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The Steeple



Jan 10, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Sing to the Lord a New Song

If you can believe it, my window is open and I'm listening to the birds sing as they partake of the feast laid before them in the memorial garden. Quite a difference from a few weeks ago, when pipes were in danger of breaking and snow covered the ground. Things can change rapidly and we know this, but it's nice to be reminded of that fact when listening to birds and not when patching pipes.

No doubt you've heard about pipes freezing at St. Crispin's and if you haven't, please follow the link to learn more: <https://www.epiok.org/newsdetails.aspx/?n=01ea9e45-6b7c-4385-bd95-a77d73f056f7&subheadertext=St.+Crispin%27s+Water+Damage+>

My heart goes out to Alton and Joy as they head up the clean-up. I hope that you will join with me in your daily prayers - not only in praying for them, but their staff and the camp and conference center as a whole during the next six months.

Speaking of St. Crispin's, though we are only in the first quarter of the new year – camp registration is nevertheless open at: <https://stcrispins.org/camp> Parents, as you plan ahead please take a look at the dates that are open for your child and know that financial assistance is available not just through the diocese but through St. Luke's as well. If you have any questions, please connect with Teresa anytime. I know that she'd love to hear from you.

Also available for planning purposes, is the adult faith formation brochure. This coming week we will be sure to put that on the website, in addition to having printed copies located in the narthex for our next service. Along with the adult faith formation brochure, we are beginning to put together one for children's formation as well. This will include an update on nursery care, Godly Play, Y.D. and much more. Please be on the lookout for that.

At the end of this month, we will be welcoming to St. Luke's a potential candidate for the position of music director. While plans are still in the works, I hope that you will make every effort to be present at the end of this month if you can. As we look forward to their

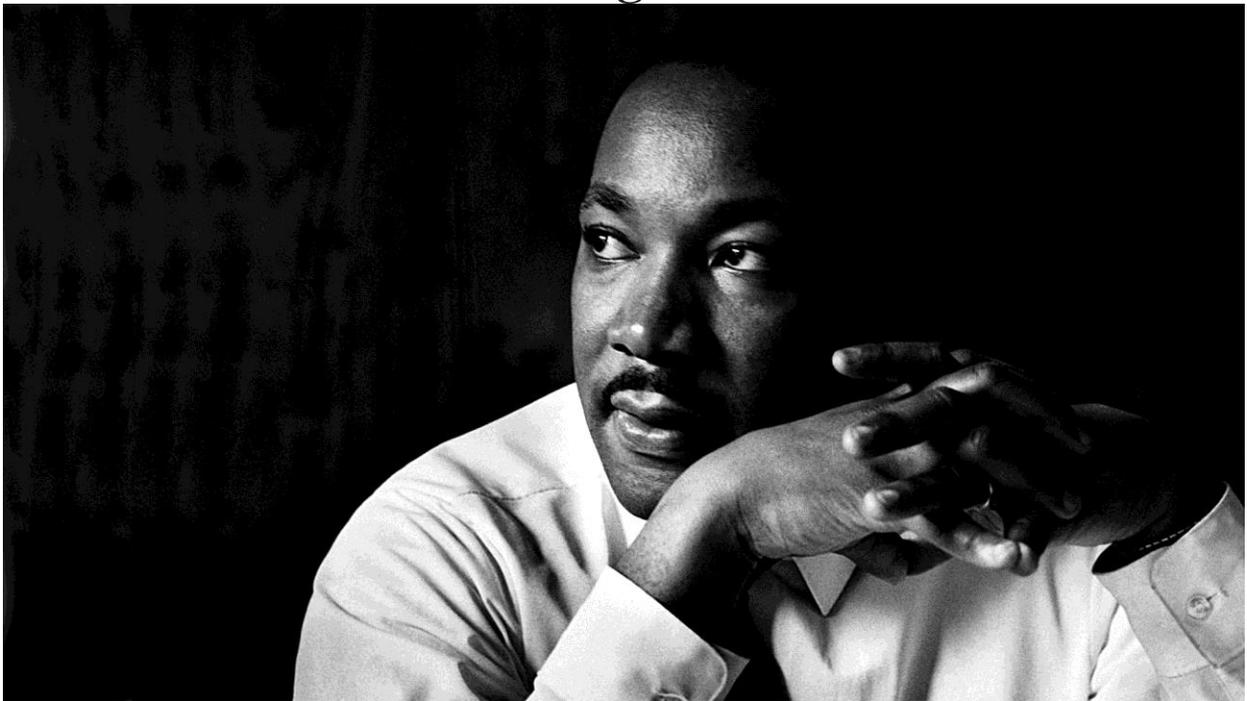
visit, I was reminded that there is a beautiful statement attributed to St. Augustine that says: “The one who sings prays twice.”

