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The Steeple



September 3, 2026

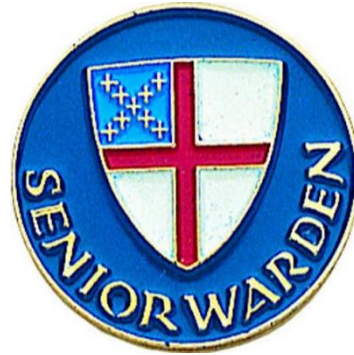


Ordinary Time

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



From the Senior Warden



Collect for the Unity of the Church. BCP p.255.:

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

In light of the visits this month from Canon Betsy, Canon to the Ordinary and Bishop Poulson, I thought it appropriate to examine what it means to be an Episcopalian. (Episcopal means Bishop)

We certainly are a diverse group with 70% of us arriving from other backgrounds. However, we gather together to share our thoughts on prayer, liturgy and church government and of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We "Are Arms Wide Open" to the eccentric and random personalities that appear on our doorstep. We are distinctive in nature in that our spiritual arc moves towards boundless hope and reasonable faith thus we deal in scripture, tradition and reason. Also known as the 3 legged stool!

Scripture....God still speaks to us through the Bible. Tradition....we are speaking of the many ways the issues of faith and doctrine have been dealt with in the past....and Reason involves plain

ole common sense and wisdom from human experiences.

It goes without saying that the Episcopal Church is founded on the declaration that Jesus Christ is Lord and that thru Him the Holy Spirit continually transforms us. We are a descendant of the Church of England, which itself was founded in 597 as a break away from the Roman Catholic Church. King Henry VIII gave Archbishop Thomas Cranmer instructions to revise the liturgy and The Book of Common Prayer was adapted. As such, the Episcopal tradition of the one, holy catholic and apostolic church is our creed of belief.

Our primary identity rests with the practice of being bound by the liturgy and our life of prayer. We are always listening for the Spirit to move and guide us as we participate in the liturgies from the BCP.

Some churches are High and some Low...different color vestments and the use of incense or even different practices at the Altar. But no matter the setting, the Gospel is ultimately the Gospel!

Episcopalians at their core are sacramental...outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace. We are rooted in prayer, both communal and personal. Our baptismal covenant is indissoluble. And Holy Eucharist is so personal and restorative to unity with God through Christ. With the Body and Blood we are reconstituted as Christ IN us and empowered to be His presence in the world.

The post-communion prayer in the BCP best expresses what our mission is...read it on page 366. More to come as the Episcopal Church is mystical and ethereal and can't be described in one setting!

Deep Peace, Karole

At Luke's Place: Sept 4th – Sept 10th, 2026

Sept 6th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Sept 7th	Labor Day- office closed
Sept 8th	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
Sept 9th	Choir, 5pm, Choir Room YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Sept 10th	Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

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, JoAnn Gallery, Kathleen Turner, Steve Clark, Dean Zervas, Frank Molina, Diane Mitchell, Frank Traylor, Steve Hand, Donna Steward, Penny Johnson, Kim Shipman, Shaina Smith, Ann Morrow, Miriam Petrovich, Jason Elmore, Teresa Phares, June Mosley, Marsha Tibbits, Larry Mueggenborg, Sherry Breitman, Barbie Hirst, Jack Stoecker, Dorothy Buchanan, Bob Lambert, and Jeff Birk.

Please add to your prayers:

St. John's, Tulsa St. Simeon's Home, Tulsa The Church in the Province of
The West Indies

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Sept 6th – Sept 12th, 2026

Birthdays

Teresa Phares	(9/6)
David Breedlove	(9/7)
Steve Roper	(9/8)
Robert Lonski	(9/10)

Anniversaries

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.

Canon Betsy will be leading the Faith Forum this Sunday and after the service there will be Coffee Hour. See you in Church!

Concern

Concern's current needs are: canned corn, peas, 16oz peanut butter and unisex deodorant.

FILL the TOTE For CONCERN

September 12 is the big fundraiser for Concern. St Luke's has been a supporter of Concern since its inception. One of the main services for Concern is a food pantry. Many here at St. Luke's will not be able to attend the Battle in Bartlesville event, however, we can still support Concern in a big way. The month of September will be for our ministry to Concern through the food pantry. Every Sunday let's bring a canned good or nonperishable food item to drop into the plastic tote under the coat rack by Metcalf. Can we fill that up every Sunday in September? Let's try. Just grab a canned good or two out of your own pantry every Sunday you come to church this month. With everyone contributing, it can fill up fast. Let's help Concern this September!



Theologian's Corner:

St. Kassiani

Poet and Hymnographer

865 A.D.

Feast Day- September 7th

Kassia, Cassia, Kassiane, or Kassiani (Greek: Κασσιανή, romanized: Kassianí, pronounced [kasia'ni]; c. 810 – c.865) was a Byzantine-Greek composer, hymnographer and poet. She holds a unique place in Byzantine music as the only known woman whose music appears in the Byzantine liturgy. Approximately fifty of her hymns are extant, most of which are stichera, though at least 26 have uncertain attribution. The authenticity issues are due to many hymns being anonymous, and others ascribed to different authors in different manuscripts. She was an abbess of a convent in the west of Constantinople.

