern request
- YD Easter Desserts
- Discussion Group
- Journey thru the Triduum
- Spiritual Discovery Group
- Clean House in the 'Ville

The Steeple

April 9, 2026

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Growing in Grace

There are moments in the life of a parish when the joy of Easter seems to take on new meaning right before us. This is one of those moments.

I am delighted to share with you that Reid Ryal has been named an NSDA Academic All-American, an honor that reflects not only his academic excellence but discipline, character, and leadership. To receive this distinction, students must achieve Superior Distinction in speech and debate (750 points), complete at least five semesters of high school, maintain a GPA of 3.7 or higher, and demonstrate the kind of integrity that shapes both mind and heart. These are not small things. They represent years of steady commitment, perseverance, and growth.

Reid will also represent Bartlesville High School and the East Oklahoma District at the National Speech and Debate Tournament in Public Forum Debate. To stand on that stage is to carry not only one's own work, but the encouragement of teachers, teammates, family, and community. It is, in its own way, a kind of witness.

For us, as the Church, this moment invites us to reflect on something deeper than achievement alone. During this Easter season, we proclaim again and again that Christ is risen, and that new life is not an abstraction but something that unfolds within us. The language our tradition gives us for that unfolding is simple and profound: growing in grace.

What we see in Reid not merely his success, but formation. The long hours of preparation, the courage to stand and speak, the discipline to listen and respond thoughtfully…these are practices that shape a person. They form habits of mind and heart that echo far beyond a classroom or competition. In a world often marked by noise and haste, speech and debate, at their best, teach us

to seek truth, to honor our neighbor, and to engage differences with clarity and respect. That, too, is Easter work.

Resurrection life is not only about what happens at the end of the story. It is about what happens along the way, how we are shaped, refined, and called forward into fuller versions of ourselves. Grace is not opposed to effort; rather, grace meets us in our effort and draws it toward something greater. In that sense, the diligence that led Reid to this achievement becomes a sign of something sacred: the faithful, steady work of becoming.

As a parish, we give thanks not only for what Reid has accomplished, but for who he is becoming. We see in him the fruits of encouragement, community, and the gifts God has entrusted to him. And we are reminded that our role is not simply to applaud him from afar, but to continue nurturing such growth in all of our youth, in one another, and in ourselves.

Reid we are proud of you. We celebrate your achievement, your discipline, and your witness. As you prepare for the National Speech and Debate Tournament, know that you carry with you the prayers and support of this community.

Peace,

Nick+

At Luke's Place: April 10th – April 16th, 2026

April 12th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
April 13th Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room
Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
April 14th Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers
April 15th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers
April 16th Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
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, **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, **Dionna** Cameron, **Betty** Rogers, **Dan** & **JoAnn** Gallery, **Kathleen** Turner, **Steve** Clark, **Lauren** Gandy, **Dea**n Zervas, **Frank** Molina, **Diane** Mitchell, **Frank** Traylor, **Steve** Hand, **Donna** Steward, **Clay** Smith, **Penny** Johnson, **Kim** Shipman, **Fred** Whitson, **Dayna** Rathman, **Shaina** Smith, **Ann** Morrow, and **Carrie** Washington.

Please add the following to your prayers for Holy Week:

St. David's, OKC **La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico**

April requested Item:

Highlighters of any color or size are the items for **April**

Tuesday Discussion Group

6:30pm
Rodgers Hall
Topic this coming week: "Healing By Prayer"

Easter message 2026 from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe

April 4, 2026
Office of Public Affairs

The Three Marys at the Tomb, Armenian manuscript, Daniel of Uranc, 1463.

Dear friends in Christ:

One of the paradoxical truths of our faith is that Easter morning begins with sorrow. In John's telling of the Easter story, we can almost feel the panic and confusion of the disciples in the predawn hours when Mary Magdalene discovers that the tomb is empty.

Jesus had told them that he would rise from the dead, but how could they trust that promise after they had witnessed the brutality of his death on the cross? They were afraid, maybe even in hiding. As we know from the story of Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus, some of them were heading out of town as fast as they could go.

But Mary Magdalene did not hide or flee. She stayed at the foot of the cross until the end, and she arrived to anoint Jesus' body before the sun was up on the first day of the week. Because of her devotion, she became the first witness to the resurrection and the first to proclaim the Good News.

Like Mary Magdalene, we are called to be faithful in the face of grief, injustice, and anguish—even when the world is groaning with despair, and even when we cannot recognize Jesus standing right before our eyes. We believe, against all odds, that God has the power to turn death into life and despair into hope.

