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The Steeple



Sept. 3,
2020

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Pastoral Care and Covid

What we should be doing as a congregation to make sure our pastoral care responsibilities are being met despite the challenge of Covid – and the added complication of operating without a rector? A couple of weeks ago, I asked Jeanne Julstrom this question, and I found her answers to be both practical and motivational. Jeanne has given me permission to share her comments with you so we can all benefit from them.

Pastoral care really boils down to being present to people in need, and listening compassionately with the heart. It isn't really fixing any bad situation, but hopefully helping people express their feelings at a time when a listening ear can help them crystalize what they are thinking, and help them to know that God is present in their lives, and that their church cares that they are hurting. This applies not only to the person in need, but to the spouse, children, relatives or others who are deeply involved in the situation.

Truly, now with Covid, being present is difficult. The very basic attention we can give at this time is to talk to those in need over the phone and in-person if permitted and with the appropriate precautions. Our role is to listen. To offer prayer after knowing what the needs are. To ask if it is okay if we add them and their loved one to the prayer list at church, and make any changing circumstances known to Roseanne (for example: a move from the hospital to a rehab facility) so it can be shared with those who inquire.

Privacy is important here. Some people don't like attention. Then, ask, what can we do for you? With Covid, a lot of things we could usually do are not feasible, like personal visits by non-family members to the hospital. But we can provide food by setting up a meal train, making phone calls on their behalf or picking up items from the grocery store or pharmacy.

Following up regularly is important, or at least asking them to call you if things change, or they need anything. If they don't call, it is okay to call them at some point. If they feel overwhelmed by the calls, they will let you know or you will be able to tell. While you may think you're being a bother, the person in need may be wondering: Does my suffering matter? Am I all alone? We should make them feel assured that, even without a rector, without home communion, that God is indeed with them –through us.

What do our pastoral care responsibilities look like for us today? In summary, it's this:

- *Make contact with the person in need.*
- *Be present, if only on the phone, and LISTEN with the heart.*
- *Offer prayer.*
- *Ask if it is okay that they be added to the prayer list, and their condition made known.*
- *Ask, "what can we do for you?" If something can be done, set up meal train, or whatever is needed within reason. If nothing is requested, that's okay too. They know our church cares about them.*
- *Follow up until things are normalized or have come to some conclusion. Checking in after a loss or emergency can go on awhile. Building these relationships during crisis turn into deep friendships that last a lifetime.*

Thank you, Jeanne, for reminding us that even at a time when we may feel helpless to help, we really can. Even without a pastor in our pastoral care toolbox, we certainly can show how much we care.

Dan Droege, Sr. Warden, on behalf of the Vestry

Virtual Service replaces In-Person Worship this Sunday, Sept. 6

Visit our St. Luke's website Sunday for a special service by Bishop Reed and Canon Cooter.

We will broadcast that service via Zoom and YouTube Live at 10 am on Sunday, Sept. 6.

Simply go to our website, episcopalbartlesville.org, and click either ->Participate via Zoom (password 251445), or ->Watch via YouTube Live (click "Live Now"), as you normally do. The lessons for this service are also posted on our website and on page 8-9 of the Steeple.



Radomir and Miriam Petrovich celebrated their 50th Anniversary Aug 29 with socially distanced well-wishers driving by their house – so fun!

Information from Roseanne, Office Manager:

Change in Roseanne's Office Hours 9:30 – 2:30: Roseanne's son is attending Bartlesville High in the mornings and doing virtual school in the afternoons. As a result, Roseanne will be out of the office from 11:30 – 12:30, but will stay an extra hour until 2:30 p.m. Even during office hours, the doors are locked per COVID-19 protocol. If you need to come in, just ring the north entrance bell or call the office at 918-336-1212 or Roseanne's cell 918-287-8784.

Chapel Schedule: Closed until the new lock has been installed. The Chapel lock is worn out. A new one is on back order from Indian Lock & Key. Roseanne checks order status regularly.

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 10:

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, Sept. 24:

9-11am: 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

Online & Mobile Giving Available

Online giving application is now available to St. Luke's members through the Tithe.ly mobile application or directly online from your home device. You can utilize either method of giving by going to this [Tithe.ly web page](https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app) (<https://get.tithe.ly/download-tithely-app>). Complete instructions for using this convenience are provided on the home page of the [St. Luke's website](http://episcopalbartlesville.org) (<http://episcopalbartlesville.org>) or by picking Online Giving in the right-side menu.

Regardless of whether you can manage all or some of your normal giving, please continue to support our community of faith. And if you're not comfortable with virtual giving, you can always mail a check to the church office: St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 210 E 9th St, Bartlesville, OK 74003 or drop a check into our locked mail slot near north entrance.



