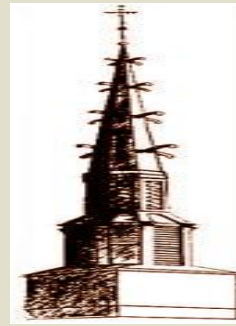


- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- Christmas in the Woods
- Star Tree is coming
- Nov Pack the Backpacks item
- David King's 100th birthday
- YD Service Project
- BSO Free Chamber Concert
- Stewardship-Brunch Bunch

The Steeple



Nov 8, 2023

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Christmas Creep

I arrived home after Evening Prayer this week to find that our neighbor was getting a head start on the Christmas season. A big, red, and green van was parked outside his house while workers scaled the gables stringing lights and hanging wreaths all in under an hour. I felt the “Advent advocate” rising to his feet within my soul – grouchiness not intended – but “grinchlike” nonetheless. “For God’s sake,” I thought, “I still had uncarved pumpkins on my front porch.” But whose fault is that?

It was a busy evening, which meant that I was in and out of my front door a lot! I promise I didn’t scoff too much when I saw the lights, but I am not going to lie, a humbug or two escaped my lips. You know me, the ol’ Scrooge that I am. But as the night went on, the Grinch’s heart began to grow. And looking back, I think it was the fact that earlier in the day I had the chance to talk with Lia Gilbert about her grandmother Helen Morgan and her internment this weekend. Somehow that memory allowed me to see the lights for what they were - or I guess, what I needed them to be - not Christmas creep but excitement around the coming of our King... not to mention life in the midst of death.

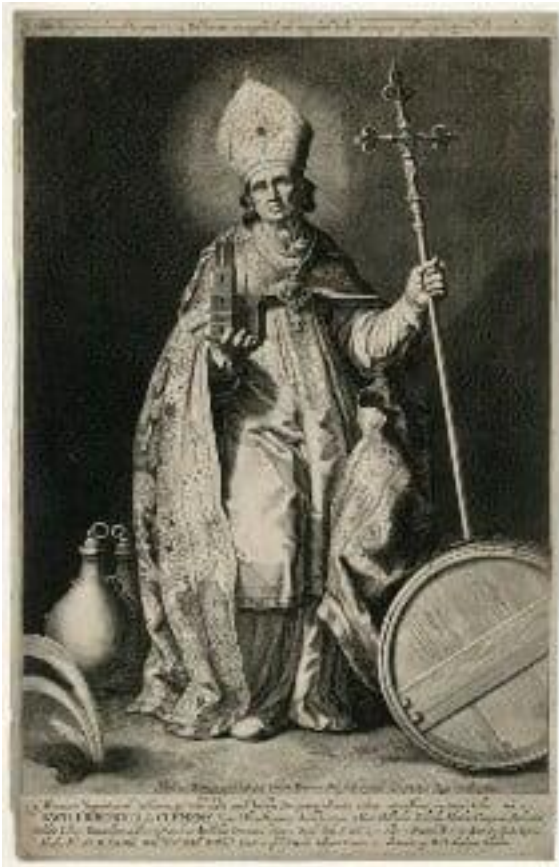
I heard once that St. Luke’s had sort of an Advent police. In the moments before I remembered my time with Lia, I was the Advent cop! Don’t get me wrong, I think we need to preserve our observance of Advent even more these days, but I have been surprised as of late that when Teresa asks if it’s time to decorate the house for Christmas I don’t so much look at the calendar as much as I see someone who longs for the nearness of her savior....and that’s a wonderful thing.

With Thanksgiving yet ahead of us and then Christ the King, we still have several weeks before Advent even begins. Nevertheless, I am reminded that Advent will indeed come and that the work of Christmas is always now - not in its preparation but in its proclamation. Meaning, that our life in faith is to always be rooted and understood as flowering out of the incarnation and renewed by the Resurrection.

Life and death will forever remain linked for all humanity. That has never changed. But sometimes, all the light that we cannot see - can be found in realizing the fact that darkness vanishes the instant one decides to turn on the lights. Is it ever too early for that?

Peace,

Nick+



Theologian's Corner: Willibrord Archbishop of Utrecht, Missionary to Frisia, 739

We know about Willibrord's life and missionary labors through a notice in the Venerable Bede's Ecclesiastical History and a biography by his younger kinsman, Alcuin. He was born in Northumbria about 658, and, from the age of seven, was brought up and educated at Bishop Wilfrid's monastery at Ripon. For twelve years, 678–690, he studied in Ireland, where he acquired his thirst for missionary work.

In 690, with twelve companions, he set out for Frisia (Netherlands), a pagan area that was increasingly coming under the domination of the Christian Franks. There, Bishop Wilfrid and a few other Englishmen had made short missionary visits, but with little success. With the aid of the Frankish rulers, Willibrord established his base at Utrecht, and in 695 Pope Sergius ordained him

a bishop and gave him the name of Clement.

In 698, he founded the monastery of Echternach, near Trier. His work was frequently disturbed by the conflict of the pagan Frisians with the Franks, and for a time he left the area to work among the Danes. For three years, 719–722, he was assisted by Boniface, who at a later time came back to Frisia to strengthen the mission. In a very real sense, Willibrord prepared the way for Boniface's more successful achievements by his relations with the Frankish rulers and the papacy, who thus became joint sponsors of missionary work. He died at Echternach, November 7, 739.

For the other side of the story, however, see Redbad on Netflix.

Together we pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who didst call thy servant Willibrord to proclaim thy Gospel to the people of the Low Countries: Raise up in this and every land evangelists and heralds of thy kingdom, that thy Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ; 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.



