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The Steeple

HAPPY
Father's Day



June 14, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Dear Friends,

Recently, I've been asked about some resources I use to stay up to date on what's happening in the larger church. Below are a few thoughts.

Two encouraging reports from the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church surfaced this week that I think are well worth a read. The first, titled: "*As data shows denominational decline, Executive Council counters with themes of abundance,*"

by David Paulsen, speaks to the way that some traditional matrices of church health are continuing to improve while others change. This article gives one time to pause and evaluate on what factors are truly present in vital churches – something well worth reflecting on.

The second, titled: "*Executive Council to vote on remaining \$5.2 million surplus, considers giving money back to dioceses*" also by Paulsen, is something that a number of our folks in the diocese will pay close attention to as 110 dioceses would be the beneficiaries of that surplus. ENS (The Episcopal News Service) is a great way to keep up to date with the wider church and I encourage all of you, if you are not familiar with the site, to take some time and explore it if you are interested.

While ENS covers the wider church, I didn't know if you knew that our own diocese has its own weekly newsletter too. At <https://www.epiok.org/newsletter> you'll be catch up on special announcements, ministry stories, and upcoming events from around our diocese and beyond. The newsletter is curated by Ms. Susanna LeMasters, our Director of Communications, and it is the first place I go to to see what is happening around the diocese.

For those of you learning how to pray the offices, the Mission of St. Clare is a wonderful online resource found at: <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/> After a few times following the flow of services, you should be a pro! This site also includes music, which I particularly like. While I don't sing along all the time, it does expose me to a

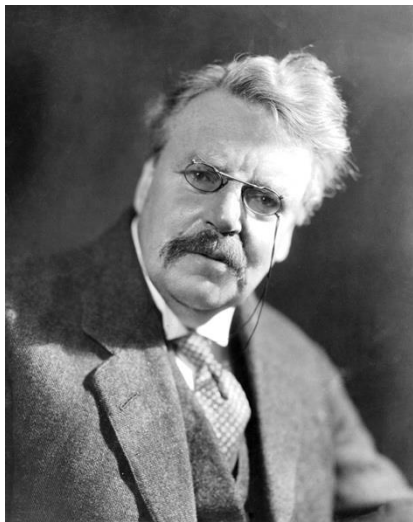
variety of hymnody I wouldn't otherwise know about and some of the theology within the hymn text itself is sublime. Bonus the site is always up to date – even when I am not!

Finally, as sure as you all are reading the Steeple right now, you'll know that this is one of the first places to go to find out what is happening at St. Luke's. The newsletter is largely produced by the office staff and we would like to hear from our readers about what is working, what you'd like to see more of, and what you could do without. We value your feedback and would love to hear from you.

Hope all that helps.

Blessings,
Nick+

Theologian's Corner



Gilbert Keith Chesterton

Born on May 29, 1874, Gilbert Keith Chesterton was one of the intellectual giants of his day, and was known for his writing that spanned fields as diverse as literary criticism, fiction and fantasy, satire, and Christian apologetics.

Chesterton often blended elements of such genres together, as indicated in his famous novel *The Man Who Was Thursday*, which combines a mystery plot with Christian imagery and symbolism. His work in the field of literary criticism was immensely influential in his day, and his book-length study of Charles Dickens can be credited with bringing that author's

work back to the forefront of scholarly study.

As a young man, Chesterton had been fascinated with spiritualism and the occult, but his faith grew stronger over the years, as he devoted himself to the defense of what he called "orthodoxy," which was for him, among other things, an acknowledgement of the mystery and paradox of Christian faith in an age of increasing skepticism. His spiritual journey toward the ancient faith of the Church culminated in his conversion to the Roman Catholic Church in 1922.

In works such as *Orthodoxy* and *The Everlasting Man*, Chesterton defended Christian faith with a unique blend of wit and religious fervor, while simultaneously satirizing the prevailing viewpoints of the day that often sought to dismiss faith as irrational and unnecessary. The latter work was particularly important to C.S. Lewis, who called it “the best apologetic work I know.” Today, Chesterton is still known and loved for his sharp wit, his intellectual tenacity, and his refusal to resolve the ambiguities of Christian faith in favor of facile and passing conceptions of truth. His work has influenced intellectual figures as diverse as Ernest Hemingway and Dorothy L. Sayers, and he is a figure beloved of Protestants and Catholics alike.

Chesterton died at Beaconsfield in England on June 14, 1936.

Together we pray: O God of earth and altar, who didst give G. K. Chesterton a ready tongue and pen and inspired him to use them in thy service: Mercifully grant that we may be inspired to witness cheerfully to the hope that is in us; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



ALL PARISH PICNIC

There will be an all parish picnic June 25th, right after the 10:30am service. Hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill provided by the church, however, sides and desserts are needed! Bring

your lawn chair if you want to enjoy the outdoors. Kids' games will be in the courtyard. Come and spend some time with your parish family!

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, 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, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Estelle Sams, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Tom Martin, Audrey Foote, Skip Birkner, Don Doty, Maria Dawson Luke Karel, Janice Lonski, Radomir & Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, David & Charlotte Delahay, and Nancy and Joe Norton.

Luke's Place June 15th– June 21st, 2023

- June 15th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
June 18th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
June 20th Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Library

Birthdays and Anniversaries, June 18th – June 24th, 2023

Birthdays



Dan Droege (6/19)
Kelli Lawrence (6/20)
Tom Reyburn (6/21)

Anniversaries



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!



**Happy Anniversary
Fr. Nick & Teresa!**

June 14th



Happy Father's Day!



In the [United States](#), **Flag Day** is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the [flag of the United States](#) on June 14, 1777, by [resolution](#) of the [Second Continental Congress](#).^[1] The Flag Resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, stated: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."^{[2][3]}

The [United States Army](#) also celebrates the [U.S. Army birthday](#) on this date; Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775.^{[4][5]}



Pack the Backpack will be moving into Rogers Hall this weekend. Come help set up the old tables in Rogers Hall Friday evening the 16th starting at 6:00 pm. Saturday the 17th we will move product from Rogers State University Building (the TRW Building) to St. Luke's starting at RSU at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work.

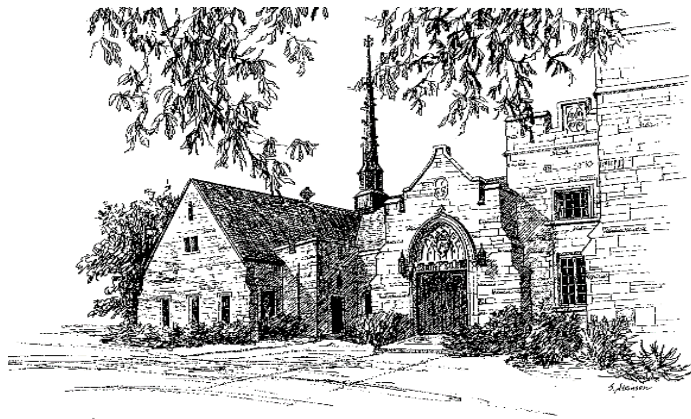
Thanks for your support at the pancake breakfast.



The Spiritual Discovery Group is changing direction with their study for a few weeks and will be using the Cursillo 4th Day Reunion practice to follow in their walk with Christ. Even if you have never been or never plan to attend Cursillo, this small group practice is for everyone. The Spiritual Discovery Group meets every Thursday at 10am in the Beard Library.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Bereavement Team 2

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