In this Week's Steeple>>>>

- Message from former Sr Warden
- Theologian's Corner
- Pack the Backpacks request
- Concern request
- Mary Martha Outreach
- Bread makers
- Parish Survey
- Intergenerational Connection
- Concern's Battle in Bartlesville
- News from the Greens
- Brunch Bunch

The Steeple

July 30, 2026

Ordinary Time

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Dear St Luke's Family,

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

– Romans 8: 26-39

I had the privilege of reading this beloved passage from the Apostle Paul at the 10:30 service last Sunday. I thought afterwards, "Gosh, I needed that."

I needed that because, let's face it, our church family is facing some challenges right now. It's easy to get discouraged if we focus just on the uncertainties: Who will be our next rector? How long will it take to find him or her? Will church attendance decline while we're in this transition period? Even after a new rector is found, will he or she be the right person to be our spiritual guide for years to come?

The list of questions and what ifs could go on and on. But wait, what is Paul telling us? He's saying, at least to me, that God is always with us. God's love for us is timeless and boundless. God's love and care will always be there to see us through no matter what. Yes, it's okay to have questions about the future, but God is there to help us figure out the answers.

Some of you may remember the pop song from the late '80s, "Don't worry, be happy." I enjoyed the upbeat reggae rhythm but I've always thought the lyrics were kind of stupid and naive. It's human to worry. If you don't worry about things, you're probably not paying attention to the world around you. There's a whole lot of worrisome stuff out there!

So how do we manage those worries? By letting God wrap his loving around us every day. Through some of the most beautiful language in the Bible, Paul is reminding us, "God has got you." God, as demonstrated through his son Jesus, gives us unshakable hope for the future. With God on our side, what chance is there for worry to overcome us?

But don't be lulled into thinking that all you need to do is dump your concerns on God and walk away. I like to think of our relationship with God as a participatory undertaking. He has expectations for us. He puts opportunities before us, and he expects us to take advantage of them.

And speaking of opportunities, one should have shown up in your mailbox within the last few days – the parish survey (see details on page 6 of this Steeple). This survey is a here-and-now way for you to help shape the future of St. Luke's. It's an invitation for you to team up with God to figure out what happens next. Please give it your full attention.

Paul's message underscores that God has promised to never leave us regardless of the challenges we face as individuals…or as a community of believers. Let's show God that his promise is recognized and cherished.

Dan Droege, former Senior Warden

At Luke's Place: July 31st – Aug 6th , 2026

Aug 2nd	**Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Vestry Room
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Aug 3rd	**Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Vestry Room**
Aug 6th	**Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf**
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
	Pack Backpacks, Rodgers, 6-8pm

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, **Mary** Wallace, **Lynda** Stephens, **Marcie** Zervas, **Audrey** Harris, **Nan** Buhlinger, **Dionna** Cameron, **Betty** Rogers, **Dan** & **JoAnn** Gallery, **Kathleen** Turner, **Steve** Clark, **Dea**n Zervas, **Frank** Molina, **Diane** Mitchell, **Frank** Traylor, **Steve** Hand, **Donna** Steward, **Penny** Johnson, **Kim** Shipman, **Shaina** Smith, **Ann** Morrow, **Carrie** Washington, **Miriam** Petrovich, **Jason** Elmore, **Teresa** Phares, **Jun**e Mosley, **Marsha** Tibbits, **Larry** Mueggenborg, and **Sherry** Breitman, and **Sheila** Taylor.

Please add the following to your prayers for this week:

Church of the Good Shepherd, Sapulpa **The Anglican Churchof Tanzania**

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Aug 2nd – Aug 8th, 2026

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Bill Bridendolph	(8/4)	Tom & Judy Chamberlain	(8/5)
		Jim & Kate Carroll	(8/6)

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: canned corn, peas, 16oz peanut butter and unisex deodorant.

Our Christmas in July fundraiser is underway. Our hope is to collect $15,000 to provide a wonderful Christmas for 200 children (birth through age 15) in Washington County. If you would like to donate, please send a check to PO BOX 404, Bartlesville, OK 74005 or PayPal (notate Christmas in July) at concerncares.com.

Theologian's Corner:

Joanna, Mary, and Salome
The myrrh-bearers

Feast Day August 3rd

Joanna, Mary, and Salome are traditionally counted as the three women who came to Jesus' tomb early in the morning on the day of the resurrection in order to anoint his body with myrrh and other spices. They were followers of Jesus during his earthly ministry and remained with him throughout his arrest, crucifixion, and burial, and they discovered his empty tomb after his resurrection.

Little is known about the lives of Joanna, Mary, and Salome beyond their faithful and unwavering devotion and service to Christ. Joanna is identified in the Gospel of Luke as the wife of Chuza, a steward of Herod, and in Luke 8:2–3 is counted among the women who followed and provided for Jesus after having been healed by him.

