

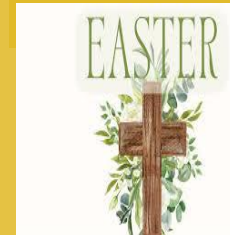
In this week's Steeple >>>

- Pack the backpack Apr Item
- Concern Fundraiser
- Concern needs
- Solar Eclipse
- Election of Presiding Bishop
- Glimpses of Holy Week
- To Understand
- Bingo this Saturday

The Steeple



April 3, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Slate of 4 bishops announced for 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church

Nominees are bishops Barker, Gutiérrez, Rowe and Wright

BY DAVID PAULSEN
Posted 23 hours ago



From left, Nebraska Bishop J. Scott Barker, Pennsylvania Bishop Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York Bishop Sean Rowe and Atlanta Bishop Robert Wright.

[Episcopal News Service] The Episcopal Church's next presiding bishop will be chosen this June from a slate of four nominees, [whose names were released April 2](#): Nebraska Bishop J. Scott Barker, Pennsylvania Bishop Daniel G.P. Gutiérrez, Northwestern Pennsylvania Bishop Sean Rowe and Atlanta Bishop Robert Wright.

Those four bishops – and any additional candidates nominated by petition – will be presented for election at the 81st General Convention, which convenes June 23-28 in Louisville, Kentucky. The nominees' names will be formally submitted June 25 during a joint session of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies. On June 26, the bishops will elect, and deputies will be asked to confirm, the church's 28th presiding bishop, who will succeed Presiding Bishop Michael Curry beginning Nov. 1.

“We appreciate the many Episcopalians who prayerfully set us on our way to discerning this slate of nominees,” Alaska Bishop Mark Lattime said in a news release announcing the slate. Lattime and Steve Nishibayashi, a lay leader in the Diocese of Los Angeles, are co-chairs of the [Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop](#). The committee began its work in the fall of 2021.

The committee's slate is marked by geographical and racial diversity, though it includes no women or LGBTQ+ nominees. The nominee bishops also draw on a range of experiences in seeking to become presiding bishop for the office's next nine-year term.

- Barker, 60, has [led the Omaha-based Diocese of Nebraska since 2011](#). The diocese's 53 worshipping communities span the full state, where Barker was born and raised. A graduate of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Barker was ordained to the priesthood in 1992 and served for 10 years in Omaha and 10 more years in the Diocese of New York before returning to Nebraska as bishop.
- Gutiérrez, 59, has [led the Philadelphia-based Diocese of Pennsylvania since 2016](#). It is one of five dioceses in the state. A native of New Mexico, Gutiérrez earned a diocesan certificate in Anglican Studies through the Trinity School for Ministry and has a master's degree in theological studies from St. Norbert College. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2008 in the Albuquerque-based Diocese of the Rio Grande and served there as canon to the ordinary, chief operating officer and chief of staff before he was elected bishop of Pennsylvania.
- Rowe, 49, has [led the Erie-based Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania since 2007](#), and he also serves as bishop provisional of the Diocese of Western New York through a partnership the dioceses established in 2019. He previously served as bishop provisional of the Diocese of Bethlehem from 2014 to 2018. Originally from western Pennsylvania, Rowe is a Virginia Theological Seminary graduate and was ordained to the priesthood in 2000 in Northwestern Pennsylvania, where he served in congregational ministry until his election as bishop. He currently serves as parliamentarian of the House of Bishops and Executive Council.

- Wright, 60, has [led the Diocese of Atlanta since 2012](#). The diocese, based in Georgia's capital city, has 120 worshipping communities across the northern half of the state. A Navy veteran and graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, Wright was ordained to the priesthood in 1999 in the Diocese of New York. At the time of his election as bishop, he had served the previous 10 years as rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Since 2020, he also has hosted the popular podcast "For People" on faith and life.

"We look forward to presenting these bishops to the convention for its consideration," Nishibayashi said in the news release.

Under the petition process, any bishop or deputy to the 81st General Convention may petition to add a name to the committee's slate after it is released. Those additional nominations [must be made April 3-15](#) with the consent of the bishop being nominated by petition.

The nominees will not make themselves available for news interviews, consistent with past practice in presiding bishop elections, the nominating committee said in its news release. They are scheduled to address bishops and deputies in person June 21 at a two-hour session in Louisville that also will be livestreamed. In addition, the committee has released videos of each nominee "discussing a biblical image or metaphor that resonates with this moment in the life of the church and the role of the presiding bishop."

