

## *In this week's Steeple >>>*

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# *The Steeple*



April 17, 2024



## **The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church**



**The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan-Probe**

Diocese of Central New York

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At this time in the Episcopal Church, the biblical imagery that speaks to me, especially as we're discerning our next presiding bishop, is from John 4 and 5. Jesus's encounter of the woman at the well. A woman who has suffered and who is part of the diaspora, who has gone to the well seeking water, a source of life, and she encounters Jesus, the ultimate source of life.

When we read this passage in the Greek we can hear her curiosity, her questions to Jesus, her searching heart, and her desire to know and to understand. And then when she understands, she leaves her alabaster jar and goes to her village to proclaim that she has met a man who has told her everything. You don't think he could be the Messiah, do you? And people come to believe based on her testimony alone, her authentic curiosity, her searching, her understanding that God has met her in a place she never expected. Like the woman, I think, we too are seeking to know God. We're seeking refreshment and we're seeking the opportunity to be known and to proclaim that God loves us and is calling us and empowering us.

In the Episcopal Church we're in a time when I think we are ready for new vision and new encounters with the risen Jesus. I think we too are hungry for justice, for dignity, to listen to one another to have deep and profound relationships that transform us. When a woman goes to her village and shares that she has met a man who has told her everything, people

come to faith based on her testimony alone. Imagine that. They come to believe that she has met the Messiah because of how she has been transformed. We too, I think, are seeking a transformation of hope and peace and incarnation. We're seeking to discern God's next call for us. And I think God will show up in the least expected places. God will call us and meet us where we are with invitation, with dignity, and with empowerment.

And when the people come back, and they meet Jesus, they too have a prophetic witness for the world. All of us are called to know Jesus, love Jesus, and proclaim Jesus. And in this passage, there is great hope for us, that no matter how we may feel that we are out of step, that God has a calling for us. God loves us.

And that alabaster jar, something she may have even made with her own hands for the purpose of the refreshment of water, in the face of meeting the Messiah, she leaves it behind. What is our alabaster jar? What is it as a church we need to leave behind, something that no longer serves our message and our prophetic witness? In this time of meeting Jesus we are invited to a deep and profound relationship of incarnation, a relationship with God within us and with one another.

This is an exciting time in the Episcopal Church because we have a witness to offer to a world that is so broken by dehumanization, injustice and climate change. Central to this passage is water and the essential nature of water. All of us together are part of God's proclaiming grace, incarnation and witness. We're called to curiosity, to talk with God, to talk with one another. To seek and serve Christ in all persons. To live out our baptismal covenant in real and creative and new ways and always. In this time, we can take the witness of the Samaritan woman who met a man who told her everything, who met someone with invitation. who loved her and called her. We too are loved. We too are called and may we go and proclaim Jesus to this hurting world.

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Theologian's Corner  
George  
Soldier and Martyr, c. 304

George is the patron saint of England by declaration of King Edward II in 1347. He is remembered as a martyr, having given his life in witness to the gospel during the persecution of the Church in the early fourth century. Very few details of his life have survived, and his story is replete with legend. By the middle of the fifth century, he was commemorated in local calendars, and historical records of the period testify to his existence.

George was a soldier by vocation, serving as an officer in the Roman army. It is said that he “gave his goods to the poor and openly confessed Christianity before the court.”

George's initial notoriety may well have resulted from his faithfulness and witness to Christ during the Diocletian persecutions, 303-304, a particularly destructive period through which the Church suffered. Much of the legend of George dates back only to the eighth century, and more of it developed in the centuries that followed. The infamous story of George slaying the dragon, probably developed from Greek mythology, is not associated with him until the twelfth century. The inclusion of George's story in the thirteenth century manuscript, *The Golden Legend*, accounts for his growing popularity in the Middle Ages.

In the twelfth century George was recognized as the patron saint of soldiers and he was called upon in support of those who would fight in the Crusades. The shield under which his soldiers fought became a symbol of national pride for the English and in time was adapted into the national flag. Interestingly, the “St. George's Shield”—white shield emblazoned with a red cross—is the basis of The Episcopal Church flag and seal.

Together we pray: Lord Jesus Christ, whose cross didst seal thy servant George: Grant that we, strengthened by his example and prayers, may triumph to the end over

all evils, to the glory of thy Name; for with the Father and Holy Spirit thou livest and reignest, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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, 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, 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 Third Week of Easter:**  
**St Augustine's, OKC** **St Michael's, Norman**

## **At Luke's Place April 18, 2024 -Apr 24, 2024**

- Apr 18<sup>th</sup> Men's Breakfast, 6:30 am, Metcalf**
- Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf**
- Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV**
- Apr 21<sup>st</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Library**
- Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library**
- Apr 24<sup>th</sup> Choir, 5pm, Choir Room**
- YD, 6pm, Rodgers**
- Catechism Class, 6:30pm, Vestry Room**

## Birthdays and Anniversaries, April 21<sup>st</sup> - April 27<sup>th</sup> , 2024



### Birthdays

Marsha Tibbits (4/21)  
Kathy Zervas (4/23)  
Rita Childers (4/25)  
Dorothea Ketchum (4/26)  
Travis Luke (4/27)

### 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!

## 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.



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

## Bookstore VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!





## *Transitioning*

Transitioning by definition means: a change or shift from one state, subject, place, etc. to another. For the last month or so I have been in a period of knowing something was wrong, but I could not put my finger on it. That's when I realized that when my loved one passed, I am referred to as being "widowed". The question then became, am I still married? If so, in what capacity does that look like? How am I to react?

