

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- June Pack the Backpacks
- Concern needs
- Prayer List
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Pub Theology
- Thank you from Carol
- Bookstore

# The Steeple



May 29, 2024



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

### Polling Workers Receive Training at St. Luke's



For the past couple of weeks, the Washington County Election Board has been holding training at St. Luke's for those who will be poll workers for the coming election. This has prompted the question, what is (the) or (a) theological basis for a church to even be a polling center?

In the Episcopal tradition, the call to serve and engage with the community is deeply rooted in our theological principles. When an Episcopal church opens its doors as a polling place, it embodies this commitment in quite a practical manner, reflecting core aspects of our Episcopal identity.

At the heart of this action is the theological concept of *imago Dei*, the belief that every person is made in the image of God. This tenet affirms the inherent dignity and worth of every individual, encouraging the church to support the structures that uphold and respect human agency and participation in society. By providing a space for voting, the church recognizes and facilitates the exercise of this fundamental right, affirming the value of each person's voice in shaping the common good.

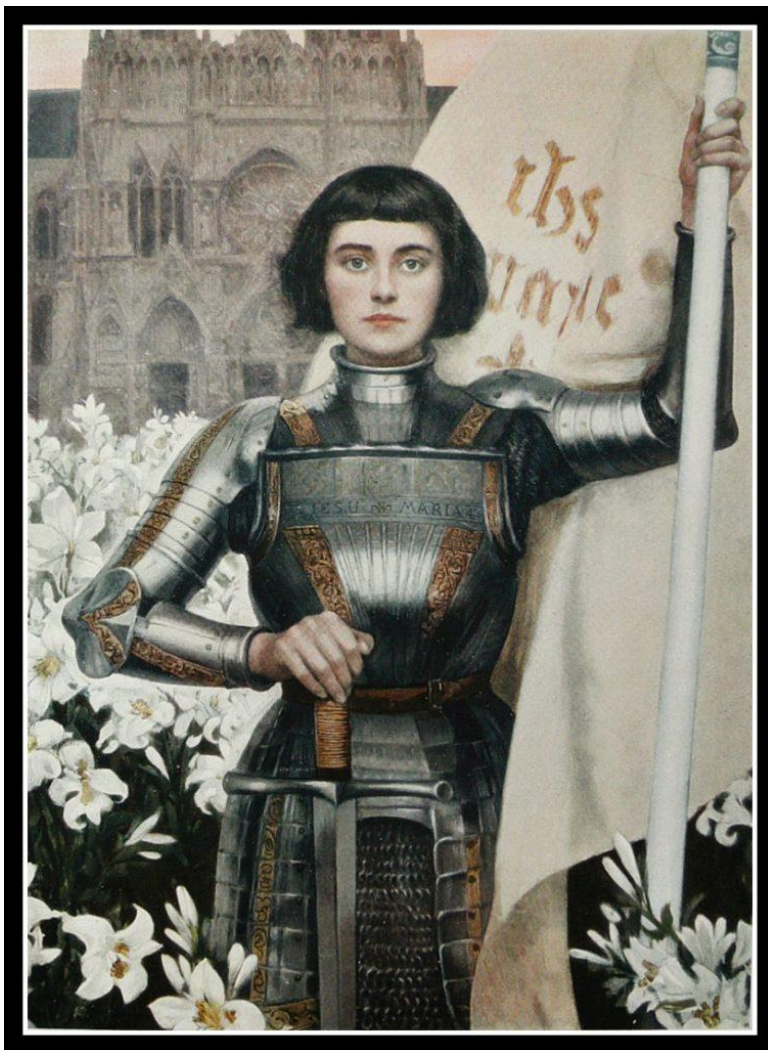
Furthermore, the Episcopal Church is guided by the principle of servant leadership, as exemplified by Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Mark (which we are reading this year), Jesus states, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Emulating Christ's example, the church, I think, should always seek to serve its neighbors in tangible ways. Hosting a polling place is a form of hospitality and service, offering a neutral and accessible venue for civic participation.

Additionally, the Episcopal Church embraces the Anglican concept of *via media*, or the middle way, which values dialogue and inclusivity. This perspective encourages engagement with the wider community, regardless of differing opinions or beliefs. By becoming a polling place, the church fosters a spirit of inclusiveness and respect for diverse perspectives, reinforcing its commitment to being a place where all are welcome.

Lastly, the church's involvement in civic life resonates with the Biblical call to seek justice and peace. You'll recall that the prophet Jeremiah urges believers to "seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." Providing a space for voting contributes to the democratic process, which is foundational to the pursuit of justice and the common good.

By serving as a polling place, St. Luke's is striving to live out its theological convictions, supporting human dignity, embodying servant leadership, fostering inclusivity, and contributing to the welfare of the community. This act of service not only enriches the democratic process but also manifests the church's commitment to loving and serving its neighbors.

