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The Steeple



Nov 21, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Christus Rex

Latin for Christ the King, Christus Rex, is not just an observance in the church calendar but comes directly from the Bible itself. No doubt you'll remember the story of the archangel Gabriel's visit to the Virgin Mary when the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." That is the "kingship" we celebrate this weekend.

I trust that as you read this you are giving thanks for all the blessings of this life this week. Among the many blessings of my life is certainly St. Luke's... you. It is from the Gospel of St. Luke that we first hear of the concept of Christ as King. And there is no doubt in my mind that the reign of Christ is to be equally apart of our identity as that of our patron saint given the fact that the central image within the sanctuary itself is that of Christ as King.

You and I have talked about identity before. Most consider our identity to be that of disciples of Jesus who seek to love with arm's wide open. I wholeheartedly agree. As a way of expounding on that identity, I would add that at the core of our understanding of what it means to be Christian subjects is a deep understanding of Luke's Gospel and the willingness to be active and informed stewards of God's grace. One of the currencies of stewardship is gracious leadership and when I think about Christ's kingship, I can't help but draw the two of them together.

As we move into the final week of our time in Matthew's Gospel, I'd like to suggest a couple of practices that might allow us to develop a closeness with Luke's message, in particular this year. The first I'd like to suggest is that since there are twenty-four chapters in Luke, perhaps, beginning on December 1st we could read a chapter a day until Christmas. That would certainly get us right into the word and might even serve as a way we could strengthen our observance of having a living Advent Calendar.

The second idea has to do with developing our currency of gracious leadership. With Advent comes a new year, yes? What is one prayer that you will pray this year that will ground you in grace

as a leader no matter what? Think about that my friends. Mine remains, “Lord may I remain faithful to what you have so graciously given me.” Join with me this Sunday in offering those prayers to our King! May we inscribe those words on our hearts and move into the new year loving first as all gracious leaders strive to do.

Peace,
Nick+



Theologian's Corner

Isaac Watts, Hymnwriter, 1748

Isaac Watts is remembered as the father of English hymnody. He was born in Southampton, England, in 1674, the eldest child of a devout Nonconformist family. His academic capabilities, and particularly his ability with the English language, were recognized at an early age. He was offered the resources to enroll at Oxford or Cambridge and pursue ordination in the Church of England, but Watts remained faithful to his background and, in 1690, enrolled in a Nonconformist academy at Stoke Newington. In 1702, Watts was ordained and served the Mark Lane independent congregation in London for a decade before his health made it impossible to continue.

As a hymn writer, Watts wrote more than six hundred hymns, about a quarter of which continue in popular use. Among his works was his Psalms of David, a metrical psalter that versified the psalms in English for hymnic use. Perhaps his most enduring contribution in this genre is “O God, our help in ages past” (The Hymnal 1982, #680) based upon the opening verses of Psalm 90.

Watts also wrote a wide variety of other hymns and spiritual songs that are well beloved. The attractiveness of his texts is often said to be reflective of Watts' own personal faith: gentle, quiet, sturdy, and deeply devout. This can easily be seen in the final stanza of “When I survey the wondrous cross” (#474):

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

Among his more enduring hymns are “Jesus shall reign” (#544), “Joy to the world” (#100), and “I sing the almighty power of God” (#398).

Due to ill health, Watts spent the last decades of his life in semi seclusion, rarely preaching, but devoted his time to writing, as he was able. During this period, his writings took a new turn, and he

completed books on logic, human nature, and the English language, in addition to sermons, devotional literature, works for children, and more poetry and hymns.

Watts died in 1748. He is honored with a memorial in Westminster Abbey.

Together we pray: God of truth and grace, who didst give Isaac Watts singular gifts to present thy praise in verse, that he might write psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs for thy Church: Give us grace joyfully to sing thy praises now and in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Savior, 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, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Nancy & Joe Norton, Jack Smith, Haley Grogan, and Wayne Phyle.

December Needs

Concern's current needs are: peanut butter and for homeless - hats, gloves and hand warmers.

Concern is also looking for a replacement 7 ft. pre-lit Christmas tree. We would accept a new or used tree.



