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The Steeple



April 10, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Dear St. Luke's,

As I sit down to express my deepest gratitude after Easter Week, I find myself humbled by the profound impact our altar guild, choir, acolytes and lay readers has had on our congregation this past Holy Week. Your dedication and service as ministers during our Masses have been nothing short of remarkable, enriching our spiritual experience and fostering a sense of unity within our community.

Your role as servant leaders extends far beyond the simple tasks you perform. Through your steadfast commitment and devotion, you embody the essence of what service and selflessness is. Whether preparing the sanctuary, leading us in song, or lighting the candles, assisting the clergy, or serving at the altar, you do so with grace and reverence, uplifting the entire congregation with your presence.

In your actions, I see the embodiment of the values we hold dear: faith, compassion, and humility. Your willingness to serve speaks volumes about your character and your dedication to our faith. Each time you step forward to fulfill your duties, you exemplify the spirit of generosity and sacrifice that lies at the heart of our beliefs.

But it is not just your actions that inspire us—it is the love and sincerity with which you carry them out. Your genuine enthusiasm and joy radiate throughout the church, infusing our worship with a sense of warmth and communion. In your smiles and kind gestures, we are encouraged, knowing that we are all united in our shared devotion to God.

As we gather to celebrate Mass, I am reminded of the profound significance of community and fellowship. Through your service as lay leaders, you help create an atmosphere of reverence and harmony, drawing us closer to God and to one another. Your contributions do not go unnoticed, and for that, we are all profoundly grateful.

So, to each and every one of you, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Thank you for your dedication, your humility, and your unwavering commitment to our faith. May God bless you abundantly for the love and light you bring into our lives.

With deepest gratitude,

Nick+



Theologians Corner: Adoniram Judson

Missionary to Burma, 1850

Adoniram Judson is remembered as the first American missionary to devote his life and work to proclaiming the gospel in a distant land. He served as an American Baptist missionary to Burma, presently Myanmar, for nearly forty years.

Born into a devout Congregationalist family in Massachusetts, Judson demonstrated an unusual intellectual ability from an early age. A voracious reader and excellent student, he graduated first in his class at the College of Rhode Island, now Brown University, and further studied at Andover Theological School. Early on, he was drawn toward preparing for missionary work. Judson discovered a particular gift for languages that served him well throughout his missionary endeavors.

In 1811, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions appointed Judson a missionary to the East. Early in 1812, he married his beloved Ann, and together they set sail, stopping first in India before proceeding to Burma. Upon arrival in 1813, they immersed themselves in three years of intensive study of the Burmese language.

Burma was a difficult context for mission work. It was some years before the first convert to Christianity and, by the early 1820's, only a modest handful of people—about a dozen—claimed the Christian faith. It was during this time that Judson began his monumental work of translating the Bible into Burmese and creating a Burmese grammar book that remains a standard reference work.

During the first war between Britain and Burma in the mid-1820's, Judson was imprisoned and tortured, and his wife, Ann, though not imprisoned, suffered the indignities of being a Christian woman living under a decidedly anti-Christian regime.

It was only after the war and Judson's imprisonment that the evangelical witness among the Burmese began to take hold. Judson's desire to call forth a hundred converts soon bore fruit in more than a hundred congregations and thousands of converts. On Judson's shoulders a new generation of missionaries and local pastors led unbelievers to the gospel in record numbers and Burma became a stronghold of Christian witness in the East.

Judson died on April 12, 1850, on the coast of the Bay of Bengal.

Together we pray: Eternal God, we offer thanks for the ministry of Adoniram Judson, who out of love for thee and thy people translated the Scriptures into Burmese. Move us, inspired by his example, to support the presentation of thy Good News in every language, for the glory of Jesus Christ; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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- Current pantry needs are: complete pancake mix (just add water), sugar and gently used brown grocery bags with handles; homeless needs: single serve 8-ounce canned vegetables and microwavable cup of soup.

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, David King, Pris Snow, Ben Baker, Diana Farris, Joel Hahn, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Peggy Kauffman, Tony Clapper, 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, , Danny Clem, David McAtee, Tim Curry, Peggy Duncan, Shawn, Nancy Bradford, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, Tom Chamberlain, Jim Carroll, Sherri & Steve Linn, Jack Stoecker, and Ben Stoecker .

