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The Steeple

May 1, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Fall of Saigon

Dear St. Luke's,

This week marks the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, the event that signaled the formal end of the Vietnam War—a war that claimed the lives of more than 58,000 Americans and an estimated 3 million Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians. For many, it remains one of the most traumatic and contested chapters in our national memory.

As Episcopal Christians, we are called to the ministry of reconciliation, especially in times of national division and historical grief. The Episcopal Church, like much of the country, struggled during those years. Some parishes aligned closely with anti-war movements, joining protests and offering sanctuary to draft resisters. Others—deeply rooted in communities with strong military ties—emphasized support for soldiers serving overseas. At times, the Church itself mirrored the same divisions that ran through America's families, dinner tables, and city streets.

Yet, even in that discord, there were signs of grace. Episcopal chaplains ministered to soldiers in the field and to veterans returning with physical and invisible wounds. Episcopal Peace Fellowship members prayed, protested, and organized for a just end to the conflict. And in the aftermath, congregations helped resettle Vietnamese refugees, sometimes welcoming entire families into their pews and homes.

What is true is that the war ended not with triumph but with evacuation that was both chaotic and painful. Images of helicopters lifting off from the U.S. embassy rooftop have become synonymous with both loss and a moral reckoning. Many veterans came home not to parades, but to silence. Many still carry burdens most of us cannot see.

This anniversary is not only a moment for looking back, but a time for deep prayer. For those who served, for those who protested, for those who died, and for those who are still healing. As followers of Christ, we remember that no life is lost to God, no wound is beyond God's mending, and no history is too fractured for God's redeeming grace.

Let us pray: Gracious God, on this solemn anniversary, we remember before you the men and women who served in the Vietnam War—those who went willingly, and those who were called. We give thanks for their courage, honor their sacrifice, and lament the deep wounds—seen and unseen—that so many have carried ever since.
We pray for those who never came home. May their memory be a blessing and their resting places be sites of peace.

We lift up to you Lord, the Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian people whose lands and lives were scarred by the war, and for all whose families were shattered by its violence.

Stir our hearts, O Lord, to seek justice without vengeance, reconciliation without forgetting, and peace without denial. Make us instruments of your peace, Lord. Make us witnesses to your love, and bearers of your mercy, now and always. In the name of the Prince of Peace, Amen.

