



# The Steeple

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church*  
210 SE Ninth St., Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003  
[www.episcopalbartlesville.org](http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org)

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November 23, 2016

## ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STAR TREE

The Annual Star Tree, decorated with stars, is now in the narthex. It is decorated with stars, each star representing an area foster child's "wish list" for Christmas. Please take a star (or stars), shop for the requested gift(s), and return the gift (UNWRAPPED with the star firmly attached) to the church office no later than Sunday, December 11. If you have any questions, please call Steve or Cheryl Van Aken, 918-333-5570, or the church office, 918-336-1212 or email [annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org). Thank you for making this Christmas a bit brighter for a child in need!



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Weekly Calendar	2
From the Rector	2
Daily Advent Meditations on Website	2
With Sympathy	3
Update on Rector Search Process	3
A Thanksgiving Meditation	3
Fall Sale in Bookstore	3
Lay Ministry Schedules	4

### Important Dates To Remember

Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24 Holy Eucharist 10am  
First Sunday of Advent, November 27  
Star Tree Gifts Due Back Sun., Dec. 11  
(see article this pg.)

## Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Day at 10am. The church office will be closed Thursday & Friday, Nov. 24 & 25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.



### ✉ St. Luke's 2017 Stewardship Initiative ✉

Thank you to all who have turned in their Pledge Cards for 2017. If you haven't turned in your pledge for 2017 yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Additional cards are available in the church office.



## "How to Teach a Lamb to Sing"



Our Sunday mornings have been filled with children learning their lines for this special production! The play is almost a month away. Remember if you have a child that would enjoy performing with other "sheep," then join us for Sunday School at 9:15. The children practice from 9:15-9:40 and then head to their age appropriate class. Don't worry because we also have a class for parents! Join our Young Adult Bible Study (starts at 9:30...time to get coffee) in Metcalf Hall! If you have a child performing in this play, mark your calendar for two dates....

**Saturday, December 17 @10:00A.M. for play practice (should only take an hour)**

**Sunday, December 18 @ 10:30 service....the play will be performed!**

## From the Rector...



Ready for Thanksgiving? I really am now – a fresh perspective.

Lynda and I did our Thanksgiving shopping last week. The list was a bit lengthy, but normal for this holiday season. Smoked turkey, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, frozen cherry salad, gravy, turkey, dressing – no rolls (too many calories).

My Mother, who will be ninety-six and one day, will join us for our feast. Her ticket to the Thanksgiving banquet will be a Pecan Pie and a Pumpkin Pie. She is the best!

Of course we will call the grandchildren and their parents and hear about their Thanksgiving and talk about plans for Christmas. Naturally we will give thanks for them and tell them we love them. No doubt there will be some gift suggestions from the youngest grandchildren. We don't even ask The Twins – we know it is money.

So we will eat too much as usual. Then we will turn on the TV for the Dallas football game --- and start our first nap of the day – or it could be the second.

Of yes, I will start the day with a Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist at 10:00. I suspect there will be a handful of people – sort of like the eight o'clock service on Sunday. There isn't a big demand for this worship service – not on Thanksgiving Day. I wonder if I will go to the Thanksgiving service in retirement – who would know?

Then today brought Thanksgiving home to me in a different way. In fact it reminded me why I write my "Gratitude Notes" each week. What happened? Well, I did a funeral. Not just any funeral. Not one of our older members who was ready. In fact it wasn't anyone I knew. I only did the funeral because the woman was the sister of a parishioner.

This was one of those situations where I had never met the person who had died and yet the family wanted me to do the homily. Amanda had been baptized at St. Luke's many years ago as an adult, but apparently lost connection with the church. I learned about her by listening to the family describe Amanda and tell stories about her life. Best I could discern, much of life had been difficult for her and yet she had many friends – indeed the church was close to full.

Amanda was forty-six – died of what appeared to be a massive blood clot. The family was devastated. Pain was everywhere and emotions raw.

