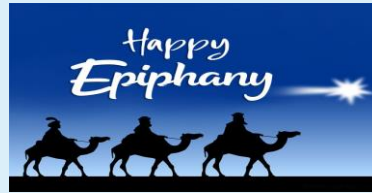


### *In this week's Steeple >>>*

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- Chalking the Door
- Josie is baking
- Mary Martha Needs
- Christmas Eve
- Faith Forum
- Prayer List

# *The Steeple*



Jan 4, 2023

## **The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church**



### **Lifecycles in Ministry**

This week in the mail I received a letter from William Pierson and Cindra Pribil on behalf of the Green Country Free Clinic, announcing the eminent closure of the clinic and the many services it provides. Like many of you, I had heard that the clinic's future was being discussed but didn't know much more than that.

In the letter Pierson and Pribil state, that:

"In 2021 with State Medicaid expansion, as voted and, approved by the citizens of Oklahoma, additional financial resources were allocated to provide coverage to adults, even those without children. In addition, individual allowances were increased. The result was that many patients were no longer eligible for the services of The Green Country Free Clinic, as they now qualified for the new Oklahoma Medicaid Assistance provisions.

Over 90% of our patients now qualify for the new Medicaid Assistance provisions, as a result of the amended Medicaid rules/requirements. We have endeavored, for a period of time, to provide services for the remaining 10% of our patients, but have determined that the administrative and fiscal responsibilities, with our resources, could best be administrated otherwise.

We have worked with other health care agencies in our community to assure that the remaining patients have procured necessary ongoing medical supplies and services by those agencies in our community."

Pierson and Pribil go on to thank the community for 32 years of vital support.

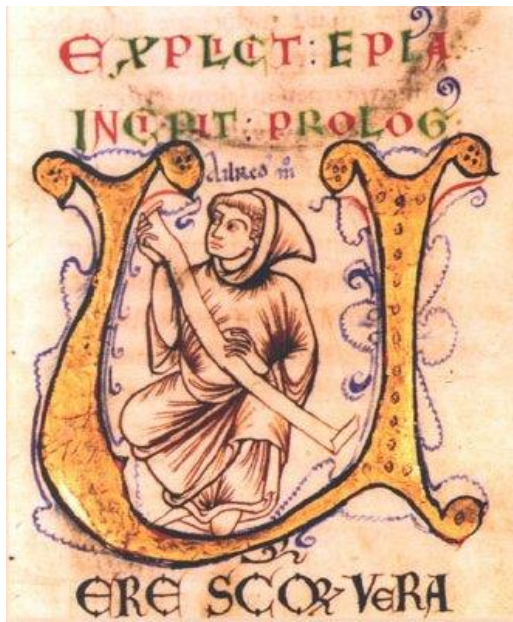
As I reflect on those statements, I realize that the Green Country Free Clinic - even in its closing - continues to serve Bartlesville by modeling gratitude and by showing those in ministry that through the process of evaluation and reflection, even a death leads to new life.

For instance, now that the decision has been made to close - what will happen to the energy that sustained such an enterprise? Will it be poured into seeking help for the 10%? Time will tell. But the truth remains: "There is a season for everything, under the sun." For those who labored and loved so that others might be served through GCFC we offer heartfelt thanks to God, and we ask: Come Holy Spirit. Lead us to new life and a renewed hope through supporting and serving those in need.

Nick+

## Theologians Corner:

Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167



Aelred was born in 1109, of a family which had long been treasurers of the shrine of Cuthbert of Lindisfarne at Durham Cathedral. While still a youth, he was sent for education in upper-class life to the court of King David of Scotland, son of Queen Margaret. The King's stepsons, Simon and Waldef, were his models and intimate friends. After intense disillusion and inner struggle, Aelred went to Yorkshire, where he became a Cistercian monk at the abbey of Rievaulx in 1133.

Aelred soon became a major figure in English church life. Sent to Rome on diocesan affairs of Archbishop William of York, he returned by way of Clairvaux. Here he made a deep impression on Bernard, who encouraged the young monk to write his first work, *Mirror of Charity*, on Christian perfection. In 1143, Aelred led the founding of a new Cistercian house at Revesby. Four years later, he was appointed abbot of Rievaulx. By the time of his death from kidney disease in 1167, the abbey had more than 600 monks, including Aelred's biographer and friend, Walter Daniel. During this period, Aelred wrote his best known work, *Spiritual Friendship*.

