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The Steeple



Aug 30, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Re-Keying the Church

Greetings beloved.

As you've probably heard we are rekeying the church this week. This project has been in the queue for over a year. And here is why:

The Episcopal Church has always strived to be a safe place for all to gather, to learn, and to worship. To that end, for decades we have had programs in place to set standards and provide education for protecting the vulnerable among us. As with all things, these programs must be reviewed and improved periodically. General Convention in 2015 called for this review, the result of which was a set of Model Policies and associated training to be enacted church wide. Diocesan Council approved the new Safe Church policies for the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma in November of 2022.

These new policies replace outdated policies and training from the early 2000's. These newer policies call for a higher level of accountability in our ministries, parishes, and in the diocese. With them, we will be protecting a greater range of people including both children and adults to keep those who are most vulnerable safe from harm.

Guarding them is work and requires attention to detail. An increase in accountability, by necessity, brings additional responsibility to maintain accurate and timely reports as well as to implement and follow the policies and procedures. We should remember that we are not being penalized for what has been done in the past, we simply seek improvement.

While implementation may at first feel complicated and onerous, by our Baptismal Covenant we are called to strive for justice and peace. In this case, that means to strive to improve our protection of the vulnerable from "good" to better - even to best practices.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church considers the safety of its employees, parishioners, volunteers, guests, and property to be of paramount importance and believes that key control is a major component of a comprehensive security program. It is the responsibility of each key holder to ensure procedures are followed to maintain the security and safety of everyone at St. Luke's.

Moving forward with your understanding. We thank-you for your patience.

Blessings,
Nick+



Theologian's Corner: David Pendleton Oakerhater

Deacon and Missionary, 1931

“God’s warrior” is an epithet by which David Pendleton Oakerhater is known among the Cheyenne Indians of Oklahoma. The title is an apt one, for this apostle of Christ to the Cheyenne was originally a soldier who fought against the United States government with warriors of other tribes in the disputes over Indian land rights. Born circa 1851, by the late 1860s Oakerhater had distinguished himself for bravery

and leadership as an officer in an elite corps of Cheyenne fighters. In 1875, after a year of minor uprisings and threats of major violence, he and twenty-seven other warrior leaders were taken prisoner by the U.S. Army, charged with inciting rebellion, and sent to a disused military prison in Florida.

Under the influence of a concerned Army captain, who sought to educate the prisoners, Oakerhater and his companions learned English, gave art and archery lessons to the area’s many visitors, and had their first encounter with the Christian faith. The captain’s example, and that of other concerned Christians from as far away as New York, had their effect on the young warrior. He was moved to answer the call to transform his leadership in war into a lifelong ministry of peace.

With sponsorship from the Diocese of Central New York and financial help from a Mrs. Pendleton of Cincinnati, he and three other prisoners went north to study for the ministry. At his baptism in Syracuse in 1878, he took the name David Pendleton Oakerhater, in honor of his benefactress.

Soon after his ordination to the diaconate in 1881, Oakerhater returned to Oklahoma. There, he was instrumental in founding and operating schools and missions, through great personal sacrifice and often in the face of apathy from the Church hierarchy and resistance from the government. He continued his ministry of service, education, and pastoral care among his people until his death on August 31, 1931.

Half a century before, the young deacon had told his people: “You all know me. You remember when I led you out to war I went first, and what I told you was true. Now I have been away to the East and I have learned about another captain, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he is my leader. He goes first, and all he tells me is true. I come back to my people to tell you to go with me now in this new road, a war that makes all for peace.”

O God of unsearchable wisdom and mercy, thou didst choose a captive warrior, David Oakerhater, to be thy servant, and didst send him to be a missionary to his own people and to execute the office of deacon among them: Liberate us, who commemorate him today, from bondage to self, and empower us for service to thee and to the neighbors thou hast given us; through Jesus Christ, the captain of our salvation; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, 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, 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, Radomir & Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Liz Burger, Geraldine Wright, and Nancy & Joe Norton.

