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The Steeple



August 28, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Earnest Prayer

In 2021 *The Living Church*, a periodical that serves the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion since 1878, published an article by William Hargrave entitled, "Progress in the Pandemic: Christ Church, Tulsa." Featured in the article was an astonishing statistic that Christ Church reported in that just over a year, the church had grown from an average Sunday attendance of forty to over two hundred. God be praised. I revisited that article this week for a few reasons.

<https://livingchurch.org/news/progress-in-the-pandemic-christ-church-tulsa/>

First, as part of our intercessions in the daily office we are praying for Christ Church this week – to include their rector, Everett Lees. Each year the diocese publishes a prayer list which covers every church in our diocese. Should you like to add these intercessions to your prayers, you can find out what parish we are praying for in the Steeple each week. You can also navigate to the link below to find the list on the diocesan website:

<https://www.epiok.org/resource-library>

Second, I love how Hargrave highlighted Christ Church's hard work in claiming their identity not as a parish church that does everything but as one who took stock of who they really are and gave some intentional thought about who they wanted to become. They took a brave step in doing that and now they do a few things very, very well. For them, that meant participating in a concerted effort to shoring up and build a rich and robust children's ministry. That move ended up being a churchwide effort. In other words, everybody was on board, and I have to believe that any exercise in becoming aware of one's identity is a solid way forward for any parish to take.

Third, this week Everett's friends and the diocesan clergy learned that he has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. In his post on Facebook on Monday he mentioned that despite the fact that the survival rate of this type of cancer is not good at all – he was going to fight as hard as he could for

as long as he could. A faithful priest and spiritual leader, he assured those reading the post of God's faithfulness quoting Psalm 40, "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God."

Not the news that I'd like to report this week. But we will join him in this new song. St. Luke's will continue to pray for Everett and for Christ Church. And we will continue to pray for his wife Kristen and their three children. May the bonds of faith draw all our hearts closer together and may the healing power of God's love transform the shadows of today's diagnosis into the brightness of tomorrow's healing grace. God bless the Lees family.

You have faithful prayer partners here in the ville.

Nick+



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.

Ladies' Prayer Warriors will begin meeting every week beginning September 9th, 11:30am, upstairs in one of the classrooms. If you would like more information, please contact Sandy Whitson.



Theologians Corner:

The Martyrdom of John the Baptist



On Thursday the Church commemorates the martyrdom of John the Baptist on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of his step-daughter Salome and her mother Herodias.

According to the Synoptic Gospels, Herod, who was tetrarch, or sub-king, of Galilee under the Roman Empire, had imprisoned John the Baptist because he reproved Herod for divorcing his wife (Phasaelis, daughter of King Aretas of Nabataea) and unlawfully taking Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip I. On Herod's birthday, Herodias' daughter (whom Josephus identifies as Salome) danced before the king and his guests. Her dancing pleased Herod so much that in his drunkenness he promised to give her anything she desired, up to half of his kingdom. When Salome asked her mother what she should request, she was

told to ask for the head of John the Baptist on a platter. Although Herod was appalled by the request, he reluctantly agreed and had John executed in the prison.

The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus also relates in his *Antiquities of the Jews* that Herod killed John, stating that he did so, "lest the great influence John had over the people might put it into his [John's] power and inclination to raise a rebellion, (for they seemed ready to do anything he should advise), [so Herod] thought it best [to put] him to death." He further states that many of the Jews believed that the military disaster that fell upon Herod at the hands of Aretas, his father-in-law (Phasaelis' father), was God's punishment for his unrighteous behavior.

None of the sources gives an exact date, which was probably in the years 28–29 AD (Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-27; Luke 9:9) after imprisoning John the Baptist in 27 AD at the behest of Herodias his brother's wife whom he took as his mistress. According to Josephus, the death took place at the fortress of Machaerus.

