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The Steeple



Nov 1, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



A Blessed All Saints to you all.

It's hard to believe that we are beginning to move into one of the most vigorous times of the church year. Full of journeys, feasts, and time with those we love, these next few months promise many things to many people. I hope that those promises you hold close are fulfilled in the weeks ahead and that as you take stock and reflect on the time you have been given, that you are reminded of just how much you are loved by God.

Today's reading from the Letter to the Hebrews reminds of that love and that we are not alone even though we may feel like it sometimes. In fact, Paul writes that we are to remember the fact that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses – the Saints and therefore, we should in whatever way we can throw off everything that hinders that knowledge and the sin that so easily entangles us, so that - we might run with perseverance the race marked out for us, while we still have time.

While the months ahead may at times feel like a race, please allow yourself to rest in that love that God has for you. Allow yourself the opportunity to drink from that deep well that is His grace so that you might come to know even more fully that:

Though Satan breaks our dark glass into shards
Each shard still shines with Christ's reflected light,
It glances from the eyes, kindles the words
Of all his unknown saints. The dark is bright
With quiet lives and steady lights undimmed,
The witness of the ones we shunned and shamed.
Plain in our sight and far beyond our seeing
He weaves them with us in the web of being
They stand beside us even as we grieve,
The lone and left behind whom no one claimed,
Unnumbered multitudes, he lifts above
The shadow of the gibbet and the grave,
To triumph where all saints are known and named;
The gathered glories of His wounded love.

Malcolm Guite's poem "A Sonnet for All Saints Day," reminds all of us – that we are not alone.

Peace be you, saints of God.

Nick+

Theologian's Corner

Commemoration of All Faithful Departed

In the New Testament, the word "saints" is used to describe the entire membership of the Christian community, and, in the Collect for All Saints' Day, the word "elect" is used in a similar sense. From very early times, however, the word "saint" came to be applied primarily to persons of heroic sanctity, whose deeds were recalled with gratitude by later generations.

Beginning in the tenth century, it became customary to set aside another day—as a sort of extension of All Saints—on which the Church remembered that vast body of the faithful who, though no less members of the company of the redeemed, are unknown in the wider fellowship of the Church. It was also a day for particular remembrances of family members and friends.

Though the observance of the day was abolished at the Reformation because of abuses connected with Masses for the dead, a renewed understanding of its meaning has led to a widespread acceptance of this commemoration among Anglicans, and to its inclusion as an optional observance in the calendar of The Episcopal Church.



Together we pray: O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers; Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of thy Son; that, on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as thy children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

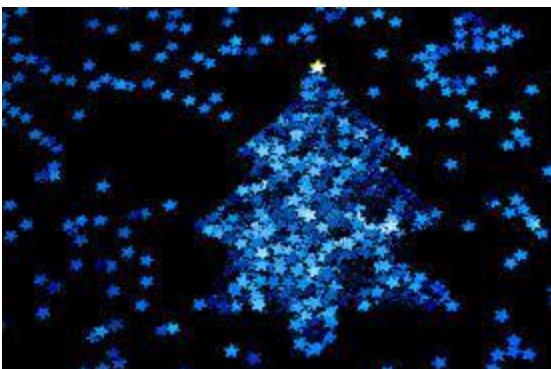
Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Sanawbar, Diana Farris, Joel Hahn, Stacey & Butch Webster, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, Katie Rolielard, Jody & George Bracken, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Dorothy Buchanan, Peggy Kauffman, 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, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Geraldine Wright, Nancy & Joe Norton, Jack Smith, Haley Grogan, and Wayne Phyle.



Pantry needs: tuna, SPAM, sleeves of crackers, peanut butter, canned pinto beans
Homeless needs: single serve meals, warm gloves and hats

Luke's Place Nov 2nd -Nov 8th, 2023

- Nov 2nd Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
- Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
- Green Country MP, Rite I, 1pm, GC
- Nov 4th Bedlam OU vs OSU, 2:15pm, Metcalf
- Nov 5th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am
- Godly Play Class for children, during Rite II, upstairs
- Stewardship Luncheon, 11:45, Metcalf
- Nov 7th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library
- Nov 8th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
- YD, 6pm, Rodgers



The Star Tree will soon be in the Narthex with a request from DHS for Christmas presents for foster children. More information is coming so watch the Steeple. The Star Tree should arrive around November 12th.



All Saints' Day will be celebrated on November 5th. If you have a saint you would like remembered during the Prayers of the People Necrology, please let the office know by Nov 1st. Thanks!



Pledge Sunday is this coming Sunday. Please bring your pledge cards with you. We will offer these together at the altar. We bring what He gives. After the late service there will be a Stewardship Luncheon for us to celebrate our work together.