In the service I admitted I didn't know Amanda. Then I did my best to take the family's description of Amanda's life and talked about her – trusting that would help people remember their experiences with Amanda.

Then I told the family and friends what I do know about Amanda. She is a child of God – always has been and always will be. She had experienced life as a gift from God – loved with every breath of her life and beyond. For Amanda, "life is changed, not ended" (BCP). This is the gift of life and grace we can know for her and each of us through Jesus Christ.

While Amanda's death is too soon and in Thanksgiving week, her loss is a reminder of our giftedness in life – from and with God – and relationships that matter every day. Without regrets of what is past nor waiting for a better time in the future, every "today" calls for paying attention to what matters – what gives meaning – who enriches our lives – and celebrating Thanksgiving at a new level. Indeed, the level where God is known and experienced as the Source and Presence and Grace.

Now I am ready for Thanksgiving. What about you?

Blessings,  
Fr. Lee+

## Weekly Activity Calendar

### Sunday, November 27, 2016

*First Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Sunday School Classes

10:30am Rite II

### Monday, November 28, 2016

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday, November 29, 2016

10:00am Spiritual Discipline Group, library

### Wednesday, November 30, 2016

6-8pm Young Disciples, RH

7:00pm Choir

### Thursday, December 1, 2016

6:45am Men's Fellowship, MH

10:00am Crafting Our Prayers

12:00pm Holy Eucharist

### Friday, December 2, 2016

### Saturday, December 3, 2016

### Sunday, December 4, 2016

*Second Sunday of Advent*

8:00am Rite I

9:15am Sunday School Classes

10:30am Rite II

### Monday, December 5, 2016

9:30am Church Staff Mtg.

5:30pm Holy Eucharist

## DAILY ADVENT MEDITATIONS ON OUR WEBSITE

This year during Advent I wanted to offer you a different approach to daily meditation. Yes, I just typed the words 'daily meditation'. In a social culture that isn't listening to its neighbor very well right now, it seems like a perfect opportunity to receive reflections from our immediate neighbors--the people of St. Luke's. In that spirit, I have asked people to write their remembrances or insights to be shared with all of you. The Advent calendar will be available beginning Sunday, November 27th at [www.episcopalbartlesville.org](http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org) under the 'Advent' tab on the top drop down menu.

I hope you enjoy this and I hope you are looking forward to Advent as much as I am.

Faithfully, Fr. Sean+



Sincere sympathy and prayers to Marlo Alexander, (113 Ramblewood, 74003) on the death of her sister, Amanda Michelle Underwood, on Thursday, November 17. Funeral services for Amanda were at St. Luke's on Monday, November 21.

### ST. LUKE'S PRAYER LIST

Please keep them in your prayers  
*Names on the Prayer List are rotated  
off every 4 weeks.*

*If there is need for continued  
prayers, please let us know.)*

Patty, Joseph, Joyce, Jenny, Karl,  
Lily, Thelma, Becky, Rose, Jim, Mike,  
Peggy, Lynette, Jeanne, Kristen,  
Bob, Ellie, Carmen, Donna, Helen,  
Mary, Elizabeth, Emma, Bid, Georgia,  
Glenn, Max, Cory, and all members  
of our armed forces and their  
families.

*If you have a prayer request, contact  
our Prayer Ministry Coordinator  
Thelma Blackburn 918-333-7902 or  
[TPBGEN@aol.com](mailto:TPBGEN@aol.com) or the church  
office at 918-336-1212 or  
[annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org).*

### NEW RECTOR SEARCH PROCESS - PARISH UPDATE

Bishop Ed and Jim Liehr communicated this week about the status of our rector search process. While the position announcement has been up on the Diocesan Webpage for couple of weeks, they received a couple of inquiries, but no actual applications.

Bishop Ed said that Canon Bill is well-aware of our need to get rector candidates in to our search process. He will be working with the diocesan staff to make that happen. As a reminder, Canon Bill Carroll will be part-time in the diocesan office and part time at Emmanuel through the end of the year as they transition the Canon's Office.