Luke's Place Aug 31st-Sept 6th, 2023

Aug 31st Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country MP, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed'
Sept 2nd Debra Franks memorial service, 4pm
Sept 3rd Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am
Sept 4th Labor Day
Sept 6th YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Choir, 5pm, Choir Room



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Concern's current pantry needs: canned chili and soup
Homeless needs: pudding cups

Past and Present.....



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

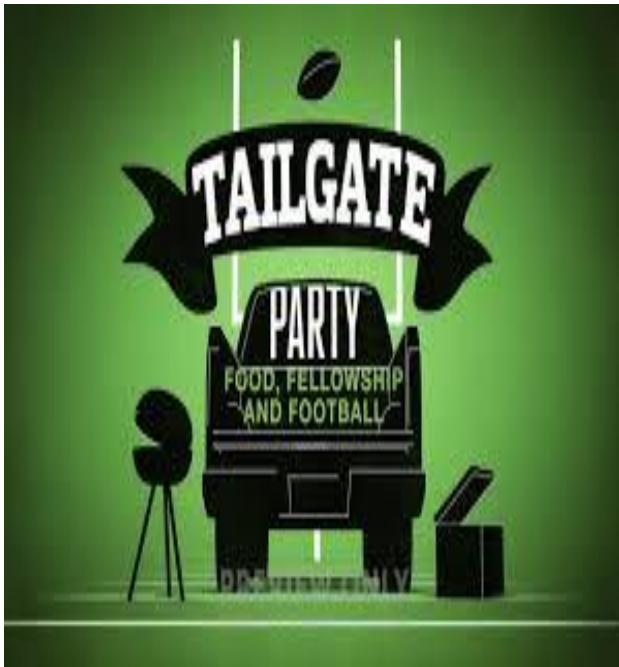
Everyone! Turn in your favorite 'school picture' of yourself to the Bookstore during the month of September and be entered into the drawing. You will receive a number for your picture and the photo will be displayed in the Bookstore window. The lucky number will be drawn at the end of the month and win a \$25 gift certificate tot the Bookstore.



“SEE” you in the Bookstore!

YD Fun and Games





September 8th Everyone Invited!

Tailgating starting at 6:00 pm
Sub sandwiches, chips and water will be served. Meeting on Valley Rd (1443 & 1447) at the Droege's and Ellis'. Bruins game at Custer Field starts at 7:00. Prices of the game is \$5 for students and \$7 for adults. Seniors over 62 can get a Golden Pass by going by the Education Center 1100 SW Jennings hours are 8-4:30. (You might need your drivers license)



The choir will begin rehearsals again starting this Wed., Aug. 30th from 5-6 pm. We will have two weeks of rehearsals before our first Sunday on Sept. 10th (the first Sunday after labor day). If you have been thinking about joining the choir, now is the time! We need your beautiful voice! Contact Keeli Droege, Choir Director at 918-697-8509 or keelidroege@gmail.com.



Pub Theology is Thursday, August 31st, 6:30pm at Tumbleweed's. Let's all gather and start the fall season together discussing all things theological!

*Welcome Back to
Godly Play!!!*

On September 10th, Godly Play will start back up with the story of The Holy Family! Children will process up to the Godly Play Room after the Gospel is read during the 10:30 service.

****Contact Teresa Phares if you have questions, or want to volunteer - 269-317-8237 or tphares@epiok.org***

Godly Play!!!

Here at St. Luke's, we are fortunate to have an impactful children's formation program – Godly Play!

Here are some things you might be wondering about Godly Play:

- I wonder what Godly Play is...

Godly Play is a way for children to make meaning through story, wonder, and play. A storyteller will share a Bible story with the children, and then they are invited to wonder about how they personally relate to God through that story.

- I wonder when Godly Play will start up again...

On September 10th, we will offer our first Godly Play story of the program year.

- I wonder when the children will meet for Godly Play...

The children will go upstairs to the Godly Play room after the reading of the Gospel at the 10:30 service. They will return to church during the Passing of the Peace. We value the presence of children in our community and in worship, so we want to be sure that they are there to worship with the rest of the congregation during most of the service on Sundays.

- I wonder what ages are welcome at Godly Play...

