

## *In this week's Steeple >>>*

- Message from Father Nick
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- Pub Theology – August 26, at 7 p.m.
- Diocesan Newsletter
- Ministry Spotlight

# *The Steeple*



August  
19, 2021

## The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



### Conditions of Readiness

Invariably most mornings I can count on two things when I arrive at church. One, the first thing Margaret says to me is, “Coffee is done,” and then she is back to whatever project she is working on at the moment. The other, is that I can pretty much count on either Jeff Birk or Dennis Mueggenborg already at work in the office either answering phones or keeping the books straight. We are blessed, my friends, to have these folks giving of themselves in service to the Lord at Luke's place day in and day out.

Every now and then the dynamic will shift slightly and instead of coffee, I'll hear about the finer points of which grass seed we should choose, whether that be fescue or Bermuda and, more importantly, when or where we should not plant it. All of this of course takes place while news reports of COVID cases rise, kids go back to school, old friends share about our time in and off the coast of Afghanistan, the Steeple has yet to be written, and pastoral calls are waiting to be tended to. And so, as the day is new - we begin again.

I don't know about you, but holding all of that at once is rather cumbersome and so I lay it down most mornings at the feet of Jesus and give thanks for conversations about grass and where Jim Grillot left all the light bulbs. In that moment gratitude begins to rise. Not because the weight is gone – but that I am aware of the answering of prayers both near and far despite it all.

News comes in that our brother Mark Wright is recovering from COVID without many complications and that Gerry, his mom, will soon undergo treatment in Tahlequah. I recall waiting by the phone last week in hopes of receiving news from Susie that everyone who needed to be tested did receive a result, and that those results came back negative. Relief doesn't even come close to what I felt the moment those results came in. Thank God for Susie.

I confess that the exposure letter you received last week was the first one I have had to write in over a year and a half. This is due in large part to the vestry who took on the role of shepherding the flock through the pandemic without a major outbreak occurring at St. Luke's. When any of those folks take time to sit with me, I look at them with awe. I give thanks for them and for the way they kept us and continue to keep us safe. And I give thanks for everyone in this parish who, despite some very convicting positions, put the needs of others before themselves. If that is not respect, I don't know what is.

I was so thankful for the way we were able to come together last week, test, evaluate, serve, and to do all of that as efficient as if we had been through the drill a hundred times. To an old sailor, that says something. For it reveals that a condition of readiness has been achieved that you hope your crew continues to improve upon and maintains even in the face of great distress.

As you go about the rest of the week and into the weekend, I want to share a prayer with you that helps me out quite a bit in times like these – it's called, "In the Morning" and it goes like this, "This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

Deep Peace,  
Fr. Nick+

### **YD Begins a New Year**

Hello YDers! It's hard to believe school has already started! We were looking forward to the lock-in but will wait until the COVID numbers are down so we can do all the fun stuff we have planned. In the meantime, let's kick off with a pool party at Father Nick's August 18 at 6:00 pm. 2649 Regency Road is his address.

We will be going back to parents bringing dinners but may wait until Sept to start that to give us a chance to figure out how to do a sign up with you all. Until then, YD leaders will take care of dinners.

Let us know if you have any questions. It's going to be a great year!

Jen, Brad and Tom

## **Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule**

### **Thursday, August 26**

10:45 am – 1 pm: Jeff Birk, Darian Kedy,  
Becky Olsen, Dan Droege, Jo Baughman

12:45 pm – 2 p.m.: Steve Clark, Steve VanAken, Carol Murphy

### **Thursday, September 9**

10:45 am – 1 pm: Fr. Nick Phares, Becky Liehr, Kris Bonner,  
Dolores McCreary, Kathy Zervas, Jim Perrier

12:45 pm – 2 pm: Jeanne Julstrom, Peter Julstrom, Wendy Hall

### ***St. Luke's Prayer List***

The prayer list can be found in  
the Sunday bulletin and on  
the St. Luke's website.

Call or email our office with  
prayer requests at  
918-336-1212 or  
[StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com](mailto:StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com)

## Summer Faith Forum Series



**Sunday August 22, 0915 – 1015 in Metcalf Hall**

### Pub Theology

Pub Theology is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will be at **7 p.m. Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Crossing 2nd.**

What is 'Pub Theology'? It's a time to gather informally and talk about different subjects around our core values of faith. What feeds your faith? Where did you see Jesus this week?

What literature are you reading that has had some inspiration for you?

A host of topics are brought up and discussed over drinks and appetizers.

(We pay our own tabs). There is usually a facilitator to throw out topics for discussion.

No politics, no gossip, and what is discussed in Pub Theology that is personal stays in the group. Respect the dignity of every person. It's a fun and relaxed time to get to know each other. Call the church office and let us know if you will be joining us

so we can have enough tables set up at Crossing 2nd.

