

In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- Pub Theology Next Week
- CMT's Wizard of Oz this week
- Photo Wall
- Bookstore Promotion
- Concern Needs/Fundraiser
- Movie Night Pics
- Flower Fund Donations

The Steeple



July 20, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Young Disciples on Mission

Next week seventeen members of St. Luke's will head out on mission. This year Y.D. will be serving the good folks of St. Mark's in Seminole and St. Paul's in Holdenville. Our base camp will be at St. Crispin's. Some of you may recall that this format is similar to the idea of "mission camp," that once had a passionate following in the diocese. While mission camp as a diocesan offering is no longer available, we decided to see if we could recreate it here at Luke's Place.

Last year you may recall that we travelled to our Nation's capital. In what was a trip of lifetime for some, we took some time to reflect on the ways we wanted to structure our trips in the future. The takeaway was that we would use the Washington Trip as a start and then begin by alternating between what we call pilgrimage and mission. Traveling to Washington D.C. was certainly a pilgrimage and there is something remarkably wonderful that the mission field we are referring to is not some far-off country but right in our state.

While our missionary endeavors will no doubt establish positive relationships with other churches in the diocese, it will also serve to expose our youth to the idea that the Episcopal Church is a "big tent" church and that there is great diversity within it! I am also grateful that we will be strengthening our ties with St. Crispin's and exposing our kids to the camp at the heart of our diocese which has its own mission in strengthening the youth of our diocese.

I believe that these trips are instrumental in forming our kids and I am certain that St. Crispin's will continue to play a vital role in their formation too. The trick is to get people down there and then out and about to see what this wonderful episcopal life is all about. I remain grateful to Alton and Joy for making room for us at St. Crispin's, our chaperones, and to the Chip Friley Memorial Fund that makes all of this possible.

A prayer for our youth:

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Every Blessing,
Nick+



Just a reminder that the Flowers on the Altar are funded by donations in memory or honor of loved ones. If you would like to donate for a remembrance or honor, please advise Jo Baughman, Flower Fund Chair, so your request may be noted in the bulletin for that Sunday.

Theologian's Corner: Thomas a' Kempis



Thomas Hammerken (or Hammerlein -- both mean "little hammer") was born at Kempen (hence the "A Kempis") in the duchy of Cleves in Germany around 1380. He was educated by a religious order called the Brethren of the Common Life, and in due course joined the order, was ordained a priest, became sub-prior of his house (in the low Countries), and died 25 July 1471 (his feast is observed a day early to avoid conflict with that of James bar-Zebedee the Apostle).

Thomas is known almost entirely for composing or compiling a manual of spiritual advice known as *The Imitation of Christ*, in which he urges the reader to seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ and to be conformed in all things to His will. An extract follows:

When God bestows Spiritual comfort, receive it with a grateful heart; but remember that it comes of God's free gift, and not of your own merit. Do not be proud, nor over joyful, nor foolishly presumptuous; rather, be the more humble for this gift, more cautious, and more prudent in all your doings, for this hour will pass, and temptation will follow it. When comfort is withdrawn, do not immediately despair, but humbly and patiently await the will of Heaven; for God is able to restore you to a consolation even richer than before. This is nothing new or strange to those who know the ways of God, for the great Saints and Prophets of old often experienced these changes. ...Indeed, the temptation that precedes is often a sign of comfort to follow. For heavenly comfort is promised to those who have been tried and tempted."

"To him who overcomes," says God, "I will give to eat of the Tree of Life."



Together we pray: Holy Father, who hast nourished and strengthened thy church by the writings of thy servant Thomas à Kempis: Grant that we may learn from him to know what is necessary to be known, to love what is to be loved, to praise what highly pleases thee, and always to seek to know and to follow thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please pray for: 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, Ryan Kiesel, Tony Clapper, Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tim, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Tom Martin, Audrey Foote, Don Doty, Maria Dawson Luke Karel, Janice Lonski, Radomir & Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, J D Brooks, Doug Hough, David Lovelace, and Nancy & Joe Norton.



PUB THEOLOGY will be July 27th, 6:30pm, at Tumbleweed's!

Luke's Place July 20th– July 26th, 2023

- July 20th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
- July 23rd Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am
Photos for Photo Wall, Room next to Library upstairs
Back packs move into Metcalf, 1pm
- July 25th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library
Feast Day of James the Apostle Eucharist, 12:15pm, Chapel



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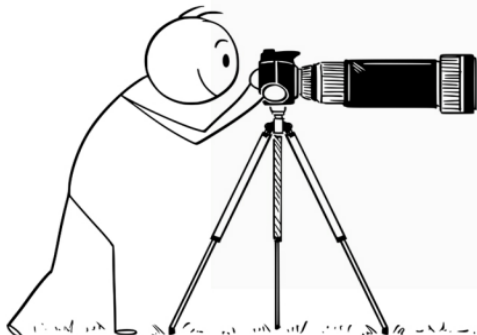
Concern's current pantry needs: SPAM, cereal, hamburger and tuna helper, cake mix and icing for children's birthday cakes, and any plastic bags.
Homeless needs: single portion proteins (with a snap off lid) and reusable bags.



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.

SMILE!



JULY 23RD

(after services)

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

Movie Night Pics





Birthdays and Anniversaries, July 23rd – July 29th, 2023

Birthdays



Jason Carroll	(7/23)
Barbara Todd	(7/24)
Patricia Legatski	(7/25)
Henry Tedstrom	(7/25)
Max Legatski	(7/29)
Arason Ellis	(7/29)

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!



The CONCERN Battle in Bartlesville Lip Sync fundraiser will be on Saturday 9/23. Tickets go on sale online 7/31 and are \$75 each. Always a great time for a great cause!



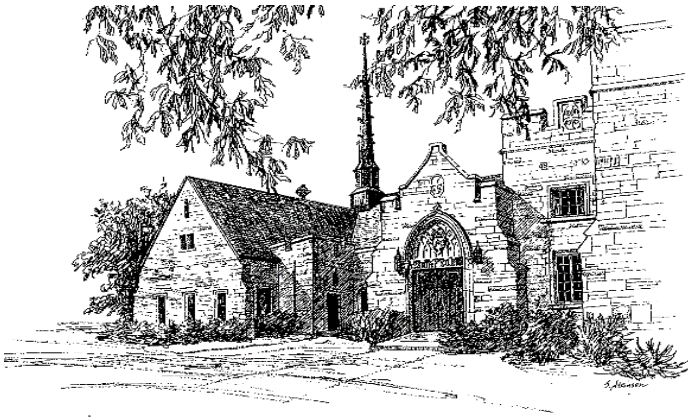
This summer Children's Musical Theatre is presenting "The Wizard of Oz" for their mainstage show at the Bartlesville Community Center this week. The dates and times are below. The actors are all local kids ages 7 years to 17 years old. The most heard comment after any CMT performance is : "I was blown away with the professionalism of these kids! Its like seeing a Broadway show in a big city!" Another amazing aspect is- it is put on both on stage and backstage by volunteers. Come, and follow Dorothy and pals as they travel down the Yellow Brick Road!

Single ticket prices range from \$20.00 to \$30.00.

July 20-21, 2023 | 7 p.m.
July 22-23, 2023 | 2 p.m.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Bereavement Team 2

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