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The Steeple



Sept 20, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Car Rides and Cookies

Nine plus hour car drives are not my favorite things to do these days. But when it comes to a week like last week you do them. I'll be traveling again this week as mentioned before in the Steeple to a workshop called, "Walking the Mourner's Path." The "training" is in Jackson, Mississippi from Wednesday to Saturday.

While travel maybe stressful for some of us, one of the things I love about it is the opportunity to have conversations that I otherwise might not have -- given the fact that you can dive deep into one, since you can't escape the car while it's moving at 70 m.p.h.

On our trip back from Louisville last week, one of the things that Teresa and I talked about was how to keep her friend Brandie's memory alive. I listened as she told me about some of the things that she loved about her friend and when it came time to hear about Brandie at the funeral, there was definitely a harmony in every portrayal of her. To me that speaks of authenticity and a genuineness that just is.

One of the things Teresa loved about Brandie was their shared love of music and how when they would ride around in the car together, Brandie who was an alto, would always harmonize, while Teresa belted out the melody. You musicians know what I mean. And I thought to myself, perhaps one way we could honor Brandie's memory was to strive to create harmony wherever we went. What that looks like in everyday life has become for us another conversation.

I found myself smiling this morning after meeting with Robert Lonski who stopped by to mention that he will now be continuing the practice his wife Janice started -- baking cookies for the garbage collectors who service their street. Janice you may recall would bake the team cookies each week and would wait outside till they picked them up. If they didn't stop, Robert told me that she'd chase them down and with a smile hand them her love. Robert's decision to continue Janice's practice honors Janice in the way that I think Teresa is thinking about honoring Brandie.

And, what I realized is that we all have the opportunity to do this. Honoring someone doesn't start and stop with flowers at a funeral but with us treasuring a memory intentionally enough that it can become a practice for us. In practicing joy, striving to create harmony, baking cookies, or something else that someone we loved loved—well, it honors them and honors their memory when we practice it with love.

It allows us to answer prayers in their name and them in us – or so the songs says And that is because we know that where the Lord is, they are there also.

Someone once wrote that, “grief is really just love with no place to go.” Perhaps. Maybe I learn more about what that means this weekend. But I do know that love can grow around the wound that is grief and like a balm with healing powers, transform the tenderness of the void that is grief ... because loving presence always seems to leave in its wake some sense of togetherness.

If baking cookies helps us to do that or if singing in the choir does – then Steve Clark's oatmeal cookies are my favorite and I'll sing baritone while you take the melody.

Nick+



Theologians Corner: Thecla. Apostle and Proto-martyr among Women, c. 70

Thecla, widely known as a disciple of the apostle Paul, was one of the most popular female saints in the early Church. Her story is told in the second-century Acts of Paul and Thecla. According to this narrative, upon hearing Paul preach the gospel, Thecla abandoned her plans for marriage and followed Paul. Condemned to burn at the stake, her life was saved by a miraculous thunderstorm. As her adventures continued, she was thrown to the beasts in the local arena. There she was protected by a fierce lioness. Finally, thinking this was her last chance to be baptized, she threw herself into a pool with ravenous seals and baptized herself in the water, while the seals were struck dead by lightning. The

governor then released her, and she went on to travel and preach the gospel.

According to Tertullian (writing in about the year 200), early Christian women appealed to Thecla's example to defend women's freedom to teach and to baptize. A shrine to Thecla in Seleucia (Asia Minor) became a popular pilgrimage site in the fourth and fifth centuries. Devotion to Thecla from Gaul to Palestine is also evident in literature, art, and the practice of naming children after her. Her image appeared on wall paintings, clay flasks, oil lamps, stone reliefs, textile curtains, and other media.

One of the best books I've read that mentions Thecla is a book by Dennis Ronald McDonald. In *The Legend and the Apostle: The Battle for Paul in Story and Canon* McDonald channels Thecla in his treatment of Paul. After reading this brief but illuminating work, Thecla has definitely come into focus for me and is mentioned often side by side Paul in studies of the Pastoral Epistles. The Acts of Paul and Thecla can be found here:

<https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0816.htm>

Together we pray: O God of liberating power, who didst raise up thine apostle Thecla, permitting no obstacle or peril to inhibit her from bearing witness to new life in Jesus Christ: Empower courageous evangelists among us, that men and women everywhere may know the freedom which thou dost offer; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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, 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, Luke Karel, Radomir & Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Geraldine Wright, Nancy & Joe Norton, and Jack Smith.

Luke's Place Sept 21st-Sept 27th, 2023

Sept 21st Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV, Holy Cross

Sept 24th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel

Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am

Godly Play Class for children, during Rite II, upstairs

Sept 26th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library

Sept 27th YD, 6pm, Rodgers

Choir, 5pm, Choir Room



Pantry needs: tuna, SPAM, sleeves of crackers, pancake mix
(just add water)

Homeless needs: reusable bags



Past and Present.....

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 to the Bookstore.



“SEE” you in the Bookstore!