St. Luke's Prayer List

Please keep the following persons in your prayers:

Jenny, Georgia, Millie, Bryson, Suzanne, Evelyn, Toni, Milton, Joseph, Alan, Bill, Karen, Elaine, Marjean, Cynthia, Steve, Barbara, Brent, Katie, Ruth, Glenn, Marsha, Jerry, D.J., Mary, Emily, Whitney, Lloyd, Milt, Belinda, Wendy, David, Linda, Terry, Leaona, Connie, Tracy, Mark, Diana, Jim, Lisa, Helen, Michelle, Patricia, Elizebeth, Thelma, Sydney Ed, Rhonda, Catherine, Cheri, Emily, Liz, Rita, and all members of our armed forces and their families.

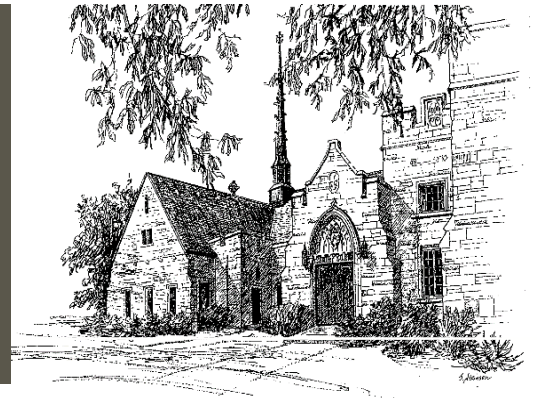
If you have a prayer request, contact the church office at 918-336-1212 or office@episcopalbartlesville.org.

Bereavement Team 1

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

Other thoughts...

- Be aware – No one from St. Luke's will request gift cards or other monetary support through email. If you receive such a message in your email, it is spam. 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.



Birthdays and Anniversaries September 3 - 12

Birthdays

Leann Noland, Sept. 3
Georgia Gates Sept. 3
Glenda Garrison, Sept. 4
Mark Peterson, Sept. 5
Sarah Winn, Sept. 6
David Breedlove, Sept. 7
Katie Todd, Sept. 9
Carter Breedlove, Sept. 10
Robert Lonski, Sept. 10

Anniversaries

Ed & Sydney Beasley, Sept. 2
David & Darian Kedy, 5

St. Luke's Episcopal Church contacts:
Senior Warden, Dan Droege,
dbdcomm.2@gmail.com,
Doug McIver, Jr. Warden
(dmciver@susandickcpa.com)
Roseanne McKee, Office Manager/Asst. to
Rector (office@episcopalbartlesville.org)
Office Phone: 918-336-1212
Dolores McCreary, Organist/Choir Director
(dolores@episcopalbartlesville.org)



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

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Dan Droege, Sr. Warden – dbdcomm.2@gmail.com 918-331-7936
- Doug McIver, Jr. Warden - dmciver@susandickcpa.com 785-342-4328
- Penny Williams - oklaborn@sbcglobal.net
- Nancy Woods - Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Steve VanAken - scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
- Heather Boyle - heatherboyle@sbcglobal.net
- Nancy Warring - newarring@cityofbartlesville.org
- Karl Franks - ktdfranks@gmail.com
- Travis Perry - travperry@gmail.com
- Katherine Powell - kmpbmp@cablone.net
- Monica Martin - Rhett36@juno.com

Connecting with St. Luke's

To learn various ways to connect at St. Luke's, visit our website at: <http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>

ARMS WIDE OPEN TO THOSE IN NEED

A church family needs our help

Tim and Julie Middleton, a young family who began attending St. Luke's regularly 1st year, are in desperate need of helping hands after discovering recently that their home has serious mold contamination. The condition is so serious that they are having to dispose of nearly all of their belongings, including: clothing, furniture, books, photo albums and most of the toys belonging to their two children – Fiona, 4, and Riley, almost 2. Tim and Julie hope to sell their home and rent or purchase a smaller place. However, they cannot do this without first addressing the costly mold issue, only a fraction of which is covered by insurance.

Friends and family have set up a GoFundMe page for the Middletons, which describes their plight in more detail. You are encouraged to read it and then look into your heart for how you can reach out to a member family needing our prayers and support at this challenging time. Nancy Woods of the Vestry has visited with the Middletons and can provide additional information.

The GoFundMe page at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-the-middletons-rebuild-after-toxic-mold> is Help the Middletons Rebuild after Toxic Mold.

Update on the divorced mother

Office Manager Roseanne McKee went with Emily to meet with the attorneys in Stillwater, at Murray Law Firm. Thomas Swafford at the firm will file the case in September to enforce the custody order.

If you would like to help by donating funds, checks may be made payable to the Murray Law Firm and dropped in the St. Luke's locked mailbox outside the north doors.

In addition, Roseanne and her mother-in-law have sewn double-sided table runners, which are for sale for \$10 each – some with matching coasters. Thanks for all who bought them and donated! We have some left and some with coasters. If you would like to buy one, call Roseanne at the office at 918-336-1212.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study – Via ZOOM!

