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August 21, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Carpentry, Job or Joy

Growing up, I learned different traits, carpentry was one of the many. I also learned welding, drafting, cooking, sewing, and many other skills. Let's get back to carpentry though, is it a job or a joy? For me it was always making something from sometimes material left over from other projects. When I got off work my second job was carpentry and landscaping. Landscaping is kind of like carpentry; it just uses different materials. You get to be creative with what you are designing and making. You have a rough idea of what you want, you just have to work through it.

One of the challenges that I am working on now is getting the lumber ready to rebuild the pergola in the Memorial Gardens. I received some lumber to start with and was looking at it and decided to make it last longer and more beautiful by sanding it down and sealing it with a very good outside polyurethane that will protect it for years to come. As I was sanding, I saw one of my many projects waiting to be worked on. It was a cedar chest that was built by my great grandfather on my mom's side. Not only do I have the cedar chest, but I also have the carpenter tools that were used to build it. A lot of the tools were made by my relatives over many years. I think back to how they toiled and sweated in building that chest and think, they loved doing work with their hands so much they made tools just to make it better. Back in the mid 1800's that is what you did. Fine craftsmanship and determination to make things that you could use throughout your life. Sometimes doing it for just the sake of doing it for others to enjoy not looking for any return on investment of labor. I stopped and took a break and looked at the tools I have in my possession and wondered what my great grandfather would say if he was here. What I believe he would say is, "Make it Beautiful." While I am sanding the beams down the wood is truly coming to life and shining like a beacon in the night. I know when I made the decision to sand these beams, I was wondering to myself, does it really matter? I did one beam and stepped back and looked at it and decided to do like Janice would say, "It has to be did!" While I am sanding the wood, it brings a comment to life and reality. "Open the door and let the light shine in!" The trees that this lumber came from will be proudly displayed in the Memorial Garden when done and will shine for a long time. I had not worked with cedar for awhile and it has brought me a contentment that I cannot explain. I know in the Bible; they talk of the cedars of Lebanon. Cedar represents strength, longevity, and spiritual abundance. Even Psalm 92:12 talks about, "The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon." Right now, I have the 2 long beams sanded and am working on the 4 legs that will support the beams. They

are solid and will last for a very long time. It just amazes me how something when you start with it, can become so beautiful the more you work with it. With that said, the beams are going to get a little cut on the ends to bring more enjoyment to those that sit underneath them in the future. Not sure what or how yet, I am still talking to the wood about what and how it wants to look. One thing for sure is, it will be decorative! So, getting back to the question, carpentry – job or joy, it comes down to a matter of perspective. Do you enjoy what you do or is it just another task to be taken care of? For me, it's a joy, just like life. If we take life too seriously we tend to not see what is right in front of our eyes to enjoy. We are but stewards of the things in our possession or work ethics. If you enjoy it, life will return back to you much. If you do not enjoy it, life will go by, and you will not see what has happened. So for now, I'm going back to work on sanding for a little more and put some pictures of what is going on here. This will help you understand what I'm talking about. Until later.

Robert J Lonski



IT will be E.P.I.C.!



Mark your calendars for E.P.I.C. (Every Person In Church) Sunday and Brunch **September 15**. Our Brunch Bunch is planning another delicious brunch after the 10:30 service. Please plan to join us.

Theologian's Corner

St. Bartholomew

August 24th



This Saturday the church remembers St. Bartholomew in our prayers.

The name "Bartholomew" appears in the New Testament only on lists of the names of the twelve apostles. This list normally is given as six pairs, and the third pair in each of the Synoptics is "Philip and Bartholomew" (M 10:3; P 3:18; L 6:14; but A 1:15).

John gives no list of the Twelve, but refers to more of them individually than the Synoptists. He does not name Bartholomew, but early in his account (John 1:43-50) he tells of the call to discipleship of a Nathanael who is often supposed to be the same person.

The reasoning is as follows: John's Nathanael is introduced as one of the earliest followers of Jesus, and in terms which suggest that he became one of the Twelve. He is clearly not the same as Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Judas Iscariot, Judas (not Iscariot, also called Lebbaeus or Thaddeus), all of whom John names separately. He is not Matthew, whose call is described differently (M 9:9). This leaves Bartholomew, James the son of Alpheus, and Simon Zelotes. Of these, Bartholomew is the leading candidate for two reasons:

(1) "Bar-tholomew" is a patronymic, meaning "son of Tolmai (or Talmi)." It is therefore likely that he had another name. (A historical novel which may not be well researched informs me that a first-century Jew would be likely to use the patronymic instead of the forename as a mark of respect in speaking to a significantly older Jew.) "Nathanael son of Tolmai" seems more likely than "Nathanael also called James (or Simon)."

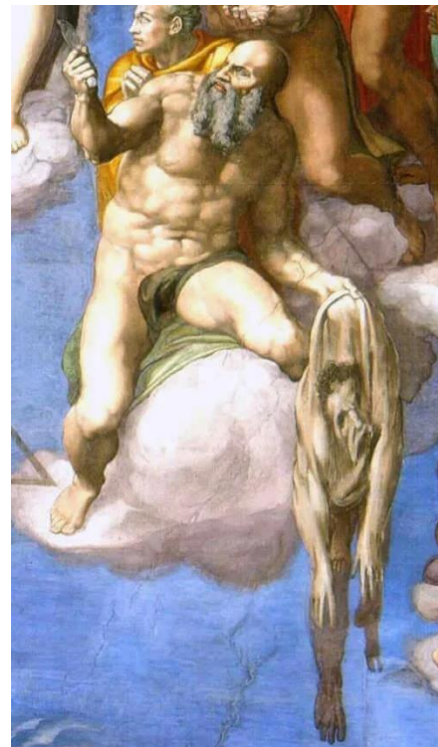
(2) Nathanael is introduced in John's narrative as a friend of Philip. Since Bartholomew is paired with Philip on three of our four lists of Apostles, it seems likely that they were associated.