If you have any questions, contact Fr. Nick, Penny Williams, or Nancy Megee.

We will be happy to share. Let's share some theology!



## St. Luke's Makes Diocesan Headlines

In response to the outpouring of praise for the Backpack Program and our effort to respond to the Bishop's COVID update, St. Luke's made the Diocesan Newsletter. Please visit the [www.epiok.org](http://www.epiok.org) to sign up and learn more.



## An Appreciation from Family Promise

Thank you to the St. Luke's members who are helping out this week by providing evening meals to the family staying at Anchor House. As always, your support of this important ministry to local homeless and displaced families is much needed and appreciated.

Meals this week are being prepared by Cheryl and Steve VanAken, Karole Cozby, Katherine and Ben Powell, Nancy Woods, Dan and Melinda Droege, Doug and Jen McIver, and David and Wendy Hall.



I can barely bring myself to recall the feeling of not knowing whether or not the air would work in the nave on Sunday mornings. Since those balmy Oklahoma mornings in May through July Hayes Heating and Air has had an angel looking over their shoulders they didn't even know about Thanks Nick Olsen! You and your grandpa are some real cool cats!

Thank-you from everyone at Luke's Place!



## Middleton Farewell



God..❤️  
❤️.Bless  
You❤️

Dear Friends,

It looks like we are not going to get to be a part of Luke's Place as I had hoped. I've accepted the role of Media Asset Manager with Angel Studios (best known for the series "The Chosen"). Since then, we've sold our house!! (all but the final sign off) This means we are moving again.

This time we are moving to Provo, Utah. We are planning to pack up our U-haul on Saturday and we could use 1 or 2 more brawny folk, if anyone is interested. We are planning on the heavy stuff Saturday, August 21 @ 1pm. If anyone is interested in helping, my cell is (918) 841-1270.

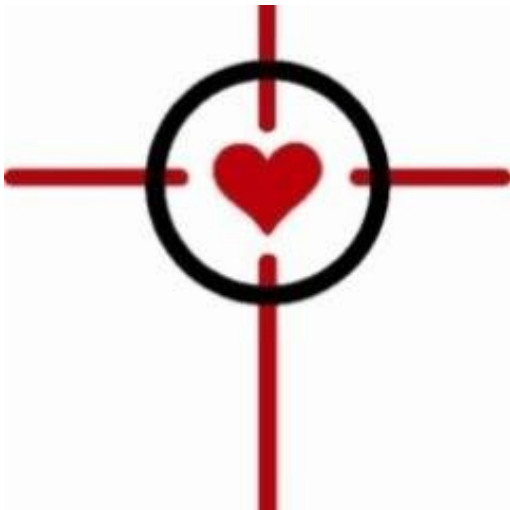
Whether anyone is available or not, I would like you to know how much of a blessing you and everyone at St. Lukes have been. We are so grateful for the tangible help as well as the prayers and even just the concern and check ins that have sustained us through the last year and a half.

Blessings,  
Tim (Julie, Fiona, & Riley)

## CONCERN Needs

**CONCERN is in need of the following items: Ramen Noodles, Complete Pancake Mix, Jiffy Mix, Toothbrush Kits, and Deodorant.**

**Also, believe it or not, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Please consider offering a contribution towards our annual fundraiser for Thanksgiving Pies. Please make your check out to St. Luke's and in the memo write Thanksgiving Baskets.**



# Alert on solicitations...

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, August 19th – 26th

### Birthdays

### Anniversaries

**Michelle Sheffield, 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Darian Kedy, 25<sup>th</sup>**

**David Kedy, 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Dennis Mueggenborg, 26<sup>th</sup>**

If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector  
269-788-7063; [RevPhares@outlook.com](mailto:RevPhares@outlook.com)

Dolores McCreary, Choir Director/Organist  
918-397-4828 [dolomc37@gmail.com](mailto:dolomc37@gmail.com)

Keeli Droege, Christian Education Coord.;  
918-697-8509; [keelidroege@gmail.com](mailto:keelidroege@gmail.com)

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210 East 9<sup>th</sup> St., Bartlesville, OK  
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## St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Dan Droege, Sr. Warden – [dbdcomm.2@gmail.com](mailto:dbdcomm.2@gmail.com) 918-331-7936
- Doug McIver, Jr. Warden – [dmciver@susandickcpa.com](mailto:dmciver@susandickcpa.com) 785-342-4328
- Jo Baughman – [jybokla@aol.com](mailto:jybokla@aol.com)
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- Nancy Warring – [newarring@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:newarring@cityofbartlesville.org)
- Katherine Powell – [kmpbmp48@gmail.com](mailto:kmpbmp48@gmail.com)
- Nancy Megee – [sc4me81@yahoo.com](mailto:sc4me81@yahoo.com)

Sunday's altar flowers are given by Karole Cozby:  
"To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jerry Cozby"