While I haven’t read all the literature of St. Augustine, I have never come across this phrase. What I did find, however, is in one of his Commentaries to the Psalms, specifically Psalm 72, that says: “Whoever sings a praise, not only praises, but only praises with gladness. They that sing praise, not only sings, but also loves him of whom they sing. In praise, there is the speaking forth of one confessing; in singing, the affection of one loving.”

Psalm 96 begins, “Sing to the Lord a new song.” I wonder what that song is for St. Luke’s. I wonder what song that is for you?

In gratitude,
Nick+

Theologians Corner:



The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Leader and Martyr, 1968

We have a little something different this week in the TC. Since 1983 the third Monday in January has been known as MLK Day. While most folks will observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 16th, as a church - King is one of only a few people to have his day remembered on the day of his birth as well as his death. Traditionally the church celebrates King’s life on the April 4th - as with all the saints – on the day he was martyred.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta. As the son and grandson of Baptist preachers, he was steeped in the Black Church tradition. Following graduation from Morehouse College (Atlanta, Georgia) in 1948, King entered Crozer Theological Seminary (Chester, Pennsylvania), having been ordained the previous year into the ministry of the National Baptist Church. He graduated from Crozer in 1951 and received his doctorate in theology from Boston University in 1955.

In 1954, King became pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama. There, Black indignation at inhumane treatment on segregated buses culminated in December, 1955, in the arrest of Rosa Parks for refusing to give up her seat to a white man. King was catapulted into national prominence as the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott. He became increasingly the articulate prophet, who could not only rally the Black masses, but could also move the consciences of Whites.

King founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to spearhead non-violent mass demonstrations against racism. Many confrontations followed, most notably in Birmingham and Selma, Alabama, and in Chicago. King's campaigns were instrumental to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, 1965, and 1968. King then turned his attention to economic empowerment of the poor and opposition to the Vietnam War, contending that racism, poverty, and militarism were interrelated. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his commitment to non-violent social change.

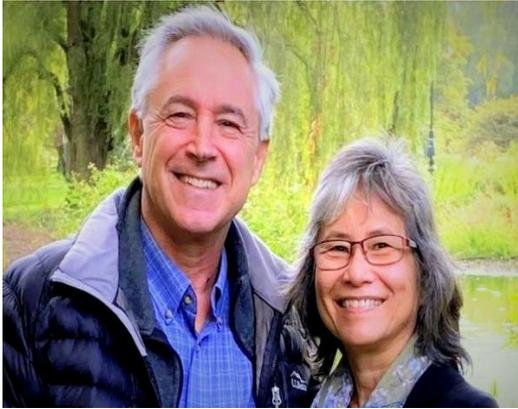
King lived in constant danger: his home was dynamited, he was almost fatally stabbed, and he was harassed by death threats. He was even jailed 30 times; but through it all he was sustained by his deep faith. In 1957, he received, late at night, a vicious telephone threat. Alone in his kitchen he wept and prayed. He relates that he heard the Lord speaking to him and saying, "Martin Luther, stand up for righteousness, stand up for justice," and promising never to leave him alone—"No, never alone." King refers to his vision as his "Mountain-top Experience."

After preaching at Washington Cathedral on March 31, 1968, King went to Memphis in support of sanitation workers in their struggle for better wages. There, he proclaimed that he had been "to the mountain-top" and had seen "the Promised Land," and that he knew that one day he and his people would be "free at last." On the following day, April 4, he was cut down by an assassin's bullet.

Are you interested in more? One of the best introductions to King that I've ever read is Vincent Harding's book *Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero*.

Together we pray: Almighty God, who by the hand of Moses thy servant didst lead thy people out of slavery, and didst make them free at last: Grant that thy Church, following the example of thy prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of thy love, and may strive to secure for all thy children the blessed liberty of the

Gospel of Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



News from Roger and Joanne Green

Happy New Year!

