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August 14, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Back to School!



On August 7th the Bartlesville Public Schools Foundation hosted the (2024-2025) State of the Schools Luncheon in the Bartlesville High School Commons. BPS Child Nutrition catered the luncheon, providing attendees with several delicious lunch options to choose from this year. If this is what is offered to our kids on a daily basis, I might just head over to the high school for lunch more often! Both Blair Ellis and Chuck McCauley presented timely and pertinent information regarding everything from instructional philosophy and policy to construction timetables for some of our elementary schools. As was the case last year, I find that every time I leave this event I feel as though I am well-informed, and that Bartlesville Public Schools has some tremendous leadership in place as well as dedicated servant leaders who want nothing but the best for our city's children.

The sheer amount of information that is presented at the State of the Schools luncheon will not leave one wanting. I assure you that enough information is presented in under an hour that it is just shy of what some might consider something akin to being soaked by a fire hose. Nevertheless, Superintendent McCauley did something I appreciated this year by directly focusing some time at the beginning of the event to address the elephant in the room; namely State Superintendent Ryan Walters' mandate for specific curriculum that requires schools to incorporate the Bible into classroom lessons. I hadn't expected that, but remained interested in hearing about the position that the district was taking. McCauley's response was that BPS will continue to abide by a policy our local school board had adopted in 2008, entitled "Religion in Schools."

Superintendent McCauley was also upfront about the shortage of teachers some districts are experiencing across the State. He reported that in Tulsa Public Schools alone, there are currently one hundred and thirty vacancies. To proactively engage that trend, BPS holds job fairs each semester that seek qualified teachers who are looking for employment in one of the most highly respected school districts in the State.

I so appreciate the many ways our educators continue to go above and beyond the call of duty and do so much with so little. It's not lost on me that as a denomination, we may look past the fact that

to be a practicing Episcopalian one needs to be highly literate and so, behind each liturgy, behind each lesson, behind each prayer there has been a teacher that has helped us to understand the building blocks that make up the vocabulary of our faith. And as committed as they remain, we shall remain committed to them also by praying for them during the daily office here at St. Lukes. If you pray the office at home, below is a portion of what we pray at evening prayer when it comes time for authorized intercessions and thanksgivings.

We pray for our educators Lord, for all those who teach and care for our children and for their families.

We pray especially for Chuck McCauley and for all those who work at:

Monday:	Bartlesville High School	Michael Harp
Tuesday:	Central Middle School Madison Middle School	Dr. Matt Hancock Joey Eidson
Wednesday:	Jane Phillips Elementary Ranch Heights Elementary	Kevin Brown Chand Meyers
Thursday:	Richard Kane Elementary Wayside Elementary	Tammie Krause Eliot Smith
Friday:	Woodrow Wilson Elementary Hoover Elementary	Staci Bankston Tiffany Holmes

I encourage you to listen to Superintendent McCauley's presentation – not just for your own awareness but also because he references a book that will be studied district wide this year. That book is entitled, "The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness" by Jonathan Haidt. As parents who are seeing that "rewiring" firsthand, Teresa and I are already listening to the book on Audible. My initial thoughts are that at the very least, this book is shaping up to provide the reader not only context but also it strives to offer some vital information about the social milieu of generation alpha. As a church who is intentional about looking to the future, I think this book is well worth our time.

While I was leaving, I walked past the big Bruin and thought about what a formidable creature the bear is – how protective it can be of its cubs and how it stands tall to meet the challenges it faces. I thought about that passage in Isaiah, "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, Repairers of the breach, Restorers of paths to dwell in" (Isa. 58:12). I thought about our teachers and how God might be leading me to pray for them and support them more faithfully this year. They have mighty work before them in shaping the future one day at a time – one child at a time. God bless them all.

Nick+



Theologian's Corner

"The Cherry"

This Thursday marks the Feast Day of St. Mary the Virgin. After evening prayer on Tuesday, I was talking with Tom and Martha about some of my favorite hymns that feature Mary's Magnificat such as "Tell Out My Soul" H-437 and "Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus" H-268. But, there is another song that is not so well known called the "Cherry Tree Carol" that had me thinking about the painting to the left.

Joos van Cleve's, Madonna of the Cherries in the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery depicts the babe here with a fist full of them.

Now, isn't that odd?

George Ferguson once wrote that, "the red, sweet fruit of the cherry symbolizes the sweetness of character which is derived from good works." Not bad. "It is also often called the Fruit of Paradise." And, "a cherry, held in the hand of the Christ Child, suggests the delights of the blessed."

Coming from the land of cherries, corn, and apples I can tell you that I have it on good authority that cherries are served in heaven, along pimento cheese sandwiches. If you are from coastal Carolina add a side of chicken bog. There were many a summer night that found my family feasting on cherries after dinner. Now, my substitute is the cherry pie at the Copan Truck Stop. I haven't bothered to tell the waitresses about why I order it every single time, but maybe I should...

