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The Steeple

May 14, 2026

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

On Monday evening, the Vestry met with Canon Betsy for an important and hopeful conversation about the season of transition that lies before us. As I mentioned before, transitions are never simply about filling a position. They are moments of discernment, prayer, listening, and reflection upon who God is calling a parish to become in its next chapter of our common life.

Canon Betsy's role is to help the Vestry prayerfully navigate the transition process, to listen carefully to the story and character of the parish, and to help articulate the gifts and hopes of the congregation as the search begins to unfold. Monday's meeting was an opportunity to begin building that relationship and to sketch out some of the broad contours of the work ahead.

As part of that process, Canon Betsy will return to St. Luke's on June 7th to worship with us at the Eucharist. It will be an opportunity for her not only to experience the beauty and rhythm of our liturgical life, but also to encounter you all, the people who make St. Luke's such a faithful and vibrant parish.

Then, on June 10th, she will return to meet with parish leadership and spend time touring Bartlesville. This visit is deeply important. Healthy transitions require more than resumes and committees; they require understanding place, culture, relationships, and the community. By spending time in Bartlesville, Canon Betsy can begin to understand the unique spirit of this wonderful city and, even more importantly, the heart of our common life here at St. Luke's.

The work ahead will unfold over time, but it begins with prayer, honesty, gratitude, and trust in God's guidance. Please continue to keep the Vestry and Canon Betsy in your prayers as together they seek to listen for where the Holy Spirit is leading God's people.

On a personal note, there are moments in life when words seem far too small for what the heart is trying to say. Teresa and I have found ourselves in one of those moments. Since the accident, we have been carried by the prayers, love, meals, messages, tears, encouragement, and kindness from so many people. We have felt upheld in ways that are difficult to describe except to say that Christ has met us through you.

There is something profoundly humbling about discovering how deeply one is loved. In moments that have threatened to overwhelm us, your prayers have reminded us that we are not alone. The Church has not simply spoken words of care; you have embodied them. You have given witness to the grace of God through your presence and compassion.
We are learning that recovery is not linear. Some days feel hopeful and steady, while others remind us how fragile life can be and how much healing still lies ahead. Yet through it all, we remain profoundly thankful. Thankful that Teresa is still with us. Thankful for the skilled hands that cared for her. Thankful for family and friends who stepped in without hesitation. Thankful for a parish that continues to surround us with steadfast love.

Thank-you.

With deep affection.
Nick+

At Luke's Place: May 15th – May 21st, 2026

May 17th	**Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
	Celebration of Jeff's Investiture, Metcalf
May 18th	**Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf**
May 19th	**Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library**
May 20th	**Choir, 5pm, Choir Room**
May 21th	**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, **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, **Carrie** Washington, **Miriam** Petrovich, **Jason** Elmore, and **Teresa** Phares.

Please add the following to your prayers for this week:

All Saints', Duncan St John's, Durant The Church of Pakistan

May requested Item:

Birthdays & Anniversaries for May 17th – May 23rd, 2026

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Pam Hanson	5/19	David & Wendy Hall	5/21
Steve Martin	5/19	Glenn & Kris Bonner	5/22
Nancy Megee	5/19	Sam & Judy DuVall	5/23
Peter Julstrom	5/20		

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.

Theologian's Corner:

Junia and Andronicus

Junia was a 1st-century Christian, highly regarded and complimented by the apostle Paul. Paul probably refers to Junia as an apostle. The consensus among most modern New Testament scholars is that Junia was a woman.

The only reference to Junia and Andronicus appears in Romans 16:7:

"Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was."

Eastern Orthodox traditions say Junia and Andronicus of Pannonia traveled extensively and preached the Gospel to pagans, many of whom were converted to Christianity. Many of the pagan temples were closed, and in their place Christian churches were built. Junia and Andronicus are believed to have suffered martyrdom for Christ. The female identity of Junia was accepted without objection during the first twelve centuries of the church, according to the writings of the church fathers.

Together we pray: Almighty God, whose Son, the risen Christ, sent forth your apostles Andronicus and Junia to proclaim the Gospel and extend your reign: send us forth in your Holy Spirit, that women and men may minister as one in faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect unity, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

June 7th Celebration

Pot Luck, Anyone? After 10:30am service Lets have a good ole' parish potluck to see the Phares family off. Meat will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Canon Betsy from the Diocese will be joining us that Sunday.

ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

Tuesday & Thursday
11:00am-1:00pm
Sunday
11:30am

is the 24th of May. Be sure to wear RED that day to celebrate the Church!

To Camden Campbell on the death of her husband, Bill Pendley. There will be no service, but tomorrow morning, Friday the 15th, join Camden and family at Jude's, 2503 SE Washington Blvd, for breakfast from 7am-9am. May Bill rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Join us during the 10:30am service on Sunday for Deacon Jeff's investiture. Afterward, we will continue the celebration with coffee hour.

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