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The Steeple

May 29, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Completing Our Journey with Shaping the Parish

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past two years Shaping the Parish, a transformative initiative offered by the Order of the Ascension - a Benedictine community within the Episcopal Church, has been a staple of my life. This program has guided those of us engaged in its work the opportunity to explore how we might better cultivate parish communities rooted in prayer, service, and spiritual vitality.

For those of you who are just learning about this program, Shaping the Parish is a comprehensive two-year training that combines ascetical theology with principles of organizational development. Participants engage in 60 hours of Zoom-based workshops, undertake assigned readings, and implement practical projects within their parish contexts. The curriculum is structured around two cycles, that of Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica, each comprising three modules that delve into topics such as personal spiritual responsibility, parish culture, and the processes of planned change and discernment.

Through this program, we've gained:

- Deeper Understanding of Parish Dynamics, especially in regard to recognizing the intrinsic cycles of parish life and how they influence our communal and spiritual practices.
- Training in fostering emotional intelligence by reflecting on our personal spiritual journeys and then having been given suggestions to help develop greater self-awareness and empathy within our communal context.
- Strategic Approaches to Parish Development, by applying organizational models and theological insights to foster a more vibrant and responsive parish environment.

As we conclude, I am reminded of what a blessing this has been, the insights and tools we acquired, and how all of this will continue to inform our parish life.
I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated in Shaping the Parish and look forward to integrating its principles into our ongoing ministry. Should you have any questions or wish to learn more about the program, please feel free to reach out.

Faithfully,
Nick+

Theologians Corner:
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
May 31, 2025

After the angel Gabriel had announced to Mary that she was to become the mother of Our Lord, Mary went from Galilee to Judea to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth, soon to be the mother of John the Baptist. This visit is recorded in Luke 1:39-56. Elizabeth greeted Mary with the words, "Blessed

are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary burst forth with the song of praise which we call the Magnificat, beginning, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." We are told that even John the Baptist, still unborn, leaped for joy in his mother's womb. Thus we are shown, side by side, the two women, one seemingly too old to have a child, but destined to bear the last prophet of the Old Covenant, of the age that was passing away; and the other woman, seemingly not ready to have a child, but destined to bear the One Who was Himself the beginning of the New Covenant, the age that would not pass away.
We remember this meeting this Saturday in our hearts.

Together we pray: Father in heaven, by whose grace the virgin mother of thine incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping thy word: Grant us who honor the exaltation of her lowliness to follow the example of her devotion to thy will; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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, **Dionna** Cameron, **Betty** Rogers, **David** Anderson, **JoAnn** Gallery, **Freda** Bretz, **Kathleen** Turner, **Susan** Dick, **Susie** Manley**, Steve** Clark, **Sue** Sherrill, **Lauren** Gandy, and **Kim** Kingsbury.

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

St Luke's, Chickasha St Timothy's, Paul's Valley The Anglican Church of Kenya

Birthdays and Anniversaries June 1st – June 7th, 2025

Birthdays

Anniversaries

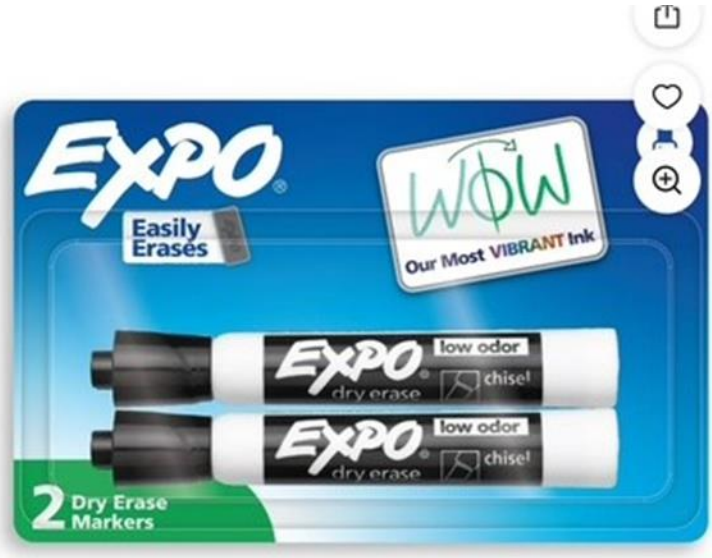
Tom Chamberlain	(6/5)	Bill & Jackie Gallery	(6/2)
Karen Dahlgren	(6/5)	Fred & Sandy Whitson	(6/3)
Steve Heidorn	(6/6)	Jeff & Laura Birk	(6/4)
Shelly Jackson	(6/6)		
Audrey Foote	(6/7)		

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 30th – June 5th, 2025

May 31st	OKM Kids' Tea Party, Metcalf (tickets required)
June 1st	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
June 5th	Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

June Pack the Backpacks Item
Chisel Tip (any size package)



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

White Rose Memorial Day Ceremony

Post-Note

Answer to the question from Richard Rohr's book, <u>The Universal Christ</u>: What are the two incarnations OTHER than Christmas?

1. Christmas is one.
2. Creation is two.
3. The Church is third

#2 Creation is God infused. Right?
#3 The Church is Jesus Christ's body on the earth and therefore the third and continuingincarnation today. The Church is to carry out Jesus's ministry in the world. Matthew 28: 16-20, Luke 24: 44-48, Acts 1:8, 2:43 How cool is that?

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
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Bereavement Team

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