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Nov 5th –Nov 11th, 2023

Birthdays

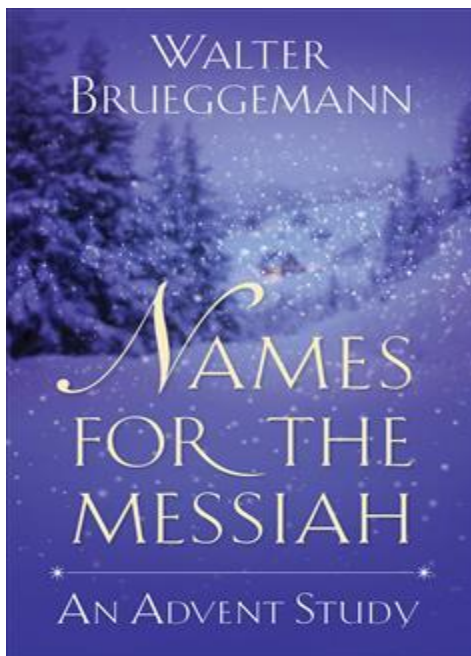


Laura Birk	11/8
Brian Ferguson	11/9
David King	11/10
Nancy VanDuker	11/11

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!



Spiritual Discovery Book Study For Advent

The book that the Spiritual Discovery Group will be reading for Advent is: Names for the Messiah, by Walter Brueggemann. It will begin on 11/28 and end on 12/19, if anyone is interested in joining the group for an Advent study during that time. We meet in the Library on Tuesdays at 10am.

Bedlam will happen November 4th for the last time for awhile. Time to gather in Metcalf will be 2:15pm. OSU and OU fans and really anyone who loves Oklahoma football are invited to come, have some game food and enjoy the rivalry. Prizes for the best tailgate food and best team swag for each team will be given. Bring your game food, dress in your Team's colors and symbols, bring your lawn chair and be ready to cheer your team to victory.



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday. You get an extra hour to sleep before church on Sunday!



All Souls' Day is November 2nd. A Eucharist will be celebrated at Green Country Village at 1pm in the Chapel. Please join us for this feast day.



David King turns 100 on November 10th!

Many of you probably do not recognize David or know him. David and his wife Anna Jean moved to Bartlesville and joined St Luke's in 1977. Since they didn't have any extended family, St Luke's has always been their family. Anna Jean died in 1994. Turning 100 is amazing and we want to celebrate with David, however a party would not be possible for David's energy level. Sooo, what we are asking you to do is to join us in a 'Drive By Birthday Celebration' on November 12th. Everyone will meet Steve Clark at the church parking lot at 3pm and Steve will lead you to David's house on Circle Mountain where you will see David sitting in his driveway under a canopy and you can wave, drop off cards, take a turn right there at his corner and be on your way back home.

David needs no presents, but waves, cards, balloons, and/or he does love his sweets would be a thoughtful gift to him. Even though you are unfamiliar with David, it really doesn't matter. Just the outpouring of support from his church family would really make his 100th birthday special. Please consider taking 30 minutes out of your time on Sunday, November 12th and celebrate with David!



Pack the Backpack is asking for crayons in the 24-64 crayon count boxes for the month of November. Lets fill the big basket in the Narthex by the end of the month! Every box means a

backpack will have that item in it so please be generous and pick up a box of crayons when you are shopping.

Trunk or Treat turned into Chairs, Games, and Treats in Metcalf Hall, plus the Haunted Garage and its Strange Inhabitants welcomed visitors through its doors.





Thank you, Mark Wright, Steve VanAken, and Jennifer McIver, for the photos!





StewardShip

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

... SPIRITUAL DISCOVERY CLASS ...

A petition is made at our Baptism: *Fill her/him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.* The Priest or Bishop makes the sign of the cross on our forehead and says: *You are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own for ever.* Then we are sent forth in the power of the Spirit. After Baptism, most of us receive some education about our practice of the Christian faith. Some of us may participate in the rites and rituals of the Church, the outward actions which point to our inner foundation set in our earlier years. But have you ever wondered what it would be like to *actively pursue* a deep relationship with the Spirit of God? The testament of those we call 'Saints' are proof it is possible to connect to God in our everyday lives. If you have ever wondered what God's call to you sounds like, how to discern the direction of the Holy Spirit, come and meet with us for a while. No pressure, no expectations, and we are very ordinary people.

This class meets on Tuesday morning in the Library from 10 to 11:30

Christmas in the Woods

PEACE

12.2.23

save the date!

Children's Sermon Last Sunday
The group is growing!



Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'

Matthew 19:14

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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- Nancy Woods, Jr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
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- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com
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- Josie McIver-

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Bereavement Team 4

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Lewey, and Cathy Perrier