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*"Blue Christmas" service sponsored by*  
*Bartlesville Ministerial Alliance*  
*Women's Bible Study starting in January*



Dec 18,  
2019

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 E. Ninth St., Bartlesville, OK 74003

# *The Steeple*



## *A Word from Father Steve*

Phone: 918-330-6108 email: [fathersdhood@gmail.com](mailto:fathersdhood@gmail.com)

### *Christmas Memories*

One of my most vivid Christmas memories occurred over ten years ago. I was driving to St. James Church in downtown Baton Rouge, and I stopped at a convenience store to purchase a soft drink.

The woman serving at the counter was Hindu, and when she finished ringing up my transaction she said, "Happy Holidays."

Then, either she recognized my clerical collar or something else in my demeanor triggered in her a sense she had said something wrong, and she said, "I mean Merry Christmas."

We live in interesting times. Maybe something is wrong with me, but I was not offended that a Hindu woman at a Circle K convenience store said, "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas." The fact that she was willing to acknowledge the holiday at all impressed me. In her act of wishing me "a Merry Christmas," she offered me hospitality. In this mad season of running about preparing for Christmas, a small Hindu woman working for minimum wage in a local convenience store offered me a Merry Christmas.

In so many ways this is the story of the incarnation of God that we celebrate at Christmastime. In the most

unlikely of places and circumstances the Messiah of God entered human history. The messiah was not born the son of a king or queen but as the illegitimate child of a 14-year-old unwed mother. One of the central themes of the Christmas story is God works through the most unlikely circumstances and people.

Whether someone wishes you a Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays or Happy Hanukah or just a polite Good Morning, may the spirit of the Christ child fill you with wonder and joy in this season of Holy Days.

Merry Christmas,  
Father Steve



### Employment opportunity>>>

*Nursery Worker needed on Sundays at 10  
a.m. for 10:30 a.m. church service  
This is a paid position. Please call the office  
to apply at 918-336-1212.*



### Note to Parents of Children participating in Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve service begins at 5 p.m. Please arrive at 4:30 p.m.

#### Volunteers Needed:

Sunday School teachers are needed through January. Doorkeepers/assistants too! Detailed lesson plan provided & video demo for each week's lesson. For info call 918-697-8509 or sign up online at <https://volunteersignup.org/KDE74>

— Keeli Droege, Christian Education Coordinator

### Christmas Star Thank you

While its origins date back further, the Star Tree program in its current form goes back about 35 years. That means St. Luke's has provided over 5,200 gifts to approximately 2,500 foster children. While some are too young to understand, most of these kids know that someone they will never meet cared enough to buy them the gift they requested. Who knows, maybe some lives were changed along the way. So, to all the people of St. Luke's, thank you, God bless you and Merry Christmas!

— Steve and Cheryl Van Aken

### Stewardship Thanks and a Reminder

Thanks to everyone who responded to our stewardship program to fund the 2020 budget. If you haven't returned your pledge card yet, please do so by the end of the year. This enables us to start the new year with a sound picture of St. Luke's financial status.

If you missed receiving the stewardship flyer mailing and a 2020 pledge card, please contact Roseanne McKee at the church office at [office@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org) or 918-336-1212. She can mail them to you or you may come by the church office, 9 am to 1 pm, Mon.-Thurs., where extra copies are on hand.

If you have questions about next year's budget that are not answered in the flyer, feel free to contact members of the finance committee listed below or Fr. Steve.

**Dan Droege 918-331-7936**

**Scott Peterson 918-397-5619**

**Doug McIver 785-342-4328**

**Fr. Steve Hood 918-330-6108**





## Tuesday Women's Bible Study

beginning January 7th, 2020 6:00p.m.

We are excited to start a new Women's Bible Study on Tuesday evenings. Our first by John Ortberg entitled *Soul Keeping*, is a wonderful way to begin the New Year and decade! We will begin the study at 6 p.m. Jan. 7 at the church. The study runs seven weeks and will require reading one chapter per week.