**Please add the following to your prayers this Second Week of Easter:
All Souls' , OKC**

At Luke's Place April 11, 2024 -Apr 17, 2024

Apr 11th Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am, Metcalf

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

Apr 14th Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel

Faith Forum, 9"15am, Metcalf

Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am

Godly Play, during service after the Gospel

Apr 15th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Library

Apr 16th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library

Apr 17th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

YD, 6pm, Rodgers

Catechism Class, 6:30pm, Vestry Room

Birthdays and Anniversaries, April 14th - April 20th , 2024



Birthdays

Ethan Peterson (4/16)
Becky Liehr (4/18)
Kris Bonner (4/20)



Anniversaries

Dean & Kathy Zervas (4/20)

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!

April Pack the Backpacks Item

Glue sticks-packaged or individual—you can find these at Wal-mart, Dollar stores, Hobby Lobby, or Staples. Just about anywhere that carries school supplies of crafts.



Bookstore Closed



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

The Bookstore will be closed April 14th- 20th due to Cathy being out of town and Debi having other obligations this coming week. If the Bookstore is to remain viable, Cathy needs more volunteers to work and St Luke's to support our bookstore. Without sales and workers, it cannot sustain. Please consider if you can give a couple of hours a month volunteering in the Bookstore and if you need study books or special gifts, come and shop. Every profit goes to our Outreach fund, so buying from the Bookstore not only helps sustain it, it also helps our community and Outreach partners.



Concern is doing a fundraiser downtown apartment and loft tour on 4/16, including a reception with light refreshments. Cost for tickets is \$25. Two times available, either 4:30 or 5:30. For more information and tickets go to concerncares.com.



In God's Own Way.

*Beauty is found all around us,
Or so they might say.
We look to the stars at night,
And the clouds during the day.*

*We wonder in the awe of it all,
Taking in Mother Natures world,
That is all around us,
Like an American flag being unfurled.*

*We lose loved ones to never see again,
Only to find them in our hearts.
For there is finally the love,
In all its undivided parts.*

*Memories and warm feelings
We thought we had lost.
To be renewed again
At really no special cost.*

*You see, close friends join us.
To kindle the dying spark,
Waiting only to find out,
A new life is waiting in the dark,*

*For one so kind to understand,
And give a mindful ear.
To aid the lost soul,
To lift up and to reappear.*

*Now the spark is alive again,
And returning to burn brighter.
For each new day the feeling,
Makes the heart feel a little lighter.*

*It lifts the soul,
And the troubled mind.
Because of one so dear,
To be so blessedly kind.*

*That the gentle lifting up
Is brought back to each other.
For the friends that now are closer
Will nurture together, the Child and the Mother.*

Eclipse Garden Party





Thank you Cutts family for hosting a fun YD at your house with delicious food and a great bonfire for s'mores. 3/27



This week at YD, Father Nick led the group in the Stations of the Resurrection. He also showed and discussed areas of the church such as the sacristy, the tabernacle, stained glass windows, and the memorial garden. Everyone discovered something interesting about St. Luke's during the discussion. Thanks, Father Nick! (4/3)

Presentation

Laura Birk presented Fr Nick with a quilt hanger with the empty tomb sewn into it. Its Beautiful!!
See it hanging on Fr Nick's office door.



SATURDAY,
APRIL 20, 2024

8 AM to 2 PM

Dispose of your hazardous household waste in an environmentally-responsible manner.

FREE OF CHARGE!

OPERATION CLEAN HOUSE

*Hazardous household waste
disposal and recycling*



Donations will be accepted on site.

