

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- Bookstore Christmas Open House
- Christmas is the Woods
- Nursery is staffed
- Pub Theology.. and more!

The Steeple



Nov 29, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Teresa's Idea

Each year when my family travels back to Michigan for Thanksgiving we do a series of certain rituals. The rituals are varied but almost all of them usually involve food and fellowship. I am pretty much guaranteed to go up a pant size when we head north. Nevertheless, one of the most solemn things we do, is to go visit the graves of our loved ones now at rest. Visiting those places quickens the Spirit and often we find ourselves reminiscing as one of the kids traces the name in stone. It's our way of remembering them during the holidays.

A few years ago, I was reminded of a special visit- the time that Lexi had a cardinal land in her hand. Cardinals have been a favorite of ours, not only for their beauty but for what they represent,



“a sign that those who have passed are with us in Spirit.” Knowing this, and after experiencing seeing the sheer abundance of Cardinals that lived near our home in Tennessee my sister bought us a beautiful cardinal ornament after my mom passed away in 2020. It hangs on a tree just outside our window – looking in, watching over us always at our home here in Bartlesville.

This week is the final week that the “Tree” will be up in the narthex. Anticipating that all the gift tags will be removed, Teresa was wondering what was going to happen to the tree during the rest of Advent and Christmas. I told her that I really didn't know. And then she asked, “What if we ask everyone who wants to, to bring in an ornament that reminds them of someone they have loved and who has passed away and use those ornaments to decorate that tree. We can call it the Tree of Celestial Hope.” She didn't need to convince me that that was a wonderful idea. We'll be bringing a cardinal. I hope you'll bring something too.

As the nights grow longer, I wish you light. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” And though the nights be long, the light of our memories – especially certain memories remain undimmed. I suspect that many of

those that burn the brightest for you are the memories of those that you have of loved ones you have now entrusted to God. As such, may you trust that their light has joined Christ's light and that Christ's light shines within you.

Peace,
Nick+



Theologians Corner: St. Andrew the Apostle

Most references to Andrew in the New Testament simply include him on a list of the Twelve Apostles, or group him with his brother, Simon Peter. But he appears acting as an individual three times in the Gospel of John. When a number of Greeks (perhaps simply Greek-speaking Jews) wish to speak with Jesus, they approach Philip, who tells Andrew, and the two of them tell Jesus (Jn 12:20-22). (It may be relevant here that both "Philip" and "Andrew" are Greek names.) Before Jesus feeds the Five Thousand, it is Andrew who says, "Here is a lad with five barley loaves and two fish." (Jn 6:8f) And the first two disciples whom John reports as attaching themselves to Jesus (Jn 1:35-42) are Andrew and another disciple (whom John does not name, but who is commonly supposed to be John himself -- John never mentions himself by name, a widespread literary convention). Having met Jesus, Andrew then finds his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus. Thus, on each occasion when he is mentioned as an individual, it is because he is instrumental in bringing others to meet the Saviour. In the Episcopal Church, the Fellowship of Saint Andrew is devoted to encouraging personal evangelism, and the bringing of one's friends and colleagues to a knowledge of the Gospel of Christ.

Just as Andrew was the first of the Apostles, so his feast is taken in the West to be the beginning of the Church Year. (Eastern Christians begin their Church Year on 1 September.) The First Sunday of Advent is defined to be the Sunday on or nearest his feast (although it could equivalently be defined as the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day).

Several centuries after the death of Andrew, some of his relics were brought by a missionary named Rule to Scotland, to a place then known as Fife, but now known as St. Andrew's, and best

known as the site of a world-famous golf course and club. For this reason, Andrew is the patron of Scotland.

When the Emperor Constantine established the city of Byzantium, or Constantinople, as the new capital of the Roman Empire, replacing Rome, the bishop of Byzantium became very prominent. Five sees (bishoprics) came to be known as patriarchates: Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Byzantium. Now, the congregation at Rome claimed the two most famous apostles, Peter and Paul, as founders. Antioch could also claim both Peter and Paul, on the explicit testimony of Scripture, and of course Jerusalem had all the apostles. Alexandria claimed that Mark, who had been Peter's "interpreter" and assistant, and had written down the Gospel of Mark on the basis of what he had heard from Peter, had after Peter's death gone to Alexandria and founded the church there. Byzantium was scorned by the other patriarchates as a new-comer, a church with the political prestige of being located at the capital of the Empire, but with no apostles in its history. Byzantium responded with the claim that its founder and first bishop had been Andrew the brother of Peter. They pointed out that Andrew had been the first of all the apostles to follow Jesus (John 1:40-41), and that he had brought his brother to Jesus. Andrew was thus, in the words of John Chrysostom, "the Peter before Peter." As Russia was Christianized by missionaries from Byzantium, Andrew became the patron not only of Byzantium but also of Russia.

Andrew is the national saint of Scotland. George (23 Apr) is the national saint of England, Patrick (17 Mar) of Ireland, and Dewi = David (1 Mar) of Wales. George, who was a soldier, is customarily pictured as a knight with a shield that bears a red cross on a white background. This design is therefore the national flag of England. It is said that Andrew was crucified on a Cross Saltire -- an 'X' -shaped cross. His symbol is a Cross Saltire, white on a blue background. This is accordingly the national flag of Scotland. A symbol of Patrick is a red cross saltire on a white background. The crosses of George and Andrew were combined to form the Union Jack, or flag of Great Britain, and later the cross of Patrick was added to form the present Union Jack. Wales does not appear as such (sorry!). Whether there is a design known as the cross of David, I have no idea. ~By James Kiefer

Together we pray: Almighty God, who didst give such grace to thine apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of thy Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give unto us, who are called by thy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; 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, 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, Wayne Phyle, and Robert Lonski.

