

In this week's Steeple >>>

The Steeple

- Fr Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Luke's Place Schedule
- Prayer List
- Chancel Choir
- Brunch Bunch
- Empty Bowls Fundraiser
- CONCERN needs for the month
- Vestry future meeting dates
- Pack the Backpack needs



Aug 14, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Beloved in Christ,

This past Sunday, August 10th, our Y.D. leaders (Young Disciples) gathered what turned out to be a fruitful planning session. In fact, our leaders were able to plan most of the year's gatherings and activities. A heartfelt thank-you goes to all who stepped forward to host an evening with our youth. Please see below. Your willingness to be present, prepare meals, and lead activities is a gift not only to our young people but to our entire parish family.

Hosts for Y.D. Evenings

Vestry 2 x's – Meal included

Cooking Class with Steve Heidorn (Perhaps the famous banana bread or quiche)

Scavenger hunt in Nave with Dolores McCreary

Altar Guild (Wendy Hall Lead + Becky Liehr & Kris Bonner) – Meal included

Make Communion Bread

Men's Fellowship (Steve Clark)

Pizza and bowling

Brunch Bunch (Joan Heidorn)

Pizza, Ice Cream Sundae Bar with a Craft

Concern (Pam & Tim Hanson) – Meal included

Working on advertising Canned Food Drive

8:00-ers – Meal included

Intergenerational Conversation

Choir – Meal Included
Fundraising

One of the things that makes St. Luke's unique, I think, is the wide age range here. We are a congregation with an honest and beautiful age gap - from the youngest in the pews to the saints who have walked with Christ for many decades. This is not a challenge to be solved but a gift to be celebrated! When our youth have regular, intentional connections with parishioners from different generations, something remarkable happens: they gain a deeper sense of belonging, they hear stories of faith that would otherwise be lost, and they see what it looks like to follow Jesus over a lifetime. That is truly remarkable.

At the same time, those who spend time with our young people are reminded of the hope, joy, and curiosity that is so alive in them. This kind of intergenerational involvement doesn't just "fill a slot" on the church calendar - it infuses our parish life with vitality, depth, and a clearer sense of who we are as the Body of Christ in this time and place - for such a time as this!

If you would still like to be part of hosting a Y.D. evening, there is space for you at the table - literally and spiritually. Please speak with me or with our Y.D. Leaders Kate Roper, Blair Ellis, and Tom Droege. I will be glad to find a time that works us. This is important.

Nick+

At Luke's Place: Aug 15th – Aug 21st, 2025

Aug 16th	Dave Bartosh service, First Wesleyan, 2:00pm
Aug 17th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Vestry Room
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Aug 19th	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
Aug 20th	Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room
Aug 21st	Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV



Theologian's Corner: The Feast of St. Mary the Virgin August 15th, 2025

The honor paid to Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus Christ our Lord and God, goes back to the earliest days of the Church. Indeed, it goes back further, for even before the birth of her Son, Mary prophesied, "From this time forth, all generations shall call me blessed."

The New Testament records several incidents from the life of the Virgin: her betrothal to Joseph, the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel that she was to bear the Messiah, her Visitation to Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist, the Nativity of our Lord, the visits of the shepherds and the magi, the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple at the age of forty days, the flight into Egypt, the Passover visit to the Temple when Jesus was twelve; the wedding at Cana in Galilee and the performance of her Son's first miracle at her intercession, the occasions when observers said, "How can this man be special? We know his family!", an occasion when she came with others to see him while he was preaching, her presence at the foot of the Cross, where Jesus commends her to the care of the Beloved Disciple, and her presence with the apostles in the upper room after the Ascension, waiting for the promised Spirit. She is thus seen to be present at most of the chief events of her Son's life.

Besides Jesus himself, only two humans are mentioned by name in the Creeds. One is Pontius Pilate, Roman procurator of Judea from 26 to 36 AD. That Jesus was crucified by order of Pontius Pilate pins down the date of his death within a few years, and certifies that we are not talking about a personification or symbol of the annual death and resurrection of anyone else. Jesus' death is an event in history, something that really happened. The other name is that of Mary.

The Creeds say that Christ was "born of the virgin Mary." That is to say, they assert on the one hand that he was truly and fully human, born of a woman and not descended from the skies like an angel. On the other hand, by telling us that his mother was a virgin they exclude the theory that he was simply an ordinary man who was so virtuous that he eventually, at his baptism, became filled with the Spirit of God. His virgin birth attests to the fact that he was always more than merely human, always one whose presence among us was in itself a miracle, from the first moment of his

earthly existence. In Mary, Virgin and Mother, God gives us a sign that Jesus is both truly God and truly Man.

Little is known of the life of the Virgin Mary except insofar as it intersects with the life of her Son, and there is an appropriateness in this. The Scriptures record her words to the angel Gabriel, to Elizabeth, and to her Son on two occasions. But the only recorded saying of hers to what may be called ordinary, run-of-the-mill hearers is her instruction to the servants at the wedding feast, to whom she says simply, indicating her Son, "Whatever he says to you, do it."

This we may take to be the summation of her message to the world. If we listen to her, she will tell us, "Listen to Him. Listen to my Son. Do what He tells you." When we see her, we see her pointing to her Son. If our regard for the Blessed Virgin does not have the immediate effect of turning our attention from her to the One whom she carried in her womb for nine months and nursed, to the Incarnate God, the Word made flesh, then we may be sure that it is not the kind of regard that she seeks. A right regard for her will always direct us to Him Who found in her His first earthly dwelling-place.

