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The Steeple



May 10, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

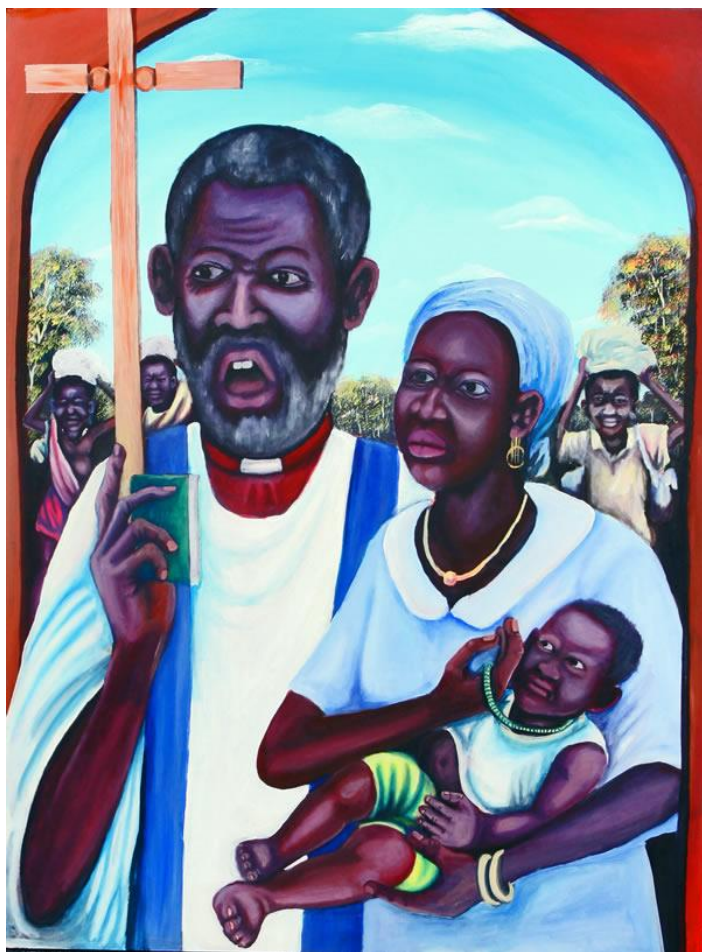
An Ode To My Mother

**I can not count the ways you have cared for me,
I can never repay you for the love you shared with me,
I can never forget the wisdom uttered from your lips,
I can never forget the wondrous works of your fingertips.**

**I can never forget the sweetness of your tears,
I can not forget how you helped me fight my fears,
I can never regret any time I spent with you,
You taught me that my dreams can come true.**

**I shall never allow my love for you to cease,
In your voice I find comfort and peace,
I shall always remember your bedtime stories and lullabies,
I shall see love forever in my mother's eyes.**

Johnny J. Hollis III



Theologians Corner: The Martyrs of the Sudan

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church,” the third century North African teacher Tertullian once wrote. And in no place is that observation more apt than in the region of the Sudan.

Once Africa’s largest country, it has been torn by violence since independence from Egyptian and British rule in 1956. The 2011

division of the region into two countries, the Republic of Sudan and South Sudan, has not resolved its conflicts.

British policy in the late nineteenth century was to arbitrarily divide the vast country between a Muslim North and a multiethnic South, limiting Christian missionary activity largely

to the latter, an artificial division that created enduring problems. Since independence, on January 1, 1956, a series of civilian governments and military dictatorships ruled, leading to decades of civil war. During the 1980s Sudan’s internal armed conflict assumed an increasingly religious character, fueled by a northern-dominated Islamic government imposing authoritarian political control, Islam as the state religion, a penal code based on Sharia law, and restrictions on free speech and free assembly.

On May 16, 1983, a small number of Episcopal and Roman Catholic clerical and lay leaders declared they “would not abandon God as they knew him.” Possibly over two million persons, most of them Christians, were then killed in a two-decade civil war, until a Comprehensive Peace Treaty was signed in January 2005. During those years, up to four million southern Christians were internally displaced, and another million forced into exile in Africa and elsewhere. Yet despite the total destruction of churches, schools, and other institutions, Sudanese Christianity, which includes four million members of The Episcopal Church of the Sudan, has both solidified as a faith community and gradually expanded at home and among refugees, providing steadfast hope in an often-desperate setting.

This hymn, written by Sudanese children in exile in Ethiopia, reflects both the tragedy and depth of faith of Sudan’s Christians:

Look upon us, O Creator who has made us.

God of all peoples, we are yearning for our land.
Hear the prayer of our souls in the wilderness.
Hear the prayer of our bones in the wilderness.
Hear our prayer as we call out to you.