Kassia was born between 805 and 810 in Constantinople into a wealthy family and grew to be exceptionally beautiful and intelligent. Three Byzantine chroniclers, Pseudo-Symeon the

Logothete, George the Monk (a.k.a. George the Sinner) and Leo the Grammarian, claim that she was a participant in a "bride show"—the means by which Byzantine princes/emperors sometimes chose a bride, by giving a golden apple to his choice—organized for the young bachelor Theophilos by his stepmother, the Empress Dowager Euphrosyne. Smitten by Kassia's beauty, the young emperor approached her and said: "Through a woman [came forth] the baser [things]," referring to the sin and suffering coming as a result of Eve's transgression. Kassia promptly responded, "And through a woman [came forth] the better [things]," referring to the hope of salvation resulting from the Incarnation of Christ through the Virgin Mary. According to tradition, the verbatim dialogue was:

"Ἐκ γυναικὸς τὰ χείρω." Medieval Greek: [ek jyne'kos ta 'çiro]

"Καὶ ἐκ γυναικὸς τὰ κρείττω." Medieval Greek: [c(e) ek jyne'kos ta 'krito]

Unsatisfied with her response, Theophilos rejected her and chose Theodora as his wife.

By 843, Kassia had founded a convent in the west of Constantinople, near the Constantinian Walls, and became its first abbess. Although one view holds that her decision to enter monastic life was motivated by bitterness at having failed to marry Theophilos and become empress, a letter from Theodore the Studite indicates that she had religious motivations for embracing the monastic life. Since monastic life was a common vocation in her time, religious devotion may have been as important a motive as disappointment or the pursuit of artistic renown. Her convent had a close relationship with the nearby monastery of Stoudios, which played a central role in re-editing the Byzantine liturgical books in the 9th and 10th centuries, thus helping to preserve her work.

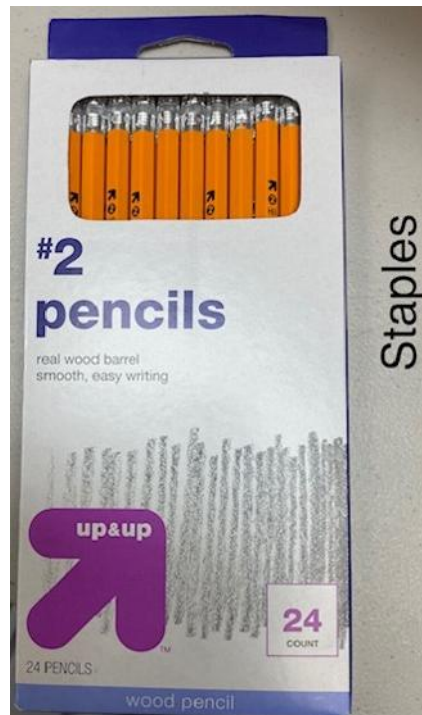
Emperor Theophilos was a fierce iconoclast, and any residual feelings he may have had for Kassia did not preserve her from the imperial policy of persecution for her defense of the veneration of icons. Among other things, she was subjected to scourging with a lash. In spite of this, she remained outspoken in defense of the Orthodox Faith, at one point saying, "I hate silence when it is time to speak."

After the death of Theophilos in 842 his young son Michael III became Eastern Roman Emperor, with Empress Theodora acting as Regent. Together they ended the second iconoclastic period (814–843); peace was restored to the empire.

Kassia traveled to Italy briefly, but eventually settled on the Greek Island of Kasos, where she died sometime around 865. In the city of Panaghia, there is a church where Kassia's tomb/reliquary may be found.

O God of boundless mercy, whose handmaiden Kassiani brought forth poetry and song: Inspire in your church a new song, that following her most excellent example, we may boldly proclaim the truth of your Word; even Jesus Christ, our Savior and Deliverer. Amen.

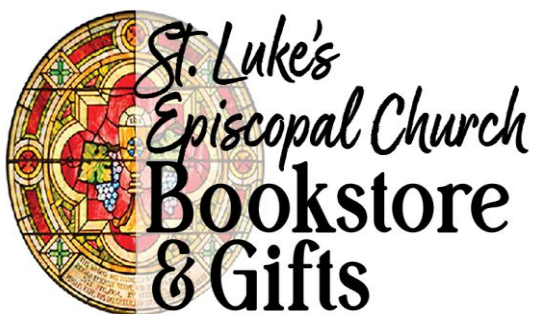
September Item: 24ct #2 Pencils w/ erasers



Staples



The Church office will be closed September 7th for the Labor Day Holiday. Have a wonderful weekend.