We invite children ages 4-5th grade to join us for Godly Play on Sundays.

- I wonder if they need more leaders for Godly Play...

YES!!! We could definitely use more adult/older youth leaders in our Godly Play program! The time commitment for leaders can vary, depending on the leader's availability. If you are at least in high school and interested in leading, please contact Teresa Phares at tphares@epiok.org or 269-317-8237.

- I wonder if you need training to be a Godly Play leader...

You do not have to have training, but Teresa will offer a training for anyone who wants to learn more about Godly Play. The training will take place on Sunday, September 17th from 12pm-4pm (lunch will be included). Please RSVP to Teresa if you plan to attend.

Nursery

Here at St. Luke's, we love children and families with children! But in the past year, we have struggled with supporting our young families in their endeavors to come to church consistently, because we have not been able to offer nursery care for our youngest

churchgoers (ages 0-4). Hiring nursery workers has been moved to our list of priorities, and we could use your help! Our hope is to have some nursery workers or volunteers in place when we begin Godly Play –

September 10th. If you know anyone who is 16 or older who would like to volunteer or be paid to care for these young children on Sunday mornings from 10am-12pm, please share this information with them and get them in contact with either Teresa Phares (tphares@epiok.org or 269-317-8237) or Father Nick (revphares@outlook.com or 269-788-7063). Let's help show these young families that they belong here at St. Luke's by making sure we are providing care for their children so that they can come and worship with us!

Volunteers Needed!



A volunteer is needed to work at Agape Mission on the fourth Thursday of every month from 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Agape Mission provides nutritious meals to anyone who walks through the doors. No questions asked. For many, this meal is the only one that they will have that day. During this shift you will work on the line serving meals to individuals. The only qualification needed to work is a smile and willing heart. Not only is it a blessing to serve people who come through the line, but it also is a wonderful time of fellowship with other

members of St. Luke's who participate in this ministry. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Becky Liehr at 918-327-5987.

Ryan's Eagle Scout Ceremony





Congratulations, Ryan!



Begins **September 10th** at 9:15am,
in Metcalf Hall.



From Channel 6 interview with Josie McIver

A Bartlesville teen is going above and beyond in her journey to become a gold award girl scout. Josie McIver is a senior at Bartlesville High School and has been a Girl Scout since she was in kindergarten. “My friend’s mom was one of the leaders and so I just joined her troop,” Josie said. Amongst her rows of badges, she’s saved a spot on her vest for the highest Girl Scout honor: the Gold award. “It’s 80 hours of work, and anything community service,” said Josie. Because she’s no stranger to serving her community, Josie came up with the perfect idea to earn the award and help out even more. She noted all the food in the pantry at the Mary Martha Outreach and created a 40-page recipe book incorporating the items. “Talked about Mary Martha, and I had already volunteered for Mary Martha, so I was like ‘yeah, I’ll help them and make a cookbook,’”

said Josie. Misty Wishall is the director of Mary Martha Outreach and says the pantry is a very helpful resource for the community. She says when she read through Josie's cookbook, she was overjoyed as she knows it will be yet another resource people can use. "I was so proud of her, she's worked so hard, she came out, we did mini meetings and interviews," Wishall said. The book not only includes recipes, but also baking and cooking definitions and how-to's. Josie says she's always been a fan of baking and cooking, and she wanted to use her love of both to help others. "Just anything that can help people to grow as a cook," she said.

To access the recipes, click [here](#).

<https://www.newson6.com/story/64eb52e1ac40d00729f97927/shes-worked-so-hard:-bartlesville-girl-scout-creates-recipe-book-for-local-food-pantry>

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Sept 3rd –Sept 9th, 2023

Birthdays



Nancy Warring	(9/3)
Mark Peterson	(9/5)
Sarah Winn	(9/6)
Teresa Phares	(9/6)
David Breedlove	(9/7)
Kathryn Todd	(9/9)

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 NEED is greater than ever

Support Concern through this fundraiser and enjoy performances by “Tiffany”, “Run DMC” and many more.....to purchase tickets, used QR code below, call Concern at 918-336-4693 or see Pam Hanson.

