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The Steeple

Aug 21, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Beginner's Mind

Dear St. Luke's,

One of the most profound abilities we have is to see with what many spiritual writers call a "beginner's mind." At first, that phrase might sound like it means being inexperienced or not knowing much but nothing could be further from the truth. A beginner's mind is really about keeping our hearts open - something we talked about in Bible study this morning. It's about approaching life with curiosity, with wonder, and with humility. And when we do that, we create space for God's Spirit to surprise us and transform us.

The truth is, we spend a lot of time trying to become more experienced. We want to know how things work, how church works, even how faith is "supposed" to work. But faith isn't about becoming an expert in God. It's about being willing to be amazed again. It's about expecting God to speak to us here, now, in this moment of our lives.

Think about prayer. Many of us pray the same prayers again and again: the Lord's Prayer, the psalms, the Daily Office, grace at the dinner table. And sometimes those words slip out of our mouths almost without thinking. But a beginner's mind helps us pause and ask: What if God really hears this prayer? What if this is the moment?

That's when we start to recover a sense of awe. The psalmist reminds us, "The heavens declare the glory of God" Each day is filled with signs of God's love. When we keep a beginner's mind, we notice them all over - in small kindnesses, in beauty, even in our struggles.

The same is true in our worship together. Week after week, we gather for the Eucharist. We say the same prayers, sing the same songs, hear the same words of institution. If we're not careful, it can feel routine. But when we come with a beginner's mind, it comes alive.

When we hear, "The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven," it isn't just something we've heard before - it's Jesus meeting us at this altar today. When we sing the Gloria, we're joining in the song of the angels. When we hear, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord," we are being sent out freshly commissioned, as if for the very first time. That's the hope at any rate.

The liturgy isn't something we just "go through." It's something that goes through us, shaping us, week by week, into the people of God.

And, of course, the study of Scripture invites us to have a beginner's mind. We may have heard the stories in Genesis or the Parables of Jesus more times than we can count. But when we open ourselves with curiosity and humility, God can still startle us. A passage can strike us differently because of where we are in life right now. A word we overlooked before can suddenly feel like it was written just for us.

I can't help but recall that Jesus put it this way: "Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). He wasn't asking us to be childish but childlike. Children marvel, right? They know how to ask questions. They know how to trust.

So, as we continue in our life together here at St. Luke's, may we keep cultivating a beginner's mind in our prayer, in our worship, and in our hearing of God's Word. That way, our lamps will remain trimmed and burning as the song says.

Faithfully,
Nick+

At Luke's Place: Aug 22nd – Aug 28th, 2025

Aug 24th	**Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
	Brunch Bunch Brunch, 11:30am, Metcalf
Aug 25th	**Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Classroom**
	Feast Day of St Bartholomew, 12:15pm, chapel
Aug 26th	**Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library**
Aug 27th	**Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room**
Aug 28th	**Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall**
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

Theologian's Corner

Artemisia Bowden
Educator
August 18th

As kids return to school this reflection seems timely.

Artemisia Bowden, an educator and civic leader, one of few black women college presidents during the first half of the 20th century, was born on January 1, 1879 in Albany, Georgia, to former slaves Milas Bowden and Mary (Molette) Bowden. The oldest of four children, she was raised originally in Brunswick, Georgia. When her mother died, Artemisia and two of her siblings were sent to a boarding school in Raleigh, North Carolina. After her graduation from St. Augustine's Normal School in 1900, she taught for several years in North Carolina, first at a parochial school and then at the High Point Normal and Industrial School. (When St. Augustine's was upgraded to a College in 1935, she was granted a B.A. degree.) In 1902 Bowden, then 23, moved to San Antonio, Texas to become the principal of St. Philip's Industrial School, an Episcopal school for African American girls. She would spend the rest of her career, more than fifty years, leading St. Philip's.

In 1927 St. Philip's became a private junior college and Bowden became its first President. The depression years created financial challenges particularly when the Episcopal Church decided to end its support. Bowden then persuaded the San Antonio Independent School District to support St. Philip's, the only African American junior college in the region, paralleling its support for a white junior college. In 1942 the District finally agreed to do so and St. Philip's Junior College merged with San Antonio Junior College to become the San Antonio Union Junior College District, now the Alamo Community College District. Bowden became the Dean of St. Philip's, continuing to serve until her retirement in 1954.