Let's come together and seek to understand this most gracious gift we have been given ... our SOUL!

"You're a soul made by God, made for God and made to need God. What is running your life at any given moment is your soul. Not circumstances, not your thoughts, not your intentions, not even your feelings, but your soul. The soul is that aspect of your whole being that correlates, integrates, and enlivens everything going on in the various dimensions of the self. The soul is the life center of human beings."

— John Ortberg

Our hopes are that as we navigate John Ortberg's "Soul Keeping", we grow in our relationship with God and come closer to understanding the JOY that God intends for us.

If you are interested in attending, please let me know so I can have a book for you.

Nancy Woods, 918-914-3263 or [nancywoods120@gmail.com](mailto:nancywoods120@gmail.com)

### Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

**Thursday, December 26:**

\* Agape closed for Christmas \*



## St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

*Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joyce, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Suzanne, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, 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 [office@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org). (Names on the Prayer List are rotated off every 4 weeks. If there is need for continued prayers, please let us know.)

### Dec. 22 volunteers

Lay readers: Darian Kedy 8 a.m.; Juanita Green 10:30 a.m.

Intercessor: Daian Kedy 8 a.m.; Kyle Peterson 10:30 a.m.

Greeters: Sally Canfield 8 a.m.; Jim & Nancy Warring 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Dean Zervas 8 a.m.; Jim Grillot & Nancy Megee 10:30 a.m.

Nursery Volunteers: Blair Ellis

Sunday Plate Counter: Jim Grillot



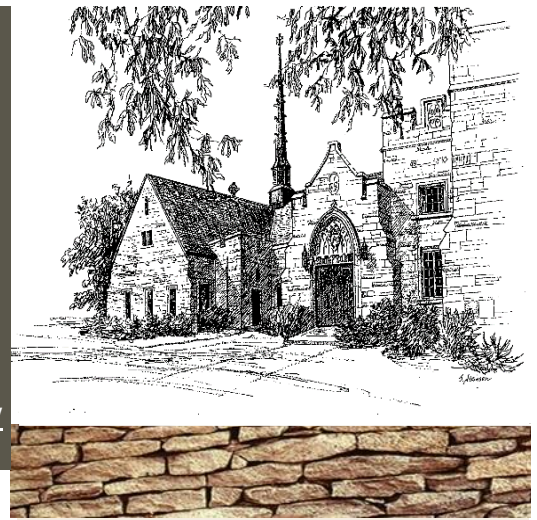
### Bereavement Team 1

Susie Clark, Nancy Woods, Georgia Gates, Jeanne Julstrom and Sally Lindsey.



# final thoughts...

- Sunday's 8 a.m. services will continue to be held in the chapel.
- Be aware -- Father Steve will not request gift cards or other monetary support through email. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke's go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone call or in person.
- Sun. verses: Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
- Sunday sermons may be accessed at our website: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>



## **Christmas Services at St. Luke's**

**Christmas Eve**  
5:00pm Christmas Pageant and Baptism  
10:15pm Choral Eucharist

**Christmas Day**  
10am Holy Eucharist in the chapel

St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:  
The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector  
[fathersdhood@gmail.com](mailto:fathersdhood@gmail.com) 918-330-6108  
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon  
[dfreebern@gmail.com](mailto:dfreebern@gmail.com) 918-914-0525  
In an Emergency, contact any of the clergy listed above.  
Roseanne McKee, Office Manager/Asst. to Rector ([office@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:office@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director ([dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org](mailto:dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org))  
Dan Droege, Sr. Warden ([dbdcomm.2@gmail.com](mailto:dbdcomm.2@gmail.com))  
Doug McIver, Jr. Warden ([dmciver@susandickcpa.com](mailto:dmciver@susandickcpa.com))  
Office Phone: 918-336-1212

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