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The Steeple

Sept 4, 2025

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

How We *Do* Theology

When most people hear the word theology, they imagine professors in ivory towers or dusty books written in languages that are long forgotten. Yet, in the Episcopal Church, theology is not just the work of scholars. Theology, quite literally, is "faith seeking understanding." That faith, of course, is in us! Thus, theology is the way we as the Body of Christ make sense of who God is, who we are, and how we are called to live in the world. And, it is something the whole Church does together.

Each Sunday when we gather, we are practicing theology. The prayers, hymns, and readings are not just words on a page; they shape what we believe about God and about ourselves. The liturgy is our "common work," and it teaches us that God is Creator, Christ is Redeemer, and the Spirit is alive in our midst. Every "Amen" you speak is part of the Church doing theology together.

Theology also happens in our small groups, Bible studies, in the new discussion group, the Spiritual Discovery Group - in Faith Forum, Y.D., Choir, etc. When we ask questions, wrestle with Scripture, or share how God is moving in our lives, we are practicing theology. We are not trying to win arguments or prove points, but to deepen our understanding of God's grace and our call to live faithfully in response to that profound love.

Theology is not only about words and ideas it shapes our practices as Christians. When the vestry discerns how best to use resources, when the altar guild prepares the sacred space, when Y.D. serves in the community, each group is doing theology. They are asking, in their own way: How does God's love shape what we do? How do we respond to that love?

So, theology is not the task of a select few. It is the shared work of everyone at St. Luke's…as we pray, sing, study, discuss, worship, and serve. Each of us has a part in seeking understanding and living out the good news of Jesus Christ. I encourage you wholeheartedly to continue to be

theologians together, listening for God's voice and discovering how our lives bear witness to the love of Christ in Bartlesville and beyond.

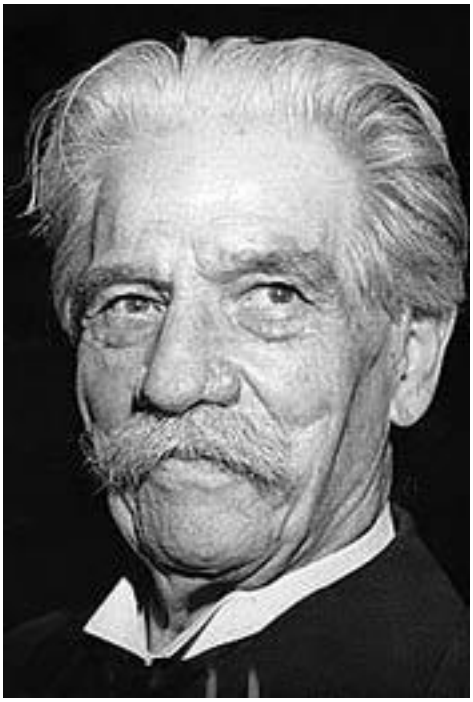
Peace be with you,

Nick+

At Luke's Place: Sept 5th – Sept 11th, 2025

Sept 7th	**Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Sept 8th	**Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf**
	Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room
Sept 9th	**Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library**
	Vestry, 5:30pm, Metcalf Hall
	Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers Hall
Sept 10th	**Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room**
	YD, 6:00pm, Rodgers Hall
Sept 11th	**Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall**
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

Yes, this wonderful holiday and tradition of St Luke's is back. Join Us! At the Palace Rooms on September 9th, 6:30pm, for our annual 'Buy Your Priest a Beer Day'! Its joyfully fun fellowship and a chance to honor our beloved Fr Nick. The Vestry will be meeting prior and then will escort our Rector to our location. Palace Rooms is located at 309 S Dewey Ave. Just tell the host at the door you are here with the St Luke's group.



Theologian's Corner
Albert Schweitzer

Albert Schweitzer, theologian, philosopher, organist, authority on Bach, physician, and missionary, was born in 1875, as the son of a Lutheran pastor, in Alsace.

He studied at Strasbourg and at Paris, and around 1900 Schweitzer became a doctor of philosophy and a doctor of theology, and was ordained to the Lutheran ministry and became a preacher and a lecturer in philosophy! As mentioned above, was an outstanding organist, and in 1905 published a study of Johann Sebastian Bach while simultaneously writing a book called The Quest of the Historical Jesus! (What an underachiever.)

In 1905 Schweitzer announced his intention of becoming a missionary doctor, and resigned his positions, giving up a brilliant career, to go to medical school. In 1913 he and his wife set out for Lambarene in Gabon where they built a hospital. His work there was interrupted by World War I.

Since Schweitzer was a German citizen, he was interned by the French and spent his prison time writing. He published his Philosophy of Civilization, in which he urged "reverence for life," a philosophy of compassion for all living things.

