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

The Steeple



How to contact Father Steve

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A Holy Lent

by Guest Columnist Mother Andrea Jones

There was a time when Lent for me, was all about purple-ness. The maroon of sin and blue of sorrow. After all, Lent took a lot of attention and work. Remembering not to eat good stuff. Recalling not to say some words. Consider what is the best way to show God I was sorry. Dredge up those parts of my daily life that were in need of pruning. Whew! As I said a lot of work and attention.

The church was the guardian of the purple. I could tell by the purple hangings on the altar and the priest's poncho, that all of us were expected to behave differently. The candles were smaller. The music was somber. We did not receive wine at Holy Communion, so I never knew if it too changed to a bitter taste.

Twice during Lent we did not eat, all day. Once a week we ate fish, at home and at school; Friday, the day Jesus was crucified. I never questioned any of all this. It was what it was. Purple.

The world has changed. When Rome said women did not have to wear lace doilies or Kleenex pinned to their heads (I always wondered why men did not have to), it followed that the demands of Lent would be relaxed. You MAY eat fish on Friday. Or not. You MAY confess your sins on Saturday (and hope not to commit any new ones before Sunday Morning). Or not. But Lent ... it remained purple.

And maybe that was the point of those changes. (Although many staunch Roman Catholics just knew the church, was failing her people by letting them get away with all that intangible stuff). Lent is Lent because it is not meant to make sin and failure the center of our being. Lent is meant to be a time in which each person who says: "Jesus is my Lord" (nothing will come between me and God), makes a loving attempt to find ways to be closer to God. And there are many positive ways to do that, just as there are ways to refrain from habits, both spiritual and physical, that are bad for us.

So nowadays, I look at Lent as a season of Turquoise! A little bit of yellow, a bit of green, a bit of orange. Light and dark together, all as a platform for me to be with God once again. Lent is better as turquoise. Warmer. Like God. And me. Standing together, looking at an Oklahoma sunset. What color is your Lent going to be? You get to choose.

Have a Holy Lent, Mthr. Andrea

Corona Virus Response from Bishop Ed

Dear Friends,

As we are all aware the Corona Virus has led the concern and news throughout our country and the world. While we have been fortunate that no cases are yet reported in Oklahoma, I think most of us would acknowledge it is only a matter of time. As of this writing, there are two persons currently being tested in Oklahoma.

As such I wanted to provide some information and suggested guidelines to consider going forward ... by **Episcopal Relief and Development as a "Faith Based Response."** (COVID-19/Coronavirus: Awareness and Response is shown on page 4 of Steeple Newsletter).

Our role in responding, as churches, dioceses and compassionate Christians, is to:

- Combat fear with knowledge in order to encourage preparedness and decrease stigma.
- Maintain operational continuity and continue worship life in the case of potential quarantine and disruption.
- Show God's compassion and care to those in our communities who are affected.

The general guidelines below are suggestions and should be adapted based on local practices and safety concerns. Should you have any questions or concerns as they relate to here in the Diocese of Oklahoma, please contact the Bishops Office.

Faithfully, Bishop Ed

Kitchen Table Conversations

A Lenten Series

hosted by
Disciples Christian Church
&
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Tuesdays in March

Dinner 5:30PM

Program 6:00-7:00PM

March 3, 10, and 17 at St. Luke's
March 24 and 31 at Disciples Christian Church

Note: the location of each of the upcoming Lenten Soup Suppers and Programs on Tuesdays in March at 5:30 p.m. The supper on March 17 will be in Metcalf Hall. The last two suppers March 24 and 31 will be at Disciples Christian Church at 5800 Douglas Lane in Bartlesville, which is joining St. Luke's for these suppers.



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.*

Save the Date!