Bowden continued her own education during these years, doing graduate work at Columbia University, the New York School of Social Work, and the University of Colorado. In addition to her B.A. degree, she received an honorary master's degree from Wiley College and an honorary doctorate from Tillotson College.

Bowden was extraordinarily active as a civic leader. She was president of the San Antonio Metropolitan Council of Negro Women, founder and president of the city's Negro Business and Professional Women's Club (1935) and was active on a Council on Juvenile Delinquency of the Texas Social Welfare Association. She was named to the Texas Commission on Interracial Relations in 1947 and the same year she established the East End Settlement House and helped create the State Training School for Delinquent Negro Girls. Her accomplishments led to many recognitions. Among these, she was named one of the ten most outstanding women educators in

the United States by the National Council of Negro Women. Locally, the Bowden Elementary School in San Antonio and the Bowden Administration Building at St. Philip's are named in her honor.

Together we pray: O God, by your Holy Spirit, you give gifts to your people so that they might faithfully serve your Church and the world: We give you praise for the gifts of perseverance, teaching and wisdom made manifest in your servant, Artemisia Bowden, whom you called far from home for the sake of educating the daughters and granddaughters of former slaves in Texas. We thank you for blessing and prospering her life's work, and pray that, following her example, we may be ever mindful of the call to serve where you send us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Spirit, lives and reigns, 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, **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, **Susan** Brooks, **Dea**n Zervas, and **Graham** Hunt.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Tenth Week of Pentecost
Trinity, Tulsa The Scottish Episcopal Church

DISCUSSION GROUP

St. Luke's is forming a group to discuss a wide variety of topics that are of interest to the St. Luke's family. Beginning September 9, 2025, we will meet on Tuesday nights at 6:30PM – meeting room yet to be determined. We will meet for one hour and discuss one topic. This will not be a lecture class - it will be a discussion. We may not solve any problems or answer every question but we will exchange ideas, concerns, suggestions and hopes.
We will discuss topics that are suggested by the participants in addition to some that will be suggested to the group. The topic for our first meeting will be "Does God answer all our prayers? If not, why not?" You will see articles in the "Steeple" and the Service bulletins announcing the topic for the next week so you can come to the sessions that interest you.
This group will be intergenerational so hopefully we will have some participants from all age groups.

If you have questions or comments about this group, please contact Tom Reyburn (our Lay Catechist) at 970-209-4695 or SJMtnMan@gmail.com.
Hope to see you at the sessions that interest you beginning on September 9th.

Birthdays and Anniversaries Aug 24th – Aug 30th, 2025

Birthdays **Anniversaries**

Darian Kedy (8/25)
Dennis Mueggenborg (8/26)
Camden Campbell (8/29)
Cathy Perrier (8/30)

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!

For those of you who remember our Assistant to the Rector from 2007-2010, the Rev. Mary Lou Mannschreck, she has reached out to us and updated her contact information. Last weekend St Matthew's in Enid celebrated her. She would love to hear from you so, if you would like to send her a card or call her, here's how:

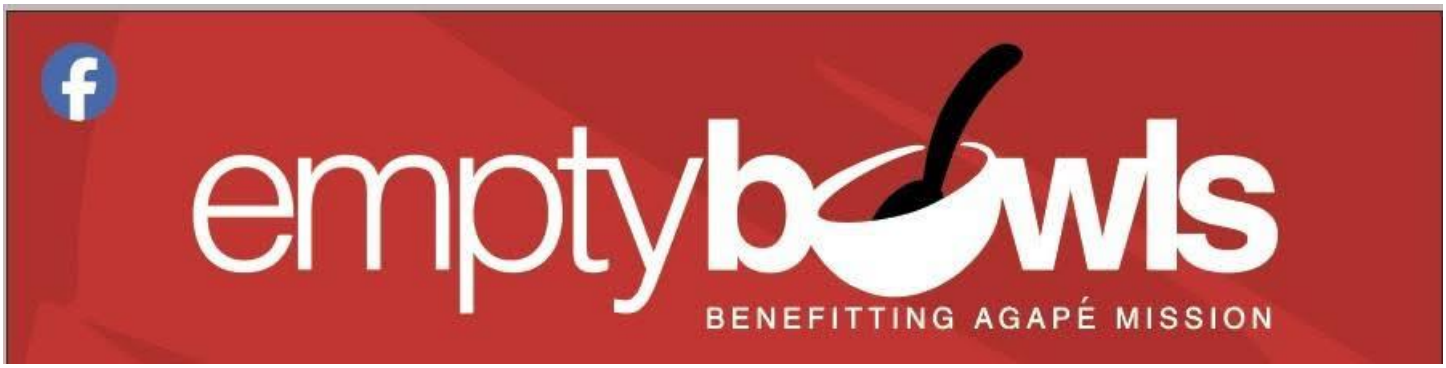
The Rev Mary Lou Mannschreck
PO Box 757
North Tazewell, Virginia 24630