The first step for me was to answer is, am still married? In our marriage vows we vow until death do we part. It does not stipulate what happens after that. What I have determined is, everybody reacts to this in their own way at their own time and speed. For me that step has been on my mind more and more the closer Easter became. With Jesus dying on the cross and stepping over to save us, I started to understand a little more of what I needed to do. Accepting that I am still married was the first thing that I have accepted. With that acknowledgement, Janice may not be with me in this world, but she still lives with me within my heart. I feel her presence almost on a daily basis. I am now in what I will call, "a Spiritual Marriage." With that being said, that means I will keep her close in my heart and mind with something other than my wedding ring. I thought about this for a long time. It then occurred to me that I love Mother Nature and refer to her as God's cousin helping him with this world we live in. In her world, there is the "Tree of Life." Every time something is born on this world a new leaf is formed. When something dies, a leaf dies, falls off the tree, lands on the ground, withers and is absorbed into the soil and nourishes the "Tree of Life." This is what they call, "The Circle of Life." Janice joined that "Circle of Life" when she passed. The new wedding ring I have selected has leaves on it to show some of the leaves from the "Tree of Life." With this new ring I will be able to keep Janice with me the rest of my life and still be married in the "Spiritual" sense. On the ring, my marriage to Janice will continue. I will never stop loving her and will always keep her close to my heart. This new ring will help me do this.

I do this through my Faith and Hope that someday we will be together again, and our leaves will be side by side nourishing the life that we both lived. Giving memories to those that knew us and giving them a smile when they do remember. For the rest of my life, I will be grounded like the "Tree of Life." I will stay grounded in my Faith, connected through my roots of my Hope, turn over a new leaf by sharing the Love for everyone and with Forgiveness, I will bend and never break. So, whenever you see me, if you need some Love to continue in your life, come take some of mine. I have enough Love forever and will help lift you up. Each day will get better as life goes on, but there are times, like I said in an earlier story, there will be days for me that I call my, "Silent Days." For now, every one of us is in our own transition. Everyone has their own story. Just know that I am here for you as much as I know you and other people are there for me. Just keep transitioning and keep the Love alive for everyone around you.









YD showed Mother Nature some love last Wednesday when they picked up trash along a stream that feeds the pond at Haley Environmental Lab just northeast of the high school. Eleven bags of litter were collected in total and the area was quickly transformed.

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## Parents' Group

Parenting can be very rewarding, but at times, it can also be very challenging.

There are hundreds of resources out there with advice, tips, do's and don'ts and if you are anything like me, you have consulted many and maybe *sometimes* walked away feeling like it helped. You probably have friends and family who like to give their two cents as well. Again, *sometimes*, this is helpful but there are times when I am left feeling overwhelmed, confused, and isolated. There is no book that lists every single scenario you will face and since we are all unique, no one will experience things the same.

But fear not, parents of St. Luke, for God has given us tools. We are blessed to have His word, His church and His family in our lives. As Christians, though we may not have the same situations, the same personalities in ourselves or our children, or the same parenting styles – we do share a heart for God. Wouldn't it be great to have another parent in your church family who can listen with God's ears, give advice from God's word and love you and your children without judgement?



If you are struggling with how to discipline....  
If you are struggling with how to connect....  
If you are struggling to answer difficult questions....  
If you are struggling to be a good example...  
If you just need to vent....  
If you just need a night out....  
If you need someone to tell you you're doing a good job...

Guess what? Me too. Single parent seeking other parents to build honest, non-judgmental, supportive and encouraging relationships in a confidential environment.

So what exactly am I proposing? Is this a Bible study, a counseling group, a bowling league, an offer to babysit – what?!

Well...I am still waiting for God to make that clear....BUT if this spoke to you at all, please reach out and let's figure it out together.

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Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm Tumbleweed's. Lets talk about St Mark and his gospel!

### Feast Day of St Mark

We will have Eucharist for the Feast Day of St Mark (April 25<sup>th</sup>), however, since it's a Thursday the venue has changed to Green Country Village Chapel. And the time is now 1pm for the service. So please join us at Green Country on April 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Eucharist for the Feast Day of St Mark.

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 20, 2024

8 AM to 2 PM

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

FREE OF CHARGE!

# OPERATION CLEANHOUSE

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
- Unlabeled
- Trash
- Water-reactive chemicals



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

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### **Bereavement Team 3**

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

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