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The Steeple

May 15, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Stewardship

Dear St. Luke's,

As Eastertide continues to unfold its promises of renewal and hope, I wanted to share some joyful news: our Stewardship Committee reconvened this week with fresh energy and a faithful vision for the future. Stewardship, as you know, is not simply about budgets and pledge cards. It is about how we live in gratitude to God and how we respond to the abundance of grace we've received.

This year, we are grounding our efforts in the resources and theology of TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. TENS provides thoughtful, biblically-rooted tools to help congregations like ours embrace stewardship as a year-round, spiritual practice. This means moving beyond what is commonly known as an annual campaign by stepping into a way of life; a way of discipleship that nurtures generosity, community, and mission. This year's theme comes from the Magnificat and is entitled "Tell Out My Soul."

As the committee regathers and begins its work, I ask for your prayers. And, I also ask that if this idea of regular formation intrigues you – perhaps you might consider joining our stewardship committee and lending your insight! Please pray that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all of this work. Pray that we may listen deeply to one another and to the needs of our parish. And most of all, pray that our work may inspire us all to give not just from obligation, but from joy.

Speaking of prayer: I also want to extend a warm invitation to any woman in our parish who is seeking a space for deeper spiritual connection. Our Ladies' Prayer Group is open and welcoming new members. They meet weekly for intercession, quiet reflection, and to pray through the Book of Common Prayer. There is a special kind of fellowship that only prayerful friendship can offer

and so if you are looking for that perhaps this group is for you. Whether you are new to prayer or have been on this journey for decades, you are most welcome.

As summer begins, let us move forward together in gratitude, generosity, and grace. Stewardship begins in the heart, and the heart is nourished in prayer. May this season be one of renewed purpose for our parish, and for each one of us.

Every Blessing,

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**, Steve** Clark, **Sue** Sherrill, and **Lauren** Gandy.

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

All Saints', Duncan **St John's, Durant** **The Nippon Sei Ko Kai**

Theologians Corner:

Pachomius the Great

No, it is not Gandalf!

Saint Pachomius (Greek: Παχώμιος, ca. 292–348), also known as Pachome and Pakhomius, is generally recognized as the founder of Christian cenobitic (community) monasticism.

Pachomius was born in 292 in Thebes (Luxor, Egypt) to pagan parents. He converted to Christianity and was baptized in 314. Pachomius then came into contact with several well-known ascetics and decided to pursue that path under the guidance of the hermit named Palaemon (317). After studying seven years with Palaemon, Pachomius set out to lead the life of a hermit near St. Anthony of Egypt, whose practices he imitated until Pachomius heard a voice in Tabennisi that told him to build a dwelling for the hermits to come to.

Pachomius established his first monastery between 318 and 323 at Tabennisi, Egypt. His elder brother John joined him, and soon more than 100 monks lived nearby. Until then, Christian asceticism had been solitary or eremitic with male or female monastics living in individual huts or caves and meeting only for occasional worship services.

Pachomius, however, created the community or cenobitic organization, in which male or female monastics lived together and held their property in common under the leadership of an abbot or abbess. The community hailed Pachomius as "Abba" ("father" in Hebrew), from which "Abbot" derives.

The monastery at Tabennisi, though enlarged several times, soon became too small and a second was founded at Pabau (Faou). After 336, Pachomius spent most of his time at Pabau. Basil of Caesarea visited, then took many of Pachomius' ideas, which he adapted and implemented in Caesarea. This ascetic rule, or Ascetica, is still used today by the Eastern Orthodox Church, comparable to that of the Rule of St. Benedict in the West.

Pachomius continued as abbot to the cenobites for some forty years. During an epidemic (probably plague), Pachomius called the monks, strengthened their faith, and appointed his successor. Pachomius then died on 9 May 348 A.D.
By the time Pachomius died eight monasteries and several hundred monks followed his guidance. Within a generation, cenobic practices spread from Egypt to Palestine and the Judean Desert, Syria, North Africa and eventually Western Europe.

Together we pray: Set us free, O God, from all false desires, vain ambitions, and everything that would separate us from thy love; that, like thy servant Pachomius, we might give ourselves fully to a life of discipleship, seeking thee alone and serving those whom thou hast given us to serve; through Jesus Christ, our only mediator and advocate. Amen.

Birthdays and Anniversaries May 18th – May 24th, 2025

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Nancy Megee	(5/19)	David & Wendy Hall	(5/21)
Steve Martin	(5/19)	Glenn & Kris Bonner	(5/22)
Pam Hanson	(5/19)	Sam & Judy DuVall	(5/23)
Peter Julstrom	(5/20)		
Boots Kelley	(5/21)		
Ed Beasley	(5/24)		
Susie Clark	(5/24)		

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 16th – May 23rd, 2025

May 18th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
May 19th	Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
May 20th	Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
May 21th	Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
May 22nd	Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

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 - Vienna sausage, canned tuna, toothpaste and for the homeless - single-serve proteins.

We still have openings in June for Altar Flowers. Dates Open:

June 15th

June 29th

The post-**NOTE**

On a historical NOTE: in the First Testament (OT) time of David, the Hebrew people worshiped in two places. In the southern kingdom, Judah, they gathered at the Temple. In the northern kingdom, Israel, they sought out 'thin' places, mountain tops, springs and the like. Of course, both people thought their place was the best. Even today people are in awe of mountains and some strange individuals like to go church-visiting while on vacation.

Do you know St. Luke's has its own 'thin' place? Can you guess where it is? To find the answer, as always for NOTE questions, go to Fr. Nick's door.

(answer to be revealed in next week's NOTE)

Senior Sunday at St. Luke's

Addie
Louise
Brown

Erin
TRUMAN

Congratulations
Class of 2025
CONGRATS
GRAD!

RYAN MCIVER'S HIGH
SCHOOL GRADUATION PARTY
SATURDAY MAY 24TH FROM 6-8
2531 Westview Dr. Bartlesville, OK
Join us for appetizers, fellowship, and
celebrating Ryan's big accomplishment!

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"

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Sherry Deason – deason_s@yahoo.com
- 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
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- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Fred Whitson- sandyswhit@gmail.com
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Bereavement Team

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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