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The Steeple



June 5, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



St. Crispin's Summer Camp

Dear St. Luke's,

As we journey through our spiritual lives together, it's essential to recognize and celebrate the diverse ways in which we nurture our faith and community. One such vital ministry is our diocesan camp.

Camp provides a unique environment for spiritual growth. Away from the distractions of daily life, our young people and adults alike find themselves immersed in God's creation at St. Crispin's. The beauty of nature becomes a sanctuary where they can reflect, pray, and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in profound ways. Campfires, starry nights, and morning prayers amidst the trees create sacred spaces that foster deep, meaningful connections with God.

One of the most powerful aspects of camp is the relationships that are formed. In this unique setting at St. Crispin's, campers and counselors build bonds that often last a lifetime. These relationships are rooted in shared experiences of faith, fun, and fellowship. Through team-building activities, communal worship, and simply spending time together, our campers develop a sense of belonging and community that extends far beyond the campgrounds.

Camp ministry emphasizes experiential learning, a method that resonates deeply with young people. Counselors make these exercises come alive! Bible stories become incarnate through interactive activities, discussions, and creative expressions. Campers don't just hear about faith; they live it. This hands-on approach helps internalize the teachings of Jesus and makes the lessons of scripture relevant and applicable to everyday life.

St. Crispin's also serves as a training ground for future leaders of the church. Through various responsibilities and leadership roles, young people learn valuable skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. Our counselors model Christian leadership, providing

mentorship that we hope inspire campers to take on leadership roles within their own parishes and communities.

In an increasingly complex and sometimes challenging world, camp offers a safe haven. It is a place where everyone is accepted and loved for who they are, where the values of compassion, kindness, and respect are lived out daily. This safe and nurturing environment allows campers to explore their faith and identity without fear of judgment or exclusion.

Thus, the impact of camp extends beyond the individuals who attend. The sense of community and shared purpose cultivated at camp strengthens our entire diocese. Campers, we hope, return to their home parishes with renewed faith and enthusiasm, often inspiring others with their stories and experiences. This ripple effect helps to invigorate our congregations and fosters a diocese-wide spirit of unity and mission.

Finally, camp is a ministry of joy. The laughter, singing, games, and creative activities bring a sense of joy and wonder that is contagious. This joy is a reflection of the abundant life that Jesus promises and is a vital part of our Christian witness.

I'm learning that camp is more than just a week of fun in the summer; it is a cornerstone of our diocesan ministry. It is a place where faith is deepened, relationships are forged, and future leaders are nurtured.

Give yourself to love!

Nick+

Give Yourself to Love

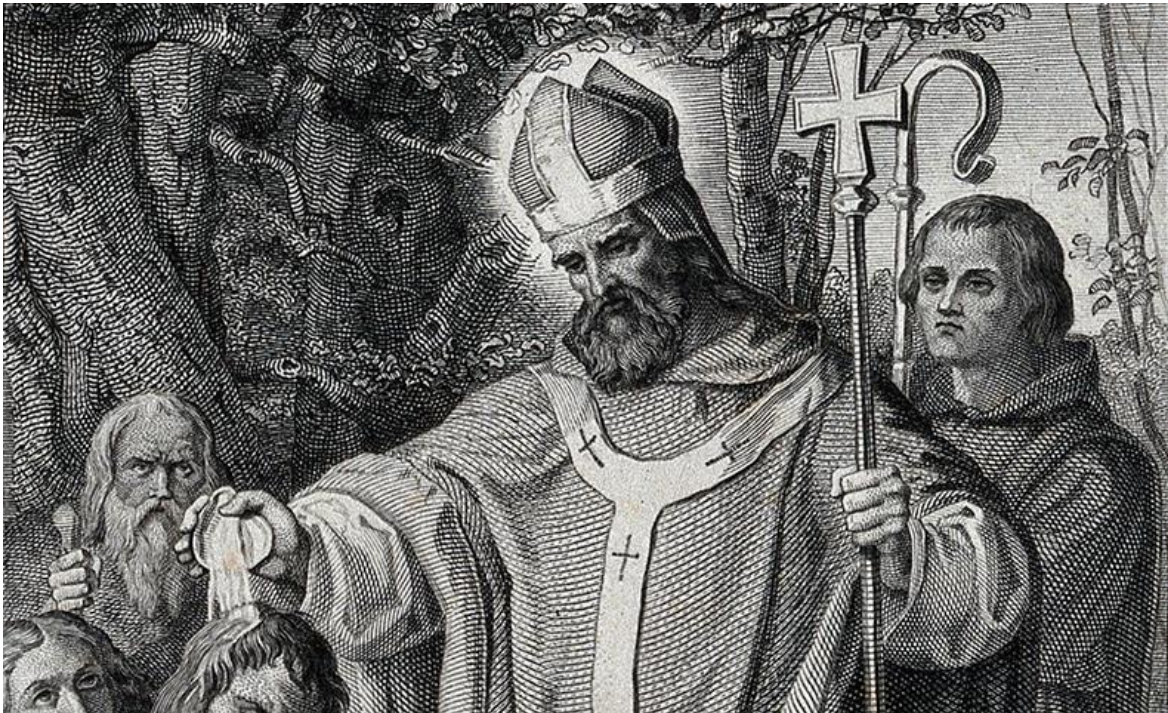
By Kate Wolf

Kind friends all gathered 'round, there's something I would say:
That what brings us together here has blessed us all today.
Love has made a circle that holds us all inside.
Where strangers are as family, loneliness can't hide.

