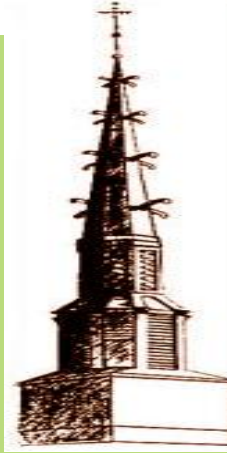
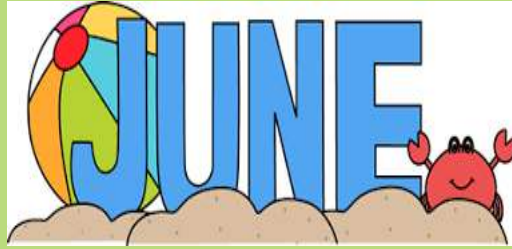


In this week's Steeple >>>

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- Theologian's Corner
- Concern needs
- Ordinary Time
- Katrina Families
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- Return to Innocence

The Steeple



June 26, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Executive Council in Session



This week, from June 23–25, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church convened in Linthicum Heights, Maryland. As I'm writing this, I realize that some of you may not know what the executive council is or what it does or why it even matters! So, let's fix that.

You can think of the Executive Council as the Church's board of directors between General Conventions. When the General Convention adjourns, responsibility for executing its resolutions, budget, and ministry programs falls to this body. It also serves as the corporate board of the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society, the Church's legal and financial name and I guess you could say...entity.

The Council has 40 members: 20 elected by General Convention (a mix of bishops, clergy, and lay people). 18 of them are elected by each of the nine Church provinces (a clergy-and-lay pairing per province). The last two are the Presiding Bishop (chair) and the President of the House of Deputies (vice-chair). This group meets about three times a year, making decisions that guide our national ministries, budgets, policies, and organizational direction.

In his opening address on June 23, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe emphasized our role as peacemakers in an era of global unrest and domestic polarization. He invited prayers for the Middle East amid escalating violence, including recent U.S. military action, and shared his ongoing communication with Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem.

Bishop Rowe also urged the Church to resist partisan division, reminding Council members that "our first allegiance... is to the risen Christ" a powerful call to unity and faithful witness to the world.

This meeting was the first since the Church unveiled a major staff realignment and introduced new Chief Financial Officer Christopher Lacovara in March of this year. Lacovara spoke about modernizing our financial systems, transitioning from largely manual processes to automated dashboards, improving transparency, and driving resources more directly into ministry.

He also noted that administration and canonical governance currently consume 44% of the church-wide budget, compared to a nonprofit goal of under 25%! This is huge. The Council, therefore, is actively exploring cost reductions, including more efficient use of the New York Church Center's space and potentially leasing unused areas to offset running deficits.

This matters to us because the Executive Council's decisions affect us. If you are interested in the wider conversation, the Council's roster, agendas, and resolutions are publicly available online

From our Anglican heritage to the present, the Episcopal Church is shaped by both historical precedent and prophetic witness. The Executive Council is one place where that tension thrives, where ancient structures are adapted to meet modern challenges. And so, whether you're drawn to our historical worship, justice work, pastoral care, or communal discernment, know that St. Luke's Bartlesville is woven into this great Churchwide conversation. That's exciting.

Peace,
Nick+

At Luke's Place: June 27th – July 4th, 2025

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| June 29th | Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave |
| June 30th | The Apostles St Peter and St Paul
Eucharist, 12:15pm, Chapel |
| July 3rd | Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Audrey Foote Memorial Service, 2:30pm |
| July 4th | Office Closed for Holiday |



Theologians Corner:

Cornelius Hill

Priest and Chief Among the Oneida,

1907

Cornelius Hill (November 13, 1834 – January 25, 1907) or Onangwatgo (“Big Medicine”) was the last hereditary chief of the Oneida Nation, and fought to preserve his people's lands and rights under various treaties with the United States government. A lifelong Episcopalian, he was ordained a priest at age 69, and ministered to his people until shortly before his death.

Cornelius Hill was born on tribal lands in Wisconsin and baptized by missionary bishop Jackson Kemper. In 1843, Episcopal missionary the Rev. James Lloyd Breck escorted the ten-year-old and two other boys to the newly established Nashotah House to learn English and be educated.

As a teenager, at a council of Oneida from New York, Canada and Wisconsin, Hill became a chief of his Bear Clan.

White settlers were moving into Wisconsin, and coveted tribal lands, which were held in common under an 1838 treaty. Pursuant to the Dawes Act of 1887, the federal government allocated the tribe's Wisconsin land to individuals beginning in 1892, who were to be allowed to transfer that property after a 25-year waiting period. As had happened in New York State, unscrupulous persons often tried to swindle tribal members out of their allocations. Throughout his life, Hill fought such dismemberment of tribal property, as well as government attempts to move his people further west. In 1893 after negotiations with the federal government, Hill, together with the Rev. Solomon S. Burleson (also a lawyer and doctor), secured a hospital and boarding school for the reservation.

Having for years served as an organist and interpreter for Episcopal services by the Rev. Goodnough and his successors, as well as being his tribe's sachem and delegate to church councils, Hill thought ordination would bring additional authority among whites as well as help him become a bridge between the cultures. On June 27, 1895, Bishop Charles C. Grafton ordained Hill a deacon. On June 24, 1903, Bishop Grafton ordained Hill as a priest, the first of his people; during the ceremony Hill repeated his vows in his native language.

