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The Steeple



July 12, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Smells and Bells

You've probably heard this phrase before, perhaps to describe the ritual stylings of the Episcopal liturgy. As far as I can tell, the expression smells and bells refers to the bells that ring during various points during the eucharist and the use of incense on certain feast days of the church year. Let me tell you something, if you want to send the congregation into tizzy just pull out the thurible and watch people start coughing just by looking at it.

While holy smoke may be too much for folks sometimes, bells are a different story. It is not uncommon during the Easter Vigil to see little bells handed out to everyone to ring at the first Alleluias of the season. These little bells are then added to the Sanctus bells and if the church had them – steeple bells as a way to celebrate, announce, and mark the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Church bells have been around almost as long as towns have had churches in them. Traditionally, bells have been used to call worshippers to the church for a communal service and to announce the fixed times of daily Christian prayer called the canonical hours. Church bells are also rung on special occasions such as at a wedding or a funeral service but remain predominantly the way of summoning the faithful to their house of prayer.

I've always thought that a church like St. Luke's needed a belfry. And while the construction of such a thing isn't feasible these days, ingenious engineers have come up with ways of simulating the sound of authentic bells - digitally. The Verdin Company is one such company.

It is my great joy to announce to you all that a gift of new "bells" from the Verdin Company has been given to the church by Fred and Sandy Whitson in honor of their children: their son Kevin and his wife Rosemary and their daughter Ava, as well as their daughter Morgan in whose name the bells will be memorialized.

We expect the control unit to arrive sometime this week, with the installation of the computer to follow shortly – perhaps as soon as this Thursday. Depending on the date of installation,

on the following Sunday we will hold a ceremonial blessing of the bells, which will include me up on the roof washing the horns with holy water, anointing them on the outside with oil of unction and within, with the oil of chrism while you all follow along in the nave.

What a wonderful and sacred gift the Whitson's have bestowed upon us and our communal life. As the bells will serve to call us and future members of St. Luke's home, I know I join with all of you in thanking God that Sandy and Fred have found their home here at Luke's Place.

Thank-you Whitson's.

Sola Gratia,

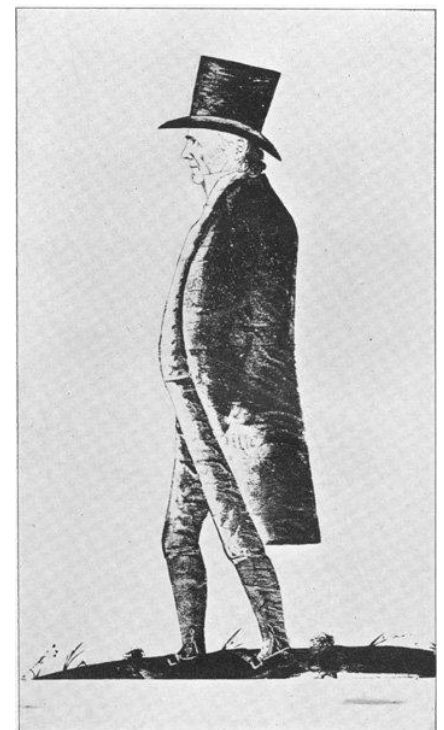
Nick+

Theologian's Corner:

Conrad Weiser

Conrad Weiser (November 2, 1696 – July 13, 1760), born Johann Conrad Weiser, Jr., was a German Pennsylvanian pioneer, interpreter and effective diplomat between the Pennsylvania Colony and Native Americans. He was a farmer, soldier, monk, tanner, and judge as well. He contributed as an emissary in councils between Native Americans and the colonies, especially Pennsylvania, during the French and Indian War.

Conrad Weiser was born in 1696 in the small village of Affstätt in the Duchy of Württemberg (now part of Germany). Conrad Weiser and his family were among thousands of refugees who left German lands in 1709, many of them from the Palatine area. The Weiser family eventually ended up in the Schoharie Valley of New York. At age 16, Conrad's father agreed to a chief's proposal for the youth to live with the Mohawks in the upper Schoharie Valley. During his stay in the winter and spring of 1712-1713, Weiser learned much about the Mohawk language and the customs of the Iroquois, while enduring hardships of cold, hunger, and homesickness. Conrad Weiser returned to his own people towards the end of July 1713.



CONRAD WEISER
*From a sketch found in York, Pa., by H. D. 1871, member of
the Pennsylvania German Society*

On November 22, 1720, at the age of 24, Weiser married the young German girl Anna Eve Feck (Faeg). In 1723 the couple followed the Susquehanna River south out of New York and settled their young family on a farm in Tulpehocken near present-day Reading, Pennsylvania. The couple had fourteen children, but only seven reached adulthood.

