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The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Gratitude

My friends, thank-you. Thank-you for supporting our recent outreach to Family Promise, CONCERN, and the Angel Tree this season. In each case the giving of time, talent, and treasure has been measured by an overwhelming sense of love. Thank-you.

In November over \$1,200 was donated to the pie fund allowing us to purchase over 200 pies for CONCERN's thanksgiving baskets. Our own Jeff Birk struck the deal with Homeland and despite there being "supply chain issues," we were able to donate fresh pies this year instead of frozen ones. This may seem trivial, but I assure you the difference between fresh and frozen these days is not. Fresh food means a great deal and your generosity was deeply felt. Thank-you.

Another \$2,000 was collected for the Angel Tree. Mind you this was in addition to 35 tags that had already been taken off of the tree this year. We have Steve and Cheryl Van Aken to thank for organizing, delivering, and doing the requisite leg work to make this ministry a success. Thank-you you two for being the messengers of glad tidings and open hearts this season. For saying to us, "The time is now!" I know there will be some happy children this Christmas and we thank you for keeping the work of Christmas ever before us.

Thank-you to everyone who donated to the Angel Tree. Our Young Disciples had an excellent time going out and shopping for everyone. I, for one, will never forget being able to say, "yes" to the question – "This tag says that she wants a bike. Can we get her a bike?" Your generosity allowed me to say, "yes" – and well - seeing my friend's eyes sparkle when I was able to say yes was magical. A wish was fulfilled and she held the ticket. Thank-you.

Thank-you also to Dan Droege, Tom Droege, Nick Olsen, and Dennis Muggenborg who have given so much time to our property at 801 Osage. You'll recall that we are working with Family Promise and other area churches to make 801 viable for ministry. Well, my friends, these guys are making it happen. Thank-you for your hard work my friends, for seeing the need, doing the dirty work, and reminding us all that sometimes loving with arms wide open means getting our hands dirty.

Thank-you also to those of you have donated to the Bishop's Appeal, the Flower Fund, Episcopal Relief and Development with regards to our brothers and sisters in Kentucky, and of course to the mission and ministry of St. Luke's in Bartlesville. When I stop to think just how much you give of yourselves in the present and in hope of the future, I thank God.

Thank you God, for my brothers and sisters here. Thank-you for St. Luke's and thank-you for growing in us hearts that love, hearts that serve, and the will to do so in the name of your son Jesus Christ. May you know in us a people that has been deeply touched by your Grace and that we, thank you for the gift of ministry alongside you and all those you put in our path.

Every Blessing my friends,

Fr. Nick+

Angel Tree Thank You

The Angel Tree program this year was a resounding success! There were 35 Angel tags on our tree and gifts for all the children were purchased and returned. In addition, over \$1000 in donations were made allowing us to purchase gifts for many more kids in need. A big thank you goes out to the Young Disciples and their sponsors for doing the shopping. We could not have done it without your help.

Capt. Carr at the Salvation Army was once again very excited to have St. Luke's participation this year. The Angel Tree program is a huge undertaking and to have so many gifts coming from one source is a wonderful blessing for them.

So, Thank You, God Bless You and Merry Christmas!!

Cheryl & Steve Van Aken

Family Promise Opportunity

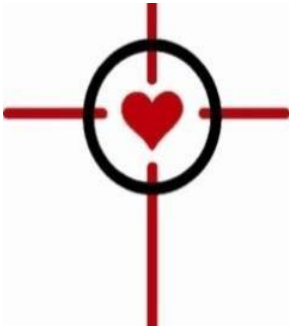
As part of St. Luke's outreach efforts in Bartlesville, we have been exploring the possibility of leasing at no cost the church's vacant home at 801 S. Osage to Family Promise. While many details are still being worked out, this new arrangement would forgo the need to provide overnight accommodations by the participating churches. Last Saturday, members of four sponsoring churches got together to begin cleaning the



home, which had been left in very rough shape by the previous tenant. The first step toward re-occupancy was removing the heavily soiled carpeting. Shown here after the carpet tear-out are, left to right, Don and Kelle Beaver of Town & Country Christian Church, Lanny and Brenda Seals of Adams Blvd. Church of Christ, Nick Olsen of St. Luke's and Nolan Jones of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Many thanks to these hardworking volunteers who performed some awfully dirty work. Future issues of the Steeple will provide updates on this evolving outreach opportunity.

– Dan Droege, Senior Warden

Please Consider Volunteering at CONCERN!



Concern office and food pantry: Volunteers are always needed to check clients in at the front desk and answer the phone, or to provide intake assistance by determining the needs of our clients, or to pack pantry orders or to re-package bulk food or make “food runs” to the Tulsa Food bank or local stores. The time commitment is up to the volunteer: 2-4 hours once a week or once a month. Concern appreciates the help and will work with volunteers to make volunteering a good experience for all. Call 918.336.4693. Please visit: <http://www.concerncares.com/give-help.html>

Children’s Programming is Back!

On October 24, we began gathering with children again on Sundays. Drop your K-5th graders off upstairs at 10:15 am. Each week, we will alternate between music and Godly Play, giving children a chance to experience both! The children will rejoin their families in church before communion.

We are looking for people to serve as doorkeepers. Please reach out to Keeli Droege at keelidroege@gmail.com to sign up!

*Children will be asked to wear a mask, and all adults working with children will be masked.



Weekly Words of Wellness

To Acknowledge Our Grief is to Acknowledge Our Love

[By Scott Stoner & Holly Hughes Stoner](#)

Grief has many faces and presents itself in a myriad of ways. We are familiar with grief when it shows up as sadness, loneliness, or feelings of emptiness. It may be less evident that grief is commonly the feeling underlying irritability, anger, conflict, excessive drinking, feeling numb, wanting to isolate, and busyness.