Phone: 276-979-5187

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

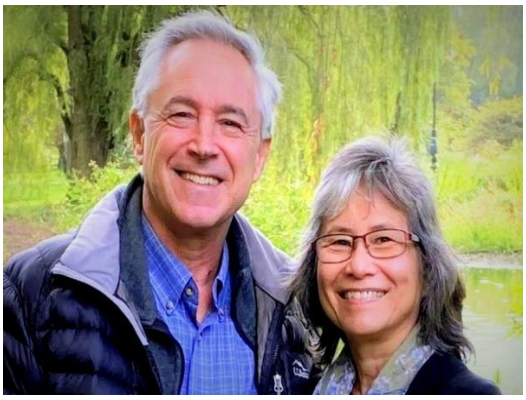
Don't forget! This Sunday after the 10:30am service, our fabulous Brunch Bunch is serving up brunch! Come, eat, and enjoy the fellowship!

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.



News from the Greens

Hi friends,

We're coming closer to the end of our time of working remotely in the U.S. We're in Chicago now and learning more about this city. Our latest decision is to not buy a house yet. For now we'll look at where we'll be able to rent in the future.

Some of my remote work, as I wrote before, has been to research resources which have been requested by our teammates who work in a country near to Thailand. The hardest situation to research has been a request for how to reach out to drug-addicted teens who are stealing from the community. After they steal, they hide, so it's not possible to communicate with them. Remembering the book *The Cross and the Switchblade* by David Wilkerson, I've been researching how to use church-planting models for the beginning processes with churches. I've also been working at getting information from the organization Adult and Teen Challenge for what their discipleship program is like.

I wanted to ask again if any of you have experience with programs or Bible studies for the situations that our teammates told us about. Would you please pray about the drug-addicted teens situation and also look through the list below and let me know if you have recommendations? For the testimonies, it would be more effective to have several testimonies to share.

Our return to Thailand is set for Sept. 21. I'm looking forward to meeting with some Thai mothers in Chiang Mai on Oct. 12 and sharing with them the Bible materials in the attached photo. I think the Thai mothers will appreciate the books.

Thank you for thinking about whether you can give me more recommendations!
Joanne

1. Bible study for after a divorce
Here is one testimony:

https://www.ibelieve.com/relationships/god-has-a-purpose-for-your-painful-divorce.html

2. Bible study for couples with infertility issues
This is a testimony from a woman who still doesn't have a baby. She writes about how lament has been important to her.

https://www.journeywomen.org/blogs/gospel-hope-in-infertility

3. Bible study for widows/widowers
I haven't yet found a testimony from someone who has written about Bible verses that became special when they became a widow/widower. This one testimony talks about how God continually brought 2 Peter 1:6-7 to one widow.

https://www.widowmight.org/hear-beths-story-taken-care-of-by-god/

Please let me know if you know other widows/widowers who can share their testimonies as something like a two-page write-up and the Bible verses that eventually became meaningful.

4. Bible study for single parents
I have a testimony from one friend. I found her testimony and the accompanying Bible verses to be a powerful witness.

