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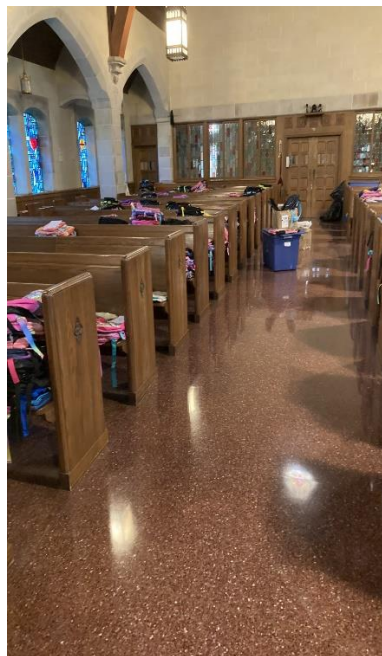
The Steeple



July 27, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Backpacks have taken over





See how
YOU can
help in this
edition of
the Steeple!

Theologian's Corner: Mary and Martha of Bethany



Mary and Martha of Bethany are described in the Gospels according to Luke and John as close and well-loved friends of Jesus. Luke records the well-known story of their hospitality, which has made Martha a symbol of the active life and Mary of the contemplative.

John's Gospel sheds additional light on the characters of Mary and Martha. When their brother Lazarus is dying, Jesus delays his visit to the family and arrives after Lazarus' death. Martha comes to meet him, still trusting in his power to heal and restore. The exchange between them evokes Martha's deep faith and acknowledgment of Jesus as the Messiah (John 11:21-27).

John also records the supper at Bethany at which Mary anointed Jesus' feet with fragrant ointment and wiped them with her hair. This tender gesture of love evoked criticism from the disciples. Jesus interpreted the gift as a preparation for his death and burial.

The devotion and friendship of Mary and Martha have been an example of fidelity and service to the Lord. Their hospitality and kindness, and Jesus' enjoyment of their company, show us the beauty of human friendship and love at its best.

Many Christian writers have interpreted Martha and Mary as symbolizing the active and contemplative lives. In most cases, however, they stressed that this division of action and contemplation was not a simple dichotomy. Although most ancient and medieval theologians tended to prioritize the contemplative life, all of them stressed the necessity for the different vocations of both sisters in the church.

In his sermon 104, Augustine of Hippo writes that "Martha has to set sail in order that Mary can remain quietly in port." Although in some ways he thinks that the adoring worship of Christ is indeed superior, it does no good to adore Christ without serving and feeding him as Martha did, and as all Christians can do by serving those in need.

The Cistercian theologian Aelred of Rievaulx wrote that just as Mary and Martha dwelt as sisters within one house, so also the active and contemplative life should ideally dwell within the same soul.

Although most premodern writers did tend to view Mary as superior to Martha, the medieval mystic Meister Eckhart argued in his sermon 86 that Martha was the more spiritually advanced of the two sisters, suggesting that she is mature enough that she is no longer enamored by religious feelings and experiences, but able to move on from them to the practical work of service. In this case, Jesus' words that Mary "has chosen the better part" are meant to reassure Martha that her sister is on the right track, and that when she is ready, she too will eventually move on from only seeking spiritual consolation to serving where she is needed.

Together we pray: O God, heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love thee, open our hearts to hear thee, and strengthen our hands to serve thee in others for his sake; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for 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, Ryan Kiesel, Tony Clapper, Bruce Neiswander, Jack & Karla Stoecker, Joseph, Tim, Shania Smith, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Tom Martin, Don Doty, Maria Dawson, Luke Karel, Janice Lonski, Radomir & Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, J D Brooks, and Nancy & Joe Norton.



PUB THEOLOGY will
be **TONIGHT, 6:30pm,**
at **Tumbleweed's!**

Luke's Place July 27th-Aug 2nd, 2023

July 27th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's
July 30th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am



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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.



Last chance!!!!

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.



Keep our Young Disciples and Sponsors in your prayers this week as they journey into the mission field around St Crispin's. They left on the 25th and will return on the 28th of July. May God bless the work of their hearts and hands.



Packing the Backpacks

Thursday July 27th 6:00 till 8:00 pm

Friday July 28th 9:00 till Noon

Friday July 28th 1:30 till 5:00 pm

Saturday July 29th 9:00 till Noon

Passing out the BackPacks

Sunday July 30th 2:00 till 6:00 pm

Monday July 31st 8:30 am till 6:00 pm

Tuesday Aug 1st 8:30 am till noon

Come and help when and for as long as you can!



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!

StEWArDShIP



Recently the newly formed Stewardship Committee met to work on a Year-Round Stewardship plan along with our annual Fall Campaign. One of the ways we use our gifts to glorify God and help our church and community is in our ministries. It is our goal to highlight different ministries at St. Luke's in The Steeple Newsletter from time to time so that everyone will know a little bit about each one and hopefully find a place to connect. If you are interested in being a part of this Stewardship Committee, please contact Nancy Woods or Karole Cozby!