Deep peace,  
Nick+



## Theologians Corner

Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc)  
Mystic and Soldier, 1431

Jeanne d'Arc, or Joan of Arc, was born the daughter of peasant stock in France in 1412. Called the "Maid of Orleans," she was a religious child, and at a young age she began to experience spiritual visions, which she described as voices emerging from a powerful flash of light.

She believed that Saint Michael and Saint Catherine, among other saints, called her to save France from the civil war between the Houses of Orleans and Burgundy. At first, her visions were looked upon skeptically, but she eventually convinced King Charles VII, the not yet consecrated King of France, of the genuineness of her visions.

In consultation with several of his theologians, Charles decided to allow Joan to lead an expedition to Orleans. According to legend, she wore a suit of white armor and carried a banner bearing the symbol of the

Trinity and the words "Jesus, Maria." Charles' troops were inspired and won the battle for their city. She convinced Charles to proceed to Reims for his coronation, and she stood at his side throughout the ceremony.

Joan was eventually taken prisoner by Burgundian troops and sold to the English. In 1431, she returned to France, appeared before the Bishop of Beauvais, and was tried at Rouen on charges of witchcraft and heresy. Her visions were declared “false and diabolical” and she was forced to recant. Later that year, however, she was tried and condemned as a relapsed heretic and burnt to death at Rouen. In 1456, following an appeal of her trial, Pope Callistus III declared her to have been falsely accused. She was canonized by Pope Benedict XV in 1920. Although her efforts were unsuccessful in ending civil war in France, she inspired later generations with her faith, her heroism, and her commitment to God and to her King. She is today one of the patron saints of France.

Together we pray: Holy God, whose power is made perfect in weakness: we honor thy calling of Jeanne d’Arc, who, though young, rose up in valor to bear thy standard for her country, and endured with grace and fortitude both victory and defeat; and we pray that we, like Jeanne, may bear witness to the truth that is in us to friends and enemies alike, and, encouraged by the companionship of thy saints, give ourselves bravely to the struggle for justice in our time; through Christ our Savior, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**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, Shawn, Nancy Bradford, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, Jim Carroll, Sherri & Steve Linn, Jack Stoecker, Ben Stoecker, Tom McLoughlin, Chuck McCarty, Dionna Cameron, Raphael, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Margie Lambert, and Estelle Sams.

**Please add the following to your prayers this Second Week after Pentecost:**  
**St Peter’s, Coalgate** **St Barnabas, Poteau**

### **At Luke’s Place : May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup> , 2024**

- May 30<sup>th</sup> Men’s Breakfast, 7:00 am, Metcalf**
- Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf**
- Green Country Eucharist Service, 1pm, GCV**
- Pub Theology, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed’s**
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel**
- Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am**
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> Ladies’ Prayer Team, 11:30am, classroom**
- June 4<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Discovery, 10am, Library**
- June 5<sup>th</sup> Choir, 5pm, Choir Room**

## Birthdays and Anniversaries, June 2<sup>nd</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Birthdays



Cristy Larkin (6/3)  
Tom Chamberlain (6/5)  
Steve Heidorn (6/6)  
Shelly Jackson (6/6)  
Audrey Foote (6/7)  
Danny Clem (6/8)

### Anniversaries



Bill & Jackie Gallery (6/2)  
Fred & Sandy Whitson (6/3)  
Jeff & Laura Birk (6/4)

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!

Concern's current needs are: canned fruit, 18 oz peanut butter, flour, paper or plastic grocery bags and egg cartons. We also need volunteers for the summer. Please call 918-336-4693 and talk to Melody.

Concern appreciates your continued support.

## June Item for Pack the Backpacks



We are collecting Highlighters! Packages of multi colored ones are requested. Packages of yellow are not needed at this time. Lets work on filling the basket! For every package, that means one more child will get their supplies for school. June 14<sup>th</sup> is Move-In day here for Pack the Backpacks and they will be in Rodgers Hall for the months of June and July. Thank you to everyone at St Luke's who have and continue to donate school supplies.

---



A wee note of Huge Thanks to all who made my birthday so special this past Sunday. The special greetings and kind faces along with cards, food, and surprises (remember the strange little candle?). St Luke's is such a beautiful bunch of God's people in thoughts, acts, and prayers. Thank you, thank you!

*Carol Murphy*

---



May 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's. Join US!



# Come and shop your St Luke's Bookstore



## **St. Luke's Vestry Members**

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

### **Bereavement Team 3**

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

### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector  
269-788-7063; [RevPhares@outlook.com](mailto:RevPhares@outlook.com)

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist  
918-697-8509 [keelidroege@gmail.com](mailto:keelidroege@gmail.com)

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