Together we pray: O God, steadfast in the midst of persecution, by whose providence the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church: As the martyrs of the Sudan refused to abandon Christ even in the face of torture and death, and so by their sacrifice brought forth a plenteous harvest, may we, too, be steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



May 14, 2023
At the 10:30am service
Our Young Disciples will be leading
the service. Come and celebrate our
Seniors: Keaton Mitchell and
Lexi Phares!
After the service, there will be a
reception to honor our graduates.

Please pray for: : Linda & Terry Piper, Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Sanawbar, Diana Farris, Cindy 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 Buchanan, Diana Schremmer, Peggy Kauffman, Colleen, Shawn, Ryan Kiesel, Tony Clapper, Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tim, Beth, Kay Boman Harvey, Shania Smith, Luke Karel, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Harris Moreland, Tom Martin, Tanis Reyburn, Audrey Foote, Skip Birkner, Connie Freebern, Don Doty, and Maria Dawson.

Luke's Place May 11th – May 17th, 2023

May 11th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
May 14th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel

Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
 Children's Programming, 9:15am, upstairs
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
 Reception for Graduates
 May 15th Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
 May 16th Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Library
 May 17th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

Birthdays and Anniversaries, May 14th – May 20th, 2023

Birthdays



Robert Matthews	(5/14)
Joanne Gallery	(5/14)
Pam Hanson	(5/19)
Steve Martin	(5/19)
Nancy Megee	(5/19)
Jim Brooks	(5/20)
Peter Julstrom	(5/20)

Anniversaries



Cindy & Walt Gasior (5/16)

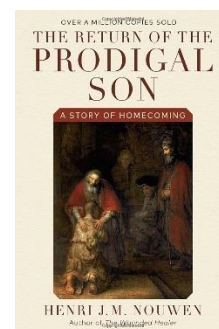
If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!



Last Day of School.....May 19th !!



Spiritual Discovery Group will be starting a new study on May 16th - 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' by Henri Nouwen. To order the book, see Cathy in the Bookstore. Spiritual Discovery Group meets every Tuesday at 10am in the Beard Library upstairs.



Concern Pantry Needs:

Canned fruit, Spam, canned pinto beans, pudding cups, jelly in plastic squeezable containers, ramen noodles, and tuna pouches

REALM 101 - EVENTS!!!

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN CHECK WHAT EVENTS ARE COMING UP AT LUKE'S PLACE ON YOUR REALM APP? YES! IT IS TRUE! ISN'T THAT FUN? WELL...THAT IS IF YOU ARE A REALM USER...AND IF THAT CRAZY "REALM" WOMAN REMEMBERS TO ADD THE EVENT!!
(NOT A REALM USER YET? CALL PENNY IN THE OFFICE!)

SO, HERE ARE THE STEPS IF ALL THE ABOVE IS DONE...

OPEN REALMCONNECT APP -> AT BOTTOM OF SCREEN YOU WILL SEE ICONS, CLICK ON THE "EVENTS" ICON -> TADa! YOU WILL SEE UPCOMING EVENTS AND YOU CAN SWITCH AT THE TOP FROM "MY EVENTS" TO "ALL EVENTS" THEN IF YOU WANT MORE INFO SIMPLY CLICK ON THE EVENT NAME AND THERE YOU WILL FIND ALL THE INFO YOU NEED OR WANT AND MAYBE MORE! NEED MORE INFO ABOUT REALM?

CALL NANCY WOODS 918-914-3263 (A.K.A. CRAZY REALM WOMAN)



ST. CRISPIN'S CONFERENCE CENTER + CAMP

Any youth interested in St Crispin's Summer Camp,
see Teresa or Fr Nick!

Wall of Hope



Family Promise, the program long supported by St. Luke's for transition housing and support for the homeless, has been paused as the Family Promise board seeks a new executive director. In the meantime, the program continues to incur utility bills and other operating expenses for Anchor House and Stephens House (801 S. Osage). The board also intends to engage a temporary grant writer to help develop long-term funding sources beyond participating churches.

To help Family Promise through this time of change, supporting churches are being asked to display the Family Promise "Wall of Hope," whereby individual church members can provide contributions. The "Wall of Hope" will be on display at St. Luke's from tomorrow, May 11, through Sunday, May 21.

Here's how to help: Simply take a number, or numbers, from the "Wall of Hope." Each number designates the amount of money you would like to donate. If you choose to take more than one, the sum of the numbers is your donation amount. Place the number card(s) along with your donation in an envelope and place in the donation box. Feel free to include a donation card if you wish.

The Family Promise board is grateful for St. Luke's support in this fundraising effort, as well as all of the support the congregation has provided in the past.

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
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- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
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- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Josie McIver-



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

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Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

Bereavement Team 2

Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Rita Childers,
Sandy Whitson, Margo Proctor

Happy Mother's Day!