Weiser's colonial service began in 1731. The Iroquois sent Shikellamy, an Oneida chief and friend of Weiser, as an emissary to other tribes and the British. The Iroquois trusted him and considered him an adopted son of the Mohawks. Weiser impressed the Pennsylvania governor and council, which thereafter relied heavily on his services.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Conrad Weiser". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background. The first letter 'C' is large and loops around the first part of the name. The signature ends with a long, horizontal flourish.

During the winter of 1737, Weiser attempted to broker a peace between southern tribes and the Iroquois. He had to survive high snow, freezing temperatures and starvation rations just to make the six-week journey to the Iroquois capital of Onondaga (near present-day Syracuse, NY). Impressed with his fortitude, the Iroquois named Weiser Tarachiwagon (Holder of the Heavens). Spill-over violence from a war between the Iroquois and southern tribes such as the Catawba would have drawn first Virginia, and then Pennsylvania, into conflict with the Iroquois. Therefore this peace-brokering had a profound effect on Native American/colonial relations.

Throughout his decades-long career, Weiser built on his knowledge of Native American languages and culture. He was a key player in treaty negotiations, land purchases, and the formulation of Pennsylvania's policies towards Native Americans. Because of his early experiences with the Iroquois, Weiser was inclined to be sympathetic to their interpretation of events, as opposed to the Lenape or the Shawnees. This may have exacerbated Pennsylvanian-Lenape/Shawnee relations, with bloody consequences in the French and Indian Wars.

Nevertheless, for many years, Weiser helped to keep the powerful Iroquois allied with the British as opposed to the French. This important service contributed to the continued survival of the British colonies and the eventual victory of the British over the French in the French and Indian Wars.

Between 1734 and 1741, Weiser became a follower of Conrad Beissel, a German Seventh Day Baptist preacher. For six years, he lived at the monastic settlement, Ephrata Cloister, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Conrad was also teacher and a lay minister of the Lutheran Church; he was one of the founders of Trinity Church in Reading.

Weiser died on his farm on July 13, 1760. Upon his death, one Iroquois Indian noted to a group of colonists, "We are at a great loss and sit in darkness ... as since his death we cannot so well understand one another." Indeed, shortly after Conrad Weiser's death, relations between the colonists and the Native Americans began a rapid decline.

Together we pray: Almighty God, of thy grace thou didst endue Conrad Weiser with the gift of diplomacy, the insight to understand two different cultures and interpret each to the other with clarity and honesty: As we strive to be faithful to our vocation to commend thy kingdom, help us to proclaim the Gospel to the many cultures around us, that by thy Holy Spirit we may be effective ambassadors for our Savior Jesus Christ; who with thee and the same Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please pray for: Terry Piper, Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Sanawbar, Diana Farris, 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, Doug Hough, David Lovelace, and Nancy & Joe Norton.

Luke's Place July 13th– July 19th, 2023

- July 13th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
July 16th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
Movie Night, 6:30pm, Metcalf
July 18th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library





CONCERN

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Concern's current pantry needs are ramen noodles, boxed macaroni & cheese and peanut butter. Homeless needs are fruit cups. Concern is still in need of a volunteer for the front desk on Monday's from 11:00 am - 2:30 pm. If you are interested, please contact Melody at 918-336-4693.



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

Come, shop the Bookstore during the month of July and every day that you make a purchase, your name will be put in a basket. At the end of the month, a drawing will be held and a \$25 Gift Certificate to the Bookstore will be awarded to the winner.

Birthdays and Anniversaries, July 16th – July 22nd, 2023

Birthdays



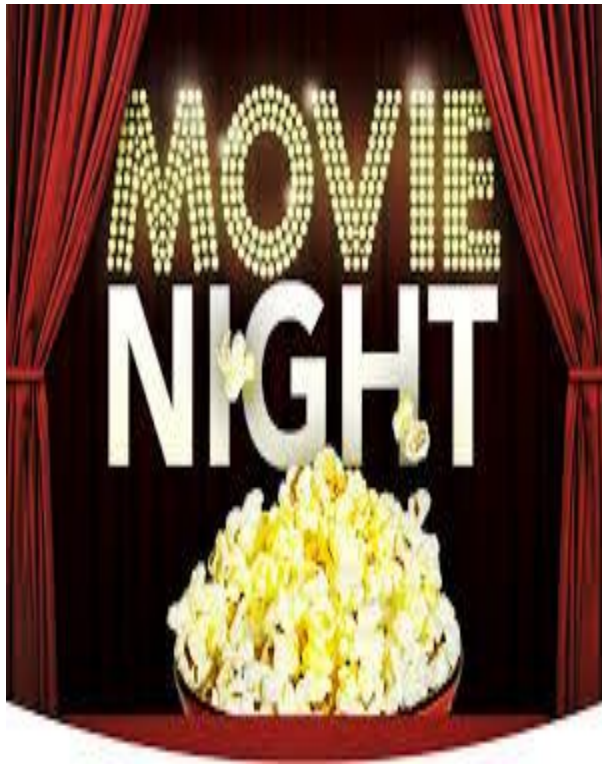
Jeanne Julstrom (7/17)
Susan Brooks (7/18)
Heather McCraw (7/18)
Nick Phares (7/20)
Paxton Phares (7/21)

