

In this Issue >>>

A Word from Father Steve
Employment opportunity in nursery
Sunday School volunteers needed for Feb.
Stewardship Response – good so far!
Poinsettias available for the taking
Upcoming Oklahoma Diocese Retreat
Agape schedule & volunteer need
Oklahoma Diocese Newsletter Highlights



Jan. 8,
2020

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

Growing up, my parents often cancelled each others votes. Mom voted for the Democrat and dad voted for the Republican and that's just the way it was. I don't remember either one being too upset about it or yelling or calling the other names. Each voted their conscience and each respected the other's right to choose the candidate of their choice. It was how it worked in my house, in my neighbors house, and in the houses of most of the people I knew.

Somewhere during the last 40 years, things seem to have changed. Things have gotten more nasty. What used to be seen as a matter of conscience has become in some circles a matter of character and a zero sum game.

I try not to preach about politics at least in a direct way. I do believe that our faith should inform our political positions, but I don't believe a political position informed by faith will lead us all to the same conclusions any more than I believe that we will be of one mind on our understanding of the atonement or incense in worship or the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Every Sunday morning we gather together in worship, to praise God, to hear the word of God proclaimed in scripture and in song, to pray for each other and the world, and to gather around God's holy table and share together the bread and the wine, Christ's body and blood. Whatever we may believe about tax breaks or affordable health care or military spending or going to war is put aside as we worship the one that created us and loves us and wants to be in relationship with us as we love and serve the world in his name.

In this season of Epiphany, we find ourselves looking at the world's continued darkness: wars, disease, ignorance, prejudice, and violence. Looking closely, we see at the root of most of this humanity's disconnectedness – our alienation from our true selves, from each other, and, most of all, from God. It is this lack of genuine, open, trusting and loving community and connection that either causes most of the world's problems, or makes them worse.

In the midst of all this darkness and disconnection, the church is called to shine the light of God in Christ into the world. We are invited to be a part of God's intention to pull the world's disparate peoples into one community, one interconnected and interdependent family, one kingdom of heaven, one beloved people – the people of God.

Peace,
Father Steve

A Prayer for Peace from *The Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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.*



Sunday School Volunteers Needed:

Thanks to all who volunteered for January! Sunday School teachers are needed for February. 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



Poinsettia plants from Christmas are available for the taking in Metcalf Hall on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are 30 available as of Jan. 8 at noon.

Stewardship Response – Good So Far!

Much appreciation goes to the many members who responded so positively to our stewardship appeal to fund this year's St. Luke's budget. Some 39 members increased their stewardship commitment, with many raising their pledge by at least 10%. **Thank you!**

The church, however, as yet to receive 2020 pledge cards from more than 20 regularly pledging members. Consequently, it's difficult to finalize a sound budget until we hear from them. If you are one of those who've not yet made a pledge, it's important that it be received **by Jan. 19**. Extra pledge cards are available in the church office, and you'll also be receiving a reminder note and pledge card in the mail this week.

The 2020 church budget will be reviewed at the February 2 all-congregation annual meeting immediately following the 10:30 service. If you have questions about stewardship or the 2020 budget, 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

Retreat for High School Youth

The Oklahoma Episcopal Diocese will hold the "Created in the Image" Retreat for high school students on March 27 as part of a series of four separate retreats, held once a year, at which difficult topics our youth experience at school and in society and how our faith frames these experiences will be discussed. The retreats are facilitated by youth ministers from around the Diocese under the direction of the Director of Youth/Young Adults. The cost is \$125 each. Register at epiok.org or call the Diocese to learn more at 405-232-4820. Details of each year's retreat are on the website. Four-year participants will be recognized by the Diocese at their home congregations.

