

In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- Open House in the Woods
- YD Walking in the Light
- Advent program
- Parish Paint Party
- Vestry at Christmas in the Ville
- Parish Brunch Dec 11th
- Dec schedule for Bookstore

The Steeple



Dec 7, 2022

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Wonderous Presence and Patient Anticipation

The third Sunday of Advent is often referred to as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete is Latin - meaning joy! Long ago churches normally began worship with short musical settings called introits and Gaudete was the first word of the introit for the third Sunday of Advent.

For our part here at St. Luke's we observe the third Sunday of Advent much the same as we do the other three, concentrating on the prayers and propers of the lectionary - bringing in themes of the season as we can. One thing is certain, we are no strangers to joy!

Of the things that brings us all great joy here at St. Luke's is of course the ministry of Dolores McCreary. Music meets us both in Word and Sacrament week in and week out and has done so for the past four decades through her wonderous presence. Do you see what I did there?

As many of you know, our beloved friend is preparing to retire. And so, in the midst of this season of Advent, we who wait also find ourselves in transition too. I encourage you all to drink deeply of the wonderful gift that Dolores offers us - even more so as we approach the feast of the Incarnation.

Tonight, the finance committee meets to discuss creating compensation packages for our future candidates. While a large part of our conversation will center on affordability, we are in every way encouraged to seek out those who in Dolores' words "want to come here and *be* with us." Trust me, we all want nothing more than that!

In an effort to have the best information available, I would encourage anyone who intends to offer a pledge of financial support to St. Luke's for 2023 to please consider doing so as soon as possible. Much depends on an accurate financial picture when we are putting together what we intend to offer future candidates as well as sustaining our ministries throughout the year. Thank-you all so much for your support and for those of you who continue to support the mission and ministry of Luke's Place.

Joy it seems is bittersweet sometimes, but as Dolores has said before, "Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. Tip toe if you must, but take the step." We will Dolores. We will trusting that you will go with always.

With deep affection,
Nick+



Theologians Corner:

Thomas Merton
Contemplative and
Writer, 1968

Thomas Merton was among the most influential Catholic writers of the twentieth century. His writings cover a broad range of subject matter: spirituality and the contemplative life,

prayer, and religious biography. He was also deeply interested in issues of social justice and Christian responsibility. He did not shy away from controversy and addressed race relations, economic injustice, war, violence, and the nuclear arms race.

Merton was born in Prades, France, on January 15, 1915. His father was from New Zealand and his Quaker mother from the United States. After a brief sojourn in England, where Merton was baptized in the Church of England, the family settled in New York. The birth of his brother, the death of his mother, and the romance of his father with the American novelist Evelyn Scott created an unsettling life for Merton for some years. After a brief enrollment at Clare College, Cambridge, Merton settled into life as a student at Columbia University in New York. Merton developed relationships at Columbia that would nurture him for the rest of his life.

Though nominally an Anglican, Merton underwent a dramatic conversion experience in 1938 and became a Roman Catholic. Merton recounts the story of his conversion in *The Seven Storey Mountain*, an autobiography published in 1948, immediately a classic. Merton entered the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance, the Trappists, at the Abbey of Gethsemani, near Bardstown, Kentucky, in 1941. Merton was known in the community as Brother Louis; his gifts as a writer were encouraged by the abbot. In addition to his translations of Cistercian sources and his original works, Merton carried on a prolific correspondence with people around the world on a wide range of subjects. Some of his correspondence takes the form of spiritual direction, some shows his deep affections for friends outside the community, and much of it demonstrates Merton's ability to be fully engaged in the world even though he lived a cloistered life.

Merton died in Bangkok, Thailand, on December 10, 1968, by accidental electrocution, while attending a meeting of religious leaders during a pilgrimage to the Far East.

Together we pray: Gracious God, who didst call thy monk Thomas Merton to proclaim thy justice out of silence and moved him in his contemplative writings to perceive and value Christ at work in the faiths of others: Keep us, like him,

steadfast in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Flower and Christmas Offering envelopes were sent out last week. If you did not get them, please contact the office and they can be sent to you. 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 December 18th.