The Gospel of Mark includes Salome in a list of women present at the crucifixion without any further information; according to early Christian tradition Salome was a relative of Mary the Mother of Jesus.

In addition to Joanna, Salome, and Mary Magdalene, Matthew 28:1 lists a woman it refers to as "the other Mary." Mark 16:1 refers to her as Mary the mother of James. John 19:25 recounts that Mary the wife of Cleopas was present at the crucifixion, and historically the Christian tradition has tended to assume that all three of these Marys are actually the same person.

The little information that we do have about these women shows them to be faithful disciples and worthy of our commemoration and, more importantly, emulation. There is a particular devotion to these "Holy Myrrhbearers" in the Orthodox Church, and the second Sunday after Easter is celebrated as "Myrrhbearers Sunday".

ALMIGHTY God, who revealed the resurrection of your Son to Joanna, Mary and Salome as they faithfully came bearing myrrh to his tomb: Grant that we too may perceive the presence of the risen Lord in the midst of pain and fear, and go forth proclaiming his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

August School Supply Item Needed

For July and August 2026, the featured item for Pack the Backpack will be 24-count Crayola Crayons. Please purchase the Crayola brand; for your reference, the current pricing at Walmart is $1.44. .

Last year, we distributed over 2,600 boxes to students.

Pack the Backpacks need your help to pack and distribute

Join us for the packing of the backpacks or backpack pickup. If you have not seen the process, it is pretty amazing.

Packing backpacks

Thursday July 30th through Saturday August 1st

- Thursday July 30 – 6-8 pm
- Friday July 31 – 9:30-11:30am AND 1:30-3:30pm
- Saturday August 1 - 9:30-11:30am

Backpack pickup

- Sunday August 2nd 2pm – 7pm
- Monday August 3rd 8:30am – 7pm

Bread Makers for Communion

St. Luke's is in need of bread makers for first, third and fifth weeks. If interested please call or text Wendy Hall at 918-440-4355 and she will be happy to give you the recipe.

Intergenerational Connection

Intergenerational Connection is a monthly opportunity for members of our congregation to share their gifts and experiences with our Young Disciples.
Do you have a hobby, craft, special interest, favorite trip, career experience, life skill, or ministry you would enjoy sharing? We would love to hear your story!
On the second Wednesday of each month, we are looking for members to share dinner, typically starting at 6:00 pm, followed by a 30-minute presentation.
You may present, provide the meal, or do both! If you would rather not do it alone, you can partner with someone and share the presentation and/or the meal.
A few months are already reserved, and we would love to add you to a future date on the calendar, (September-May).
If you are interested or have questions, please contact me.
Thank you!
Karen Lewey

Parish Survey

The search committee has developed a survey which has been mailed out. There will be a copy for every member of the household no matter their age. Everyone is encouraged fill out the survey as we will lean heavily on the information to complete our Parish Profile. The profile will be the very first thing any candidate for rector sees when looking at the community of St. Luke's. As our last priest said many times, our profile stood out

from the others he looked at and was what made him want to visit and learn more about us. So please, take some time, prayerfully answer the questions and return the survey to the church by August 16th. Our goal is to have our profile available by the first part of September. If you have any questions, please call Steve Van Aken at 918-914-9041 or Doug McIver at 785-342-4328

MARY MARTHA OUTREACH

Mary Martha Outreach is looking for volunteers to help cover our evening distribution which is being held on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:45pm to 6pm. It's a great opportunity to serve your community by helping those who need a friendly smile and help feed their families. We are needing volunteers to cover September, October, and November right now. Each evening, we need 4 to 5 volunteers, so bring your family (children should be at least 13) or just get some friends together and come to have some fun together. You will be helping clients fill shopping carts with food items and then helping them to their cars. I am sure you will leave feeling better than you came and maybe even wanting to come back again.
This is an opportunity to see how MMO works and all the great things we are doing for our community.

Feel free to contact me (Judy DuVall) if you have any questions.
Cell: 918-841-2287

Submitted by Mthr Andrea:

