In this Week's Steeple>>>>

- News from the Office
- Theologian's Corner
- November PTBP Item
- Advent Programs offered
- Christmas in the Woods
- Pies for Concern

The Steeple





November 5,2026



Ordinary Time

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

St. Luke's episcopal church

Season of Gratitude

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
Proverbs 16:24 NIV

Moving forward in my faith walk toward this season of gratitude, I find myself seeking the comfort of gracious words.

What strikes me as poignant in my St. Luke's journey, is the number of people I encounter here who speak graciously, positively and encouragingly. I find myself wanting to hear what they have to say.

My search for gracious words has me meandering the Book of Common Prayer more often. I find the prayers comforting. My favorite, number 54, calms my mind:

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now, in the absence of Nick's gracious way of speaking about faith, I find myself wondering, "Did his way of talking about faith spring from the use of this book?"

Perhaps he trained his mind and mouth from its pages and often nudged us toward it during our faith forum on Sunday mornings, with a big grin when the opportunity arose, hoping to spark the desire to follow his example? It's possible.

My hope for you as you worship at St. Luke's is that you give grace for the times we as a church body have failed to understand your needs. My continued hope will be that you experience gracious words from peace filled hearts when you arrive to worship your creator and savior. I hope worshiping at St. Luke's brings you the joy it brings me.

Your presence and your prayers are coveted here.
I assure you the Holy Spirit is among us.
I have no doubt about such.

As you seek to dig deeper or hold fast in your faith may the Holy Spirit's presence be known to you. As we approach this season of gratitude, I'm thankful for all you bring with your prayers and your presence.

If you are looking for a way to increase your connection to Sunday's readings and discuss them with the most gracious Christians I've encountered in my lifetime, please join us for the faith forum at 9:15 in Metcalf Hall on Sunday.

We would enjoy your presence and be happy to share a cup of coffee as we continue to move forward in our faith together.

Sandi Dice



At Luke's Place: Nov 6th – Nov 12th, 2026

Nov 8th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
	BSO Brass Quintet, 5pm, Nave
Nov 9th	Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
	Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room
	Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
Nov 10th	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
	Icon Group, 5:30pm, Icon room
	Bible Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Metcalf
Nov 11th	Veterans' Day- Office closed
	Walking the Mourner's Path, 2:00pm, WTMP room
	Choir, 6pm, Choir Room
	YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall
Nov 12th	Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Green Country Morning Prayer, 1pm, GCV

Prayer List

Please pray for: **Ben** Baker, **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, **Dea**n Zervas, **Frank** Molina, **Diane** Mitchell, **Frank** Traylor, **Steve** Hand, **Donna** Steward, **Penny** Johnson, **Shaina** Smith, **Ann** Morrow, **Miriam** Petrovich, **Jason** Elmore, **Jun**e Mosley, **Larry** Mueggenborg, **Sherry** Breitman, **Barbie** Hirst, **Jack** Stoecker, **Dorothy** Buchanan, **Ashleigh** Lawson, **Carolyn** Megee, and **Chris** Loftis.

Please add to your prayers:

Diocesan Seminarians, Iona School of Formation, and Aspirancy Program
Iglesia de la Region Central de America

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Nov 8th – Nov 14th , 2026

Birthdays		Anniversaries
Laura Birk	(11/8)	
Brian Ferguson	(11/9)	
Nancy VanDuker	(11/11)	
Steve Clark	(11/13)	
Wendy Hall	(11/13)	
Marilyn Taylor	(11/14)	

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: ramen noodles and canned fruit and tuna; homeless needs are single-serve proteins.



Theologian's Corner: Ammonius, the Hermit
c. 408

The most popular story that is related about Ammonius would seem quite unbelievable if it were not recorded in such a large number of historical sources, including many that were contemporary with his life. Although praised for his learning and his asceticism, he is most vividly remembered for the vehemence with which he resisted ordination.

Ammonius was one of four brothers who became monastic hermits in Scete in northern Egypt, disciples of the great ascetic Pambo. Although most of the monks in that settlement

were illiterate, Ammonius had been exceptionally well educated. He is said to have had the entire Old and New Testament memorized, as well as the works of many early Christian theologians. Although he left no writings, many of his students and colleagues did, perhaps the most famous of whom is Evagrius of Pontus.