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Luke's Place Nov 22nd -Nov 29th, 2023

Nov 22nd Green Country Prayer Service, Rite I, 1pm, GCV

Nov 23rd Happy Thanksgiving

Nov 24th Office Closed

Nov 26th Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel

Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am, Nave

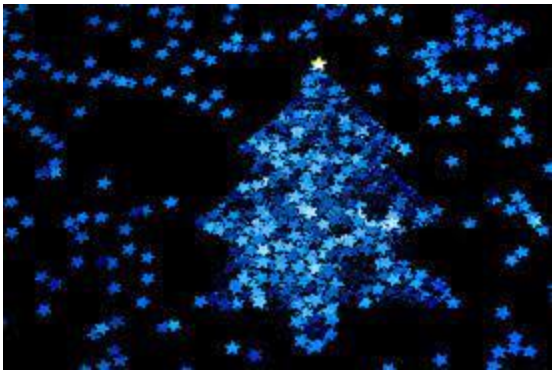
Godly Play, after Children's Sermon, upstairs

Nov 28th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library

Nov 29th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

YD, 6pm, Rogers

Nov 30th Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's



Christmas Wish Tree-Only 10 days and 9 Stars Left

The Christmas Wish Tree is in the narthex. This year we have been asked to provide 30 remote control monster trucks for 7 - 8 year old boys in foster care. There are **9 stars left** on the tree and also a sign up sheet so we know when we have reached our goal. Please return the unwrapped trucks to the church by **Dec 3rd** so they will be ready to be distributed at the DHS Christmas Party given for the kids

God bless you and thank you for your annual support for

foster kids in the Bartlesville area.

– Steve & Cheryl Van Aken

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Nov 26th –Dec 2nd, 2023

Birthdays



Anniversaries



Doug Freebern (11/30)

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!

Nursery
Care
is back!

We are excited to welcome new nursery caregivers, and open our nursery again! Nursery care is available **NOW** for ages 0-4 on Sundays from 10 AM - 12 PM.

Christmas in the Woods

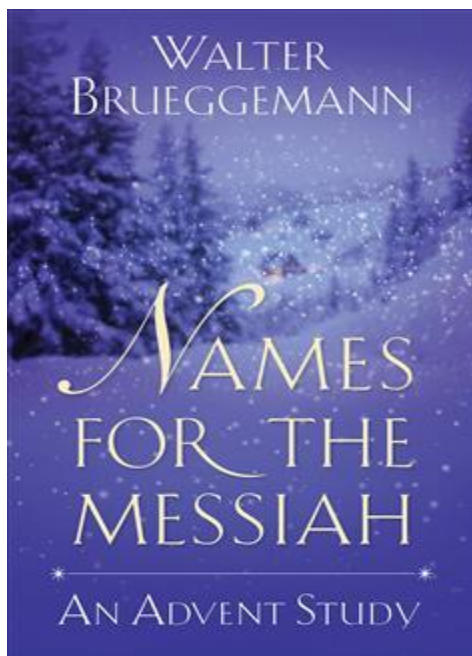
LOVE

FACE PAINTING
& FUN
FOR KIDS

LET'S CELEBRATE THE SEASON!
1000 HAZEL COURT
DECEMBER 2ND 4:00 - 8:00

FOOD & DRINKS
HOLIDAY
COCKTAILS

RSVP'S ARE WELCOME BUT NOT REQUIRED!
918-914-3263 (NANCY WOODS)



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. **Order your book from the Bookstore.**



THE BASKET IS FILLED!

We're are there! Thank you so much to everyone who brought boxes and boxes of crayons! The Washington County School Supply Drive folks are delighted with the response of St Luke's to their need of Backpack school supplies. You are helping fill the gap of resources for them and for our County's school children.

ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER 2ND

10 AM

TO

3 PM

with a surprise visitor at 1:30 PM!!!

**SHOP FOR
XMAS GIFTS!**

YD Thanksgiving 'Jeopardy'



Keeli would love a few more voices in the Choir during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Maybe the songs during this time of year are your favorites. Maybe you just want to committ to singing for a few weeks. Come and join the Choir at 5pm Wednesdays in the Choir room for rehearsals beginning November 29th and enjoy singing the songs of the Coming of Christ and His birth.