A festive graphic featuring several Christmas ornaments hanging from black strings. The ornaments have various patterns: red and white stripes, red with white polka dots, and a red snowflake. Some ornaments contain text: 'FUN', 'food & drink', 'friends', 'Holiday cocktails!', and '4-6 pm facepainting & fun for kids'.

CHRISTMAS in the WOODS

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Dec 10th • 1000 Hazel Court
4pm - 8pm

YOU ARE WELCOME EVEN IF IT IS *LAST MINUTE*...
BUT...IF YOU KNOW YOU ARE COMING...

Nancy Woods text/call 918-914-3263 or
nancywoods120@gmail.com



Walking in the Light

The first week of Advent, the Young Disciples headed out to make new friends in Bartlesville at a couple of group homes where individuals with developmental challenges live. A big thanks to AbilityWorks of Oklahoma for welcoming YD and to Becky Olsen for planning the craft activity creating stained-glass-window candles. The kids and adults worked together with glue and tissue paper, making a huge mess and having fun. With very little direction and angelic hearts, these kids not only walked in the light but they were the light for others.



FAITH FORUM

Sundays 9:15am-10:15am, Metcalf Hall
Chapter 21 from 'The Path', Dec 11th



Wednesday evenings during the Season of Advent, we will be having a light supper and Compline afterward. Time: 6pm in Metcalf Hall.

Find the 'quiet' in the Season.

NEED YOUR RSVP!



Let's Paint!

You asked for it and here it is! We are having a 'Painting Party' again at Boots and Brushes for the whole parish on Dec 13th, 5:30pm, 322 S Johnstone Ave.

We will be painting something

'seasonal' and the whole family is invited! \$20 plus tax per station (station=1 canvas, brushes, and paint), bring snacks to share, and ready for some fun. Please let me know if you are coming so we make sure to set up enough painting stations. There will be step by step painting by an instructor so you will not be on your own unless you want to be. Either text 918-766-2157, email stlukesbartlesville@outlook.com, or call 918-336-1212 and let me know to expect you! Deadline is Dec 12th.
.....Penny



St Luke's at the Rink!

St Luke's Vestry will be working at Christmas in the Ville December 11th, checking out and in skate rentals at the Skate Hut, selling hot chocolate at the concession stand, and monitoring the ice rink from 3pm-9pm (Of course Fr Nick

will be supervising). Come out and support your Vestry and ice skate, walk the park, investigate the Train, watch a movie on the lawn, or take a ride in the horse drawn carriage. Let's make it a St Luke's Night at Christmas in the 'Ville!



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

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



Reminder: Please turn in your pledge cards if you have not done so.

The Women's Fellowship group was small but mighty at Crafty Candle Shoppe last Saturday. Next meeting will be in January.



Luke's Place Dec 8th – Dec 14th , 2022

- Dec 8th Men's Breakfast, 7-8:30am, Metcalf
- Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
- Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV
- Dec 10th Nancy Woods' Open House, 4pm-8pm, 1000 Hazel Ct
- Dec 11th Eucharist Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
- Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
- Children's Programming, 10:15am, Upstairs
- Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- Fundraiser Brunch, after 10:30am service, Metcalf
- Christmas in the Ville, 3pm-9pm, Depot on Keeler
- Dec 13th Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Beard Library
- Painting at Boots & Brushes, 5:30pm, 322 S Johnstone
- Dec 14th Advent Program and lite supper, 6pm, Metcalf
- YD, 6pm, Rodgers
- Choir, 7:15pm or after Advent program, Choir Room

Ryan McIver's Eagle Scout project
December 11 after 10:30 service in Metcalf Hall
Brunch fundraiser for Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
for St. Lukes
Brunch will include sausage egg casserole, hashbrowns, fruit,
and homemade pastries by Josie
Troop 5 scouts will be serving, cooking, and cleaning
Donations are appreciated



Birthdays and Anniversaries, Dec 11th – Dec 17th , 2022

Birthdays

Robert Clark 12/14

Anniversaries

Lee & Lynda Stephens 12/17

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!



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 7,14,21
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 2

Light two candles and sit for a moment in silence.

*Christ our Hope,
Illuminate our hearts with your grace.
Enlarge our vision so that we recognize our
kinship with all the people of the world.
Help us to give to others in ways that meet
their deepest needs.
We await your coming with gratitude.*

Amen.