Anniversaries



David & Kim Breedlove (7/18)

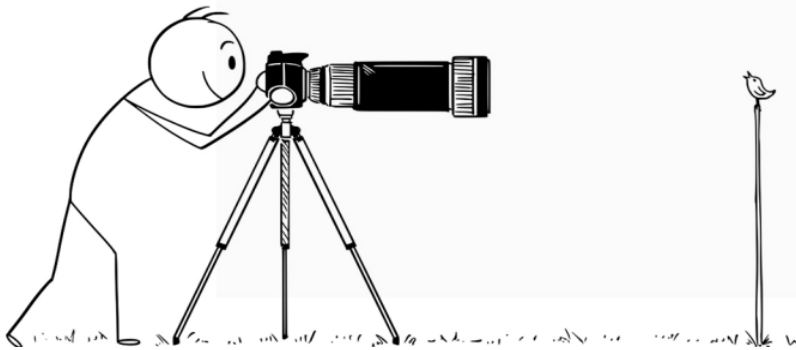
If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!



Church Movie Night is this coming Sunday, July 16th, 6:30pm, in Metcalf Hall. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Bring snacks to share and your lawn chair or picnic blanket. The movie will be 'Top Gun- Maverick' and Fr Nick will share his connection to the movie.



SMILE!



JULY 23RD
(after services)

We will be taking
pictures in an upstairs
room to add to
OR update
our PHOTO WALL!



Have you missed us? We will be back serving you Brunch treats in October! Watch the Steeple for the Come-Back Sunday Brunch Bunch!

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma School of Spiritual Direction presents:



... some seeds fell on a path ...
other seeds fell on rocky ground
... while other seeds fell among
thorns ... still other seeds fell on
good soil and brought forth grain,
some a hundredfold, some sixty,
some thirty.

If you have ears, hear!

Matthew 13:4-9

SUMMERTIME ABUNDANCE

A Quiet Day

to explore God's Gifts to us.

-
- *An opportunity to spend quiet time in God's presence;*
 - *Learn unique prayer styles through workshops and reflection;*
 - *Get a quick glimpse at Retreat in Daily Life — an eight-month program to deepen your faith through Ignatian spirituality.*

Enjoy this Quiet Day with no obligations.

Men and women are encouraged to attend at one of six locations:

- ♦ Saturday, July 15th at St. Luke's, Ada
- ♦ Saturday, July 22nd at St. Dunstan's, Tulsa
- ♦ Saturday, July 22nd at St. Augustine of Canterbury, Oklahoma City
- ♦ Saturday, August 5th at St. Christopher's, Midwest City
- ♦ Saturday, August 5th at St. John's, Vinita
- ♦ Saturday, August 19th at Christ Church, Tulsa

All Quiet Days will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with Holy Eucharist by 3:00 p.m.

\$50 Quiet Day fee covers all materials, Breakfast Snacks and Lunch.

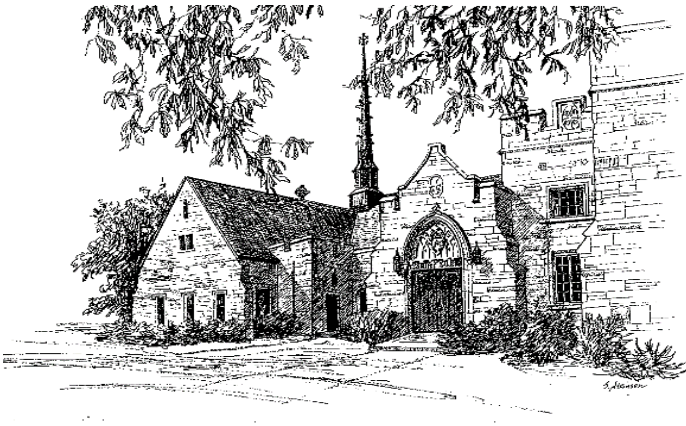
Please e-mail or TEXT Sandra Opalka with questions or for registration:

sandra.opalka@gmail.com; TEXT: (405)740-9673

*This retreat series is made possible through the support of the
Diocese of Oklahoma Episcopal Church Women*

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Or contact
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Bereavement Team 2

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