Trunk or Treat will be Oct 29th this year and plans are in the works for the Haunted Garage again! We could use some help planning other activities. If you are interested, please contact the office. 918-336-1212



September 28th, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's

Oct 4th, 6:00pm

Courtyard



We will have a “Blessing of the Animals” service with a light supper following on Oct 4th. Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends to be blessed then join us in Metcalf Hall for sandwiches, chips and drinks to celebrate

the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Here are a few throwback photos from last year:



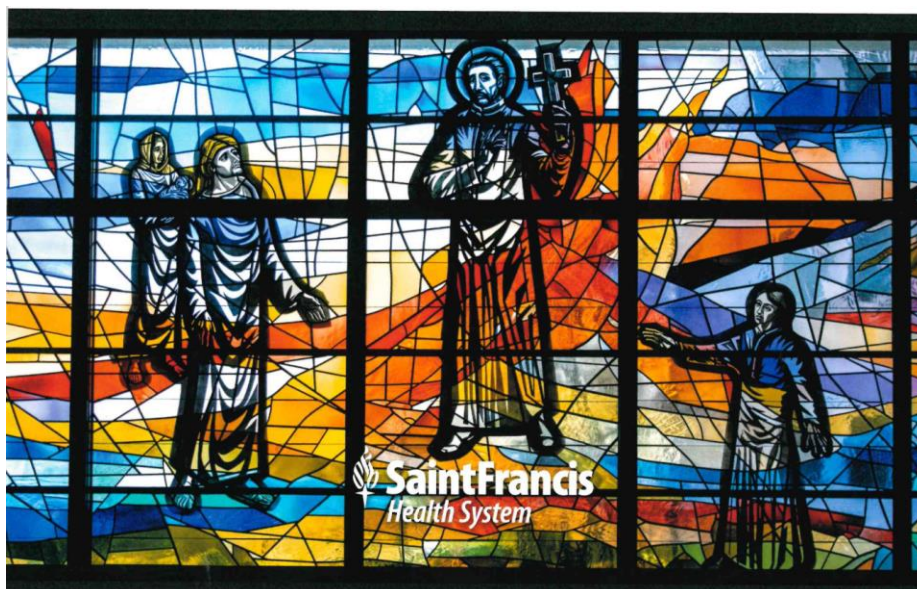
PINOT & POETRY



*JOIN THE WOMEN OF
ST. LUKE'S FOR A FUN
EVENING!*

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20TH - 6PM
TERESA PHARES' HOUSE - 2649 REGENCY RD.**

Bring your favorite Pinot (or other
wine/drink), your favorite poem, and a
snack to share with the group.



THE STAFF OF SAINT FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM

would like to extend its sympathy and prayers to the family of

Janice Lenski

May God be with you in your time of loss.

*"Our Salvation consists not only in beginning well,
but persevering to the end"*

— Saint Francis Xavier

*We invite you to join us for a memorial service
in which we remember our recently deceased patients on*

Friday, September 29, 2013

At 11:00 a.m.

*Main Chapel at Saint Francis Hospital
6161 South Yale Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136*

*Parking is available in front of the hospital in Lots P1 or P2.
Please extend this invitation to your family and friends.*



Janice Lonski's service will be October 4, 2023 at 10:30am at St. Luke's. Heartfelt prayers for her family, especially her husband, Robert.



StEWArDShiP

TOGETHER WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS OF GOD'S ABUNDANCE AND CARETAKERS OF ALL HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO US.

St. Ursula's Altar Guild

St. Ursula's Altar Guild is a sacramental ministry whose members faithfully serve St. Luke's and our Lord by preparing its altars for all services, including the Holy Eucharist. It also cares for the Altar linens, vestments, silver, brass and candles used in the services; bakes the bread for the services; and delivers the Altar flowers to parishioners who are ill or homebound. The Altar Guild prepares for and assists at funerals, weddings, baptisms, and confirmations. The members decorate the church for Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter, and make palm crosses for our Palm Sunday services. The Flower Chair arranges for the Sunday services and funeral flowers, the greens and poinsettias at Christmas, and the lilies at Easter. Membership in the Altar Guild is open to confirmed members of St. Luke's. Anyone interested in joining should contact Wendy Hall. Training sessions are required.

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Sept 24th –Sept 30th , 2023

Birthdays



Steve VanAken	(9/24)
Mary Jo Peterson	(9/25)
Dan Gallery	(9/26)
Melinda Droege	(9/26)
Bryan Megee	(9/28)
Joan Heidorn	(9/29)

Anniversaries



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



Faith Forum Schedule: Holy Currencies.

September 24th: The Currency of Relationships.

October 1st: The Currency of Truth.

Stewardship Sunday Announcement: Nancy Woods.

October 8th: The Currency of Wellness.

Stewardship Sunday Announcement: Karole Cozby.

October 15th: The Currency of Gracious Leadership.

Stewardship Sunday Announcement: Nancy Woods.

October 22nd: The Currency of Time and Place.

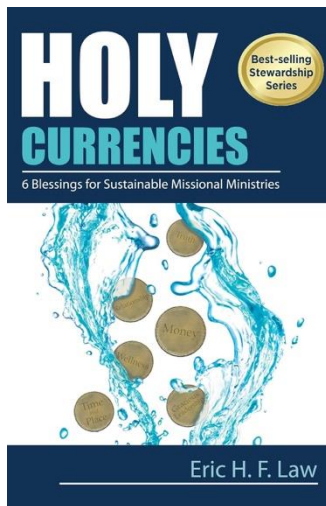
Stewardship Sunday Mailout.

October 29th: The Currency of Money.

November 5th: All Saints Sunday.

Please bring Pledge Cards to Church this Sunday.

Parish Luncheon at 11:45.



Money is not the only currency your ministry needs. Eric H. F. Law shows us how the six blessings of time and place, gracious leadership, relationship, truth, wellness, and money flow through successful missional ministries. Learn how to use these gifts to rejuvenate, recirculate, regenerate, and expand your ministry through Law's insightful stories, instruction, processes, exercises, and activities. Tools in the book help evaluate how your church uses each gift and enables church members to measure and value the six blessings. Holy Currencies will push you to think beyond your church's current boundaries and create rich, sustainable missional ministries.



End of Summer





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
- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk – lpbirk73@gmail.com
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- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Josie McIver-

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 Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
 918-336-1212
 Or contact
 Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector
 269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
 918-697-8509 keelidroege@gmail.com

Bereavement Team 2

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