In addition to his great knowledge, Ammonius was also very strict in his spiritual practice and was well loved as a spiritual director and guide. Because of all of this, the inhabitants of a nearby village wanted him to be their bishop. Forcible ordination was not unusual in the early church, and so Bishop Timothy of Alexandria told the people that if they were able to bring this holy man to him, he would absolutely ordain him.

Ammonius pleaded with them not to do this thing, but they would not hear it, and a large crowd of them gathered to drag him back to Alexandria by force. Seeing that they were too numerous for him to resist or to flee, Ammonius seized a sword and chopped off his ear in front of the shocked observers. He then calmly replied that he was now utterly disqualified for ecclesiastical office since the law forbids a man who is mutilated to become a priest (Leviticus 21:16–24). Deeply shaken, the people returned to Bishop Timothy, who told them: "This law is only observed by the Jews. If you bring him to me, I will ordain him even if he chops off his nose too!"

Therefore, they returned, but when they attempted to drag Ammonius off again, this time he said to them "I swear to you that if you do such a thing to me, I shall cut out my tongue as well!" Alarmed by the prospect of losing his preaching and exhortation, they finally left him in peace. This story was as striking in antiquity as it is today, and is recounted by a number of writers (including his disapproving bishop). Most sources refer to him as "Ammonius the Earless" from that time forth.

Despite his strident refusal of the episcopate, Ammonius was by no means anti-clerical. His own brother Dioscorus had become a bishop, his other two brothers were both priests, and when he left Egypt towards the end of his life during the theological controversies that had embroiled Scete, he sought out the company of his close friend John Chrysostom. He was also a close companion and associate of Melania the Elder, welcoming her as a guest to his monastic settlement, visiting her in Jerusalem at hers, and welcoming her protege Evagrius to his community. He died while visiting John Chrysostom sometime around the year 403.

DRIVE far from your church, O God, every vain spirit of clerical ambition, that, like your servant Ammonius, we may refuse to conflate ordination and leadership, and may never confuse rank with holiness; in the name of your son Jesus Christ our Lord, who alone is our great High Priest. **Amen.**

November Item: 8 or 16 ct watercolors
Preferably Crayola brand







This Sunday's celebrant and preacher is: Fr Thom Crowe



It's Pumpkin Pie Season! Time is running short! Please help with a donation for the pies we provide to Concern for Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Nov 15th is the deadline.



Advent Programs offered this Year

We will not have a special Advent program offered this year during the week. **However**, beginning Nov 29th (first Sunday in Advent) Faith Forum will begin **at 9:00am** and last an hour. We will watch 'Holy Night, The Chosen' in clips and discuss each section afterward.

Also, the Tuesday Discussion Group will also have an Advent study "The Weary World Rejoices" and discussing it as well.

Enhance your Advent Season by joining one or both of these classes as we journey through the time of Anticipation and Preparation for the Christ Child.





Stewardship Luncheon













St. Luke's Episcopal Church Bookstore & Gifts

Christmas Open House

Thurs. Dec 3rd 5-8pm
Sat. Dec 5th 10am-4pm
Sun. Dec 6th 11:30am-1:30pm

Do your Christmas shopping here!

Sunday BRUNCH BUNCH

The Brunch Bunch will be treating us to Christmas goodies and savory appetizers on December 6th after the 10:30 service. Save the Date!

Then at 4pm come back for a Christmas Concert by Keeli Droege, Marjoleine Gravley, and Susan Mueller

Extra Services Dates and Times:

St Andrew the Apostle Feast Day
Nov 30th – 12:15pm, chapel

St Thomas the Apostle Feast Day
Dec 21st – 12:15pm, chapel

Christmas Eve
Dec 24th – 4:30pm, nave
Dec 25th – 10:00am, nave





Please note these days the office will be closed

Nov 11th Veterans Day
Nov 26th & 27th Thanksgiving
Dec 24th & 25th Christmas

I will be on vacation Nov 19th -25th and Dec 23rd - Dec 31st. -Penny



St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Karole Cozby, Sr. Warden
- Karen Lewey, Jr Warden
- Becky Liehr
- Chase Almy
- Lisa Beeman
- Steve Heidorn
- Dolores McCreary
- Steve VanAken
- Fred Whitson
- Robert Lonski
- Cathy Perrier

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

Bereavement Team 3

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