GRAND REOPENING SALE!

Sept 6th, 8th, 10th & 13th

New Items and discounted items!

Making room for the Holidays

Tuesday

Thursday

11:00am-1:00pm

And Sundays after the late service.

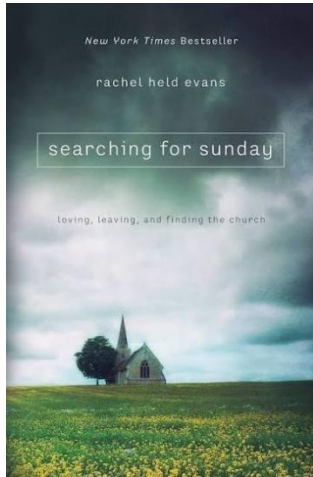
Cathy & Debi

5th ANNUAL LIP SYNC BATTLE IN BARTLESVILLE

September 12th, Hilton Garden Inn, Fundraiser for Concern

**Fill the Tote for Concern in
September! Grab a canned
good out of the pantry and
let's fill this EVERY
SUNDAY!!**





The Spiritual Discovery Group will start meeting again every Tuesday at 9:30am in the Library, September 8th. The book study will be “Searching for Sunday” by Rachel Held Evans. You may purchase the book in the Bookstore.



Sexton on Vacation

Courtney will be on vacation from September 2nd-8th. If you find any paper products out in any location, please let the office know and I will try to restock.

Outreach Fund Distribution - Your input, please

As you may know, funds held in St. Luke's Outreach Fund are being distributed to Concern, Agape, Bartlesville Public School Foundation, and Mary Martha Outreach.

St. Luke's Outreach Committee selected these organizations and the percentages of the funds to be distributed to each last year. The Vestry approved the organizations and percentages at their December 2025 meeting, which are in effect this year.

It is now time to revisit the topic in preparation for next year's distributions. Some of the questions to be considered are:

- Should we continue to financially support these particular organizations?
- Should we consider directing funds elsewhere, in lieu of one or more of these?
- Should the percentages change?

The Outreach Committee would like to hear from you!

If you would like St. Luke's to consider donating to a different organization during 2027, please contact me or any of the Committee Members. Although we are likely to limit the number of recipient organizations to four, we may consider swapping one or two of the 2026 organizations in favor of others.

When contacting the Committee, please provide the following information which will be used in the consideration / evaluation process:

- A half-page statement of purpose of the organization, including how its programs align with the values of St. Luke's.
- The organization's most recent 990. (Available online at <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>)
- The organization's most recent Year-end Financial Report.

The Outreach Committee would like your input by September 11th, please.

2026 Outreach Committee Members

Becky Liehr

Cathy Perrier

Steve Clark

Ransom Jackson

Deacon Jeff (Chairman)



On September 6th and 20th, there will be only one service at 10:30am. Canon Betsy Randall will be here the 6th and Bishop Poulson Reed will be here for his bi-annual visit on the 20th. Since neither can make the 8:00am service and getting a supply priest for the early service was difficult, it was decided we would just have the one service at 10:30am those two Sundays. Please

note this change if you attend the earlier service. Please have patience as we navigate changes in our schedule from time to time. They are not permanent.



September 20th

St Luke's will be having a parish pot luck with the Bishop after the 10:30am service. Meat and beverages provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



News Alert

A summary of what we've been up to at the BCF

PROUD TO PRESENT THE 2026 COMMUNITY CATALYST

For nearly five decades, **Dan Droege** has helped shape Bartlesville through vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the community he calls home. Now, the Bartlesville Community Foundation is proud to recognize him as the **2026 Community Catalyst**, an honor presented to an individual whose service and leadership have created lasting change.



Dan's fingerprints are on many of the things that make Bartlesville special. His early work helped bring **Pathfinder Parkway** to life, and he played a major role in growing **Sunfest** into a regional tradition. He helped lead seven successful school bond issues and co-founded **PEAK (Public Education Advocates for Kids)** to advocate for public education and teachers. He was also among the community leaders who helped establish the Bartlesville Community Foundation—and more than 25 years later, he continues encouraging others to invest in their community.

When asked about his most personally meaningful accomplishments, Dan points to his early work with BCF and Pathfinder, the ongoing 940 project, the school bond issues, and PEAK. But at the top of his list is his **family**. After college and career experiences elsewhere, four of his six children returned to Bartlesville to live and raise their families—a testament, Dan says, to their belief that this is an exceptional place to call home.

Join us as we celebrate Dan and his remarkable legacy at **Celebrate Together on September 22**. The event will be an opportunity to honor a true community catalyst, hear inspiring stories of philanthropy and service, and celebrate the people and organizations working to make our community stronger.

We hope you'll join us to celebrate Dan Droege—and the power of one person's commitment to making a difference.

Tickets are still available. ➡ ➡ ➡



St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Bereavement Team 3

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

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