PURPOSE STATEMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

THROUGH COLLECTIVE STEWARDSHIP, THE PEOPLE OF ST. LUKE'S ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TOGETHER WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS OF GOD'S ABUNDANCE AND CARETAKERS OF ALL HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO US. WE WILL STRIVE TO USE OUR GIFTS WISELY AND SHARE THEM GENEROUSLY TO FURTHER THE WORK HE HAS GIVEN US TO DO WITH JOYFUL HEARTS.

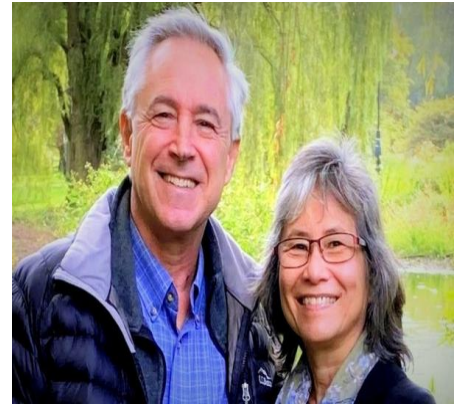
Pastoral Care

The ministry of Pastoral Care strives to visit those who are unable to attend St Luke's but whose hearts want to be remembered and included. Each month we share our time with those once faithful friends to keep them abreast of the happenings at St Luke's and listen to their stories. If this is something you are drawn to, please contact Karole Cozby at 918-914-2939

News from the Greens

Hi friends,

For our first marriage retreat for Thai couples, we got confirmation that it was good to keep to the small number of couples meeting together, so that the setting is more intimate and they feel more open to share in the women's group and the men's group. They liked getting away and having focused time with their spouse. They found Song of Songs hard to understand, but they bravely struggled thinking through chapters 1 to 4. They liked the bring-it-home "couple time" discussion questions and especially liked getting a letter from their spouse at the end. I got a very nice letter from Roger, too. 😊



Not long ago a U.S. friend told me that they hadn't understood the reason for this ministry at the time but now understood better. I think it may be that way with this group. The Scripture and the discussions will stay with them, and they will be able to draw from it as time goes by. Song of Songs is not so much a "how-to" manual as it is a creator of a foundational point of view. As one participant put it, all the comparisons are only attempts to describe something that is too deep to be described. Another participant said that we can see a "big love" being expressed. This kind of love affects how we think, speak, act and make decisions.

Thank you for praying. One couple had to cancel because of sickness, but the others were able to come. The weather was beautiful. God led us in our days together. The couples got along really well with each other even though they mostly had not known each other before.

Sunday Roger and I heard a good sermon about how Elijah's head between his knees in 1 Kings 18:42 was a position women used to give birth. Elijah was laboring in prayer and was expectant that God would give birth to a great provision. The preacher referenced Elijah's sending the servant back seven times to look for God's provision, because the servant saw nothing the first time. As we and you have prayed and as we have read and discussed Song of Songs 1 to 4, we know that God is doing a mighty work in the lives of these couples. It may take awhile, but we can be sure that the results are coming. Our interpreter couple wrote this, "Thank you for your patience and for bringing such valuable teachings to us. We believe that with time and consistent learning, more Thai people will come to appreciate and benefit from your program, just as we have."

Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and for joining us in the journey,
Joanne

Attached is our group photo from the retreat.



Thursday Bible Study Celebrates Fr Nick's Birthday

With ice cream, cake and candles, and a coffee cake courtesy of Wendy Hall



Much-Needed Summer Help

Charlie Olsen, son of Becky and Brian Olsen, is our Go-To Guy this summer on a variety of St. Luke's maintenance and trouble-shooting needs. A soon-to-be sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering at OSU, Charlie has been taking care of all the lawn mowing and edging, cleaning out and repairing long-clogged rain gutters, mounting security cameras in the courtyard, and assisting with the evaluation of all 23 HVAC air handlers in the nave and adjacent rooms. In addition, he has teamed up with his grandad, Dan Droege, and Dennis Mueggenborg on a variety of smaller projects that help keep the church's physical plant looking good and running smoothly. Thank you, Charlie!



After the clean-out, Charlie refurbished the original bracketing that was barely holding the downspout to the side the building. Ready for the next 60 years!



Yuck! This is just a sampling of the crud that Charlie extracted from the downspout next to the chapel door. It obviously had been clogged for a very long time.

Thank you, Charlie!

The one at St John's, Vinita, is coming up soon!

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*

Birthdays and Anniversaries, July 30th – Aug 5th, 2023

Birthdays



Bill Bridendolph (8/4)

Anniversaries



Tom & Judy Chamberlain (8/5)

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!

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Doug McIver, Sr. Warden -- dmciver@susandickcpa.com 785-342-4328
- Nancy Woods, Jr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Jo Baughman – jybokla@aol.com
- Karole Cozby – kscozby916@gmail.com
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- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Josie McIver-



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Dolores McCreary, Choir Director/Organist
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918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

Bereavement Team 2

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