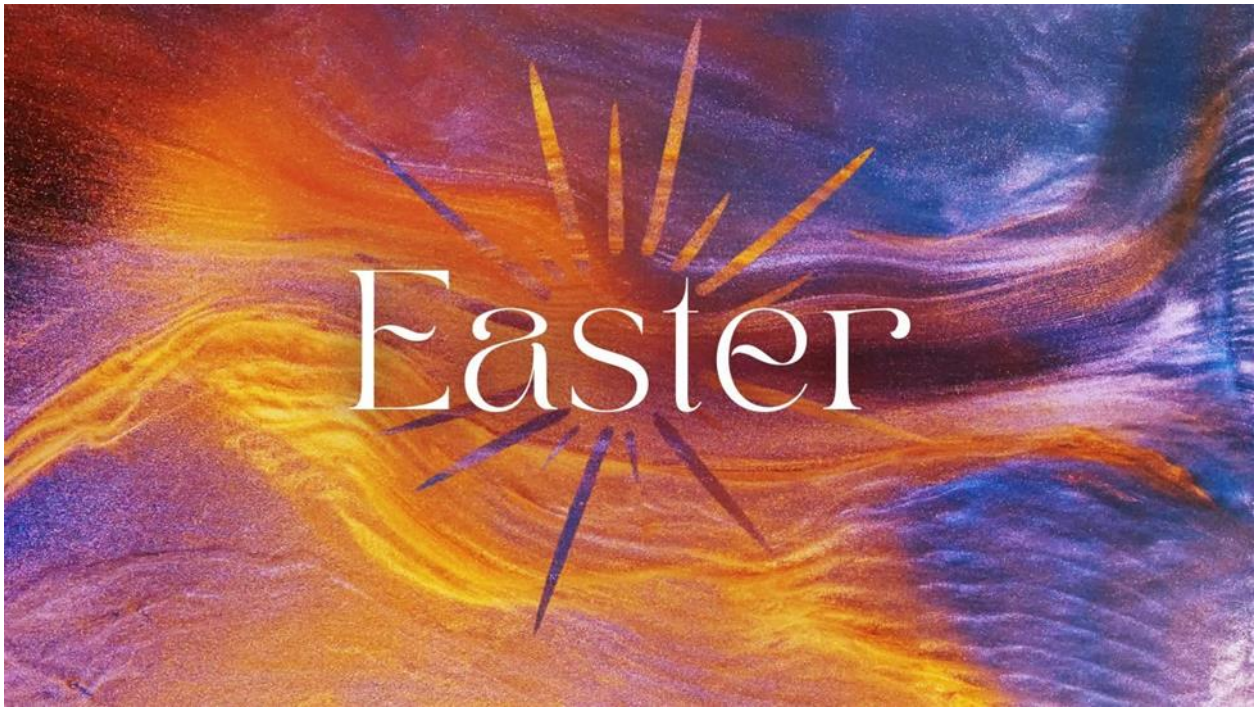
Peace to you,
Nick+

Prayer List

Please pray for: Ben Baker, **Steve** McCraw, **Josh** Harris, **David** Swindell, **Connie** Finch, **Terry** Grogan, **Tyler** Roberson, **Jerry** Nezam**, Miriam** Petrovich**, 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, **Lauren** Barlowe, **Ken** Harvey, **Nan** Buhlinger, **Bill** Birk, **Carol** McSpadden, **Rebecca** Landreth, **Dionna** Cameron, **Betty** Rogers, **David** Anderson, **JoAnn** Gallery, **Freda** Bretz, **Kathleen** Turner, **Susan** Dick, **Susie** Manley**,** and **Steve** Clark.

Please add the following to your prayers for Second Week of Easter

All Souls', OKC **The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean**



Theologian's Corner
Augustine & The Great Fifty Days

In his writings, St. Augustine emphasizes that the period following Easter is not one of labor but of peace and joy!

It is the Great Fifty Days!

Augustine notes that during this period, Christians should refrain from fasting and pray standing—a posture symbolizing the Resurrection. This practice reflects the celebratory nature of the season, marking a transition from the penitential tone of Lent to the joyous celebration of Christ's victory over death.

Additionally, Augustine highlights that the fifty days of Easter are a time of happiness that should inundate the whole being of the believer. He states, "These days that follow on from the Passion of our Lord, during which we sing Alleluia to God, are for us days of celebration and of happiness."

Furthermore, Augustine draws a contrast between Lent and Easter, explaining that while Lent is a season of penance, the fifty days of Easter are a season of praise and song. He describes this period as an anticipation of the age to come in heavenly glory, underscoring the hope that the Resurrection brings to all the faithful.

In our tradition then the BCP reflects Augustine's directives stating that:

- The feast of Easter is a season of fifty days, from Easter Eve through the Day of Pentecost.

- Along with Augustine, the Council of Nicaea (325) directed that Christians are to pray standing too. The word "alleluia" (praise the Lord) is said or sung repeatedly, which contrasts sharply with the season of Lent when the alleluia is omitted.

- The color of liturgical vestments and hangings is white or gold. And the BCP notes that it is customary for the Paschal candle to burn at all services of the Easter season.

The Book of Common Prayer isn't just a guide for our worship—it's a living thread that connects us to the Easters of the early Church. It does this by echoing ancient rhythms of prayer and praise that have shaped our faith for generations.

Birthdays and Anniversaries May 4th – May 10th, 2025

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Jen McIver (5/6)
John Povenmire (5/7)
Keeli Droege (5/8)

CJ & Shelly Jackson (5/11)

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 : May 2nd – May 8th, 2025

May 4th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
	Brunch Bunch Brunch, after 10:30 service
May 6th	Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
May 7th	Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
May 8th	Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
May 10th	Service for Bob Baughman, 2pm
May 11th	Senior Sunday & reception

May Pack the Backpacks Item

Dollar Tree has the 8oz Hand Sanitizer. Either with Aloe or without. Their price is $1.25 each. The 8oz is what the teachers request for the students.

