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The Steeple

May 3, 2023

He is Risen

I AM
THE RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE.



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Finding Gold at the Treasure Sale

After months of planning, weeks of hard work, and 3 days of sales its official - this year's Treasure Sale was a resounding success. One of the most common questions in church work, whether it is about outreach or average Sunday attendance, has to do with numbers - particularly with how such numbers pair with pre-pandemic figures. This year's sale grossed close to \$4,000 dollars, which when looking back, was close to what the church made at its last sale before the pandemic. To all the volunteers, thank-you. To Becky, Kris, and Dolores – look at what y'all did! Thank-you so much!

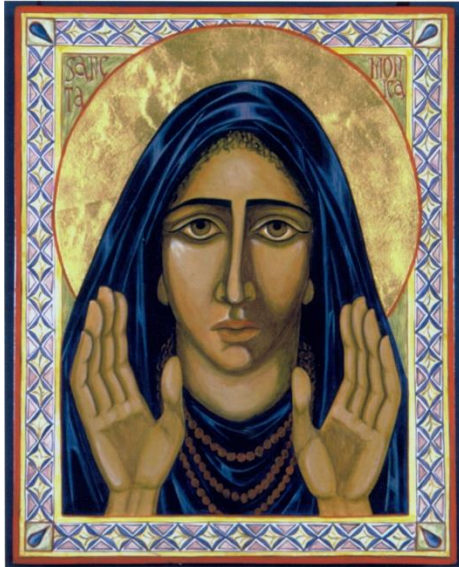
Adding the funds from the Treasure Sale to what St. Luke's typically generates each year for outreach, gets us close to putting at least \$20,000 dollars back out into the community. A favorite theologian of mine, William Temple (1881-1944), once wrote, "The Church exists primarily for the sake of those who are still outside it. It is a mistake to suppose that God is only, or even chiefly, concerned with religion." And by doing what we can, giving of ourselves, selling our treasures, and then donating what we make to services and agencies in our community we are living into Temple's revelation and helping others steward this wonderful community of Bartlesville – a task that is meant to be shared.

Recently, I overheard someone reference Aristotle when speaking about civic intention. Shortly thereafter someone referenced the prophet Jeremiah and that everyone should in fact, "pray for the (this) city," and by extension those that live within its boundaries. Two take aways I have from those quotations are (1) that we are to find a way of living together in community between the bounds of a utopian ideal and the realism of our present circumstance. And, (2) that the community has the responsibility to support and shape its leadership with God's help; all of which is in service of cultivating a holistic community.

Giving back to the community is one way of doing just that. So is praying for our community. Curiosity too, has its part to play especially when, as a community, we ask ourselves how is St. Luke's being a good neighbor? Do we truly know our neighbors? Is their well-being a priority

for us? What are some ways that we can connect, at deeper level, with the residents of the neighborhood where we are. Asking those questions when thinking about Aristotle, Jeremiah, and what is possible when we put our minds to something – even if that something is a sale – is the kind of stuff that has the power to transform lead into gold.

Every Blessing,
Nick+



Theologians Corner:

Monica: Mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387

Monica's life story is enshrined in the spiritual autobiography of her eldest son, in *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*. Born in North Africa about 331, of Berber parents, Monica was married to a Latinized provincial of Tagaste named Patricius, whom she won to the Christian faith before his death. In her earlier years she was not without worldly ambitions and tastes. She grew in Christian maturity and spiritual insight through an ever-deepening life of prayer.

Her ambition for her gifted son was transformed into a passionate desire for his conversion to Christ. After his baptism in Milan in 387, by Bishop Ambrose, Augustine and his mother, together with a younger brother, planned to return home to Africa. While awaiting ship at Ostia, the port of Rome, Monica fell ill.

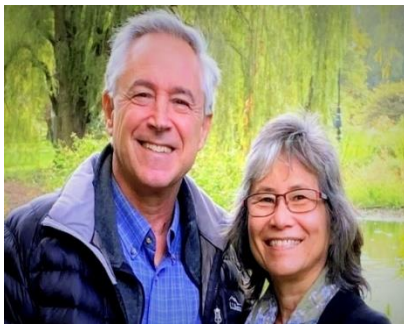
Augustine writes, "One day during her illness she had a fainting spell and lost consciousness for a short time. We hurried to her bedside, but she soon regained consciousness and looked up at my brother and me as we stood beside her. With a puzzled look, she asked, 'Where was I?' Then, watching us closely as we stood there speechless with grief, she said, 'You will bury your mother here.' "

Augustine's brother expressed sorrow, for her sake, that she would die so far from her own country. She said to the two brothers, "It does not matter where you bury my body. Do not let that worry you. All I ask of you is that, wherever you may be, you should remember me at the altar of the Lord." To the question, whether she was not afraid at the thought of leaving her body in an alien land, she replied, "Nothing is far from God, and I need have no fear that he will not know where to find me, when he comes to raise me to life at the end of the world."

Recent excavations at Ostia have uncovered her original tomb. Her mortal remains, however, were transferred in 1430 to the Church of St. Augustine in Rome.

Together we pray: O Lord, who through spiritual discipline didst strengthen thy servant Monica to persevere in offering her love and prayers and tears for the conversion of her husband and of Augustine their son: Deepen our devotion, we pray, and use us in accordance with thy will to bring others, even our own kindred, to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

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



Hi friends,

Thank you for praying for the women's workshop! By God's grace, Roger led it well, and God gave me strength to assist. My favorite moment was after I struggled to choose a personal story that might connect well with them, chose a story and then heard the group erupt into cheers when I said the first line. My first line was, "Forty years ago, I saw a handsome young man." For every sentence after that, they were fully engaged. They sympathized with the sad ending to the story but were encouraged that I had learned my lesson. I think the greatest success of the workshop was when one of the ministry leaders said she had come to see that Bible stories were not just for children. There was a lot for adults to learn in the stories, too. None of the 12 ladies had ever seen discussion being used for learning about the Bible. The ladies were accustomed only to lectures. In the workshop, they were able to observe that discussion could be fruitful for encouraging people in their spiritual lives. Praise to God! (Just to clarify, the man in the attached photo was one of the two interpreters.)