5. Bible studies for Christian youth to stay strong in their faith even when they have to leave their parents at a young age (especially when they are considering working in a nightclub)
A couple of identity Bible resources for teens are:

https://youthgroupministry.com/lessons/youth-group-lesson-for-teens-embracing-true-identity-in-christ-ephesians-210/
Includes Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:9

https://youthministrycurriculum.com/how-to-teach-teenagers-about-identity-in-christ/?srsltid=AfmBOopBg7eDyO-n4cAw2QXKI4nicksP7Cb_ouMnMTcNEgJpCPEj9_D8
Includes Eph. 2:10; Ps. 139:1-4; John 1:12; 2 Co. 5:17; Phil. 3:20

Here's a teen Bible study about "tough times":

https://youthgroupministry.com/lessons/youth-group-lesson-for-teens-growing-strong-when-life-gets-tough-james-12-4/
Includes James 1:2-4; Isaiah 43:2; Phil. 4:12-13

(I should say that these teen Bible studies are in addition to my teammates' curriculum called *Strengthening Christian Families* and *Capable Kids*. We are looking for ongoing training for the teens, especially when they face hard choices about how to make money for their refugee/immigrant families.)

6. Dating, living together, marriage, divorce, remarriage, and having a second wife--information for teens
This information would be extensions of the very basic curriculum that I already use for marriage retreats and parent/child retreats.

7. Mental health information for teens
This is the most concise information I found about mental disorders:

https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-disorders

This is a curriculum that can be presented to teens. It would need to be pared down to make it useful for ESL presenters to use.

https://safersmarterteens.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SST_HS_MH_2020_DigitalOnly.pdf

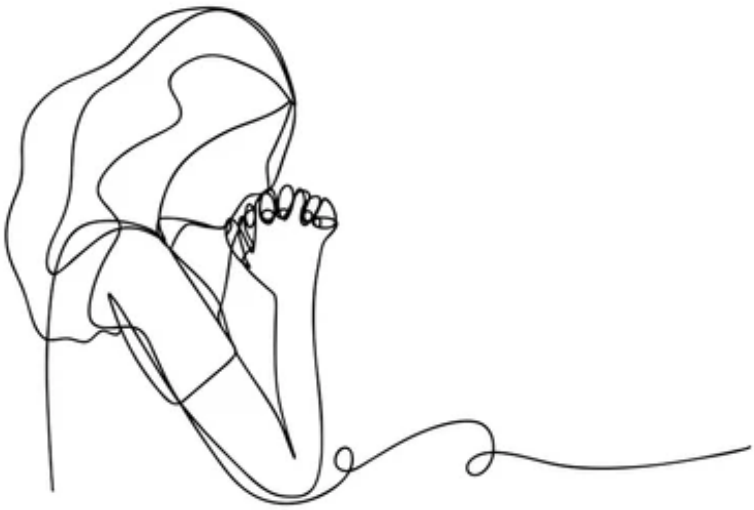
8. Lastly, one other request from a teammate is to make a little booklet that can fit in a shirt pocket. The booklet will have a list of life situations and the Bible verses and passages that can encourage a person in that life situation. I've just started to organize verses for that project. If you know of an existing, well-done (short) list like that, please let me know.

Your feedback would be welcome!

Note: The Bible passages will be easy to transfer to other-language situations. When there is a lot of non-Bible prose, it's not easy to translate to another language. Also, the cultural context and mind frame embedded in extended prose can be hard for people to understand in their different-country situation. So, I'm looking for about equal amounts of prose and Bible passages in the Bible studies and testimonies.

The BCP (Book of Common Prayer) Collect for the Feast of Saint Bartholomew (August 24th) is: "Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your Word: Grant that your Church, love that Word which he believed, and both to preach and receive the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." This prayer asks for the grace to believe and preach God's Word, just as Bartholomew did.

Eucharist, 12:15pm, Chapel, Aug 25th



Ladies Prayer Partners starts back

Ladies Prayer Partners will have their first meeting of the year on Monday, August 25, at 11:30 in the upstairs classroom. If you are interested, join us as we pray for our church, our country and leaders, and those in need from the beautiful prayers in the back of our prayer book. This will last 30 minutes or less with time to visit after for those who can stay

SAVE THE DATE!

SAT. NOV. 8TH

Metcalf Hall 5:30pm

FOOD • FAMILY FUN • FELLOWSHIP

4th ANNUAL

LIP SYNC

BATTLE IN BARTLESVILLE

September 27 | 2025

Hilton Garden Inn | 6 pm

Such a fun time that kept the toes a tapping and some good hardy laughs. A wonderfully fun family event!

Ronda Riden-Wilson

WATCH LOCAL CELEBRITIES BATTLE HUNGER

Admission of $75 includes the Battle, a festival style buffet and 2 adult drinks.

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