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The Steeple

May 22, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Dear Choir

One of the enduring truths about worship in the Episcopal Church I've come to cherish is this: our liturgy is not just something we say, it is something we sing. Music has always held a place of primacy in our worship, not as an ornament but as an offering of ourselves. The Psalms, themselves, were sung before they were ever read right? The canticles rise from our lips because spoken language alone cannot bear the full weight of our praise, our longing, our lament, or our joy. Music is powerful. In the great tradition liturgical heritage, music is not just about beauty - it is a means of grace.

And so, as we approach the end of our choir season this Sunday, I want to offer a heartfelt thank-you to our choir. Week after week, you have given your time, your talent, your faith, and your voices to lead us more deeply into the mystery of God. Thank-you. You have sung through Advent's hush, Christmas' joy, Lent's ache, and Easter's triumph, and in doing so, you've helped carry us through those seasons too. Your ministry is not just beautiful, it is holy. All of us are so very grateful for your gifts.

Alongside our gratitude for the choir, I want to offer a special thanks to our choir director and organist Mrs. Keeli Droege, whose appreciative leadership and willingness to learn while doing is a gift to us all. That kind of ministry, stepping forward with both skill and humility, balancing preparation with real-time growth, is not easy. It requires courage, patience, and a deep love for both music and the people who make it. We see the care you bring, the hours you spend, and the spirit of collaboration you embody. You are helping shape not just the sound of our worship, but the soul of our community. We are grateful to be your partners in this good and holy work. Thank-you.

Friends, as the choir takes a well-deserved rest for the summer, our music will shift - simpler perhaps, quieter at times, but still present. The long growing season we call Ordinary Time invites us into a different rhythm, and the music that accompanies it reflects that. There will still be hymns, there will still be voices lifted in prayer and praise, and there will still be moments when a simple melody opens our hearts to God.

So, thank you, dear choir. May your summer be restful and renewing. And to all of us: may we continue to find God's presence in every note, every rest (ha ha), and every song we share in the weeks to come.

Faithfully,
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 the Fifth Week of Easter

St Paul's, Altus **The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East**

Memorial Day Service at White Rose Cemetery, 9am, at the Gazebo. Fr Nick will be giving the Benediction. A guest speaker, Boy Scouts, American Legion, and Blue Star Mothers will be in attendance. A special monument will be dedicated. Ceremony should last less than an hour.

Theologian's Corner: Jackson Kemper

Bishop & Missionary
24 May 1870

Jackson Kemper was born 24 December 1789 in Pleasant Valley, New York, attended Columbia College, and was ordained a priest in 1814. In 1835, the Episcopal Church undertook to consecrate missionary bishops to preach the Gospel west of the settled areas, and Kemper was the first to be chosen. He promptly headed west.

Having found that clergy who had lived all their lives in the settled East were slow to respond to his call to join him on the frontier, he determined to recruit priests from among men who were already in the West, and established a college in St. Louis, Missouri, for that purpose. He went on to found Nashotah House and Racine College in Wisconsin. He constantly urged a more extensive outreach to the Indian peoples, and translations of the Scriptures and the services of the Church into Indian languages. From 1859 till his death in 1870, he was bishop of Wisconsin, but the effect of his labors covered a far wider area.

From a sermon preached before the Board of Missions in 1841

How remarkably peculiar, how vastly important is the position of our Church! Possessing as we fully believe all those characteristics which distinguished the primitive fold:--A scriptural Liturgy--evangelical doctrines--and the apostolic succession--having the form of godliness and the power thereof--free from the false and worldly scruples and the time-serving policy of civil governments--independent-- respected and influential--in the midst of an intelligent, enterprising and commercial people--Brethren! may it not be OUR duty to convert the world--may not this high, this inestimable privilege be offered to US! And are we prepared--are we doing at the present moment EVEN ONE TENTH part of what we are capable? Our means and our power are extensive--and under the blessing of Him, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, our aim--our constant, undeviating, untiring aim should be great and lofty. "Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God."

With the talents we possess, (and for which, as good stewards, we must finally account, at that hour when no secrets can be hid), with the talents committed to our trust and the privileges we enjoy, cannot our faith, our liberality and our self-denial, GREATLY increase? Cannot our supplications be more fervent, our economy more strict, our love of souls more ardent? Have we, as individuals, or a Church, a deep and abiding interest in the success of missions?

Not a brother here would I accuse of indifference or cowardice. But I would stir up, with God's permission, the pure mind of each one, by way of remembrance. It is the spirit of missions I earnestly and most affectionately advocate.

The division into Foreign and Domestic is often arbitrary, and might, without detriment, be abolished; for no one, I presume, would wish to withdraw our heralds of the cross from Africa, suspend our incipient efforts for Texas, or abandon the much injured aborigines to all the degrading vices they have learned from unprincipled men who claim to be civilized. Let us go where duty calls--where Providence points the way--and let us rejoice in the privilege, for we assuredly ought--Oh, let us rejoice in the privilege of sending forth in the name of the Lord and under the guidance of His Spirit all those who, thoroughly instructed in sacred truths, hear the cry, "Come over and help us"--and cannot resist the deep, the abiding conviction concerning their sphere of duty--whose hearts burn within them when they hear of people or nations wholly given to idolatry, or licentiousness, or worldly-mindedness. Cultivate, dear brethren of the clergy, cultivate with the utmost assiduity your own vineyard--love with the strongest affections your own spiritual children,--but close not your hearts to the sufferings and wants of your neighbors.

Together we pray: O God, who didst send thy son Jesus Christ to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near, Grant that we, like thy servant Jackson Kemper, may proclaim the Gospel in our own day, with courage, vision, and perseverance; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, now and for ever. Amen.

Birthdays and Anniversaries May 25th – May 31st, 2025

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Gretchen Hoyt	**(5/25)**
Sam DuVall	**(5/26)**
Sara Clements	**(5/27)**
Jim Liehr	**(5/28)**
Carol Murphy	**(5/28)**
Betty Hardin	**(5/29)**
Fr Bob Gates	**(5/31)**

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 23rd – May 29th, 2025

May 25th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
May 26th	Memorial Day- office closed
	Memorial Day Ceremony, 9am, White Rose Cemetery
May 29th	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.

Church Office will be closed Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day

Concern's current needs - Vienna sausage, canned tuna, toothpaste and for the homeless - single-serve proteins.

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
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Bereavement Team

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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