[View each nominee's videos on the General Convention Office website.](#)

General Convention, the triennial churchwide gathering, splits its authority between the House of Bishops and House of Deputies, and each house has a distinct role in the selection of a new presiding bishop. In Louisville, the House of Bishops will gather in a closed session June 26 at Christ Church Cathedral for the election and then ask the House of Deputies to vote to confirm the result.

The committee chose the nominees from a list of names submitted by 111 Episcopalians during a two-month window last year. Some names were submitted multiple times, and though bishops were invited to nominate themselves, none did.

Bishops named during the two-month window were asked to enter the discernment process. Those who agreed to be considered were asked to provide biographical information, references and responses to the committee's questions. They also were interviewed on Zoom. From those candidates, the committee invited a smaller number of bishops to a March 18-23 retreat at the Lake

Logan Conference Center in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, after which the committee finalized its slate of nominees.

The 28th presiding bishop is [scheduled to take office on Nov. 1](#), and an installation is scheduled for Nov. 2 at Washington National Cathedral, the traditional seat of the presiding bishop. When the nominating committee released its [presiding bishop profile in March 2023](#), it identified via survey several qualities needed in “a presiding bishop for our time.” Among the most important characteristics are strong leadership, a love of communicating and faithfulness.

Curry, formerly the bishop of North Carolina, is well known for his rousing sermons, and his successor must be “someone who loves to preach” and “who longs to bring a word to The Episcopal Church and to the world,” the committee said. Nominees for presiding bishop should have demonstrated diocesan leadership that is “strategic, articulate, collaborative, committed and gracious” while also “building up the body of Christ.”

The committee also cited faithfulness as a quality frequently identified by survey respondents and interviewees as essential in a presiding bishop. “The next presiding bishop should be one who is deeply grounded in their faith and hope in Christ and steadfastly committed to the living tradition of The Episcopal Church. They should be fully authentic and a person of palpable integrity, always ready to offer ‘an accounting for the hope that is in [them]’” the committee said, quoting 1 Peter.

[A history and timeline of Episcopal Church presiding bishops](#)

Curry was elected in 2015 as the church’s first Black presiding bishop. Before him, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, elected in 2006, was the church’s first female presiding bishop. Her predecessor, Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, was the first to serve a nine-year term, after the church shortened the presiding bishop’s term from 12 years.

The presiding bishop has a range of responsibilities, as outlined by [The Episcopal Church Constitution and Canons](#). Those include presiding over the House of Bishops, chairing Executive Council, visiting every Episcopal diocese, participating in the ordination and consecration of bishops, receiving and responding to disciplinary complaints against bishops, making appointments to the church’s interim bodies, and “developing policies and strategies for the church and speaking for the church on the policies, strategies and programs of General Convention.”

There are few canonical requirements for presiding bishop candidates. They must be members of the House of Bishops and cannot yet have reached the church’s mandatory retirement age of 72.

Nothing prohibits the election of a presiding bishop who would turn 72 during the nine-year term, though historically nominees have been able to complete the full nine years.

“We felt the Holy Spirit’s presence during this process and are prayerfully thankful for the guidance we received,” the Rev. Maureen-Elizabeth Hagan, a deacon on the committee who chairs its nominations subcommittee, said in the April 2 news release.

– David Paulsen is a senior reporter and editor for Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org



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, David Chamberlain, Jim Carroll and Sherri & Steve Linn.

Please add the following to your prayers this Holy Week :
St John’s, OKC St James, Antlers

At Luke’s Place April 4, 2024 -Apr 10, 2024

Apr 4th Men’s Breakfast, 6:30 am, Metcalf

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

Apr 6th Casa Hispana Bingo, 5:30pm, Metcalf

Apr 7th 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 8th Ladies’ Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Library

Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room

Solar Eclipse, 1pm, Courtyard (barring cloudy or bad weather)

Vestry Meeting, 5:30pm, Vestry Room

Apr 9th Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library

Apr 10th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Catechism Class, 6:30pm, Vestry Room

Birthdays and Anniversaries, April 7th- April 13th , 2024



Birthdays
Morgan Phares (4/9)



Anniversaries
Chad & Blair Ellis (4/8)

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.



DWELL DOWNTOWN
apartment and loft tour

April 16, 2024 | www.concerncares.com

Proceeds benefit CONCERN
sponsored by:

yo THE REFINERY SOUTH PARK RECREABLE

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.



To understand

To understand, it starts with the moment we are born. We are connected to our parents for guidance and support. This is where we learn our first lessons, to crawl, walk, talk, eat, sleep and many other actions that come with ease because of our instincts. As we grow up we start learning barriers that we put up and those of our parents. This is when life starts to slowly get complicated. We try to understand and sometimes instead of keeping the fight up we surrender and slowly start to understand.

