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The Steeple



June 1, 2022

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



The Feast of Pentecost 2022

As the Feast of Pentecost approaches, I am reminded that the Easter Season is not ending but transforming before us. The Day of Pentecost is one of the principal baptismal feasts of the church's year of grace and in essence, captures the wholeness of the great fifty days we have just experienced together as a community. As our baptismal identity has been profoundly shaped by the Spirit, the Feast of Pentecost celebrates not only the coming of the Spirit of the Risen but our relationship with the Spirit through our baptism. I hope that you will make every effort to come and celebrate the day and each other if you are able to do so.

This year our service will be held off campus at Timber Oaks on US Highway 61. The physical address of the event center is 1639 US Highway 60, Bartlesville, Ok 74003. The service will begin at 10:30 and will include the renewal of our baptismal vows. After worship we will enjoy a picnic lunch together. The menu for lunch will be: hot dogs, sloppy joes, coleslaw, baked beans, and chips. We will have water and canned beverages to drink and my favorite, a bounce house for the kiddos. I'd like to thank Laura Birk for her hard working in planning and setting up the event and Steve Van Aken who has generously offered his prize - the use of the facility for a day - to Luke's Place. If you see those two around hug their neck. Thank-you both.

Some logistics then – Please know that if you are needing a ride to and from Timber Oaks there will be folks at St. Luke's who will be available to carpool with. Please arrive at the church at around 10:00 -10:10 so we can get everyone who needs a ride situated. Also, the event center is equipped with AC, so not only will we have a roof over our heads if it starts to rain but we will be comfortable too. I'm learning quickly that one moves from AC to AC during the Oklahoma summers. While set-up has been taken care of, we will need some folks to stick around after lunch and help us take down the bounce house and pack-up. While not labor intensive, every little bit helps and I thank you in advance for that!

As the day draws closer may we pray: O God, who on the Day of Pentecost taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

See you all soon!

Nick+



June 5th, 2022 at Timber Oaks 1639 US HWY 60 West
No 8:00am service that day. Picnic will begin with the 10:30am
service at the venue. Meal provided. See you there!

Theologian's Corner

A Great Cloud of Witnesses.

June 2nd Belinda and her Companions.

In the second century, after a brief respite, Christians in many parts of the Roman empire were once again subjected to persecution. At Lyons and Vienne, in Gaul, there were missionary centers which had drawn many Christians from Asia and Greece. They were living a devout life under the guidance of Pothinus, elderly Bishop of Lyons, when persecution began in 177.

At first, the Christians were socially excluded from Roman homes, the public baths, and the market place; insults, stones, and blows were rained on them by pagan mobs, and Christian homes were vandalized. Soon after, the imperial officials forced Christians to come to the market place for harsh questioning, followed by imprisonment.

Some slaves from Christian households were tortured to extract public accusations that Christians practiced cannibalism, incest, and other perversions. These false accusations roused the mob to such a pitch of wrath that any leniency toward the imprisoned Christians was impossible. Even friendly pagans now turned against them.

The fury of the mob fell most heavily on Sanctus, a deacon; Attalus; Maturus, a recent convert; and Blandina, a slave. According to Eusebius, Blandina was so filled with power to withstand torments that her torturers gave up. "I am a Christian," she said, "and nothing vile is done among us." Sanctus was tormented with red-hot irons. The aged Pothinus, badly beaten, died soon after. Finally, the governor decided to set aside several days for a public spectacle in the amphitheater.

Eusebius depicts Blandina in particular as standing in the person of Christ: "Blandina was suspended on a stake, and exposed to be devoured by the wild beasts who should attack her. And because she appeared as if hanging on a cross, and because of her earnest prayers, she inspired the combatants with great zeal. For they looked on her in her conflict, and beheld with their outward eyes, in the form of their sister, him who was crucified for them, that he might persuade those who believe in him, that every one who suffers for the glory of Christ has fellowship always with the living God."

On the final day of the spectacle, writes Eusebius, "Blandina, last of all, like a noble mother who had encouraged her children and sent them ahead victorious to the King, hastened to join them." Beaten, torn, burned with irons, she was wrapped in a net and tossed about by a wild bull. The spectators were amazed at her endurance.