> *A visitor to Lambarene saw a mosquito on his arm once and was about to swat it. Schweitzer saw it and said: "Think twice. Remember that you are a guest in its country."*

After the war, Schweitzer returned to Lambarene and rebuilt his hospital, adding a leper colony. His autobiography, Out of My Life and Thought, was published in 1933. And, in 1952 he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

One of the best books I've read about Schweitzer is from one of his colleagues from Lambarene entitled: In Africa with Schweitzer by Edgar Berman.

Schweitzer died on the 4th of September in 1965.

Together we pray: O God, who didst endow thy servant Albert Schweitzer with a multitude of gifts for learning, beauty, and service: Inspire thy Church that we, following his example, may be utterly dedicated to thee that all our works might be done to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. 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, **Steve** Clark, **Lauren** Gandy, **Susan** Brooks, **Dea**n Zervas, and **Graham** Hunt.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Twelfth Week of Pentecost
St. John's, Tulsa St. Simeon's Home, Tulsa The Church of South India (United)

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 will be in Rodger's Hall. 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.

Next Discussion 9/16: "Is there a place in Heaven for a good person who is not a Christian?"

Concerns current needs are: canned chicken, Spam and small jars of peanut butter; and for the homeless: unisex deodorant, toothpaste and bars of soap.

Birthdays and Anniversaries Sept 7th – Sept 13th, 2025

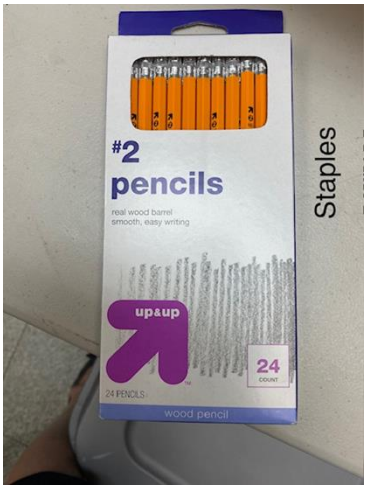
Birthdays **Anniversaries**

David Breedlove (9/7)
Steve Roper (9/8)
Katherine Todd (9/9)
Robert Lonski (9/10)

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 September please collect either small packages of 8 to 12 count pencils or large packages of 16 to 24 count pencils. Either size should be number 2 pencils with the eraser. Don't spend the extra money for sharpened pencils. The pictures are Walmart or Staples brands of the large packages. Price should be about $0.50 for the small packages and $1.00 for the large.

Collection basket is in Nartex.



Medical Response team practice will be right after the 10:30am service for those at Church on the 7th. Meet up front right after the service is over. If AV team and Ushers on the 7th would please stay and participate in their parts. Thank you.

Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee is a special ministry of St. Luke's and provides a reception for family and friends after the funeral or memorial service of a loved one. The Committee is made up of 3 teams---4-6 women each. Teams rotate according to funeral schedules and provide----Set Up, Food, and Drink. They serve with compassion and care to meet the requests of the family.

If you're unable to commit to a team, but would like to help, another option is to agree to provide a Food item to be served.

This ministry offers flexibility for its team members since funeral dates aren't usually scheduled much in advance.
If you are interested in serving in this wonderful, caring group, please contact Chairman, Susie Clark. Will be glad to answer any questions and give more details.
susstecla@gmail.com or 918-519-7580
A note written by Barbara Martin, ---reflecting the ministry's purpose.
"I love our Episcopal sendoff—the Service and Reception truly are a "Celebration of One's Life". For me, this gives a great deal of comfort, knowing that when I die, my family that I have just "left", is being surrounded with such love, comfort, and friendship…They will have a beautiful place to have an hour of transition time, to catch their breath, hug, talk, share stories, a tear, or laugh----share food, and continue living their lives, thankful for family, at peace within, and with hearts knowing God's love for them. I find it very humbling to be a part of this special ministry at St. Luke's. It is important that we continue offering this loving tradition for the members of St. Luke's and those they love."
Barbara Martin---Sept. 2015

WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH *A Christ-Centered Grief Ministry*

The Ministry of *WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH* seeks to serve individuals who are in grief through a series of Eight Weekly Workshops. Together in a small group, individuals acknowledge the pain and brokenness of loss, recognize that each journey through grief is unique, share stories, experience both tears and laughter, and help each other in a safe environment to continue healing. *WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH* is a transformative eight-week journey that reflects on where God is in our grief and loss.

WE WILL BE STARTING A WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 23RD
CONTACT KAROLE COZBY, NANCY WOODS OR FR. NICK FOR MORE INFO!

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.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
- Dolores McCreary –dolomc37@gmail.com
- 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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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