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# *The Steeple*



June 7, 2023

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



Dear friends,

In recent weeks the staff has noticed some alarming instances of vandalism around the church campus. You may recall several months ago the garden gates were pried off of their hinges, there were broken lights, and of course the van – who can forget the van? Well, it pains me this but more has happened since then. Last week the back windows of the van were broken, the chapel sign was pried off of the wall and the statue of the three dancing girls was stolen from the memorial garden. We have reported each instance to BPD and reports are pending. In the meantime, we have purchased cameras to place in the most trafficked areas. And hopefully, these shameful acts of vandalism will cease.

We are not the first church to experience acts of vandalism recently. As a matter of fact, St. Andrews Episcopal Church of Amarillo Texas was broken into last month and reported that the sacramental items appeared to be deliberately targeted, including the altar, baptismal font, processional cross and tabernacle. The story made national news and when pressed for a comment Senior Warden Bill Aikman said this, “Our church was vandalized by people who desperately need our prayers. St. Andrew’s is rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, and we will not be intimidated.” And neither shall we but shall press on in love – for there is an opportunity here.

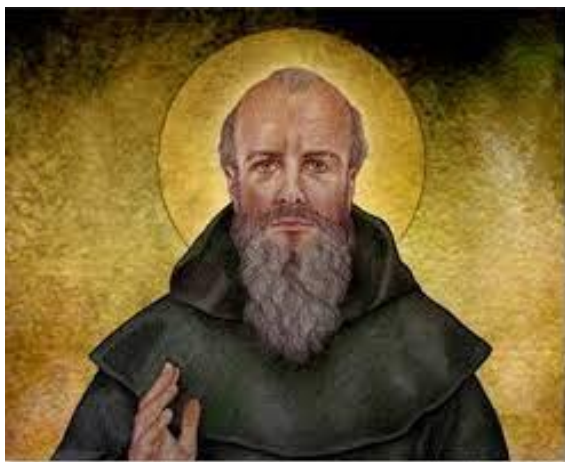
If you find yourself asking, “Why us? We are a quiet little parish.” You are asking a very probing question. I encourage you to spend some time answering that question. We kind of mind our business here. And while that doesn’t make us a

target like some city churches that get right into civic politics, it does mean that we might not have the presence we once had in our own neighborhood.

I mean how many of our neighbors actually know us and are watching out for us? That kind of security only comes through developing relationships of mutual trust. Has St. Luke's been a champion of the neighborhood around us? Have we considered how we can be more of a partner in our own neighborhood? These are nuanced questions, but I think necessary ones to ask in the wake of such events.

Sure, these acts are the work of individuals, but healthy neighborhoods are integral forces in serving to deter vandalism and they have the ability to respond to such acts with compassion that is born out of the best of who we are as Bartians. I doubt if our neighbors even know what's going on. How can we fix that? How can we make sure they are safe? How can we make sure they are informed? How can we be a good neighbor?

All shall be well,  
Nick+



## Theologian's Corner

### Columba, Abbot of Iona<sup>597</sup>

Many legends have gathered about Columba, but there are also some historical data concerning his many works in the writings of Bede and Adamnan. According to one story, Patrick of Ireland foretold Columba's birth in a prophecy:

He will be a saint and will be devout,  
He will be an abbot, the king of royal graces,  
He will be lasting and for ever good;  
The eternal kingdom be mine by his protection.

Columba was born in Ireland in 521, and early in life showed scholarly and clerical ability. He entered the monastic life, and almost immediately set forth on missionary travels. Even before ordination to the presbyterate in 551, he had founded monasteries at Derry and Durrow.

Twelve years after his ordination, Columba and a dozen companions set out for northern Britain, where the Picts were still generally ignorant of Christianity. Columba was kindly received, allowed to preach, convert, and baptize. He was also given possession of the island of Iona, where, according to legend, his tiny boat had washed ashore. Here he founded the celebrated monastery which became the center for the conversion of the Picts. From Iona, also, his disciples went out to found other monasteries, which, in turn, became centers of missionary activity.

Columba made long journeys through the Highlands, as far as Aberdeen. He often returned to Ireland to attend synods, and thus established Iona as a link between Irish and Pictish Christians. For thirty years, he evangelized, studied, wrote, and governed his monastery at Iona. He supervised his monks in their work in the fields and workrooms, in their daily worship and Sunday Eucharist, and in their study and teaching.

He died peacefully in 597 while working on a copy of the Psalter. He had put down his pen, rested a few hours, and at Matins was found dead before the Altar, a smile on his face. He is quoted by his biographer Adamnan as having said, "This day is called in the sacred Scriptures a day of rest, and truly to me it will be such, for it is the last of my life and I shall enter into rest after the fatigues of my labors."

Together we pray: O God, who by the preaching of thy blessed servant Columba didst cause the light of the Gospel to shine in Scotland: Grant, we beseech thee that, having his life and labors in remembrance, we may show our thankfulness to thee by following the example of his zeal and patience; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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**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, Jennifer Hamilton, Lynette Beebe, David & Charlotte Delahay, and Nancy and Joe Norton.