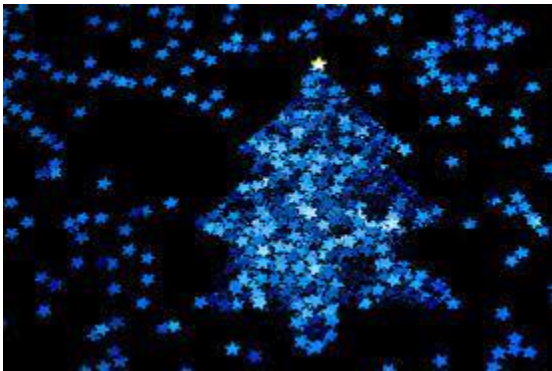
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Pantry needs: tuna, SPAM, sleeves of crackers, peanut butter, canned pinto beans
Homeless needs: single serve meals, warm gloves and hats

Luke's Place Nov 9th -Nov 15th, 2023

- Nov 9th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf**
- Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf**
- Green Country Eucharist, Rite I, 1pm, GC**
- Meditation Group, 3pm, Library**
- Nov 12th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, chapel**
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am**
- Godly Play Class for children, during Rite II, upstairs**
- Nov 13th Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room**
- Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room**
- Nov 14th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library**
- Nov 15th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room**
- YD, 6pm, Metcalf**

Christmas Wish Tree



foster kids in the Bartlesville area.

The Christmas Wish Tree will be in the narthex on Nov 12th. This year we have been asked to provide 30 remote control monster trucks for 7 - 8 year old boys in foster care. There will be 30 stars 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

— Steve & Cheryl Van Aken



YD Service Project





Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra Chamber Concert at St Luke's

This Veterans Day, celebrate the service of our brave men and women in uniform with a free concert from the BSO Brass Quintet. Join these amazing BSO musicians on the evening of November 11th for a performance filled with patriotic music, big band favorites, and nostalgic Americana. The concert begins at 5pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Bartlesville, and attendance is free and open to the public.



Birthdays and Anniversaries, Nov 12th –Nov 18th, 2023

Birthdays



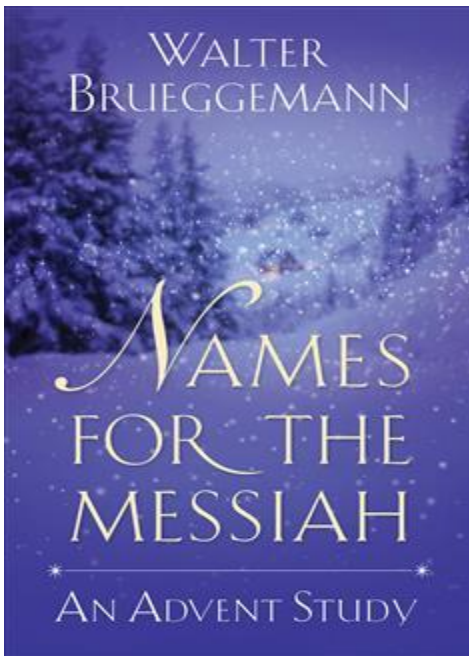
Steve Clark	11/13
Wendy Hall	11/13
Josie McIver	11/15
Penny Williams	11/15
Sandy Whitson	11/17
Tonya Thurman	11/18

Anniversaries



Peter & Jeanne Julstrom (11/17)
Ben & Katherine Powell (11/18)

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.



Don't Forget David's 'Drive By Birthday'

David King turns 100 years old this Friday. He is a long time member of St Luke's. Help him celebrate this huge milestone by gathering on Sunday afternoon the 12th of November in the church parking lot at 3pm. Steve Clark will lead everyone to David's house on Circle Mountain for you to drive by and wish David Happy Birthday from your car. David will be sitting in a chair in his drive way to wave to everyone and enjoy seeing you as you pass by. Then you can be on your way. Please join us to help David celebrate 100!



HELP FILL THE BASKET!

Pack the Backpack is asking for crayons in the 24 count 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.

Christmas in the Woods

PEACE

12.2.23

save the date!



StEWArDShiP

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

••• **BRUNCH BUNCH** •••

This ministry was born from a suggestion, (Thank you Laura Birk!), that creating a fellowship of the "new kids" or new members of the church might be a good way for them to become an active part of St. Luke's. Our new members who started this ministry thought that having a brunch would be a wonderful way to share fellowship after the 10:30 service. The "Bunch" decided to serve brunch once a quarter and they have planning sessions a week or two ahead of the event. These sessions are yet another way that fellowship with each other happens. They are pretty fun in themselves! Every September they check to see if anyone wants a break from the group. So far, no one has wanted to retire. They decorate Friday before the brunch and clean up after - with Margaret's help. (She is amazing!) At first, they did not put out a donation basket; now they do, but most members just donate their contributions. There is a reserve of money which they have decided to gift appropriately during Christmas season. The Brunch Bunch loves working together and serving our church family. St. Luke's is so thankful for their efforts and the love they pour out to our family!

Members are:

Judy & Sam Duvall, Pam & Tim Hanson, Joan & Steve Heidorn,
Boots Kelly & Kelley Lawrence, Cathy & Jim Perrier, Margo Proctor and Sandy & Fred Whitson.

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
- Mark Peterson- m_mpeterson@hotmail.com
- Steve Van Aken – scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
- Katherine Powell – kmpbmp48@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Josie McIver-

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918-336-1212
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Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

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

Bereavement Team 4

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