6:30 p.m. September 8th

THE ME I WANT TO BE: Becoming God's Best Version of You. - John Ortberg

All are welcome! The books along with the Participants guide are available from Amazon. (Link below)

You will get the video via email on Sunday before our meetings and can watch at your leisure and follow along with your participants guide. You will also read the chapters needed before each meeting, watch video with participant guide and then we will discuss during our Tuesday evening. (Chapters 1-6 for first meeting)

If you would like to do this study on your own, please let me know and I am happy to share the videos with you.

Questions? Contact Nancy Woods - 918-333-4299 / 918-914-3263 or nancywoods120@gmail.com

- "Life is not about any particular achievement or experience. The most important task of your life is not what you do, but who you become." God's vision for your life is not just that you are saved by grace, but that you also learn to live by grace, flourishing with the Spirit flowing through you. This study is a powerful guide to true spiritual growth, and an operator's manual for building a Spirit-filled life in a world where perfection can only be found in God's loving vision for you. -

Book:

https://www.amazon.com/Me-Want-Be-Becoming-Version/dp/031034056X/ref=rtpb_2/134-5483855-5142209?encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_i=031034056X&pd_rd_r=9ae15315-b3b6-4ff6-b8ff-84df58a64d33&pd_rd_w=Z1GXk&pd_rd_wg=AHLqi&pf_rd_p=16e293d1-2296-48d7-b8ff-063cdf90c285&pf_rd_r=CDG00PAQBW5CN9N890EZ&psc=1&refRID=CDG00PAQBW5CN9N890EZ

Participants Guide:

https://www.amazon.com/Me-Want-Be-Participants-Guide/dp/0310823420/ref=sr_1_2?crid=1LDTPCOY7L4IE&dchild=1&keywords=the+me+i+want+to+be+participant+guide&qid=1598106769&srefix=the+me+I+want+t%2Caps%2C193&sr=8-2

A message from Amy Borg about CONCERN:



Churches United for Community CONCERN, Inc.

I would like to take this opportunity to write about CONCERN and update you on their current needs. For those of you who don't know, CONCERN was started over 50 years ago by 14 churches who saw a need to provide compassionate support to people who have been forced to seek help by unexpected circumstances such as job loss, illness, or family conflict. CONCERN provides support with compassion and dignity to those who are homeless, those who might lose their water or power, and those who need an Oklahoma Identification card or prescriptions. St. Luke's was one of the founding churches and we still support CONCERN with money and food donations as well as volunteers.

CONCERN has 3 programs designed to fulfill its mission:

- The Pantry is an urgent food resource for people, providing enough food for 4 days for the household up to 6 times per year. Whether the household has 8 people from 3 generations or 3 people in their 40's – the food CONCERN gives them is age appropriate and provides balanced nutrition for the week.
- Urgent Financial Assistance allows a household to receive up to \$100 per year to pay for utilities, ID cards, eviction notices, emergency hotel lodging, prescriptions, or gas to get to work, a job interview or medical appointment. The household must provide evidence of the need and the \$100 can be used all at once or in smaller increments throughout the year. CONCERN distributes up to \$200 per day on a first come, first served basis.
- Payee Support manages social security (SS) income for people who have had trouble budgeting their money. The SS checks are deposited into a special CONCERN account and the clients' bills are paid by CONCERN. Each client receives a weekly allowance in the amount of whatever is left after the bills are paid.

In mid-March, the decision was made to distribute food by appointment only, taking orders by phone that would be picked up at their appointed time. The number of volunteers decreased as people stayed home but we were able to manage partly because, to our surprise, the pounds of food distributed, and the urgent financial needs decreased. We believe it's because of stimulus checks and the many other organizations that started offering urgent food assistance.

In the month of July, when suspended utility bills became due and stimulus money ran out, we saw a big increase in both pantry and financial assistance. At the same time, income from churches and private donations have decreased. I know some of you have helped with your time, money and donations and I really appreciate it. The need for all 3 continues and I appreciate whatever you can do to help. If you are a ConocoPhillips or Phillips 66 employee or retiree, please remember to enter a matching gift request. Employees at CONCERN can help if you don't know how to make the request.

The Pantry currently needs:

Homeless: individual tuna boxes with the crackers included, pull-tab cans with other protein, small juice bottles, tooth paste, tooth brushes, paper plates, brown paper bags with handles (Braum's has them)	Pantry: flour, sugar, corn bread mix, complete pancake mix, rice, canned tuna, Spam
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For more information about CONCERN's services, to refer a client or to donate, you can contact CONCERN Center at 918.336.4693, visit the website at <http://www.concerncares.com>, or contact me, Amy Borg at 713-206-1179. The Center is giving out food and talking to the public from 11am to 2:30pm Monday through Thursday with volunteer opportunities on those same days from 8am to 4pm.

Readings for Sunday's Virtual Service at 10 a.m. Sept. 6

Ezekiel 33:7-11

You, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalms 119:33-40

- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”