

The Steeple

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July 17, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



TIME FOR A CHANGE

As we go about our life, things change, and some stay the same. Some change is good while others leave you scratching your head, "Why did they do that?" Some of us change to promote our growth while walking down the path we are on. We purchase clothing to fit us as we get older, larger, and smaller. Never ending cycle. This is the same for Mother Nature. Sometimes Mother Nature needs some help. If you're in a forest, the trees are so close together that it's hard for anything to grow at ground level due to lack of sunlight. When we plant a tree, we give it all the sunlight it needs. This also produces, what I call, "Suckers." These are all the little shoots coming off of the tree from the base all the way up to the top. Since the sun can reach down to the base, to promote good health on the tree, these little buggers must be kept in check by cutting them off. Nutrients come up from the base and travel up the trunk to the first area that needs the nutrients. If you have a tree that hasn't been kept trimmed, the nutrients do not make it all the way up to the top. Because of this you will have some higher branches that receive no food, and they die. By trimming the lower part of the tree, the food will go up to the higher level to feed the tree. This also will help the ground underneath the tree to gain sunlight and let things grow around underneath the tree. This includes grass, flowers, and other ornamental plants. At first the trees will look bad, but in the next couple of months, you will see new growth coming back on the lower branches to fill the tree out and make it beautiful again like they are in the forest.

Now you have also noticed the 4 trees on the south side of the church that were completely cut down. The trunks will be removed when the contractor starts removing the sidewalks. The reason they are not going to be ground down is because the grindings would mulch down and sink into the ground causing the sidewalks to buckle and crack again. By pulling them out, we can lay dirt in the hole and pack it tight with a better base for the sidewalks. This will start soon. When it does, there will be no stepping up or down. There will be an easy ramp to walk into and out of the church. Right now, we are waiting for the City of Bartlesville. They are in the process of making sidewalks around town safer and more accessible. With that said, they may be able to help pay for some of the work. After the work is done, there has been talk about what to plant back to make the south side of the church have curb appeal again. We have many options to look at.

In the Memorial Garden, it was brought to my attention that the Holly bush won't have too many Christmas ornaments on it in December. With that said, watch what that little bush will do

this summer. By trimming it back, it will stimulate new growth and look fuller than it did previously. The same goes for the rest of the trees & bushes. Now as most of you have watched it through the years, the pergola, also, in the Garden has deteriorated over the years. As this year progresses, you will see change happening to it also. The pergola lumber has shown up and is in the process of getting sealed and ready for installation. This is going to be done without removing the wisteria that is on top of the pergola. The wisteria will be getting trimmed up as we go along, but there again, it will be beautiful once more.

Please be patient with all the work and in the end, as with God's plan, everything will be made new again and shine in all its glory. St. Luke's is a beautiful building that needs to shine right along its surroundings.

Robert Lonski



Theologian's Corner:

Macrina of Caesarea

Macrina was born at [Caesarea, Cappadocia](#). Her parents were [Basil the Elder](#) and [Emmelia](#), and her grandmother was [Macrina the Elder](#). Among her nine siblings were two of the three [Cappadocian Fathers](#), her younger brothers Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa, as well as Peter of Sebaste and the famous Christian jurist [Naucratius](#). Her father arranged for her to marry, but her fiancé died before the wedding. After having been betrothed, Macrina did not believe it was appropriate to marry another man, but saw [Christ](#) as her eternal bridegroom.^[1]

Macrina had a profound influence on her brothers and her mother with her adherence to an ascetic ideal. In Gregory of Nyssa's *Life of Macrina* he remembers her as a child who was devoted to study of the scriptures, especially the [Wisdom of Solomon](#), and those parts of it which have an ethical bearing, "such parts as you would think were incomprehensible to young children were the subject of the girl's studies".^[2]

Macrina, who resolved never to leave her mother,^[3] moved with her to one of their rural estates and lived within a community of virgins who came from both an aristocratic and a non-aristocratic background.^[4] All members were free, and slaves got the same rights and obligations as their masters. The death of the brother Naucratius shocked her mother and gave to Macrina a priority role in the domestic life.^[4]

In 379, Macrina died at her family's estate in [Pontus](#), which with the help of her younger brother Peter she had turned into a convent of [virgins](#). Gregory of Nyssa composed a *Dialogue on the Soul*

and Resurrection (peri psyches kai anastaseos), entitled *ta Makrinia* (P.G. XLVI, 12 sq.), to commemorate Macrina, in which Gregory purports to describe the conversation he had with the dying Macrina, in a literary form modelled on Plato's *Phaedo*.¹⁵¹ Even when dying, Macrina continued to live a life of sanctity, as she refused a bed, and instead chose to lie on the ground. Her feast day is 19 July.