Bishop Ed reminded us that search processes slow down dramatically during the holiday period starting with Thanksgiving. This is not a reflection on St. Luke's but just something we know from experience. He does not want us to get discouraged if things are not moving along as rapidly as we hope.

Very importantly, Bishop Ed stressed to Jim that *"St. Luke's has great leadership - both Lay and Clergy. Fr. Sean will be here after Fr. Lee's departure to make sure there is a pastoral and sacramental presence"*.

We ask you to pray for the rector candidates, Search Committee, and Vestry during our mutual discernment process for our next rector.



### FALL SALE IN ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE



The Bookstore is having a big fall sale. All through November, all crosses, pictures, and jewelry are 25% off. There is a 50% off table with new items added every week. Also if you check out our back room, our new Christmas items are in and being priced. You can get first choice during this sale.

***Come to the Table.*** It's something we say every Sunday, right? The powerful moment of communion within our walls reaches into our souls and nourishes us with eternal food and drink. There is power in that shared meal. This week, many—if not all—of us will be gathering around tables with our families, friends and neighbors in celebration of Thanksgiving. I have read multiple memes and jokes lately on the internet and in newspapers that all seem to contain a sarcastic and even pessimistic view of this holiday season: "There's not enough wine at the table this year to (enter flippant or snarky remark here)." This concerns me.

Growing up, Thanksgiving was the only time during the year that I had an opportunity to see all my family: Four aunts and uncles, two great uncles, two sets of grandparents, countless cousins and even a few strangers that did not have anywhere else to go. Looking back I remember minor disagreements over the way the gravy was made and who was to sit where, but, all in all, when we came together in a misshapen hand-linked circle, something unexplainable happened: Everyone quelled their tempers, lost their agendas and looked at the back of their eyelids as a prayer began. Those were sacred moments. We had Baptists and Church of Christ's, Methodists and Episcopalians, and invariably the 'nones' that had no affiliation with any church. Yet there we were; a family of blood and love coming together to give thanks for ourselves and those around us, regardless of the personal 'stuff'.

Those moments are not lost on me and, even now, continue to breathe yearning into my heart for coming together. Even while the faces change in age, newness and absence I still look forward to reaching out and grabbing the hand next to me. Although I miss holding my father and grandfather's hands, my grandmother and great uncle's hands, I still yearn for that sacred moment when everything is still and we that are still together, all bow together in thanks for one another and for God.

Now that think about it, Thanksgiving dinner happens weekly for me...with you. No matter what occurs during the week in terms of arguments we have over theology or policy, disputes on how and where to spend money, or even how to make the communion bread, I still anticipate our time together in that stillness when we come to the table. And I am always certain there is plenty of wine.

This week, I hope you are surrounded by those important to you, that you are thankful for their faults and their strengths and that they are thankful for yours. Beyond that, I hope that you come to the table, wherever that may be, and reach out your hands to the person next to you with a hopeful grip, knowing that there is plenty of wine and plenty of memories yet to be made regardless of the outside arguments that can stand in the way. Travel safely if you are traveling, host warmly if you are hosting, but above all else be thankful for the moments you have with those around you; and give thanks to God that you have each other.

Fr. Sean,



**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
**210 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Bartlesville, Oklahoma 74003**

(Return Service Requested)

