

In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- Flower & Christmas Offering
- Request from Altar Guild
- Advent program
- Christmas Star Tree thank you
- Christmas in the Ville
- Dec schedule for Bookstore
- Hanukkah starts Dec 18th
- Prayer List

The Steeple



Dec 14, 2022

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Prayers of the People

Among the most sacred tasks of pastoring a church is upholding people in prayer. We take that seriously here at St. Luke's by offering up prayers of intercession on behalf of those who have asked for them specifically during the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer.

The sacred task of intercessory prayer, "brings before God the needs of others" as it should. And as one of the seven principal forms of prayer, intercession remains one of the most personal. Because of its personal nature, I have been thinking of ways that we as a community could be more direct in responding to the needs behind the prayers themselves – namely identifying whether they are acute or fixed based on context.

Beginning this Advent, we will begin to be more intentional with the way intercessory prayer takes shape within our liturgies at St. Luke's by employing what the office will refer to as the long-term prayer list, a list for fixed prayers and the short-term prayer list, a list for acute prayer requests. We will focus on praying the long-term list during the daily offices and the short-term list for the week ahead during Sunday's Eucharist.

To have a loved one's name added to either list, please email the office and specify either "long-term" or "short-term" for us. Please list the person's name for whom we will praying for, their relation to you, and any details you feel comfortable sharing when submitting your request as well. This helps us in knowing what to pray for.

All names added to the long-term prayer list will remain on the list until the family asks to remove them and that list will be updated once-a-week on Wednesday's. As such, the long-term prayer list will also be shared in the weekly Steeple newsletter. If you request a short-term prayer, however, it will be added to Sunday's bulletin for two weeks. In addition to the short term-list, each week the intercessor will leave a space for any additions as necessary.

My hope remains that the names we speak in prayer are treated reverently and with purpose. I trust that in your daily prayers - either during the daily office, eucharist, or

through your private devotions these sacred names will resound in praise and heard by our most gracious Father in Heaven,

Every Blessing,

Nick+

Theologians Corner:



St. Lucy

Martyr at Syracuse, 304

Lucy, or Lucia, was martyred at Syracuse, in Sicily, during Diocletian's reign of terror of 303-304, among the most dramatic of the persecutions of early Christians. Her tomb can still be found in the catacombs at Syracuse. She was venerated soon after her death and her cult spread quickly throughout the Church. She is among the saints and martyrs named in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

Most of the details of Lucy's life are obscure. In the tradition, she is remembered for the purity of her life and the gentleness of her spirit. Because her name means "light," she is sometimes thought of as the patron saint of those who suffer from diseases of the eyes.

In popular piety, Lucy is perhaps most revered because her feast day, December 11, was for many centuries the shortest day of the year. (The reform of the calendar by Pope Gregory VIII [1582] would shift the shortest day to December 21/22, depending upon the year.) It was on Lucy's day that the light began gradually to return and the days to lengthen. This was particularly powerful in northern Europe, where the days of winter were quite short. In Scandinavian countries, particularly Sweden, Lucy's day has long been a festival of light that is kept as both an ecclesiastical commemoration and a domestic observance.

In the domestic celebration of Lucia-fest, a young girl in the family dresses in pure white (a symbol of Lucy's faith, purity, and martyrdom) and wears a crown of lighted candles upon her head (a sign that on Lucy's day the light is returning) and serves her family

special foods prepared especially for the day. In praise of her service, the young girl is called Lucy for the day.

Together we pray: Loving God, who for the salvation of all didst give Jesus Christ as light to a world in darkness: Illumine us, with thy daughter Lucy, with the light of Christ, that, by the merits of his passion, we may be led to eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Flower Offerings are given at Christmas time in memory of, in honor of, or in thanksgiving for someone or something who/that has touched your life. Beautiful poinsettias and greenery adorn the nave during the Christmas season and are provided through these donations. The deadline for the donations is Sunday, December 18th.



Altar Guild Request

Every year in preparation for Christmas, the Altar Guild makes plans for decorating the sanctuary at St Luke's with natural greens. We are looking for sprigs of holly and nandina sprigs with berries. If you can help with this, please call Kris Bonner at 918-914-9228. Please leave a message if no answer. Thank you!



Christmas Star Tree

Thanks to the good people of St. Luke's, the Star Tree was once again a great success. You all provided 63 Visa Gift Cards for foster teens in the Bartlesville area. Alisha Thompson, head of the Foster Care program, was ecstatic. The cards were distributed at their annual Christmas party on December 9th. Thank you again for providing Christmas Joy to kids in our area.

- Steve and Chery Van Aken

Another High Five goes to the Young Disciples for shopping for gifts from the Angel Tree with monetary donations for the Christmas Star Tree.

A big THANK YOU to our Vestry (Doug McIver, Nancy Woods, Laura Birk, Steve VanAken, Mark Peterson, Karole Cozby, Karen Lewey, and Fr Nick Phares) and spouses (Jen McIver, Jeff Birk, Cheryl VanAken, and Teresa Phares) and Dan Droege for working Christmas in the Ville! AND to our St Luke's families who came out to support the Vestry. What a fun time!