Friendship, Aelred teaches, is both a gift from God and a creation of human effort. While love is universal, freely given to all, friendship is a particular love between individuals, of which the example is Jesus and John the Beloved Disciple. As abbot, Aelred allowed his monks to hold hands and give other expressions of friendship. In the spirit of Anselm of Canterbury and Bernard of Clairvaux, Aelred writes:

There are four qualities which characterize a friend: Loyalty, right intention, discretion, and patience. Right intention seeks for nothing other than God and natural good. Discretion brings

understanding of what is done on a friend's behalf, and ability to know when to correct faults. Patience enables one to be justly rebuked, or to bear adversity on another's behalf. Loyalty guards and protects friendship, in good or bitter times.

Aelred died in 1167.

Together we pray: Almighty God, who didst endow thy abbot Aelred with the gift of Christian friendship and the wisdom to lead others in the way of holiness: Grant to thy people that same spirit of mutual affection, that, in loving one another, we may know the love of Christ and rejoice in the gift of thy eternal goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Tradition of Chalking the Door

Either on [Twelfth Night](#) (5 January), the [twelfth day](#) of [Christmastide](#) and eve of the feast of the Epiphany, or on [Epiphany Day](#) (6 January) itself, many Christians (including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics, among others) write on their doors or lintels with chalk in a pattern such as "20+C+M+B+23". The numbers in this example refer to the calendar year 2023 and the [crosses](#) to [Christ](#). The letters C, M, and B stand for the traditional names of the [Magi](#) ([Caspar](#), [Melchior](#) and [Balthazar](#)), or alternatively for the Latin [blessing](#) *Christus mansionem benedicat* ('May Christ bless this house'). Another form, for Three Kings day, is to mark the door with "IIIK" (the Roman numeral three followed by "K" for "Kings").



Chalking the door is done most commonly on Epiphany Day itself. However, it can be done on any day of the [Epiphany season](#). In some localities, the chalk used to write the Epiphanytide pattern is blessed by a Christian priest or minister on Epiphany Day, then taken home to write the pattern.

The Christian custom of chalking the door has a biblical precedent as the [Israelites](#) in the [Old Testament](#) [marked their doors](#) in order to be saved from death; likewise, the Epiphanytide practice serves to protect Christian homes from [evil spirits](#) until the next Epiphany Day, at which time the custom is repeated. Families also perform this act to represent the hospitality of the [Holy Family](#) to the Magi (and all [Gentiles](#)); it thus serves as a [house blessing](#) to invite the presence of [God](#) in one's home.



Josie is baking again! If you would like to order something from her menu, text or call her by Friday (6th) and it will be ready for pickup on Sunday, Jan 8th.

918-214-6680



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. Their volunteers have a great time and love the work they do for our community. MMO is serving about 180 to 230 clients a day.

## FAITH FORUM

Sundays 9:15am-10:15am, Metcalf Hall  
Chapter 24 from 'The Path', Jan 8



We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped with the Midweek Meals and the Advent Compline. Thank you to those who brought or donated food. Thanks also for those who did set up and clean up for the light suppers. A special thanks goes out to our master of dishwashing Dean Zervas!

Thank you

The Fellowship committee:

Laura Birk                      Cathy Perrier  
Sandy Whitson                Karen Lewey



## Christmas Eve 2022







*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**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, and the Maxwell Family.

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### **Luke's Place Jan 5<sup>th</sup>– Jan 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Jan 5<sup>th</sup>** Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf  
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf  
Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV  
**Jan 6<sup>th</sup>** The Epiphany, Eucharist, 12:15pm, chapel  
**Jan 8<sup>th</sup>** 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 10<sup>th</sup>** Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Library

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries, Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

<b>Birthdays</b>		<b>Anniversaries</b>
Gene Holland	1/10	
Kim Breedlove	1/11	
Sally Lindsey	1/11	
Charlie Olsen	1/14	
Fr Lee Stephens	1/14	

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 Vestry Members

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

### **Bereavement Team 4**

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

### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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Dolores McCreary, Choir  
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Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157



*Wise Men Still Seek Him*