Tell Out My Soul as it were.

Prayer List

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, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Jim Brooks, Luke Karel, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Joe Norton, Jack Smith, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Shawn, Nancy Bradford, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, Jim Carroll, Steve Linn, Chuck McCarty, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Estelle Sams, Ron Adams, Brian Jones, Adam Thomas, Bob Lambert, Carla Curry, Jack Bridendolph, Tom Oakes, Janel Hutchison, Bill Pendley, Barbara Westfall, Mary Wallace, and Connie Freebern.

Please add the following to your prayers this Twelfth Week after Pentecost
St John's, Tulsa St Simeon's Home, Tulsa

At Luke's Place : Aug 15th – Aug 21st , 2024

Aug 15th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Vestry Room
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV Feast Day of St Mary,
The Virgin Mother

Aug 18th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave

Concern's current needs are: Pantry: peanut butter, macaroni and cheese

Homeless: single-serve proteins, pudding cups

Concern appreciates your continued support.

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Aug 18th – Aug 24th, 2024



Birthdays

Shannon McCraw 8/22
Michele Sheffield 8/22
Bob Tedstrom 8/22



Anniversaries

Mthr Andrea & Bill Jones (8/16)

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!



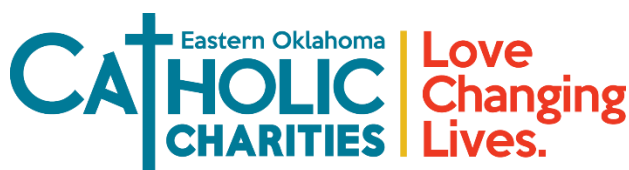
Choir Rehearsals Resume

Chancel Choir News

Choir will gather once again! We have a slightly later schedule with **regular rehearsals from 5:30-6:30 pm** on Wednesday evenings **starting Aug. 21st**. For those who want a little extra help with

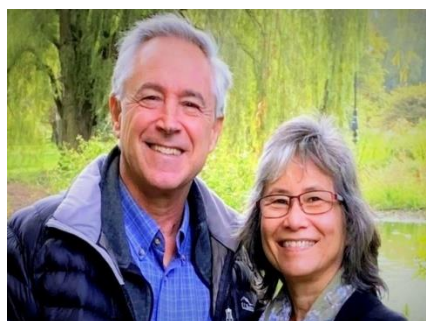
vocal parts, come at 5:00 pm on Wednesdays for pre-rehearsal vocal sectionals.

Do you love singing but aren't a choir member? We would love for you to join us! Call or email Keeli Droege at 918-697-8509 or keelidroege@gmail.com.



Mary Martha Outreach is looking for a few volunteers with a service heart to join our volunteer team. If you have just a couple of hours a day that needs to be filled, we would love to help you fill that void. Our team enjoys

coming in every day, doing God's work in feeding the disadvantaged and hungry. You will leave with a happy heart and know you have made a difference in many lives in your community. For more information, contact Judy DuVall at: jduvall@cceok.org



News from the Greens

Hi friends,

I walked slowly home from my Thai class last week. The week-long rains made the road slippery, so I watched my step. Though I hadn't seen the sun for a week, the warmth of my time with my Thai tutor stayed with me. When I have the

opportunity to see something that God is doing, it is such a great privilege. My Thai tutor had asked to study the book of Hebrews together, because she found it difficult to understand. In each chapter, she had questions. Yesterday as we looked at Hebrews 8, she asked, "Why did we need a new covenant and a new priest?" I pointed her back to Hebrews 8:9-10, which talks about how God's people had not lived up to their part of God's covenant with them. So God decided He had to do everything. Even though this was actually part of His plan from the beginning of creation, He first took His people through the process of the old covenant. This would help God's people to understand what His fulfillment in Jesus would mean.

Then she asked, "How does God put His laws in our minds and write them on our hearts?" (from Hebrews 8:10, which refers to Jeremiah 31:33) For that question, I had to close my eyes and think about how to answer. I pointed her to Joel 2:28 (referred to by Peter in Acts 2:17), which talks about God pouring out His Spirit. Then we read together 2 Corinthians 3:3 "You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." She was very excited to see this verse's connection to Hebrews 8. Praise God for my Thai tutor getting excited when she learns more about Him in His Word.

Meanwhile, Roger last week finished managing the Christian radio programming workshop for Christian leaders from two language groups in a nearby country. FEBC sent local representatives to teach about radio program content and technology. Peter from the Timak language group and his daughter attended the workshop. They completed their first 15-minute radio program and envision

making 70 more programs to make enough programs for six months. Thank you for praying for this Christian radio programming workshop.