## Luke's Place June 8<sup>th</sup>– June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

June 8<sup>th</sup> Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf

Rector's Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV

June 11<sup>th</sup> Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am

June 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room

St Barnabas the Apostle Eucharist, 12:15pm, chapel

Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room

June 13<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Discovery Group, 10am, Library

### Birthdays and Anniversaries, June 11<sup>th</sup> – June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### Birthdays



#### Anniversaries



Juanita & Lauren Green (6/12)

Fr Nick & Teresa Phares (6/14)

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!

### Concern Pantry Needs:

Canned fruit, Spam, canned pinto beans, pudding cups, fruit cups, ramen noodles, canned corn, tomato sauce, and brown paper sacks with handles



Please support your local bookstore! If there is something you would like the Bookstore to carry, tell Cathy! If there is a book you would like, tell Cathy! If you have a suggestion for marketing our wonderful Bookstore, tell Cathy! The St Luke's Bookstore is a real treasure St Luke's is blessed to have and we, as members, need to support it. Every profit dollar goes to the Outreach budget so we are also helping our neighbors in need when we buy from the Bookstore. Shop at the St Luke's Bookstore and tell others as well!



## News from the Greens

Hi friends,

Roger and I got Covid while we were in Chiang Mai. We've been recovering at home in Mae Sai. Please ask God to return our full health and move ill effects completely out of our systems.

During our time in Chiang Mai, one of Roger's memorable moments as he attended the media conference was when he heard a presenter refer to the good qualities of the Northern Thai New Testament app. Since Roger built the Northern Thai New Testament app (though his name was not announced at the presentation), Roger felt a warm moment when something he'd done well was recognized.

This morning I heard the evaluations (through Zoom) of the three Thai facilitators for the parents and sons retreat. They are enthusiastic about following up next year. They encouraged me to make a budget and present it to them and to the church where the boys attend. Then we will pray and look for how the Lord can provide financially. (This step is important to ensure that the endeavor will be owned by Christians here.) A lot of communication still needs to happen. I learned that it will be hard for the boys' fathers to understand that they should take off work to join a parents and sons retreat. The facilitators recommend that the church start a father's meeting to meet regularly before the retreat next year. These kinds of events always seem impossible during the planning stages, but nothing is impossible for God. One of the facilitators told me, "I agree with you in investing into boys." So, that will be my theme for planning for the next retreat: "We are happy to spend time and money to make boys strong for their future lives." In reality, it's not just the boys who are being equipped; it's also the facilitators and the churches. May God set up a good structure in the churches for preparing Thai Christian boys for manhood.

Coming up July 20 to 22 is a marriage retreat that Roger and I have planned with a Thai couple. It will be our first time to lead the Song of Songs retreat with Thai couples. So far,

only one other couple is coming. Please ask God to bring just the right couples to be with us for the marriage retreat.

Right after the marriage retreat is when Nathan will visit us! Our friend Rick will be Nathan's companion. Right after Nathan and Rick visit us, Esther and her boyfriend Noah will visit us. We are very excited for both visits. Please ask God to make these family times to be full of joy and great encouragement for our family relationships. While Nathan is with us, we are hoping to have a party for the families of Tomas and Phoo. We are hoping the party will be a blessing for those two families.

Thank you for bringing these requests to God as we work so all people will know the depth of His riches and wisdom and knowledge (Ro 11:33).

Grateful for each of you,  
Joanne

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**No Faith Forum this Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>  
Lets go have pancakes and support  
'Pack the Backpacks' at Fr Lynch Hall,  
8<sup>th</sup> & Keeler from 8:30am-11:00am.  
\$10 per person! All you can eat  
pancakes!**



Knights of Columbus Council #1302

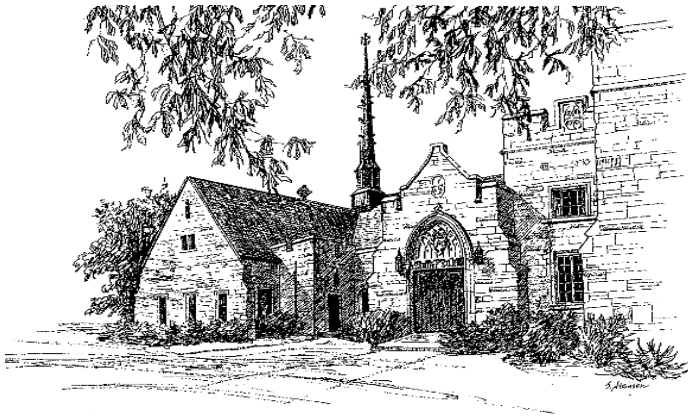
Pancake Breakfast benefitting  
**Pack the Backpacks!**  
**Sunday, June 11 2023 at**  
**Fr. Lynch Hall**  
**(715 S. Johnstone Ave)**  
**8:30-11:00am**  
**\$10**

Come join us for biscuits and gravy,  
sausage, breakfast casserole, and all you  
can eat pancakes!



## St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Doug McIver, Sr. Warden — [dmciver@susandickcpa.com](mailto:dmciver@susandickcpa.com) 785-342-4328
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- Josie McIver-



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### **Bereavement Team 2**

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