I believe we all grieve during the holidays, one way or another. Maybe this is the first year we are celebrating the holidays since someone we love has died. Maybe there has been a painful break in the family. Or perhaps this is the first holiday since someone has moved away or because of other circumstances, we cannot be with someone we love. And then there are always the poignant feelings

of remembering parents, grandparents, and other friends and relatives who have been missing from our holiday gatherings for many years. On our [“Wellness Compass Podcast”](#) which is a companion to this column, I share a story about how I tear up and miss my grandmother every time I watch *Miracle on 34th Street*.

I am pointing out all the ways that grief can show up this time of year not to make us all sad, but to remind us that whenever we acknowledge our grief, we also acknowledge that we have loved and been loved. It is well-known that repressing or hiding our grief is detrimental to our mental health. Avoiding our grief also prevents us from fully celebrating the love we have shared with those who are no longer part of our day-to-day lives.

Many people have been raised with a mindset that it is best not to think about grief, let alone express it. If that is true for you, you may want to consider adopting a new mindset about the importance, and I might even say, the sacredness of grief.

So if you find yourself listening to a particular song or hanging a sentimental ornament and suddenly are overcome with grief or sadness, by all means, embrace it. In doing so, you are in that moment, embracing the love that you have shared with the person you are remembering. Take whatever time you need for yourself to acknowledge, feel, and express both your grief and your love.

Making It Personal

1. What do you think of the idea that when we acknowledge our grief, we acknowledge our love?
2. Who are you missing and what specific grief are you feeling this holiday season?
3. Are you comfortable honoring your grief and maybe even sharing it with others?

Pub Theology at ¡El Maguey!

There will be no Pub Theology in December.

Please join us on **January 28th!**

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, January 28th at El Maguey.

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?

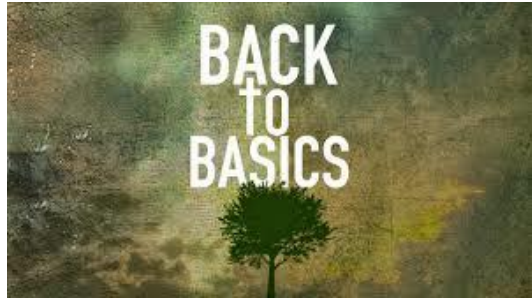
What literature are you reading that has had some inspiration for you?

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

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



Faith Forum Series



**Sundays 9:15– 10:15 a.m.
in Metcalf Hall**

Rector's Bible Study



**Thursdays 9:00 a.m.
in Metcalf Hall**

St. Luke's Vestry Members

Dan Droege, Sr. Warden – 918-331-7936
dbdcomm.2@gmail.com

Doug McIver, Jr. Warden – 785-342-4328
dmciver@susandickcpa.com

Jo Baughman – jybokla@aol.com

Karole Cozby – kscozby916@gmail.com

Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com

Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com

Penny Williams – oklaborn@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Woods – Nancywoods120@gmail.com

Steve Van Aken – scvanaken@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Warring – newarring@cityofbartlesville.org

Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com

Nancy Megee – sc4me81@yahoo.com

St. Luke's Prayer List

Our Prayer List can be found in the Sunday bulletin and on our website.

Call or email our office
with prayer requests.

918-336-1211 or
StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com

Bereavement Team 2

Laura Birk, Kris Bonner,
Nancy Megee, Rita Childers,
Carol Murphy

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector
RevPhares@outlook.com 269-788-7063

Dolores McCreary, Choir Director/Organist
dolomc37@gmail.com 918-397-4828

Keeli Droege, Christian Education Coord.
keelidroege@gmail.com 918-697-8509

Connecting with St. Luke's

To learn various ways to connect at St. Luke's,
visit our website at:

<http://episcopalbartlesville.org/>

Birthdays and Anniversaries December 16 – 22

Birthdays

Peggy Marshall - Dec 17

Jim Carroll - Dec 21

Logan Warring - Dec 21

Natalie Conner – Dec 22

Anniversaries

Fr. Lee & Lynda Stephens - Dec 17

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!

December Services – Clip & Save!

15 th	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live
	Young Disciples	Rogers Hall	6:00 p.m.
16 th	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Bible Study	Metcalf Hall	9:15 a.m.
	Advent Meditation	Church	10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Green Country	1:00 p.m.
	Evening Prayer - Requiem	Chancel	4:00 p.m.
19 th	Advent IV		
	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Chapel	8:00 a.m.
	Faith Forum	Metcalf Hall	9:15 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist Rite II	Church	10:30 a.m.
20 th	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live
21 st	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist	Chapel	12:15 p.m. Feast of St. Thomas
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live
22 nd	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live
23 rd	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Bible Study	Metcalf Hall	9:15 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Green Country	1:00 p.m.
	Advent Meditation	Church	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live
24 th	Holy Eucharist Rite II	Church	5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
25 th	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Chancel	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day
26 th	First Sunday After Christmas		
	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Chapel	8:00 a.m.
	Faith Forum	Metcalf Hall	9:15 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist Rite II	Church	10:30 a.m.
27 th	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist	Chapel	12:15 p.m. Feast of St. Stephen
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live
28 th	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist	Chapel	12:15 p.m. Feast of St. John
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live
29 th	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist	Chapel	12:15 p.m. Holy Innocents
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live
30 th	Morning Prayer	Chapel	9:00 a.m.
	Bible Study	Metcalf Hall	9:15 a.m.
	Holy Eucharist Rite I	Green Country	1:00 p.m.
	Evening Prayer	Chapel	4:00 p.m. and Facebook Live