**2ND ANNUAL
LIP SYNC
BATTLE IN
BARTLESVILLE**

**September 23 | 2023
Hilton Garden Inn | 6 pm**

**Great food ... a
night of fun and
laughter ... like a
real concert**

Karen Lowe-Alton

**WATCH LOCAL CELEBRITIES
BATTLE HUNGER**

Admission of \$75 includes the
Battle, a festival style buffet and
2 adult drinks.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT CONCERN

www.concerncares.com

918-336-4693



NOTES FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

Just some miscellaneous items to mention, ask about, and fill in some details:

As many of you know we lost our beloved Janice Lonski last weekend. Many have asked about the service. It will be at St Luke's on Oct 4th at 10:30am- unless something unforeseeable happens.

Also remind you that Debra Franks' service is this Saturday at 4pm. Debra is Karl Franks' mother.

Re-keying the church is going slow so I really asked for your patience and understanding as we navigate these new policies and procedures. Tomorrow morning I will be taking a Zoom Advanced class for Safe Church. A lot of questions are out there about how this will flow but we will work on it together with grace. If you are in a position where you need a key for your ministry in the church and wonder when you will receive it, please know Fr Nick is not the one who will be distributing them and does not have them. Check with the office. Every key will have a number etched and logged who has that numbered key. No keys will be allowed to be copied outside of the locksmith and authorized by the Rector or Wardens. Sadly, its the world we live in these days.

I have been asked by a few folks about when we could have another Paint and Pour at Boots and Brushes. Ronna (the owner) always loves having our group so that is up to whether I can get enough to commit and when. So text me, call me, or email me if you are interested and we can see if we can plan an evening to paint together.

Once in awhile I get a request from a member to advertise either a sale, a fundraiser in the Steeple or someone trying to find help with something. I am very happy to oblige. The Steeple is YOUR newsletter. What do you want to see in it? How can it help you? I have thought a few times of having a section called 'The Market Place' where we can have these things mentioned and help each other. Our YD is exploring the idea of raking leaves for our homebound members this fall. Have anyone you know at St Luke's who would benefit? I know a grandmother very dear to our congregation who is searching for a used car reasonably priced for a granddaughter who will not have transportation when she comes back to the states to finish her last semester in college this winter. That granddaughter is also very dear to us and a member of St Luke's. We have a member who has written a book and would be thrilled if our parish would want it in the Bookstore. I know I would appreciate donations of a case of water for the church once in awhile because not only do I hand a cold bottle of water to

the homeless who come in ask, I also give a bottle to the mailperson or delivery guy, or even the gas utility worker who changed our gas meter here. Our guys who keep the church maintained have reached for a cold bottle of water as has our lawn mowers. It is a small gesture but in this heat, the look of relief on their faces is the payment. Keeping the fridge stocked with water in this heat can be challenging- the need is great.

You will notice in the coming weeks that the Fellowship Committee is trying different ways for us to meet, gather, and enjoy each other's company. Please support them. If you have any ideas for them, never hesitate to talk to Laura Birk and her group. They love new ways to gather.

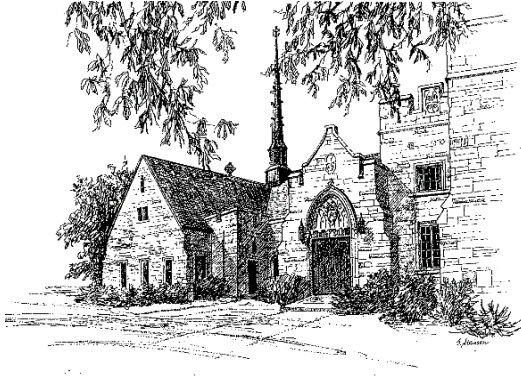
Well that should cover most things coming the next few weeks. If you have anything you would like to have in the Steeple, please get it to me by Tuesday afternoon and it will be in that week's Steeple.

Come and see me!

Penny

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
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
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- Steve Van Aken – scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Josie McIver-



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Keeli Droege, 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