MATERIALS WHICH CAN BE ACCEPTED:

Phillips 66 Parking Lot

- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Household cleaners and toxins
- Yard-care products
- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Acids
- Caustics
- Paint thinners
- Paper shredding

- Household flammable liquids
- Smoke alarms
- Oil-based paints (*no latex paint*)
- Oil-based aerosol and hobby paints
- Pharmaceuticals
- Electronics (cell phones, computers, TVs, VCRs, microwaves, rechargeable batteries, most electronic devices)

Washington County

District 2: (2 Miles East on 9th St. off Highway 75)

- Used motor oil (*Max. 5 gal. container*)
- Antifreeze
- Automotive batteries
- Car/pickup tires (*Limit 8, NO Dealers*)
- Appliances - e.g. washers, dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators (*with Freon-free certification*)

MATERIALS WHICH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED:



- Ammunition
- Biohazardous waste (*Sharps & needles*)
- Commercially generated waste
- Dioxins
- Explosives

- Household batteries (*Alkaline, 9-volt, D, C, AA, AAA*)
- Latex paints
- Pressurized gas cylinders (*BBQ tanks & home oxygen supplies*)
- Radioactive waste

- Shock-sensitive materials
- Unknowns
- Trash
- Water-reactive chemicals



News from the Greens:

On Monday, April 8, 2024, 10:30 AM, Joanne Green
<joanne_green@sil.org> wrote:

Nipha, our former Chiang Mai landlady, asked me last year if the Parents and Sons Retreat was only for Christians.

"No," I responded. "Buddhists are very welcome to attend." I kept following up with her over the year. Her son and grandson are now planning to attend the Parents and Sons retreat.

Reservations at a small resort have been made for April 26 to 27. Nipha's son Nite and his son Mew will be joined by our Christian friend John and his son. Johnson (YWAM) will be a facilitator again. Micah (YWAM) will help at one of the sessions. So far, no other Thai Christian man is available to be the emcee. Johnson will try asking a Korean friend if he can help. Please ask God to provide just the right Christian man to be the emcee. Our goal is helping the fathers and sons to build a good relationship with each other, especially regarding communication about dating and marriage. The Bible passages which will be discussed include the parable of the prodigal son, the first husband and wife (Genesis 2:15-25), and the husband and wife relationship (Ephesians 5:21-33). Other topics include testimonies about dating, addiction and learning not to be selfish.

All the details are set for the Mother/Daughter Retreat on April 19 and 20. Please ask God to give good health and open schedules to the six Thai mothers, eight daughters, one facilitator/interpreter and me. The Bible passages which will be discussed include the book of Ruth, God's love is better than life (Psalm 63:1-5), a video about the Tabernacle, some Hebrews passages about spiritual realities, romantic love (Song of Songs 2), and the good things about being single (1 Corinthians 7:32-38).

Roger will lead the April 30 to May 2 Culture meets Scripture workshop for the Ngap Christian leaders from a nearby country. The topic will be how to honor God in funeral rituals. Roger is still in the process of adjusting the curriculum. Please ask God to give wisdom to Roger as he leads. We are also asking God to give safety and ease to the Christian leaders to be able to arrive at the training center.

We will travel tomorrow from San Francisco to Thailand. During our time in San Jose, we thank God for our time with Nathan and being able to attend to details regarding his independent living.

Thank you for praying with us! We thank God for you,
Joanne

Attached photos are of visiting Nathan at his day program, visiting my dad and sister in Idaho, visiting Juliette and her family in Texas and visiting Roger's siblings and their spouses. May God give us His grace to love our family well.

(See next page for photos- note : Joanne attended St Luke's when she worked for Phillips and when she decided mission work was her field- we at St Luke's helped commission her. She met Roger during her training and they were married at St. Luke's.)



Cases of Bottled Water needed-

Its getting that time of year when the temp is starting to increase and our mailpersons, delivery folks, lawn mowers, outside workers, and homeless are looking for cold bottles of water. Last year you all were wonderful with donations to the cause. We had plenty through the fall, but now the fridge is empty. Can you help restock the fridge? I know

the above mentioned are always so grateful when cold water is offered and they can take a bottle with them. Thank you so much!

Penny

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Jo Baughman – zybokla@aol.com
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk – lpbirk73@gmail.com
- Mark Peterson- markandmarypeterson@gmail.com
- Steve Heidorn- sgheidorn@yahoo.com
- Dolores McCreary – dolomc37@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Erin Roper-
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com

Bereavement Team 3

Wendy Hall, Darian Kedy, Kris
Bonner, Debbie Muegenborg,
Mary Jo Peterson

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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F
Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157