This Easter, our world badly needs to hear this message. As we embrace our vocation to proclaim the resurrection, I pray that God gives us the courage to withstand the sin and violence in our midst and the grace to watch for Jesus in the most unlikely places.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

The Most. Rev. Sean Rowe
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

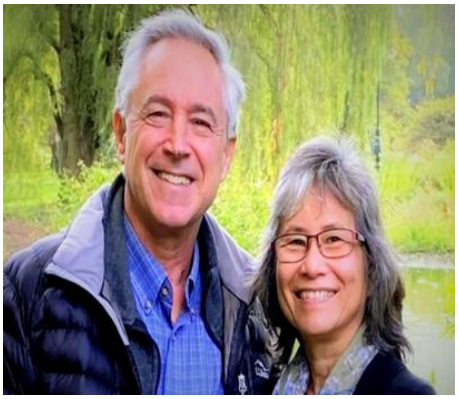
Birthdays & Anniversaries for April 12th – 18th , 2026

Birthdays		Anniversaries
Ethan Peterson	4/16	
Becky Liehr	4/18	

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 : ramen noodles, Vienna sausage and Jiffy Mix. Homeless needs are: single-serve proteins, single-serve pudding and squeezable jelly.



News from the Greens

"What is the difference between the Father and Jesus?" asked our 14-year-old Thai neighbor *Sky in Thailand. This was a good question because I had just told her the story of how Jesus was on the cross and said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." It was her first time to hear any of the Bible stories I was telling her--the woman who lost one silver coin, Zacchaeus, the prodigal son. Even though her family's religion is Christianity, she knew little about the Bible. Each time we discussed a Bible story, it gave her pause. After I told Sky the story of the thief on the cross and the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, I invited Sky to follow Jesus with her whole heart. She said she was not ready. We kept meeting, though, and I was able to tell her about when Jesus appeared to the disciples after the resurrection, his ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Such a joy to share these stories with someone who had never heard the stories before. Sky has become dear to my heart. May God help her to remember these stories and to one day trust Jesus as her Savior.

Three other Christian groups were interested to practice English with me by listening to Bible stories, reading them in the Bible, talking about them and praying together. It seemed like God was opening all the stops for bringing people to me. Roger and I were also continuing to meet with four Thai Christian teens whom we'd been meeting with for the past couple of years so they could become more confident in telling and discussing Bible stories.

I wondered if I could keep up with all the opportunities. So I kept asking God to lead by His Holy Spirit. It was a very full time, but I believe I did experience something like John 21:11. "So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn." Praise to God for His provision in filling up my net and keeping my net strong!

In these past three months, I've had the opportunity also to lead four vision-building sessions about Discovery Bible Study in the context of much prayer and gently coming alongside each member of the Bible study. The goal is for each Bible study member to eventually start their own Bible studies with a different group of friends. That takes a lot of praying for each group and asking God to send workers into the harvest fields.

I am so happy to see hearts being touched by who God is. I thank God for seeing the fruit of your prayers. Would you please ask God to help me to follow up well with all the people God has brought to me in Thailand and from the country near to Thailand?

Roger is continuing his work of coordinating Scripture engagement resources and training for 19 Bible translation projects in a country near to Thailand. Please ask God to help the translators to have good plans for how to encourage people to read/listen to each book of the Bible after it has been translated.

Roger and I are currently working remotely in Idaho and will soon arrive in Austin, TX. Please ask God to help our coworker VVNJ as he coordinates a Scripture engagement workshop in June in the country near to Thailand. I am working to coordinate a Good News workshop for July at our training center in Thailand. I'm also helping a young man from a country near Thailand to practice his skills in exegesis (in online meetings), so I am watching and hoping for when he will get excited about it. In the beginning, exegesis can seem a mystery until one day it becomes something to love.

We thank God for being able to work remotely and live close to family and friends in the U.S. from now through the month of June. While we're in the U.S., we'll keep looking for people here in the U.S. who want to start new groups of reading the Bible together. Only by the Spirit of God do nets become full of fish when we've already been working "through the night."

Thank you for praying!

. . .the net was not torn.
John 21:11

Joanne

YD Easter Desserts

state
2026
adidas

1903
Luke
MILLENNIUM
FALCON
NIKE

Getting Ready for "THE HUNT"