The Right Reverend Dr. Edward J. Konieczny and the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma request the honor of your presence for the Ordination and Consecration of The Reverend Poulson C. Reed as Bishop Coadjutor in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church and Sixth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 18 at the Henry J. Freede Wellness & Activity Center, Oklahoma City University, 1721 NW 27th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. A reception will follow. To read Bishop Elect's bio, visit: <https://www.epiok.org/bishop-elect>

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, March 12:

9-11 am: 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, March 26:

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



St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

Elizabeth, Jenny, Georgia, Diana, Millie, Bryson, Suzanne, Sydney, Ed, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joseph, Lyndee, Alan, Bill, Karen, Ethan, Elaine, Marjean, Helen, Mark, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Sarah, Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Melt, Belinda, Wendy, David, Tracy, Linda, Terry, Leaona, Connie, Tracy, Mark, Diana F., Jim, Bid, 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.)

March 8, 2020 Volunteer schedule >>>

Lay readers: Jeff Birk 8 a.m.; TBA 10:30 a.m.

Intercessor: Katherine Powell 10:30 a.m.

Greeters: Monica Martin 8 a.m.; Carol Murphy 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Dean Zervas 8 a.m.; Glenn Bonner and Jim Warring 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Plate Counter: Glenn Bonner

Sunday School Volunteers Needed:

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



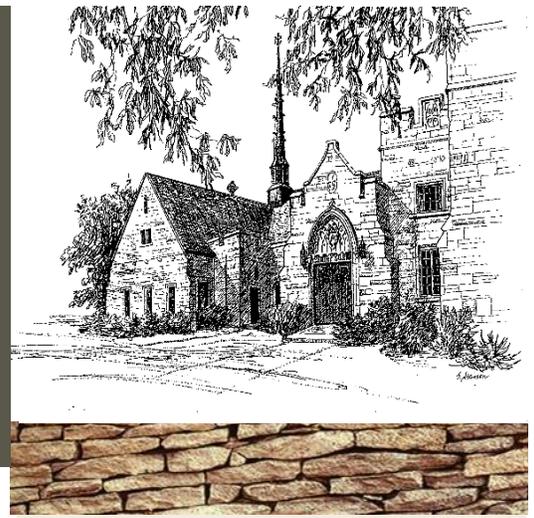
Other thoughts...

- 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 or in person.
- Sun. verses: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- Sunday sermons may be accessed at our website: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>
- **St. Luke's is now on Instagram! Follow St. Luke's at [episcopalbartlesville](https://www.instagram.com/episcopalbartlesville).**

COVID-19 / Coronavirus: Awareness and Response The emergence of cases of COVID-19 (the "coronavirus") in Europe, and recent deaths in northern Italy associated with the virus, should be a matter of concern to all of our communities. There are basic steps our communities can follow to minimize risks to all of our people and the ministries to which they contribute or by which they are served. First, the best advice on precautions to take is provided on the website of the World Health Organization (available in English, French, and Spanish) at the website

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novelcoronavirus-2019>, To summarize the WHO suggestions:

- Wash your hands frequently, using soap and water or an alcohol-based rub. All eucharistic ministers should use an alcohol-based rub before the distribution of the sacrament, whether in the context of the liturgy or in visiting someone at home or in the hospital.
- Practice respiratory hygiene. Cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing; discard tissues immediately in closed bins.
- Practice social distancing. In general, maintain a distance of a meter between you and others, particular those who are coughing, sneezing, or evidently ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Any parishes involved in ministries in which food is served should give particular attention to The WHO recommendations regarding food safety.
- Needless to say, we should send a clear message that if anyone feels ill or unwell, they should, as a general rule, seek medical care immediately and not attend parish events.
- Related to this, if someone who is elderly or lives alone does not appear at church in what would otherwise be a regular function, create systems for wellness checks. Caring for each other and for all the people of God means being careful in the midst of an epidemic. With a reasonable amount of caution we can keep our people, our communities, and those we serve healthy—and continue to minister to those who are ill and in need of our care.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:
The Rev. Stephen Hood, Rector
fathersdhood@gmail.com 918-330-6108
The Rev. Douglas Freebern, Deacon, retired
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
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Office Announcement:
Roseanne McKee, office manager/assistant to rector, will be on vacation Friday, March 13 – Wednesday, March 18. Jeff Birk will be filling in while she is away. He will be answering phones and emails. Regular office hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.