Wisdom for the Journey

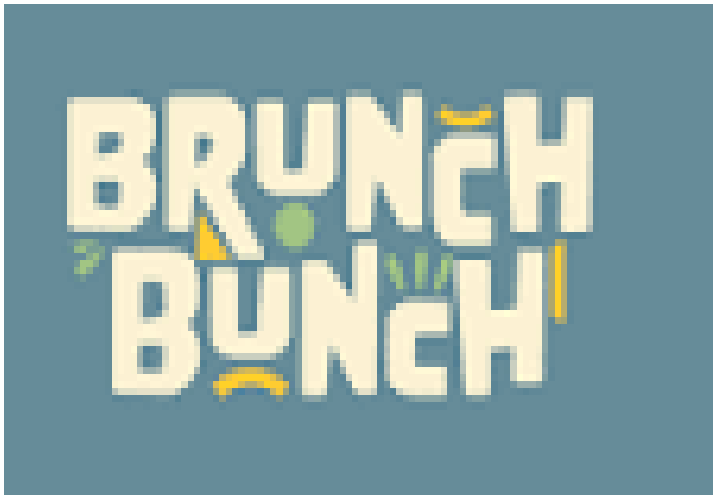
Searching for Francis. Gandi said: the world was so hungry for God that God could only come as a piece of bread. We so long for joy that God even risked coming into the world in the form of intoxication, that risky thing called wine.

What time does church start? The moment you get in the car.

Searching for Francis Liturgy is a journey that proceeds from the kingdom of this world into a brief encounter with the kingdom of God, and back out again to bear witness to it.

Searching for Francis Art or beauty are merely signposts, not a destination. We thirst for the absolute, heavenly country.

Our 5th annual fundraiser Battle in Bartlesville, a lip sync battle, is scheduled on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bartlesville. Tickets are on sale now for $75 or a table of 8 for $525. Please visit https://concerncares.com/battle-in-bartlesville to purchase your tickets. Or Contact Pam Hanson.



Brunch Bunch Brunch

August 23rd

Yes, our favorite group will be serving up Brunch right after the 10:30am service. Save the Date!

News from the Greens

Hi friends,

Thank you for your partnership in prayer.

In a few hours, Roger will begin teaching the Facebook workshop for the Yene Christians who live in a country near Thailand. Please ask God to inspire them as they develop culturally sensitive and creative media aiming to draw people to Scripture.

Some women on our team will be joining me again for the "Quiet Times Together" event being planned for Aug. 27 to 29. This time we'll focus on 2 Timothy. Please ask God to bring a rich time of fellowship with God and with each other at our Saturday of Quiet Times Together.

Praise God with us for BP's excellent teaching design for helping the Ngap people to reflect and to make plans for how to share Good News. Please continue to ask God to give good health for all and easy travel from the country near Thailand for the Sept. 1 to 4 Good News workshop. Lina has consistently encouraged us to use the story of the man of the Gerasenes as a good first story for them to practice and to share with non-Christians. This would not be my recommendation for people in my own "guilt-innocence" culture, but for "fear-power" cultures, this is a Bible story that is relevant to them. Please ask God to guide us in how to set up the practice sessions for the Ngap Christian leaders.

One thing that has brought joy to my heart is that Sky, her mom, her aunt and her cousins have agreed to meet with me once a week to pray together about what is hard in their lives. A Bible

verse will also be shared at each prayer time. The mothers are very happy. Please ask God to touch the hearts of Sky and her cousins so they will want to follow Jesus.

Lastly, we request your confidential prayer for Nathan's living situation and for his medical challenges. Please ask God to give wisdom about Nathan's living situation. Please also ask God to help the medical providers who will coach him in habits which can positively impact his medical issues. Some complications have arisen in Nathan's living situation, and we need God's wisdom to make the right decisions. We request that you not talk about this with Nathan, so it won't cause more stress to him.

Roger often gets happy feedback from people who are grateful for how he sets up websites, apps and radio programs for their Scripture materials. Here is a recent note from a worker in Southern Thailand:

Roger, this looks great!! . . .You have done a great job. May this app be used by God to bring many to Christ!

We thank God for encouraging words.

Thank you for praying for our adjustment back to Thailand. We thank God that our car and house were ok when we got here, and we eventually got over the rough bout with jet lag. Praise to God that Roger and I are both feeling well.

Grateful for all of you who pray! May God bless each of you,
Joanne

In Jesus' words to Paul, Jesus highlighted the multi-faceted aspects of the Good News. Praise Him that He does all these things when we share Good News.

I am sending you to them
to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light,
and from the power of Satan to God,
so that they may receive forgiveness of sins
and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'
Acts 26:17b-18

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Karole Cozby, Sr. Warden- kscozby916@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey, Jr Warden - kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Becky Liehr – jbliehr@gmail.com
- Chase Almy – chasealmy88@gmail.com
- Lisa Beeman – lisabeeman89@gmail.com
- Steve Heidorn- sgheidorn@yahoo.com
- Dolores McCreary –dolomc37@gmail.com
- Steve VanAken- scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
- Fred Whitson- sandyswhit@gmail.com
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com
- Cathy Perrier – bling4mimi@hotmail.com

Bereavement Team 3

Becky Liehr, Cathy Perrier, Kris Bonner, Mary Jo Peterson

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
918-697-8509 keelidroege@gmail.com

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F
Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157