Last year we distributed over 1,000 of these and sanitizers.

Thank you for your monthly donations.

Concern's current needs - canned tuna and 16oz peanut butter, canned meats, individual serving canned meats, 15oz. tomato sauce, canned beans.

ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

Shop the Bookstore

All Handmade Tea Towels now $10.00

Bookstore Hours: Tues & Thurs 11am-1pm and following the 10:30 service on Sundays

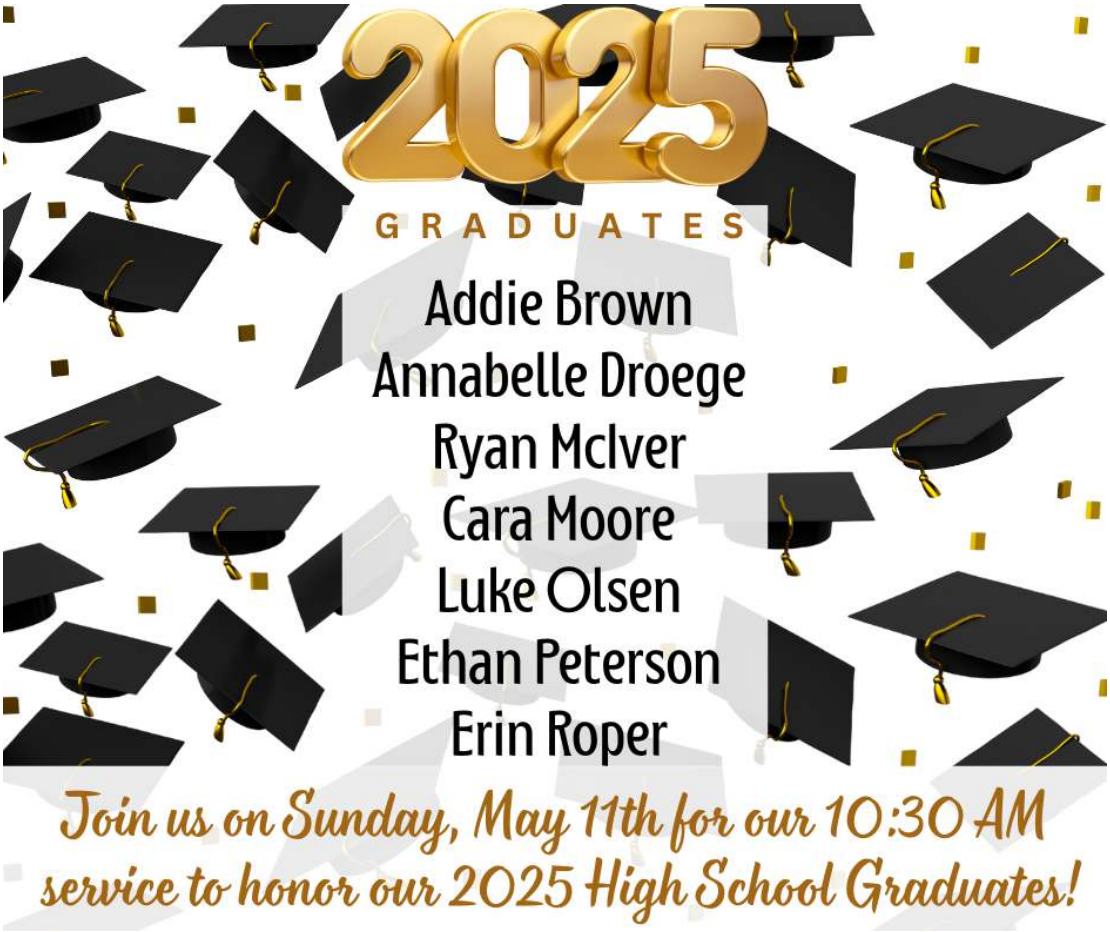
BRUNCH BUNCH

Is at it again! They will be serving up brunch Sunday, May 4th in Metcalf Hall after the 10:30am service. Please plan to stick around with your appetites.