The Journey to Easter thru the Triduum

Maundy Thursday

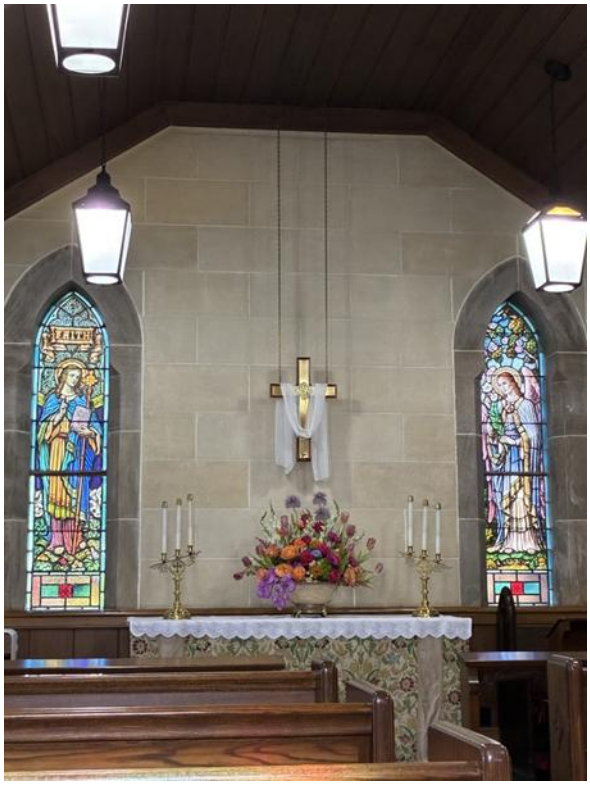
All Night Vigil

Good Friday

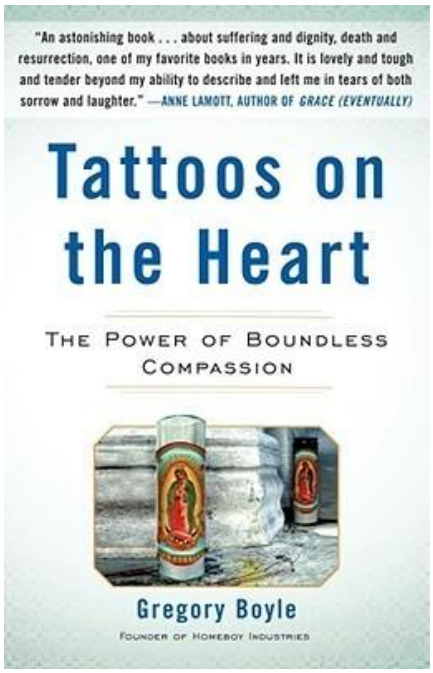
Getting Ready for the Great Easter Vigil

Alleluia! He is Risen!

The Beauty of Easter



Spiritual Discovery



The Spiritual Discovery group will not meet this Tuesday but will begin a new study on April 21st entitled : Tattoos on the Heart by Gregory Boyle. This group meets every Tuesday at 9:3am in the upstairs Library. For additional information, See Mother Andrea.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Dispose of your hazardous household waste in an environmentally-responsible manner.

FREE OF CHARGE!

OPERATION CLEAN HOUSE

Hazardous household waste disposal & recycling

Donations will be accepted on site.

MATERIALS WHICH *CAN* BE ACCEPTED:

Phillips 66 Parking Lot

- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Household cleaners & toxins
- Yard-care products
- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Acids
- Caustics
- Paint thinners
- Paper shredding
- Household flammable liquids
- Smoke alarms
- Oil-based paints *(no latex paint)*
- Oil-based aerosol and hobby paints
- Fire extinguishers
- Electronics (cell phones, computers, TVs, VCRs, microwaves, rechargeable batteries, most electronic devices)

Washington County District 2 Barn
(2 Miles East on 9th St. off Highway 75)

- Used motor oil *(Max. 5 gal. container)*
- Antifreeze
- Automotive batteries
- Car/pickup tires *(limit 8, NO dealers)*
- Appliances - e.g. washers, dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators *(with freon-free certification)*

MATERIALS WHICH *CANNOT* BE ACCEPTED:

- Ammunition
- Explosives
- Latex paints
- Dioxins
- Trash
- Pharmaceuticals (take to any pharmacy)
- Commercially generated waste
- Pressurized gas cylinders (BBQ tanks & home oxygen supplies)
- Biohazardous waste (sharps & needles)
- Radioactive waste
- Shock-sensitive materials
- Water-reactive chemicals
- Unknowns

Together, we're providing a safer, healthier environment in the place we all call home.

PHILLIPS 66 · WASHINGTON COUNTY · BARTLESVILLE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – TOGETHER WE CAN · Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP · SEAL OF THE CHEROKEE NATION · TRUITY CREDIT UNION · city of bartlesville – CONNECTED/CREATIVE/VIBRANT · slb · ConocoPhillips

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Chick-fil-A • Weeze's Cafe • Daylight Donuts • Delaware Tribe • Dink's BBQ

Additional info

Email OCH.BVILLE@gmail.com

facebook.com/OperationCleanHouseWashingtonCounty

Sign-up to volunteer
Scan the code or visit:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OCH2026

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Bereavement Team 3

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

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