Hill died on January 25, 1907, having fallen ill shortly before Christmas. After three requiems and funeral at the Church of the Holy Apostles attended by 800 persons, he was buried in the graveyard with other tribal members and the missionaries he assisted.

Together we pray: Everliving Lord of the universe, our loving God, who raised up thy priest Cornelius Hill, last hereditary chief of the Oneida nation, to shepherd and defend his people against attempts to scatter them in the wilderness: Help us, like him, to be dedicated to truth and honor, that we may come to that blessed state thou hast prepared for us; through Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, in glory everlasting. 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, Dan & JoAnn Gallery, Freda Bretz, Kathleen Turner, Susan Dick, Steve Clark, Sue Sherrill, and Lauren Gandy.

Please add the following to your prayers for the First Week of Pentecost

**St Mark's, Seminole St Paul's, Holdenville Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e
Angola**

Birthdays and Anniversaries June 29th – July 5th, 2025

Birthdays



Fred Whitson	(6/29)
Nancy Bradford	(6/29)
Chad Ellis	(7/1)
Martha Reyburn	(7/1)
Chaz Cervený	(7/3)
Margaret Holden	(7/3)
Katherine Powell	(7/3)



Anniversaries

Jim & Nancy Warring	(6/29)
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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!

Request for photos of Katrina Families

The Bartlesville Examiner- Enterprise is doing an article in August on Bartlesville's response to Hurricane Katrina. They would like some photos of our Katrina Families for the article. They have already interviewed Fr Lee and Lisa Beeman. If you have any, could you please either mail or email them to the church office? If you mail them or bring them in, we will see that you get them back. Office email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com or 210 E 9th st Bartlesville, Ok 74003.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Did you know?

This year's Stewardship theme is:

Tell Out My Soul:
A Legacy of Faith
A Future of Hope



A RETURN TO INNOCENCE?

Last night I watched the movie, “Empire of the Sun.” It’s always interesting to watch a film more than once - seems like you catch something you missed the previous times you watched it. At the beginning of the movie a young British boy named Jim, is at church singing a song entitled, “Suo Gan.” I’ve always thought the way the name of the song was written that it was either Chinese or Japanese. I was surprised to see that this is a Welsh lullaby, first recorded in print around 1800 by an anonymous composer.

After the choir finishes singing the song, life goes on in China until the Japanese invade it in World War II. When that happens Jim’s parents try to leave with their son, but they get separated in the crowd trying to get away. Jim goes back home to wait for his parents but they never show up. Needing food, Jim goes back into town and ends getting captured and sent to a concentration camp. What is amazing is that his innocence will prove helpful for his survival.

Later the Japanese transfer Jim and some other people to a camp next to a Japanese Air Base. The people transferred were used to repair the runway from damage from air strikes and upgrading and lengthening the runway. Again, Jim’s innocence helps him by making a friend with one of the young Japanese pilots. They were on different sides of the fence and no words were ever spoken, just hand gestures.

At the close to the end of the movie, Jim watched Japanese pilots walk up to a table covered with a white tablecloth with a glass of what I think is sake. They toast their commander then get into their planes and fly off. Jim watches this, and listens to the pilots start singing a song. Jim, with all of his innocence, stands next to the fence, salutes and starts singing the song, “Suo Gan”. His voice was pure and caught the attention of the Japanese pilots and their commander and they stopped singing to listen to Jim.

While Jim was singing, the pilots took their glass, raised it and drank it. It was at that time I realized the innocence of youth. Children do what they think is right, often with a pure innocence of thought. At the end of the movie, I did some research and found the English translation of the song. The song has a completely different meaning now when I watch the movie. The verses translated in a poetic translation makes me think of a simpler time.

Sleep my darling, on my bosom,
Harm will never come to you;
Mother’s arms enfold you safely,
Mother’s heart is ever true.
As you sleep there’s naught to scare you,
Naught to wake you from your rest;
Close those eyelids, little angel,
Sleep upon your mother’s breast.

Sleep, my darling, night is falling
Rest in slumber sound and deep;
I would know why you are smiling,
Smiling sweetly as you sleep!
Do you see the angels smiling
As they see your rosy rest,
So that you must smile an answer
As you slumber on my breast?

Don't be frightened, it's a leaflet
Tapping, tapping on the door;
Don't be frightened, 'twas a wavelet
Sighing, sighing on the shore.
Slumber, slumber, naught can hurt you,
Nothing bring you harm or fright;
Slumber, darling, smiling sweetly
At those angels robed in white.

How marvelous it is when you are young, to be innocence. Is there a return to innocence for us? How do we get back on track? Pray? That's a good start, but as a friend of mine once said, "Engage brain before opening mouth". Think about how you treat others compared to how others treat you. Jim showed this at the end of the movie when he saluted the pilots and sang, "Suo Gan".

Jim had the innocence of youth that gave him the energy to honor others. As we grow older, we lose sight of how we should live our lives, and we lose some of our own innocence. We don't realize that, but we learn bad habits. When I went to a rehab center for my lower back, the doctor had me watch a video of 3 to 6-year-old children playing. After ½ hour he explained why. We learned bad habits as we grew up. Children, by comparison, know instinctively how to pick up objects, lay down and get back up without injuring themselves. I have kept this information with me as I keep getting older. With this knowledge, I have been able to stay away from any surgery. It's a daily routine to watch how I do things, remembering my innocence of youth. Sometimes going back to the basics is what works best.

Robert

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Bereavement Team 1

**Susie Clark, Nancy Woods,
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Ordinary Time

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