Merciful God, who called your servant Macrina to reveal in her life and teaching the riches of your grace and truth: Grant that we, following her example, may seek after your wisdom and live according to the way of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, Ben Baker, Diana Farris, 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, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Margie Lambert, Estelle Sams, Ron Adams, Brian Jones, Adam Thomas, Eileen Leigh, Bob Lambert, and Carla Curry.

Please add the following to your prayers this Eighth Week after Pentecost
St Matthew's, Sand Springs St Bede's, Westport

At Luke's Place : July 18th – July 24th, 2024

July 18th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Green Country Morning Prayer, 1pm, GCV
July 20th Pack the Backpacks Bingo, 5:30pm, Metcalf
July 21st Morning Prayer Rite I, 8am, Chapel
Morning Prayer Rite II, 10:30am

Concern's current needs are: cereal and canned beans; and homeless - toothbrushes and toothpaste

Concern appreciates your continued support.

Birthdays and Anniversaries, July 21st – July 27th, 2024

Birthdays



Anniversaries



Paxton Phares (7/21)
Jason Carroll (7/23)
Barbara Todd (7/24)
Patricia Legatski (7/25)
Henry Tedstrom (7/25)
Nancy Hix (7/26)

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!

SAVE THE DATE

8 · 10 · 2024

7:30 – 9:30 PM · METCALF HALL

MORE TO FOLLOW...



Stewardship

TOGETHER WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS
OF GOD'S ABBUNDANCE AND
CARETAKERS OF ALL HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO US.

Concern *Churches United for Community CONCERN*

CONCERN budgets \$60,000 annually from about 20 local churches. As a founding member, St. Luke's is a vital part of this ministry, providing financial, food and volunteer support. Our congregation generously provides all the pies for the Thanksgiving baskets (300 in 2023), and the Young Disciples youth group recently donated 820 lbs. of canned goods. CONCERN truly would not function without this amazing support!

Need for food has significantly increased, with 500-600 families receiving food each month. In 2023, there were 6273 families served, for a total of 12,865 individuals. CONCERN is equipped to distribute an emergency food supply every 30 days (12 times/year), providing enough food for each family member to eat 3 meals/day for about 4 days. If available, diapers, wipes, personal items and birthday bags can also be given out. In order to serve elderly clients with limited transportation, monthly food deliveries are available for residents of Leisure Lane, Willow Rock and Madison Village senior residences. CONCERN also serves the homeless population, with appropriate food and toiletry items, hats, gloves and socks.

CONCERN operates on a limited budget and may assist households with up to \$150 each calendar year for utilities, gas or bus cards, prescriptions, rent (in case of eviction) and a replacement state ID. Requests for financial help continues to rise.

A payee program is available for Washington and Osage county residents, currently serving about 50 clients. A representative helps social security income and disability beneficiaries manage their finances so that they may live more stable lives.

Interested in getting involved with Concern? Financial and food donations are always appreciated (note specific food requests each month in the St. Luke's Steeple newsletter). To volunteer in the pantry (usually 2-hour shifts) or in the office, please contact the wonderful staff at CONCERN.

concerncares.com



Women's Prayer Partners July meeting will be at 11:30 on Monday July 22 in classroom upstairs.



Morning Prayer Service for the next two Sunday morning services will be led by Jeff Birk. The times are the same (8:00am & 10:30am). Also the Thursday morning Bible Study is canceled for the next two weeks. Please keep the Phares family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their beloved aunt and sister in law, Kaycee.