Christmas IN THE *Ville*
•ICE RINK AT THE DEPOT•





Hanukkah begins December 18th

Hanukkah^[4] (/ˈhɑːnəkə/; [Hebrew](#): חֲנֻכָּה, [Modern](#): *Hanukka*, [Tiberian](#): *Hănukkā* • [listen](#)) is a [Jewish festival](#) commemorating the recovery of [Jerusalem](#) and



subsequent rededication of the [Second Temple](#) at the beginning of the [Maccabean revolt](#) against the [Seleucid Empire](#) in the 2nd century BCE.^{[3][4]}

Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of [Kislev](#) according to the [Hebrew calendar](#), which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the [Gregorian calendar](#). The festival is observed by lighting the candles of a [candelabrum](#) with nine branches, commonly called a [menorah](#) or hanukkiah. One branch is typically placed

above or below the others and its candle is used to light the other eight candles. This unique candle is called the [shammash](#) ([Hebrew](#): שָׁמַשׁ, "attendant"). Each night, one additional candle is lit by the *shammash* until all eight candles are lit together on the final night of the festival.^[5] Other Hanukkah festivities include singing [Hanukkah songs](#), playing the game of [dreidel](#) and eating oil-based foods, such as [latkes](#) and [sufganiyot](#), and dairy foods. Since the 1970s, the worldwide [Chabad Hasidic](#) movement has initiated public menorah lightings in open public places in many countries.^[6]

Originally instituted as a feast "in the manner of [Sukkot](#) (Booths)", it does not come with the corresponding obligations, and is therefore a relatively minor holiday in strictly religious terms. Nevertheless, Hanukkah has attained major cultural significance in North America and elsewhere, especially among secular Jews, due to often occurring around the same time as [Christmas](#) during the [holiday season](#).

FAITH FORUM

Sundays 9:15am-10:15am, Metcalf Hall
Chapter 22 from 'The Path', Dec 18th



Wednesday evenings, during the Season of Advent, join us for a light supper and Compline afterward. Time: 6pm in Metcalf Hall.

Find the 'quiet' in the Season.



**Christmas Eve Service will be 4:30pm
(One service only)**

**Christmas Day Service will be 10:00am
(One service only)**



Please pray for: : Linda & Terry Piper, Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Amber Emerson, Ben Baker, Sanawbar, Diana Farris, Cindy & Tom Moffitt, Joel Hahn, Stacey & Butch Webster, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, Katie Rolielard, Debbie French, Jody & George Bracken, Janice Lonski, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Dorothy & Elmer Buchanan, Diana Schremmer, Peggy Kauffman, Colleen, Shawn, Ryan Kiesel, Jason Carroll, Tony Clapper, Merry Lou & Bruce Neiswander, Joseph, Tanis Reyburn, Tim, Mindy, Beth,

Kay Boman Harvey, Jim Carroll, Shania Smith, Terry Sisco, Luke Karel, Jeri Wilson, Jeretta Amburn, Bill Birk, and the Maxwell Family.



Luke's Place Dec 15th – Dec 21st, 2022

- Dec 15th** Men's Breakfast, 7-8:30am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV
- Dec 18th** Eucharist Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Children's Programming, 10:15am, Upstairs
Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- Dec 20th** Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Beard Library
- Dec 21st** Advent Program and lite supper, 6pm, Metcalf
Choir, 7:15pm or after Advent program, Choir Room

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Dec 18th – Dec 24th, 2022

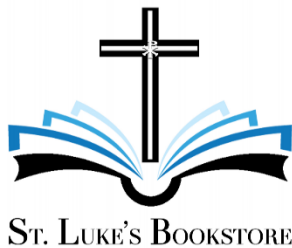
Birthdays

Jim Carroll 12/21
Logan Warring 12/21
Sheila Taylor 12/24
Debbie Mueggenborg 12/24

Anniversaries

Lyndsey & Paul Stuart 12/17
Doug & Connie Freebern 12/23

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 Bookstore will be open:
Every Sunday after the 10:30 service
Tues 11:45am-1:45pm (during Dec)
Thurs 10:30am-12:30pm (during Dec)
And during Midweek Manna Dec 14 & 21
Come in and shop for Christmas!

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Doug McIver, Sr. Warden -- dmciver@susandickcpa.com 785-342-4328
- Nancy Woods, Jr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Jo Baughman – jybokla@aol.com
- Karole Cozby – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk – lpbirk73@gmail.com
- Mark Peterson- m_mpeterson@hotmail.com
- Steve Van Aken – scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com

Bereavement Team 4

Becky Liehr, Jo Baughman, Karen Lewey, &
Cathy Perrier

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F
Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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

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

WEEK 3

Light three candles and sit for a moment in silence.

*Christ our Joy,
Brighten our homes with your presence.
Clarify our vision so that we might see you
in the people we cherish.
Make every holiday activity an opportunity
to spread your light and love.
We await your coming with delight.*

Amen.