As we grow more, our parents start to teach us the difference between right and wrong and living the good life with God's help. I remember growing up that each Sunday on the way to church, it was 7 miles away, Dad would know how fast to drive. You see on that morning drive; we would say the Rosary. I remember also that if we finished it before we got to town, Dad would speed up. If we were still praying the Rosary when we got close to town, he would slow down. I have been thinking about that drive lately and am really starting to understand what Dad and Mom wanted to teach me and my siblings. The other thing that Dad and Mom would do, was to go on a "galavanting" trip every now and then. Some of you might know what that is but the simplest description is: pick a destination or a friend and take your time by a round about way to get there. Enjoy the destination whether you are visiting, enjoying the sights or even just a simple meal. When you are done, you take the quickest way home and think about what has transpired. Dad informed me later that it was his way of decompressing from stress or just being overworked. I was raised on a farm in North Dakota, and we didn't have much but to me I had everything I needed to live. Janice and I have gone on many a galavanting trip into the countryside looking at the crops and just enjoying the day together. This, I hate to mention it, is where we got a lot of our flowers, bushes, and a small tree from abandoned farm sites. We never took it all, we always left some to continue growing. Sometimes we would take a picnic along to stop somewhere and just enjoy being outside in Nature. This was truly enjoyable during the time of the summer when everything was green and growing. I have now truly started to understand how much I miss doing that now that I am alone. Funny thing is, I have also started to understand the enjoyment of galavanting on my own with the music playing. The latest time was on my way back from St. Crispin's Conference Center after the Vestry Training Session. I planned a trip to go to Pawnee on my way home to enjoy a meal at Click's Steakhouse in Pawnee. On the drive there, I saw abandoned farms with flowers and was reminded that Janice would have wanted to stop and dig some up. Too bad I didn't bring a shovel, but I remember where they are, so you never know. I do know that I want to make another trip to Pawnee because the food and service was the best I had had for a long time. Thinking this is something I would need to share with someone else, I remembered a friend that is also going through the loss of a spouse and have invited them to join me. They thought that might be a fun way to decompress and leave the world behind for 1 afternoon. Again, I am starting to understand how the little things I do can help others cope with their problems. Going out to meals with others here in Bartlesville, whether it be 1 on 1 or 1 with many, is relaxing and a good way to decompress.

With that all being said, I start to think about what our lives are about. Do we truly understand and act on that understanding to help others? I would say, yes. Can we do more? Again, I would say yes. Understanding other people, sometimes we must live their life by following them and doing some of the things that they do. I have started to understand the Episcopal Church by going to the Church of the Resurrection in Edmond and St. John's in Vinita. To understand another person's life

sometimes even takes me to the Church or place they go on Sunday's. This has given me more insight into what a complicated web we weave where we try to understand others. Sometimes it's a very rocky road and other times it's a very smooth road that opens my eyes to a different life. It may not be the life I want, but now I understand it more and realize how I can live with people in my life who are different. By reading that Rosary every Sunday morning, it has given me the Peace I need to continue the day with. Walking my path with others beside me, gives me comfort. To go out into the world, I must understand what is asked of me. The verse in the Bible I want to share that helps me is from Matthew 10:16. "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." I understand and it shall be done.

-Robert Lonski

Holy Week in Snaps



Maundy Thursday



Good Friday

If you would like to watch these services, check out **St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bartlesville** on





Great Easter Vigil

Early Service, Easter Morning



your lawn chair and watch the solar eclipse with us!

The Solar Eclipse will be visible on April 8 around 1:45pm. Margaret and I am planning to park our lawn chairs in the courtyard and watch it beginning around 1-1:15pm until it eclipses. We will have mimosas and snacks and you are welcome to join us. Barring cloudy or bad weather, bring

Penny

BINGO

BY
CASA HISPANA

night

Join us for an evening of Bingo, Raffles, Family Fun, and Hispanic Food
For tickets, call 918.907.1584

Saturday, April 6th
5:30 PM
St Luke's
Episcopal Church



\$12
Ticket

Include:
 Admission Price &
 10 cards

CasaHispana.Bartlesville@gmail.com

Games start at 6:00 PM



All proceeds benefit Casa Hispana, a Bartlesville non-profit organization that provides support to local individuals and families by enabling connections to community resources, offering translation services, English and citizenship classes, and providing highly subsidized dental care to under-served communities

See Jeff Birk for Tickets!

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Jo Baughman – jybokla@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