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, January 9:

9-11am: Jeanne Julstrom, Becky Liehr
10:45am – 1pm: Kris Bonner, Rita Childers, Becky Liehr,
Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary
1:00 – 2:45pm: Peter Julstrom, Miriam Petrovich,
Wendy Hall

Thursday, January 23:

9-11am: Jim Liehr
10:45am – 1pm: Jeff Birk,
Glenda Garrison, Darian Kedy, Jen Peterson,
1:00 – 2:45pm: Carol Murphy, Radomir Petrovich,
Becky Olsen

AGAPE MISSION VOLUNTEER NEEDED

A volunteer is needed to work at Agape Mission from 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month. During this shift, you will be part of a team of St. Luke's volunteers who serve meals to Agape's clients, individuals who otherwise might not have a nutritious meal that day. Not only is it an opportunity to be Christ's hands to those in need, but it also is a wonderful time of fellowship with fellow members of St. Luke's.

If interested, please contact Becky Liehr at 918-327-5987.



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, Melt, Belinda, 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 or the church office at 918-336-1212 or 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.)

Jan. 12 volunteers

Lay readers: Darian Kedy 8 a.m.; Jim Warring 10:30 a.m.

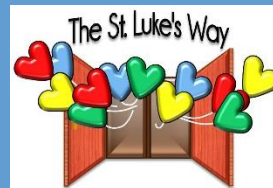
Intercessor: Darian Kedy 8 a.m.; Penny Williams 10:30 a.m.

Greeters: Debbie and Dennis Mueggenborg 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Brian Ferguson and Mark Fregin 10:30 a.m.

Nursery Volunteers: Heather Boyle

Sunday Plate Counter: Steve Clark



The St. Luke's Women's Fellowship meets monthly.

This month's meeting is Thursday, Jan. 9, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. in Metcalf Hall.

Reminder: Our building gets lots of use. Don't assume a room is available, contact the office to reserve a spot. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mon. – Thurs. or leave a voice message or an email for Roseanne McKee.



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 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17 and Psalm 29.
- Sunday sermons may be accessed at our website: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>

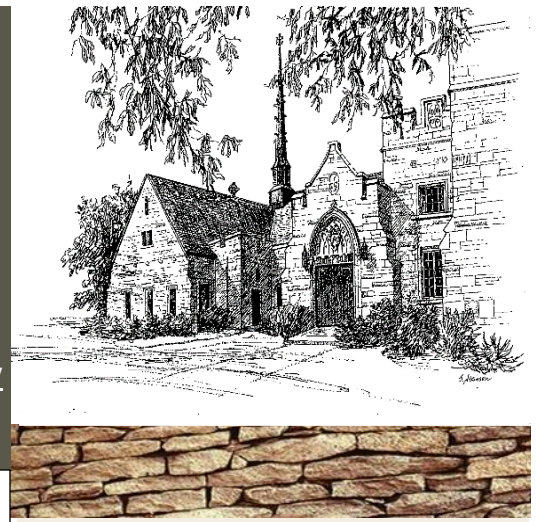
Oklahoma Episcopal Diocese Newsletter Highlights

Bishop Ed's Retirement Dinner is scheduled for February 28 at the Civic Center's Hall of Mirrors at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$60. Sign up at the website: epiok.org or call the Diocese of Oklahoma at 405-232-4820.

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma elected the Rev. Poulson Reed as Bishop Coadjutor to become the sixth diocesan bishop at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oklahoma City. The Rev. Reed is currently the Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church and Day School in Phoenix, Ariz. He is the spiritual and managerial leader of both the church and school staffs. Previously, Reed served as the Sub-Dean and Canon of St. John's Cathedral in Denver, Colo. He is married to Megan Reed and they have three sons.

The Canons of the Episcopal Church require that all bishop elections receive the consent of a majority of Diocesan Bishops and Diocesan Standing Committees. Following a successful consent process, the Rev. Reed will be Ordained and Consecrated on April 18 at Oklahoma City University by the Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop.

We invite your prayers for the Diocese of Oklahoma during this time of transition; for Bishop Ed Konieczny and his wife Debbie as they enter into retirement and for the Rev. Poulson Reed and his family as they prepare for this new season of ministry.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:
The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector
fathersdhood@gmail.com 918-330-6108
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, retired Deacon
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)
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director
(dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Dan Droege, Sr. Warden
(dbdcomm.2@gmail.com)
Doug McIver, Jr. Warden
(dmciver@susandickcpa.com)
Office Phone: 918-336-1212

Bereavement Team 1

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



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St.
Bartlesville, OK 74003