You must give yourself to love if love is what you're after;
Open up your hearts to the tears and laughter
And give yourself to love, give yourself to love.

Love is born in fire; it's planted like a seed.
Love can't give you everything, but it gives you what you need.
And love comes when you're ready, love comes when you're afraid;
It'll be your greatest teacher, the best friend you have made.

So give yourself to love if love is what you're after;
Open up your hearts to the tears and laughter
And give yourself to love, give yourself to love.



Theologians Corner

St. Boniface

Boniface, known as the apostle of the Germans, was an English Benedictine monk who gave up being elected abbot to devote his life to the conversion of the Germanic tribes. Two characteristics stand out: his Christian orthodoxy and his fidelity to the pope of Rome.

How absolutely necessary this orthodoxy and fidelity were borne out by the conditions Boniface found on his first missionary journey in 719 at the request of Pope Gregory II. Paganism was a way of life. What Christianity he did find had either lapsed into paganism or was mixed with error. The clergy were mainly responsible for these latter conditions since they were in many instances uneducated, lax and questionably obedient to their bishops. In particular instances, their very ordinations were questionable.

These are the conditions that Boniface was to report in 722 on his first return visit to Rome. He instructed him to reform the German Church. The pope sent letters of recommendation to religious and civil leaders. Boniface later admitted that his work would have been unsuccessful, from a human viewpoint, without a letter of safe-conduct from Charles Martel, the powerful Frankish ruler, grandfather of Charlemagne. Boniface was finally made a regional bishop and authorized to organize the whole German Church. He was eminently successful.

In the Frankish kingdom, he met great problems because of lay interference in bishops' elections, the worldliness of the clergy and lack of papal control.

During a final mission to the Frisians, Boniface and 53 companions were massacred while he was preparing converts for confirmation.

In order to restore the Germanic Church to its fidelity to Rome and to convert the pagans, Boniface had been guided by two principles. The first was to restore the obedience of the clergy to their bishops. The second was the establishment of many houses of prayer which took the form of Benedictine monasteries. A great number of Anglo-Saxon monks and nuns followed him to the continent, where he introduced the Benedictine nuns to the active apostolate of education.

Reflection

Boniface bears out the Christian rule: To follow Christ is to follow the way of the cross. For Boniface, it was not only physical suffering or death, but the painful, thankless, bewildering task of Church reform. Missionary glory is often thought of in terms of bringing new persons to Christ. It seems—but is not—less glorious to heal the household of the faith.

Together let us pray: Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, upon your church in every land, that like your servant Boniface we might proclaim the Gospel to all nations, that your kingdom might be enlarged and that your holy Name might be glorified in all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and 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, 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, Chuck McCarty, Dionna Cameron, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Margie Lambert, Estelle Sams, Ron Adams, and Brian Jones.

Please add the following to your prayers this Third Week after Pentecost:
St Mark's, Seminole **St Paul's, Holdenville**

At Luke's Place : June 6th – June 12th , 2024

**June 6th Men's Breakfast, 7:00 am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Prayer Service, 1pm, GCV**
June 8th Sara McGee Funeral, 11:00am
**June 9th Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8am, Chapel
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10:30am**
**June 10th Ladies' Prayer Team, 11:30am, classroom
Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room
Vestry , 5:30pm, Vestry Room**
June 11th St Barnabas the Apostle Feast Day Eucharist, 12:15pm, chapel

Birthdays and Anniversaries, June 9th - 15th, 2024

Birthdays



Anniversaries



Juanita & Lauren Green (6/12)
Fr Nick & Teresa Phares (6/14)

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





Benefitting Pack the Backpacks
Sunday, June 9th, 8:30am-11:00am
Fr Lynch Hall, 7th & Keeler

See Steve Clark for tickets or purchase at the door
A group is planning on walking over from the parking lot between services around 9am. Join us.



WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH

A Christ-Centered Grief Ministry

SEPTEMBER 10TH - OCTOBER 22ND

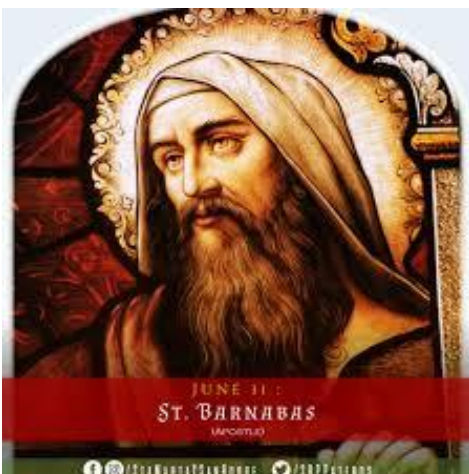
The ministry of Walking the Mourner's Path seeks to serve individuals who are in grief through a series of Eight Weekly Workshops.

Together in the small group workshops individuals:

- Acknowledge the pain and brokenness
- Recognize that each journey through grief is unique
- Share stories
- Experience both tears and laughter
- Help each other in a safe environment to continue healing

Walking the Mourner's Path is a transformative eight-week journey that reflects on where God is in our grief and loss. If you are interested in finding out more or joining our next workshop, please contact Karole Cozby or Nancy Woods for more information.

"come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28-29



According to Acts 4:36, Barnabas was a Cypriot Jew. Named an apostle in Acts 14:14, he and Paul the Apostle undertook missionary journeys together and defended Gentile converts against the Judaizers. They traveled together making more converts (c. 46–48), and participated in the Council of Jerusalem (c. 49).

Originally called Joseph, he was given his new name of Barnabas by those who knew him well, it means 'son of encouragement'.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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