We have no certain information about Bartholomew's later life. Some writers, including the historian Eusebius of Caesarea (now Har Qesari, 32:30 N 34:54 E, near Sedot Yam), say that he preached in India. The majority tradition, with varying details, is that Bartholomew preached in Armenia, and was finally skinned alive and beheaded to Albanus or Albanopolis (now Derbent, 42:03 N 48:18 E) on the Caspian Sea. His emblem in art is a flaying knife. The flayed Bartholomew can be seen in Michelangelo's Sistine painting of the Last Judgement. He is holding his skin. The face on the skin is generally considered to be a self-portrait of Michelangelo.

The veneration of saints in the Episcopal Church is a continuation of an ancient tradition from the early Church which honors important and influential people of the Christian faith.

Episcopalians believe in the communion of saints in prayer (see the Apostles Creed) and as such the liturgical calendar accommodates feasts for saints on specific days. Since we won't be meeting in person on Saturday, let us remember St. Bartholomew in prayer.

Together we pray: O Almighty and everlasting God, who didst give to thine apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach thy Word: Grant, we beseech thee, that thy church may love what he believed and preach what he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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, Adam Thomas, Bob Lambert, Carla Curry, Jack Bridendolph, Tom Oakes, Janel Hutchison, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, and Connie Freebern.

Please add the following to your prayers this Thirteenth Week after Pentecost
St Dunstan's, Tulsa St Stephen's Homeless Shelter & HIV Clinic , Montevideo,
Uruguay

At Luke's Place : Aug 22nd – Aug 28th , 2024

**Aug 22nd Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Green Country MP, 1pm, GCV**

**Aug 25th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave**

Aug 27th Empty Bowls Fundraiser for Agape, 11:30am, Community Center

Aug 28th Choir, 5:30pm, Choir Room

YD Hotdogs & Potluck Dinner with NYC Trip Slideshow, 6pm, Metcalf

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 25th – Aug 31st, 2024



Birthdays

Darian Kedy	8/25
Dennis Mueggenborg	8/26
Camden Campbell	8/29
Cathy Perrier	8/30
Heidi Droege	8/31
James Warring	8/31



Anniversaries

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!



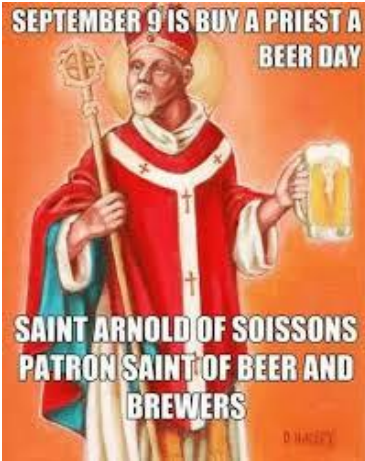
Choir Rehearsals Resume

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

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 TONIGHT**. For those who want a little extra help

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.



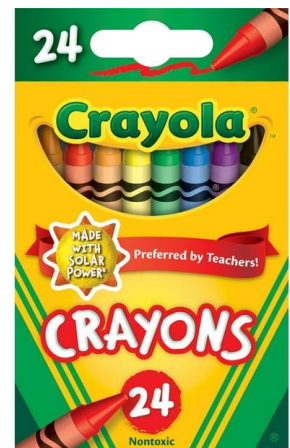
BUY YOUR PRIEST A BEER DAY

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. The Palace Rooms have reserved the Speak Easy room for us- Just ask where we are at the door or at the bar. Join us!



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

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!





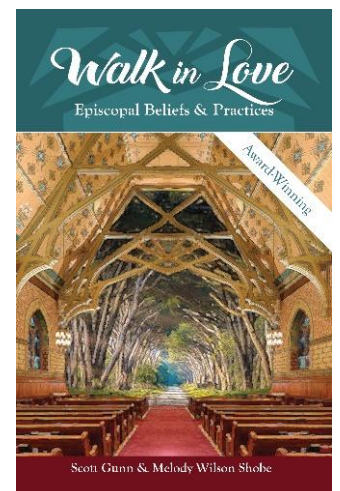
Spiritual Discovery Group will start back September 3rd, 10:00am, in the Library. Everyone welcome!



Its Time to Celebrate and Hear about our YD's Trip to NYC! Join us next Wednesday, August 28th , 6pm, in Metcalf for potluck and hotdogs with all the fixin's. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and join in the fun!

Faith Forum is Back!

Faith Forum starts back this coming Sunday, 9:15am, in Metcalf Hall. Faith Forum is an open discussion forum about our faith, traditions, and practices. This fall we will be using the book "Walk in Love" which you can purchase through the bookstore. If you are wanting to learn more about the Episcopal faith and exploring your own beliefs, please know this is an open class for everyone.



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