PACK THE BACKPACKS

BINGO



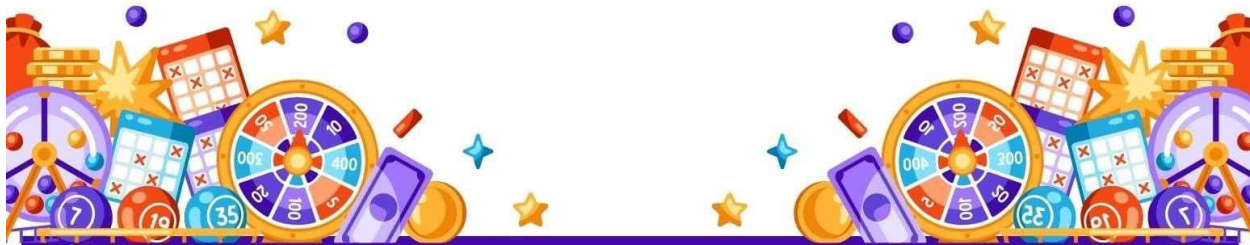
Join us for a fun filled evening of bingo, friends, and excitement!! we'll have 50/50 games, regular bingo, yummy food, and great baskets and gift cards to win! Help us raise funds for school supplies while having a great time!

PRIZES | FOOD | FUN

July 20th

doors open 5:30pm
main games start 6pm
tickets \$12

St. Luke's
Episcopal Church
8th and Dewey



www.packthebackpacks.org



**Saint Mary Magdalene Feast
Day
Eucharist Service is cancelled on
July 22nd**



WELCOME ! ABILENE ELIZABETH GARDINER

Proud Parents: Greta (Olsen) & Quanah Gardiner

Born: 7/15/24 6:46pm 7 lbs 14 oz

Proud Grandparents: Brian & Becky Olsen

Proud Great Grandparents: Dan & Melinda Droege



The marriage retreat we led exceeded our expectations. Fai and Ohm (nicknames) have been married four years and became Christians two years ago. They both were eager to grow and strive to build strength and resilience in their relationship. Fai loves to read, write and make artistic creations. Ohm is a personal trainer. Both have been pharmacists, so they are well-organized in their lives.

The second couple, Prem and Seng, interpreted for our first retreat so this was their second time to go through Song of Songs. We began by watching the Thai version of the Bible Project video for Song of Solomon. Then we shared Bible passages that relate to the concepts of Song of Solomon.

Next, the men met by themselves to read and discuss one chapter at a time, while the women met separately to read the same chapter. Afterward, each couple met privately and talked through some deeper questions. We also had times of singing, meal times, game times and free time. We got to know each other well and will pray for each other in our journey of marriage.



We are so thankful to pass on what we know to Ohm, Fai, Seng and Prem. God has given them gifts to be able to teach other Thai married couples how to grow. They received everything attentively and with receptive hearts. Below is part of the testimony Seng, the husband of the couple who did the interpreting. Seng is leftmost in the photo.

Last weekend, my wife and I had the incredible opportunity to attend a Marriage retreat that profoundly impacted us. As two Thai couples, relatively new to exploring the depths of marriage from a spiritual perspective, we were eager yet unsure of what to expect. Joining us were two other couples, making our group of three just the right size for intimate sharing and meaningful discussions.

Throughout the retreat, we delved into the concept of marriage as viewed through God's eyes, particularly exploring the beautiful symbolism of waiting for the bridegroom in Jewish culture.

This perspective resonated deeply with us, highlighting the importance of preparation and unity in marriage.

What struck us most was the realization that our unity as couples could have a significant positive influence on our community. It was a powerful reminder of the ripple effect our marriages can create beyond our homes.

Upcoming events:

- Roger is coordinating a July workshop on radio programming with Bible content.
- Joanne will supervise two interns doing Bible Use research September to November.
- Daughter Esther gets married August 25!

*Why is your lover better than all others,
O woman of rare beauty?
What makes your lover so special
that we must promise this?*

Song of Solomon 5:9 NLT

Joanne and Roger



Pub Theology is cancelled for the month of July. We have several out of town or with other commitments. Our next gathering will be August 29th, 6:30pm Tumbleweed's. See you in August!



Preparation for repairs the water damage caused during the electrical outage a few weeks ago is underway! Bids have been taken and plans have been made for the renovation. Most will probably start in August after the backpacks have been distributed. Stay tuned for the new and updated look!

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