In another couple of weeks, you will be receiving a request through the mail for Altar Flower donations. In order to keep fresh arrangements on the altar every Sunday until Advent, we need donations. $55 a week usually covers it. You can make the donation in Memory of or in Thanksgiving for someone or for God's many blessings, or no mention at all. We are covered for the month of May but could use some help through the summer. You will be receiving the donation envelopes soon, but if you would like to help cover June, just let the office know or drop a regular envelope with instructions in the offering plate at church. Thanks!

To the Baughman family for the loss of Bob. Jo, Beth, Rob, & Tammy, our hearts are with you.

Bob's service will be May 10th, 2pm, at St Luke's.



WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH

A Christ-Centered Grief Ministry

The ministry of Walking the Mourner's Path seeks to serve individuals who are in grief through a series of Eight Weekly Workshops.

Together in the small group workshops individuals:

- Acknowledge the pain and brokenness
- Recognize that each journey through grief is unique
- Share stories
- Experience both tears and laughter
- Help each other in a safe environment to continue healing

Walking the Mourner's Path is a transformative eight-week journey that reflects on where God is in our grief and loss. If you are interested in finding out more or joining our next workshop, please contact Karole Cozby or Nancy Woods for more information.

"come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28-29

YD preparing for Senior Sunday

The Post Note

What is the Post **Note**? Just a little piece of information hanging around. Waiting for someone to **note**-ice. A Post **Note** may have an idea to share, or a question for the season. So, look carefully around you, keep your eyes open, a Post **Note** may be lurking on the next door or wall with a question or bit of information.

And so, the Post **Note** for this time of year is CELEBRATION!

Fr. Nick said, *"Easter Sunday turned out to be a 'Fascinating' day."* So many 'fascinating' hats in cheerful colors. From the chancel the congregation looked like a pond of flowers. All to celebrate the Resurrection of our LORD.

Don't put your hats away! Easter is not over! Why not keep the colors flying? Gentlemen, you can join in also! Dig out those colorful ties.

Come on everyone! Celebrate

(PS. Look for The Post Notes around the church this Sunday). Mthr Andrea

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"To My Mother"

You too, my mother, read my rhymes
For love of unforgotten times,
And you may chance to hear once more
The little feet along the floor.

— Robert Louis Stevenson

Mothers' Day May 11, 2025

SEEDS OF LIFE

Funny how you can hear the same story over and over again, and almost every time you hear or see it differently. This year, working up to Easter, I was busy in my everyday affairs making sure things were completed. Some of you may have noticed the beams for the pergola are in the Garden ready to be installed. The legs are done and will be brought to the Garden when needed. I keep watching the rain so I can plan when I get started on the pergola. In the meantime, since the sidewalks were done, I have been watching the rain also. I planted grass seed on 1/3 just before a rainstorm. Another 1/3 was seeded again just before another rain, and then the last just before another rain. This was all done before Easter. As I watched to see when the seeds were going to sprout, I remembered a Bible verse, "for a seed to grow it must first die". This year that brought more emotion to me than I expected. Same story, different response of the outcome for me. You see, earlier I heard a new song that caught me thinking about dying. "More to This" by Marc Scibilla. If you listen to the words, you will probably understand it differently than I do. If you think about it, the seed that dies so it can grow, were my parents. They were the seeds that died, and I am the sprout that grew and continued with the life given to me. Now I have thought about what happens when I die. I leave no one to carry on, but I will leave a memory for people to keep. I saw this after Easter when I checked on the grass seeds that I had planted and saw them growing. Everything you do in this life will be remembered for a time, then it all falls into mystery. As the song goes, "I've been seeing this life different ever since I let you go. A hundred years or a hundred days, hundred times no difference, babe. I promise you; I'd want a hundred more".

When the Easter story was read again this year, I remembered it like I had never heard it before. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, he died for all so we could live again. Jesus was the seed that died, and the promise has been being fulfilled more than a hundred years more. You can see this promise in the little things in life, like the grass seed growing and filling the areas around the sidewalks. It may not fill it all right away, but just as God's Love is, patience and time will always win. So it is with life, it may not happen when you want it to, give it time and continue to nourish and love it, it will grow.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Bereavement Team

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