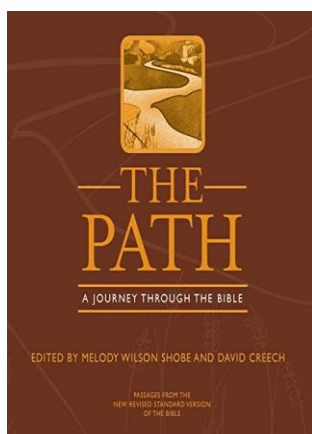
Eusebius concludes: “They offered up to the Father a single wreath, but it was woven of diverse colors and flowers of all kinds. It was fitting that the noble athletes should endure a varied conflict, and win a great victory, that they might be entitled in the end to receive the crown supreme of life everlasting.”



Grant, O Lord, that we who keep the feast of the holy martyrs Blandina and her companions may be rooted and grounded in love of you, and may endure the sufferings of this life for the glory that shall be revealed in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FAITH FORUM on Sundays 9:15 a.m.- 10:15 a.m. Metcalf Hall

June 5th Pentecost - No Faith Forum (Parish Picnic).



Starting June 12th

The Path- A Journey Through the Bible
(Forward Movement). Passages from the New
Revised Standard Version of the Bible.



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
I never doubt the existence of Earthly angels...they are easy to SPOT at St. Luke's and were especially ON DUTY during Mom's (Jeanne Rowlett) memorial service and reception. So many hands and hearts worked together to make it a time of Joy, Celebration, Remembrance, and Hope! From Father Nick and Father Lee, Jeff and Darian, Music by Dolores,

Mark, and Katie. The altar guild: Kathy and Sally. AV team: Nancy W. and Dan. Ushers: Nancy M. and Jim L. Jo for the flowers. For Penny who did the office work and bulletins. To the Bereavement team.... for all who set up, provided the delicious food, and worked it plus cleaned up. and/or did all three jobs...Laura, Jeanne, Sally, Darian, Karen, Rita, Cathy P., Jo, Becky L, Debbie M., Wendy, Nancy W, Glenda, Rita, Nancy M., Mary Jo, Margaret and to everyone else that had a part in anyway. Your wings were definitely visible. Thank you all so very much.

To all who were able to attend or watched online, your presence including your constant love and support through out Mom's life on earth was a beautiful example of Christ's Love and His Amazing Grace. Forever thankful for each one of you and for St. Luke's.

Love, Susie and Steve Clark

Dear Sunday School Parents,

We just finished a great school year of Godly Play and music classes! Thank you for sharing your precious children with Teresa and me. We will be taking a break from Sunday School during the summer months and will resume when school starts again. We may get together for an activity sometime during the summer and we will keep you posted. Teresa Phares will be at St. Crispin's all summer as camp

director. There is still time to sign up for this amazing opportunity at <https://stcrispins.org/camp>. Also, in order to have a successful program again next fall, we will need more storytellers and volunteers. If you would like to become involved, please call or email me.

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Thank You, Keeli Droege keelidroege@gmail.com 918-697-8509



Luke's Place June 2 -June 8 , 2022

- June 2nd - Men's Breakfast, 7-8:30am Metcalf Hall
Rector's Bible Study, 9:15am Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm GC Village**
- June 3rd - Office closed**
- June 5th - Pentecost Rite II Eucharist- 10:30am, Timber Oaks Hwy 60 West
Parish Picnic**
- June 6th - Allen Oliphant Celebration of Life, 2pm**

Morning Prayer is held every Monday- Thursday at 9am, Chapel

Evening Prayer is held every Monday-Thursday at 4pm, Chapel (or via Facebook)

REMINDER:

**Concern is still
in need of milk**

Wet Paint!

A small but mighty group of Young Disciples (past, present and future) brightened up the parking lot at Luke's Place with a fresh coat of paint on Memorial Day weekend. Special thanks to Brad Borg, Nick & Charlie Olsen; Tom Droege, and Daisy & Heidi Droege.



Rector's Bible Study

Thursdays, Metcalf Hall 9:15am-10:15am

Studying the Book of Isaiah

Birthdays and Anniversaries, -June 2nd – June 8th , 2022

Birthdays

LouAnn Mitchell 6/3
Tom Chamberlain 6/5
Audrey Foote 6/7

Anniversaries

Bill & Jackie Gallery 6/2
Laura & Jeff Birk 6/4

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!

LET'S CONNECT!

