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The Steeple

June 21, 2023


Ordinary Time



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Shaping the Parish Comes to St. Luke's

Earlier this year our Bishop Poulson was admitted to the order of the Ascension.

The Order of the Ascension is a dispersed Benedictine religious community recognized by the Episcopal Church whose charism is the revitalization of parish churches. Shaping the Parish is an offering of the Order of the Ascension and is coming to St. Luke's!

Shaping the Parish is a two-year training program drawing on the methods and knowledge of ascetical theology and organization development. There are 62 workshop hours on Zoom, a course of required readings, and a number of projects to be carried out (this is an application of methods mostly done in between modules, a larger project is done in the second year). There is space for three to six participants.

Ascetical theology is about spiritual practice. It is grounded in an understanding of the church's spiritual teachings as seen in Scriptures and the writings of the early church. It is concerned with the on-going task of living the Christian life and reflecting upon it. What kind of person and human community do we want to form? What are ways of seeing the stages of growth in the Christian Life? How might the parish contribute to that task? What are the practices that will best do that in our time? What are the "spiritual life maps" that offer us an integrated and systemic approach? These are the questions we will be asking and answering.

Organization development is a system-wide application of behavioral science knowledge to the planned development and reinforcement of organizational strategies, structures, and processes for improving an organization's effectiveness. It's worth mentioning that Organization Development is not the same as organizational development. Emotional intelligence and emotional stamina are critical factors in development and shaping the parish will help those interested leverage these characteristics in ministry.

Our trainers will include Sister Michelle Heyne, OA who is the Presiding Sister and a parish development consultant. Brother Poulson Reed, OA, is the Bishop of Oklahoma. Sister Susan Latimer, OA, is the Rector of Good Shepherd, Hemet, CA. Brother Scott Benhase, OA is the retired Bishop of Georgia and Vicar of St Cyprian's, NC. Brother Robert Gallagher, OA, is a parish development consultant. Robert and Michelle will serve as the lead trainers and be with the participants throughout the program.

If this ministry interests you - suits you, please reach out to me for more information.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Nick+



Nativity of Saint John the Baptist **June 24th**

Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him: “I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John...” But John would have agreed

completely with what Jesus added: “[Y]et the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Luke 7:28).

John spent his time in the desert, an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism, he said, was for repentance. But one would come who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John was not worthy even to untie his sandals. His attitude toward Jesus was: “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30).

John was humbled to find among the crowd of sinners who came to be baptized the one whom he already knew to be the Messiah. “I need to be baptized by you” (Matthew 3:14b). But Jesus insisted, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15b). Jesus, true and humble human as well as eternal God, was eager to do what was required of any good Jew. Jesus thus publicly entered the community of those awaiting the Messiah. But making himself part of that community, he made it truly messianic.

The greatness of John, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself—both made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly deferred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus.

Perhaps John's idea of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not being perfectly fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus. For whatever reason, when he was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus' answer showed that the Messiah was to be a figure like that of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. John himself would share in the pattern of messianic suffering, losing his life to the revenge of Herodias.

John challenges us Christians to the fundamental attitude of Christianity—total dependence on the Father, in Christ. Except for the Mother of Jesus, no one had a higher function in the unfolding of salvation. Yet the least in the kingdom, Jesus said, is greater than he, for the pure gift that the Father gives. The attractiveness as well as the austerity of John, his fierce courage in denouncing evil—all stem from his fundamental and total placing of his life within the will of God.

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Savior by preaching repentance: Make us so to follow his teaching and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and, following his example, constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* (BCP p. 241)



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: 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, 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, J D Brooks, and Nancy & Joe Norton.

Luke's Place June 22nd– June 28th, 2023

- June 22nd** Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
 Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
 Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
- June 25th** Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
 Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
 Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
 All Parish Picnic and Potluck, 11:30am, Metcalf & Courtyard
- June 27th** Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Library
- June 29th** Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
 Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
 Feast Day of St Peter and St Paul Eucharist, Green Country Village, 1pm
 Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's

Birthdays and Anniversaries, June 25th – July 1st, 2023

Birthdays



Bill Pendley	(6/26)
Sally Sheridan	(6/27)
Fred Whitson	(6/29)
Don Doty	(6/30)
Chad Ellis	(7/1)

Anniversaries



Dan & Melinda Droege	(6/25)
Jim & Nancy Warring	(6/29)

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!



When the A/C hands you
lemons, you make
lemonade to go with the
Bread and Wine! Then
God laughs and says "Well
Done!"

And it is a beautiful day
10:30am Rite II
6/18/2023

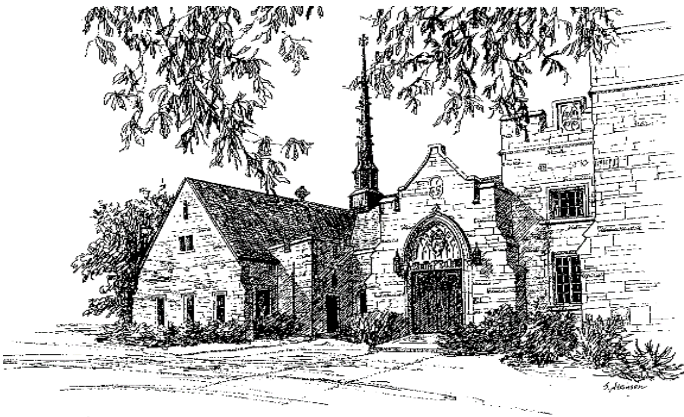
The Spiritual Discovery Group is changing direction with their study for a few weeks and will be using the Cursillo 4th Day Reunion practice to follow in their walk with Christ. Even if you have never been or never plan to attend Cursillo, this small group practice is for everyone. The Spiritual Discovery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



Pub Theology will be Thursday, June 29th, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's and since it is the Feast Day of St Peter and St Paul, we may even discuss the two saints' relationship and ministry- maybe.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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