<http://www.episcopalbartlesville.org/>



The Rev. Dr. T. Lee Stephens, Rector ([leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:leestephens@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Sean Ekberg, Assoc. to the Rector ([seanekberg@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:seanekberg@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon ([dfreebern@yahoo.com](mailto:dfreebern@yahoo.com))  
The Rev. Lauri Watkins, Deacon ([lwatkins@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:lwatkins@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
The Rev. Mike Watkins, Deacon ([mike.watkins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mike.watkins@sbcglobal.net))  
In an Emergency, call 918-397-3683, 580-977-4969, 918-766-2473 or 918-914-0525  
Ann Bell, Parish Secretary ([annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:annbell@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Steve Forsythe, Parish Administrator ([sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:sforsythe@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director ([dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Erin Perry, Christian Educ. Dir. ([erinperry@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:erinperry@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Kathy Zervas, Sr. Warden ([kzerv@aol.com](mailto:kzerv@aol.com))  
Amy Borg, Jr. Warden ([amy.a.borg@p66.com](mailto:amy.a.borg@p66.com))  
Office Phone: 918-336-1212 Office Fax: 918-336-2557  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:00pm, Fridays 8:30am-3:00pm  
Holy Eucharist: Sunday 8am & 10:30am; Monday 5:30pm, Thursday 12pm

*"The Steeple" is a weekly publication of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 SE 9<sup>th</sup> St., Bartlesville, OK 74003*

**LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE 11/27/16 through 12/4/16**

*Volunteers: Please make your own substitutions.*

**Acolytes**

**Nov. 27**

No Acolytes scheduled today

**Dec. 4**

*No schedule available*

**Layreaders**

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

8:00am

Jeff Birk, Darian Kedy

10:30am

Kate Carroll, Judy Currey  
Lauren Green, Juanita Green

**Sunday, Dec. 4**

8:00am

Nick Conner, Kate Carroll

10:30am

Bob Wesneski, Juanita Green  
Judy Currey, Lauren Green

**Nursery Volunteers**

**Nov. 27**

Diana Crawford

**Dec. 4**

Travis Sutton

**Dec. 11**

Natalie Conner

**Scripture Lessons for**

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans  
13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

**Music for Sunday, Nov. 27**

#74 – "Blest Be the King Whose  
Coming Is In the Name of God"

GATHER #143 – "God of All  
People"

GATHER #336 – "Now In This  
Banquet"

#73 – "The King Shall Come When  
Morning Dawns"

**Coffee Fellowship Hour**

**Nov. 27**

Karen Lewey

**Dec. 4**

Barbara Todd

**Dec. 11**

Crafting Our Prayers Christmas

Bake Sale & Bazaar

To volunteer, contact Rita

Childers, 918-519-8470 or

[puvey45@gmail.com](mailto:puvey45@gmail.com)

**Sunday Plate Counter**

**Nov. 27**

Jim Grillot, Jim Malone

**Dec. 4**

Amy Borg

**Dec. 11**

Bruce Ramzel

**Bereavement Committee**

**Team 2**

Barbara Martin, Laura Birk,  
Thelma Blackburn, Sally Canfield,  
Debbie Mueggenborg

**Greeters**

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

8:00am

Sally Canfield

10:30am

D. J. & Jerry Nezam

Jim & Nancy Warring

**Sunday, Dec. 4**

8:00am

Don Davidson

10:30am

Glenn & Thelma Blackburn

**Ushers**

**Sunday, Nov. 27**

8:00am

Robert Babcock, Dean Zervas

10:30am

Jim Grillot, Max McCreary

**Sunday, Dec. 4**

8:00am

Dean Zervas, Steve Forsythe

10:30am

Tim Simmons, Hugh Harrison

**Children's Chapel**

**Nov. 27**

Erin & Travis Perry

**Dec. 4**

Heather Boyle, Bob Tedstrom

**Dec. 11**

Jeanne Julstrom, Travis Sutton

**Agape Mission**

**4th Thursday,**

**Nov. 24**

*Thanksgiving Day,*

*mission closed*

**St. Luke's Bookstore**

*The Bookstore is open  
Sundays between the two  
services and after the  
10:30 service. All proceeds  
from sales go to St. Luke's  
Outreach Projects.*

**\*To volunteer,** contact

Melinda Wesneski,

918-333-7758 or

[mcwesne@gmail.com](mailto:mcwesne@gmail.com).

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please have articles that  
you would like printed in  
*The Steeple* to the church  
office no later than  
Tuesdays at 10am.

*Thank you!*