I'm continuing planning for four after-church mother/daughter sessions for a church in Chiang Mai. Those sessions will begin in September. Please ask God to open the way with good health and open schedules as I meet with three mothers and their daughters. September is also when I will begin supervising two Scripture engagement interns in a research project in a local church. One intern is from Singapore, and one is from Hong Kong. Praise God for the desire of these two young women to serve God through research and building relationships. We are currently meeting online to learn research skills from our anthropology coordinators. I am enjoying this opportunity to learn more! Please ask God to encourage these two young women and equip them well for their future ministry.

We are excited to be with Esther and Noah as they get married on Aug. 25! Please ask God to give them a beautiful start to their marriage.

Lastly, two days ago I slipped and fell flat on my back. I was sore the first day but was better the second day. I am thanking God for protection from a more serious injury.

Thank you very much for praying!
Joanne

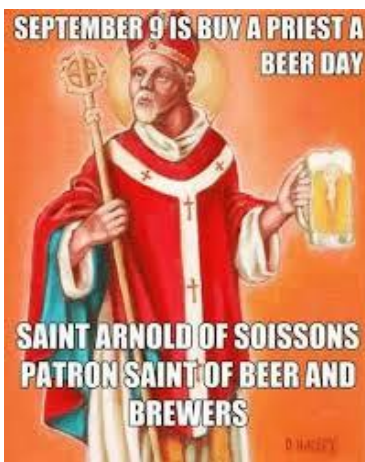


Sunday, August 18th

Everything 10% off

Sunday Only

(except the Faith Forum Book study: [Walk in Love](#))



We had so much fun with this Feast Day last year- Let's do it again! Right now, we have Sept 9th at the Palace Rooms planned. Vestry will be meeting earlier in the evening at St Luke's and then adjourn around 6:45pm to escort Fr Nick to the Palace Rooms for beer, cocktails, and fellowship. Join us! More info forthcoming.....

3RD ANNUAL
LIP SYNC
**BATTLE IN
BARTLESVILLE**

September 21 | 2024
Hilton Garden Inn | 6 pm

What a fun night
out this is! If you
need some laughs,
this is your event!

Ann-Janette Webster

**WATCH LOCAL CELEBRITIES
BATTLE HUNGER**

Admission of \$75 includes the
Battle, a festival style buffet and
2 adult drinks.

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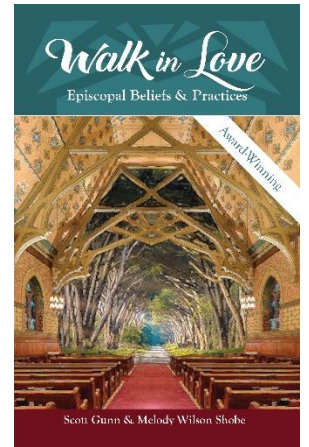


Concern is also looking for contestants for the Lip Sync Battle. If you would like to enter and represent St Luke's, please check the Concern website.

Faith Forum Will Begin soon!

Faith Forum Adult Sunday School

Faith Forum will be back August 25th at 9:15 am in Metcalf Hall. The class is titled "Practicing our Faith". We will be studying the book: Walk In Love. Everyone is welcome to join in on the discussion. You may purchase the book in the Bookstore.



An Evening in Metcalf





Pub Theology is Back! August 29th, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's. Join Us!



September begins the school supplies request from Pack the Backpacks. The basket will be back out in the narthex to collect the supplies. Thank you to all who have given in the past. More churches have joined us in collecting these needed items. This coming month we will be asking for 24 ct box of Crayola crayons. Right now you can catch them on sale at Walmart and Staples. Let's fill the basket!



Huge thank you to the Fellowship Committee: Becky Liehr, Kris Bonner, Nancy Bradford, and Cathy Perrier for the wonderful event “An Evening in Metcalf”. Additional thanks to all the helpers: Nancy Woods, Fr Nick, Glenn Bonner, Jim Liehr, Sara Clements, Jim

Perrier, Sandy Whitson, Judy DuVall, and Susie Clark. It was a fun evening and good fellowship. The Fellowship Committee



Spiritual Discovery Group will start back September 3rd, 10:00am, in the Library. Everyone welcome!



Every once in awhile the church will get a call from Grand Mental Health (most of us are more familiar with the previous name of Grand Lake Mental Health) Center, requesting something for a client they cannot provide. Usually, it is something fairly simple but not anything we would have at the church. That

‘something’ right now is a request for a sleeping bag. This isn’t the first time they have asked for one. Around Christmas time, its usually a bicycle request. If you have either you are no longer using and would like to donate, please call the church office and we can get it to the person who needs it.

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Bereavement Team 3

Wendy Hall, Darian Kedy, Kris
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