We will soon be calling to get you connected with our new church management software! With that you can:

- Update your personal information
- Communicate with groups & teams
- Follow church announcements
- Look up members
- Keep track of your giving
- Create and join events

Realm[®] Connect





Pentecost

The term means “the fiftieth day.” It is used in both the OT and the NT. In the OT it refers to a feast of seven weeks known as the Feast of Weeks. It was apparently an agricultural event that focused on the harvesting of first fruits. Josephus referred to Pentecost as the fiftieth day after the first day of Passover. The term is used in the NT to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Christians came to understand the meaning of Pentecost in terms of the gift of the Spirit. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise which Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is now the seventh Sunday after Easter. It emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit. Some understand Pentecost to be the origin and sending out of the church into the world. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church (BCP, p. 15). The Day of Pentecost is identified by the BCP as one of the feasts that is “especially appropriate” for baptism (p. 312). The liturgical color for the feast is red.

Pentecost has also been known as Whitsun or Whitsunday, a corruption of “White Sunday.” This term reflects the custom by which those who were baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost would wear their white baptismal garments to church on the Day of Pentecost. The BCP provides directions for observance of a Vigil of Pentecost, which begins with the Service of Light (p. 227). The Hymnal 1982 provides a variety of hymns for Pentecost (Hymns 223-230) and the Holy Spirit (Hymns 500-516).

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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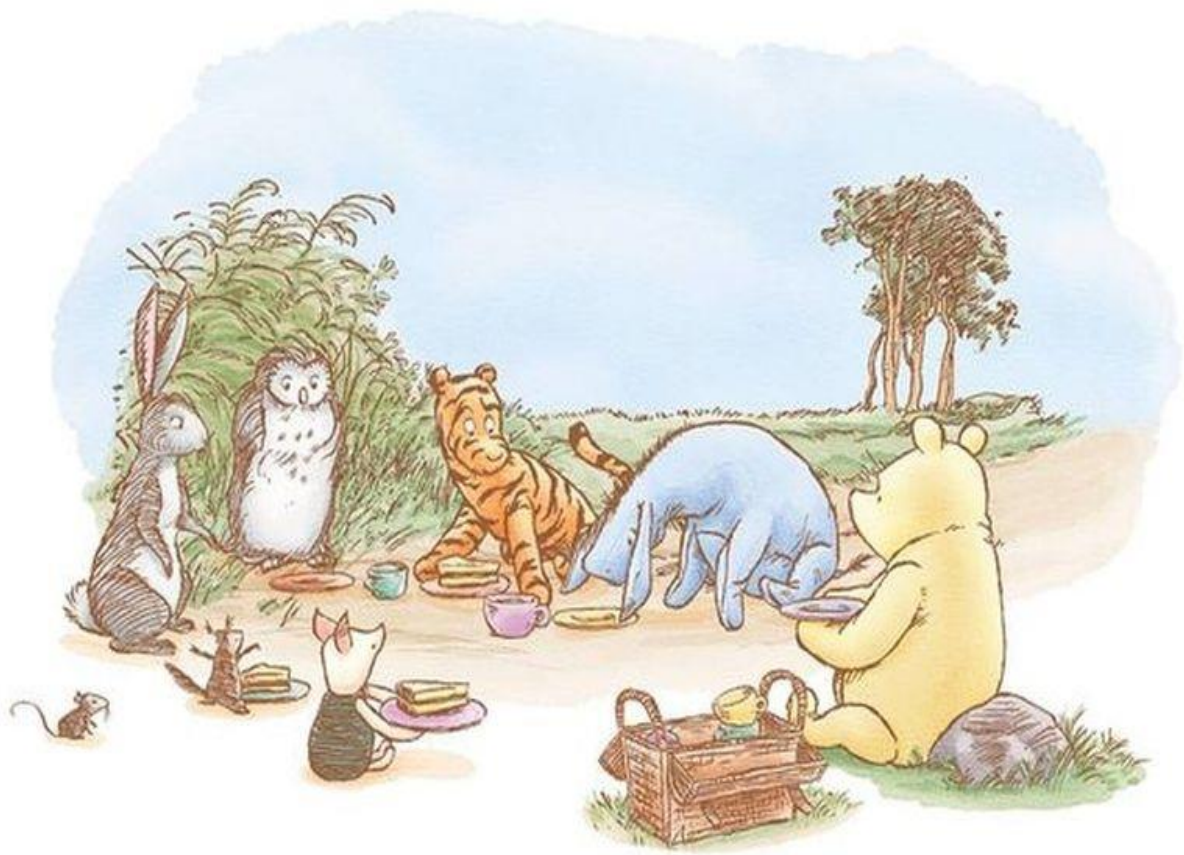
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Everyday is a picnic
when you're with friends

-Winnie the Pooh