We are thankful to God we had rain for a couple of days. The air quality is better. Thank you for praying!

I have a couple of meetings this week to prepare for the parents/sons retreat May 5 to 6 in Chiang Mai. Please continue to ask God to protect the facilitators, participants and their families and to provide for great encouragement to all through the parents/sons retreat.

Several people responded with concern about my health. My main issue is fatigue even when I have scheduled lots of time for rest. I can go strong for awhile, and then I go into "low battery" mode. I continue to ask God in prayer to help me make choices about what I commit to. Thank you for joining me in prayer for healing and wisdom. I will be taking a five-hour bus ride to Chiang Mai next week and staying with a friend there. I'm asking God for His grace and ease. "Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!" Ps 115:1

Thank you for being our friends as we continue our work here.

Joanne Green



I want to thank everyone for supporting my Eagle Scout project. The AED has been installed right outside the main office and is fully functional. We were able to train 15 people how to use the AED and perform CPR. First aid supplies have been restocked inside the main office. I really appreciate all the donations and support. -Ryan McIver



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!

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, Merry Lou & 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 4th – May 10th, 2023

May 4th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV

May 7th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel

Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf

Children's Programming, 9:15am, upstairs

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am

May 9th Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Library

May 10th YD, 6pm, TBD

Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

Birthdays and Anniversaries, May 7th – May 13th, 2023

Birthdays



Keeli Droege (5/8)
Jim Stanton (5/12)
Sigrid Williams (5/12)
Murphey Warring (5/13)

Anniversaries



CJ & Shelly Jackson (5/11)

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!

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT!



BINGO NIGHT is tonight with dinner from Manna Leftovers! Dinner starts at 5:30pm in Metcalf Hall with Family Bingo after 6:00pm. Come, eat, and win some prizes!



St Luke's Bookstore will be selling May Baskets after both services on Sunday, May 7th in the Narthex and Bookstore. Great for Mothers' Day or 'Just Because'.

These are fresh cut posies of alstroemeria, spider mums, and bells of Ireland and each basket will be selling for \$10.

Shepherd's Pie for Volunteer Doctors, Dentists and Nurses

Young Disciples made Shepherd's Pie for the volunteer doctors, dentists, nurses and other staff at Hope Clinic in Bartlesville. Hope's mission is to spread the love of Christ to the community by providing quality healthcare and spiritual guidance.

Thank you to St. Luke's Pam Hanson for teaching YD about the medical workers in Bartlesville who give their time and expertise to help individuals in need in Bartlesville. And a HUGE thank you to the three adults who taught the YD kids how to make Shepherd's Pie. Heather Cutts, Scott Peterson and Steve Roper - you are natural Shepherds!





REALM 101

PHOTO DIRECTORY

DID YOU KNOW THAT NOT ONLY CAN YOU FIND PICTURES OF OUR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY IN THE HALL AT CHURCH...YOU CAN ALSO FIND THEM IN YOUR REALM APP DIRECTORY!

UNLESS..OF COURSE... YOU HAVEN'T ADDED YOUR PICTURE. **WHAT?**

WELL, WE HAVE A SOLUTION! IF YOU HAVE YOUR PICTURE ON THE WALL THEN WE CAN TAKE THAT PHOTO AND USE IT IN YOUR PROFILE IN REALM! ISN'T THAT AMAZING!

SO... WHEN YOU ARE HOME AND CAN'T REMEMBER WHO IN THE WORLD FR. NICK IS...

JUST GO TO REALM AND... THERE HE IS IN LIVING COLOR! THAT IS...IF

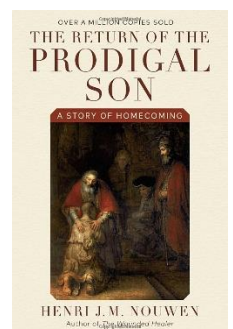
HE HAS HIS PICTURE UP.

-LET PENNY KNOW IN THE OFFICE AND SHE WILL CONTACT THAT WEIRD PHOTO LADY

-ALSO LET HER KNOW IF YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED UP FOR REALM YET! **WHAT?**

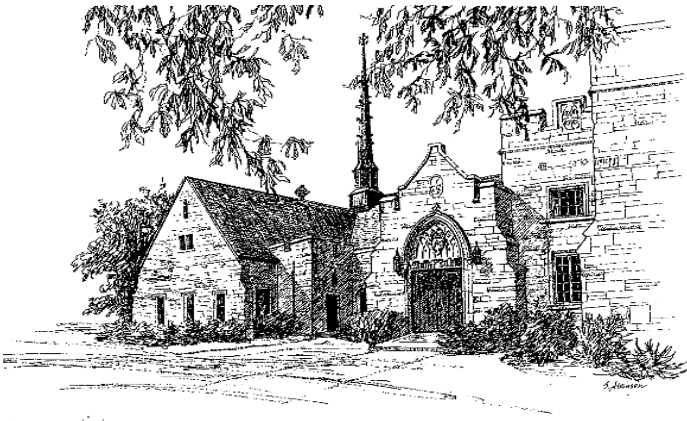


Spiritual Discovery Group will be starting a new study on May 16th - 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' by Henri Nouwen. To order the book, see Cathy in the Bookstore. Spiritual Discovery Group meets every Tuesday at 10am in the Beard Library upstairs.



St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Bereavement Team 2

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