December Needs

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

Thank you, Gretchen and Kathy Hoyt, for the gift of the Christmas Tree!

CONCERN

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Luke's Place Nov 29th -Dec 2nd, 2023

- Nov 30th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Rector's Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GCV
Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's
- Dec 2nd Bookstore Christmas Open House, 10am-3pm, Bookstore
Christmas In the Woods, 4pm-8pm, 1000 Hazel Ct
- Dec 3rd 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
- Dec 5th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library
- Dec 6th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rogers

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

Birthdays



Jen Peterson	(12/3)
Nan Buhlinger	(12/3)
Jo Baughman	(12/4)
Jan Dreiling	(12/7)
Judy DuVall	(12/8)

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!



Christmas in the Woods

JOY

The letter 'O' in 'JOY' contains a stylized evergreen tree.

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)

Advent Wreath Cake

This is a nice and easy dessert to make and serve on the first Sunday of Advent or during the season.

1 package yellow cake mix
2 eggs
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla

Beat ingredients for four minutes. Put in greased 12-cup ring mold or bundt pan. Bake 40–50 minutes in 350 degree oven. Frost with green frosting (and green coconut, optional). Red-hots (cinnamon candies) or glazed red cherries may be used for holly-berry decorations. Four candles complete the cake wreath.



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 2ND

10 AM TO 3 PM

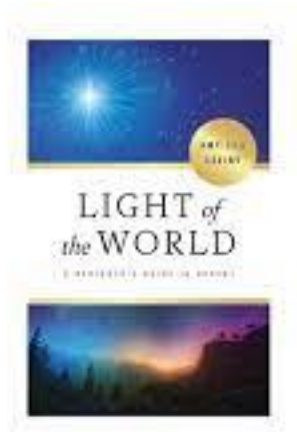
with a surprise visitor at 1:30 PM!!!

SHOP FOR XMAS GIFTS!

Advent Faith Forum Series

Light of the World. A Beginner's Guide to Advent

December 3 rd	The Meaning of Memory
December 10 th	The Promise of Potential
December 17 th	The Journey to Joy
December 24 th	The Gifts of the Gentiles



In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

Faith Forum begins at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in Metcalf Hall.



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BARTLESVILLE, OK



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.

A promotional poster for a 'Pub Theology' event. The background is a black square containing two glasses of beer. On the left is a large, ornate glass mug filled with golden beer and a thick head of white foam. On the right is a tall, slender glass also filled with beer and foam. The text is overlaid on the central part of the image. At the top, in white serif font, it says 'IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!' followed by 'JOIN OUR FUN AND LIVELY GROUP FOR'. In the center, the words 'PUB THEOLOGY' are written in a large, yellow, stylized script font. Below this, in white serif font, it says 'TUMBLEWEEDS', 'THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH', and '6:30 PM'.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!
JOIN OUR FUN AND LIVELY GROUP FOR

PUB THEOLOGY

TUMBLEWEEDS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH
6:30 PM

Advent

To do anything well, a person must prepare. Christian living, if it is to be a witness of love, must also embrace preparation as a continual action. Advent invites Jesus' disciples to deepen their lives by preparing for the festive commemoration of our Lord's first 'coming' (the meaning of the word 'Advent') at Christmastide. The Lord Jesus has already come and comes daily into our life. But without continual preparation as individuals and as families, our homes, our hearts and minds may not be ready to receive Him.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a focal point for our devotions. The simple ceremony outlined begins at the evening meal on the First Sunday of Advent with the blessing of the wreath, followed by the devotions for that first Sunday. The head of the household leads in the prayers with the various members of the family lighting the candles.

Blessing of the Wreath

For the blessing of the wreath, the following prayer is suggested:

Head of Household:	O God, by whose word all things are made holy, pour forth thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
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Then follows the prayers which are said each night before the evening meal:

The First Week

All: Our Father, who art in heaven.....(Lord's Prayer)

Head of Household: O Father, fill our hearts and minds with the joy of Thy Christmas coming so that we may rejoice in the knowledge that you come to us each day through the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O come, let us adore Him.

The First Candle of the wreath is lit and stays lighted during the meal.

The Second Week

All: Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Head of Household: O Father, help us to be thankful for the light of love so that we may give to You the darkness of our wrong thoughts and deeds each day and share in the brightness of your loving family through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O come, let us adore Him.

The First and Second candles on the wreath are lit and stay lighted through the meal.

The Third Week

All: Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Head of Household: O Father, let us be quietly happy with the coming gift of life You have shared with us, so that we may live with each other in simple joy with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O come, let us adore Him.

First, Second and Third (sometimes a pink candle) are lit and stay lighted through the meal.

The Fourth Week

All: Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Head of Household: O Father guide us as we look for you in Christmas so that the star of your love may always be above us and within each of our minds as it was in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O come, let us adore Him.

All four candles are lit and stay lighted through the meal.

Christmas Day

All four candles are lit in addition to the white Christ Candle in the center of the wreath.

All: : Our Father, who art in heaven.....

Head of Household: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thine only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when he shall come to be our Judge, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

CHRISTMAS ANTIPHON

All: Alleluia. Unto us a child is born; o come let us adore Him. Alleluia.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Bereavement Team 1

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