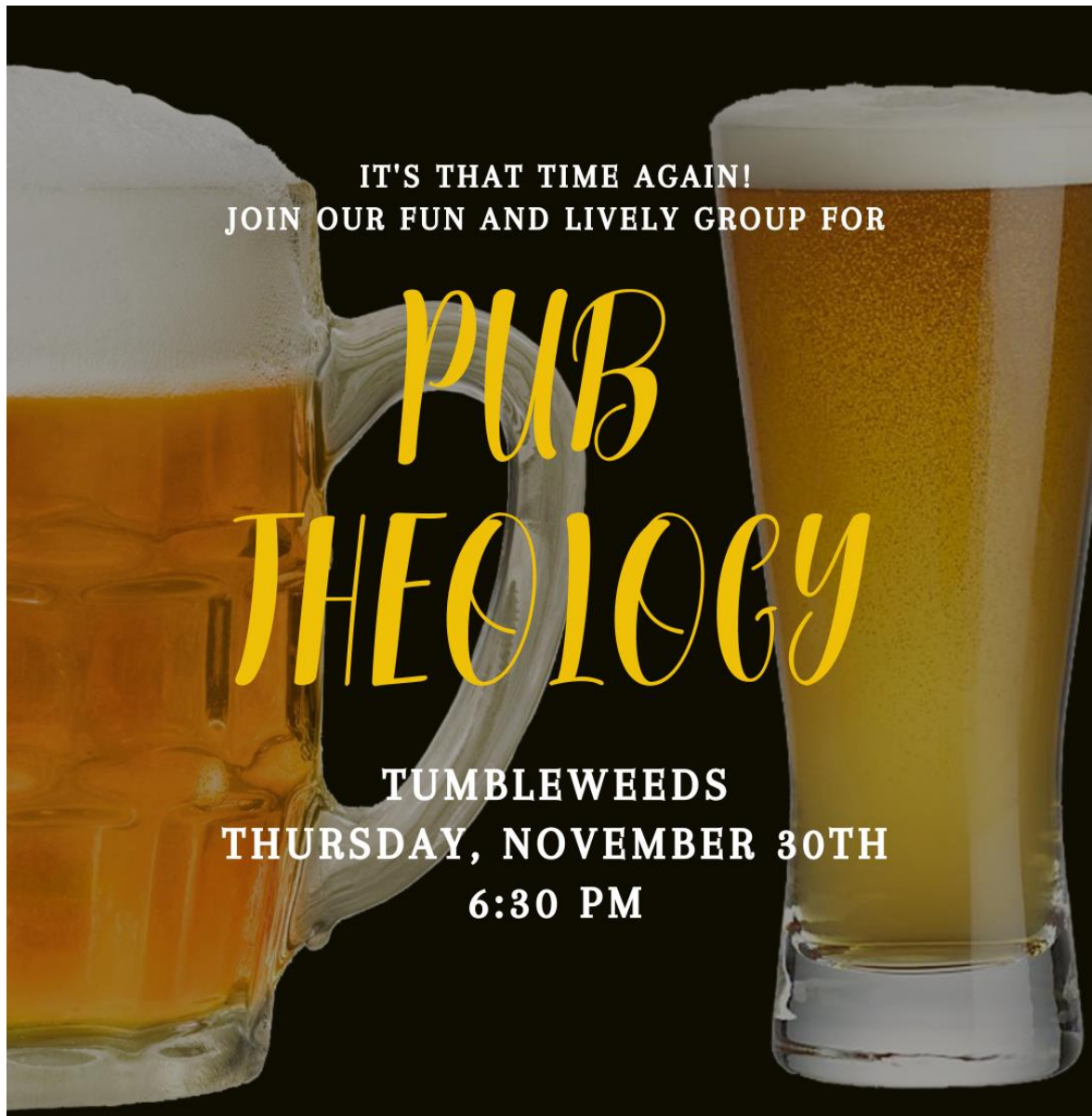


This Sunday, November 26th, we will have a guest organist. Lesa Steele will be on the bench during our 10:30 service. Please stop by and thank her for helping us out while Keeli and family are out of town.



With deepest sympathy to the Family and Friends of Evangeline Lawson. Evangeline passed away on Saturday, November 18th in Richmond, Tx. For those who would like to send a card to her daughter, here is the address:

Kathryn Salinas
1512 Chesnut Ln
Richmond, Tx 77469



Thank You

We here at Concern wanted to thank you for all your hard work in getting the food we needed for the Thanksgiving Baskets. We served 222 families this year. With all your hard work and time you put in helping, we even have some food and money left over. Your church went above and beyond to help our families in need.

- Melody Cox



A Collect for Thanksgiving

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* *BCP pg 246*

Scripture Readings for Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Moses said to all Israel: For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Psalm 65

Te decet hymnus

- 1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
- 2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
because of their transgressions.
- 3 Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.
- 4 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.
- 5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.
- 6 You make fast the mountains by your power; *
they are girded about with might.
- 7 You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.
- 8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; *
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
- 9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.
- 10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.

- 11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
- 12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.
- 14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

"He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Gospel according to Luke

17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."



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Bereavement Team 4

Becky Liehr, Jo Baughman, Karen
Lewey, and Cathy Perrier

Happy
Thanksgiving