Together let us pray: O God, who hast taken to thyself the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of thy incarnate Son: Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of thine eternal kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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, 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, Lauren Gandy, Betty Hardin, and Dean Zervas.

**Please add the following to your prayers for the Ninth Week of Pentecost
St. Aidan's, Tulsa Church of the Holy Cross, Owasso Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda**

Birthdays and Anniversaries Aug 17th – Aug 23rd, 2025

Birthdays



Shannon McCraw (8/22)
Michelle Sheffield (8/22)
Bob Tedstrom (8/22)



Anniversaries

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!



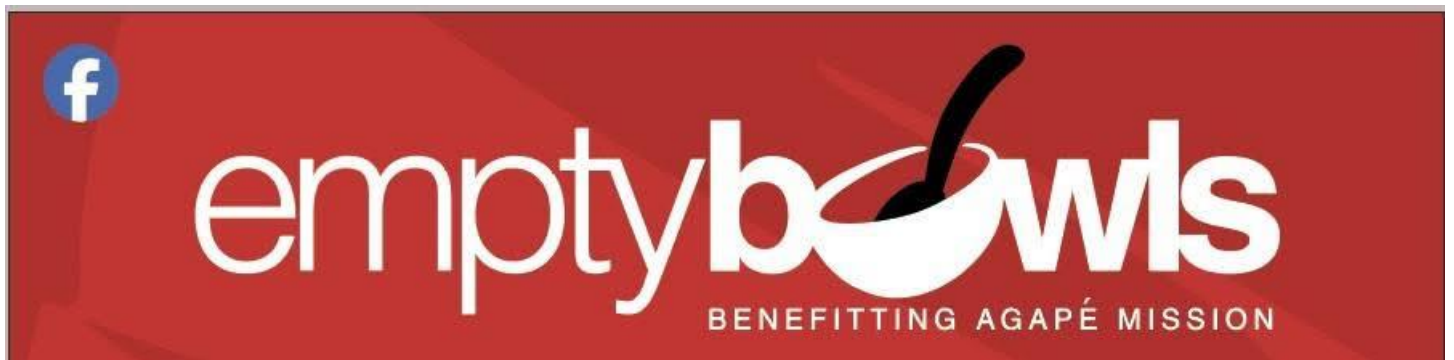
Chancel Choir rehearsal will begin again on August 20th from 5:00-6:30 pm. Choir will lead us once again in our musical worship starting September 7th. If you are interested in being part of the Chancel Choir ministry, please contact Keeli Droege at 918-697-8509 or keelidroege@gmail.com.

Concern's current needs are canned proteins: chicken, tuna and Vienna sausage, and for the homeless, single serve proteins and 8-ounce paper cups.



Our Wonderful Brunch Bunch will be serving up Brunch, August 24th, after the 10:30am Service, so plan to stay after or come back if you attend the earlier service. Let's share some fellowship and good food! (donations will be accepted)

Mark your calendar now, for our 2025 Empty Bowls event on August 26, 2025, at The Center in Bartlesville Ok from 11:30am to 1:30 pm. For your \$25 ticket price, you get to sample over 40 vendors in our area and pick a free one-of-a-kind bowl to take home. We will also have a Silent Auction, and you can catch up with all your friends, over lunch! We are celebrating our 25th year serving Bartlesville. Come celebrate with us!! See Steve Clark for tickets.



Pack the Backpack Needs for the month of August: **ANY school supplies!** Crayons, pencils, rulers, scissors, glue, paper, markers.....

Collection basket is in Nartex.

Updated Vestry Meeting Dates

For the remainder of the year, our vestry will be adjusting the dates of our regularly scheduled meetings due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts. Please see the updated meeting schedule below:

Tuesday Sept. 9	Vestry Meeting
Tuesday Oct.21	(Third Tuesday – Due to Columbus Day)
Tuesday Nov.18	(Third Tuesday – Due to Veterans Day)
Tuesday Dec. 9	Vestry Meeting
Tuesday Jan. 26	(Later in month Due to voting on budget)
Sunday Feb. 8	Annual Meeting
Tuesday Feb. 10	Vestry Meeting

The vestry, for those who may be newer to the Episcopal tradition, is not merely an administrative committee. Yes, it serves a fiduciary role - entrusted with the stewardship of the church's financial health, property, and long-term planning. They ensure that we are careful and transparent with the resources entrusted to us, honoring both our legal responsibilities and the generosity of this community.

But the vestry is also more than that. It is, in a very real sense, a body of spiritual elders - members of our community who have been called to listen for the Holy Spirit's leading, to pray for the life of our parish, and to discern God's vision for us together. Their work is grounded in a deep desire to see our congregation flourish in faith and service.

So, as we move these meetings to better accommodate everyone's availability, I ask you to hold our vestry members in your prayers. They serve both as wise stewards and as spiritual shepherds amongst us, seeking always to be faithful to Christ's call.

Faithfully,

Nick+

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
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com

Bereavement Team 2

**Laura Birk, Nancy Megee,
Wendy Hall, Karen Lewey,
Debbie Mueggenborg**

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