Holding each one close, we said our good-byes to our children and grandson and have started our travel back to Southeast Asia. Believing God is calling us to it, Roger and I will continue to join our teammates in bringing the truth about God to language groups in two countries.

Dear to our hearts are the Christians in a country near to Thailand. I'm hoping to dedicate 150 Psalms over three years--one Psalm per week on email--to praying for these Christians (including Bible translators) who are living in a volatile country environment. Let me know if you want to receive these weekly emails. Roger hopes to visit this country this year.

For July we're asking God to help us to lead our first Chiang Rai workshop for families with family members who have disabilities. We hope to also lead a marriage retreat for one Thai couple that month.

Looking back at the past year, my ministry highlight was all the hours reading and discussing the Bible with my two Thai tutors. The 120 hours over three months reading and discussing the Bible were rich hours.

For Roger, his ministry highlight was God's seemingly amazing answers to prayer when we visited Thai churches to distribute the Northern Thai New Testament by phone app and audio players. We thank God for being able to meet many key people in Northern Thai churches, especially recently Pastor Ton.

Our hope for the future is the kingdom of God. When Jesus stood up in the synagogue at Nazareth and said that the Scripture had been fulfilled, He declared prisoners and the oppressed as set free. He would eventually authorize His Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to be His voice, His heart and His hands to people in the worst situations. The consequences of sin would be turned on its head. Jesus had overcome the world at the very beginning of His ministry. The gates of hell would not prevail.

In 2023 may God make us all to be the body He intended us to be as we follow Jesus. May His kingdom come.

Thank you for your sacrifice to send Roger and me to Southeast Asia,
Joanne



Mary Martha Organization needs gently used or new blankets and coats for children and adults. Their need is really great now with so many homeless in our community. MMO will always welcome new volunteers to join their team.

FAITH FORUM

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

A History of the Episcopal Church



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Concern provides food and financial assistance to anyone in need that lives in Washington Co. The services include a 4-7 day supply of groceries 6 times a year every 30 days. Financial assistance includes assistance with past-due utilities, prescriptions, OK state ID replacements, gas cards and evictions. Concern is located

at 333 S. Penn, Bartlesville, 74003 and is open Monday through Thursday from 11:00 am – 2:30 pm. Please call with any inquires at 918-336-4693.

Current donations needs are: complete pancake mix (just add water), canned chicken and ramen noodles.

Please pray for: : Linda & Terry Piper, Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, 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, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tanis Reyburn, Tim, Mindy, Beth, Kay Boman Harvey, Shania Smith, Luke Karel, Jeri Wilson, Jeretta Amburn, Terry Grogan, the Maxwell Family, Tyler Nezam, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, and Don Doty.

Luke's Place Jan 12th– Jan 18th, 2023

- Jan 12th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV
- Jan 15th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Children's Programming, 10:15am, upstairs
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
- Jan 16th MLK Day Office Closed
- Jan 17th Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Library
- Jan 18th The Confession of St Peter, Holy Eucharist Rite I, 12:15pm, Chapel

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Jan 15th – Jan 21st, 2023

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Karen Lewey	1/15
Dean Zervas	1/15
Frank VanDuker	1/16
Grace Stephens	1/19
Glenn Bonner	1/20

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!



YD Goes to South Africa for a Night

Steve and Susie Clark took the Young Disciples halfway around the world Wednesday night for an up-close look at elephants, giraffes, baboons, cheetahs and many other exotic animals they saw on their 21-day trip to South Africa this past fall. They also shared photos of Nelson Mandela's jail cell where he spent more than 20 years for his anti-apartheid activism. Mandela would later become president of South Africa focusing on racial reconciliation. On the trip the Clark's acquired a traditional African chief's chair. Ornately carved, the wooden seat sits only a few inches high but puts the chief above the rest of the tribe who sat on the ground. YD members took turns trying out the chair and sitting on the ground. In fact, the kid in charge of leading Complines that night sat on the ground. Go figure.



St. Luke's Vestry Members

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- Nancy Woods, Jr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
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- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com

Bereavement Team 4

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

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Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157



Bens boys



Claire's daughter

meRy
CHRISTMAS

THE RICKARDS

Tim and Kate and Family



And Happy New Year from Tim and Kate

Hello our friends at
St. Luke's! We love and
miss you!

Kate Rickards

Ben and Kathryn, Lawrence and August

Justin and Claire and Thea