Together we pray: Almighty God, who didst call thy servant John to be the forerunner of thy Son our Lord both in life and death; grant, we beseech thee, that as we remember his faithfulness unto death, we may with boldness speak thy truth and with humility be ready to hear it; through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who with Thee and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest one God, world without end. Amen

The logo features a stylized cross with four arrows pointing outwards. The top and bottom arms are blue, while the left and right arms are red. The cross is surrounded by a cluster of small, colorful dots in shades of blue, red, and yellow.

Walk in Love Paradox

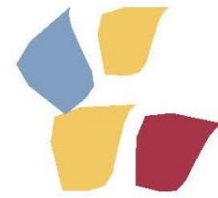
The phrase “Walk in love” is borrowed from a letter Paul wrote to Ephesians in which he discusses the Christian understanding of love: to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Indeed, walking in love is integral to the Christian tradition; at the same time, essential and secularly connected to each of our hearts. As a young adult, wishing to honestly engage in a reflection of love, my mind projects past the static, screened portrayals that streamed romcoms and pop lyrics are soaked with into something deeper: love as paradox. Paradox as recognizing the relationship between two highly differing experiences which do not negate each other like contradiction does. Instead, when paired together, vastness opens up so wide, we can hold each separate concept in our hands and feel the infiniteness of life swirl within us. Paradox is a flipped coin, currency; a battery, energy. Love must be a paradox.

In my encounters with paradox, there is a side which is conventionally received within the culture of our society; the other side faces a struggle to accept. I wonder what lies within love – the shadow-side that together completes a whole. Forgiveness blossoms on my lips.

In the spring of 2020, a friend sent me Pádraig Ó Tuama’s reading of Dilruba Ahmed’s poem, “Phase One.” Forgiveness flowers across stanzas, coating a hurt heart like liniment: “...Ointment reserved/ for healers and prophets. I forgive you./ I forgive you.” (Ahmed, 39-41). As the tears fell across my cheeks, a realization was released: to forgive is to love. And so, as I would forgive, or love, another, I must forgive, and love, myself.

As a child, I translated our commandment of love to “Love your neighbor as your [honest] self.” In other words, come as you are to the world; with all your ugliness or beauty, love nonetheless. Now, I see it another way: “Love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.” Society says, “Love begets love,” but this is not always true. Forgiveness begets love. So here, as ourselves and towards our neighbors, we must return to love.

| TENS.org



Questions for Reflection:

When is the last time you forgave yourself? How does forgiveness transform love?



Vivian Altopp runs an educational nonprofit, Striving Together Empowering People (STEP), for young people in West Philadelphia out of her home church, Calvary St. Augustine, and is currently working on a novel on the life of the posthumously famous photographer, Vivian Maier.



THE EPISCOPAL
NETWORK FOR
STEWARDSHIP

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, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Connie Freebern, Marcie Zervas, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Sandy Whitson, and Everett Lees.

**Please add the following to your prayers this Fourteenth Week after Pentecost
Christ Church, Tulsa**

At Luke's Place : Aug 29th – Sept 4th , 2024

**Aug 29th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country MP, 1pm, GCV**

**Sept 1st Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave**

Sept 2nd Labor Day- office closed

**Sept 3rd Spiritual Discovery Study, 10:00am, Library
Catechesis Class, TBA evening, Vestry Room**

**Sept 4th Choir, 5:30pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Pool Party at Phares'**

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Sept 1st – Sept 7th , 2024

Birthdays

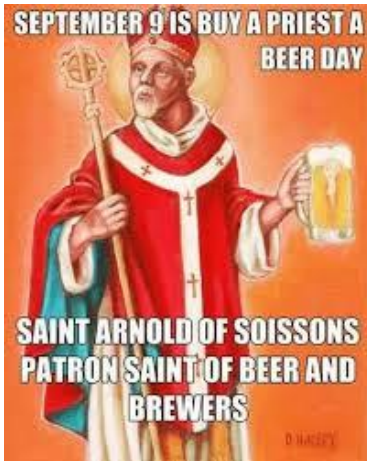


Yvonne Walters	(9/1)
Annabelle Droege	(9/2)
Nancy Warring	(9/3)
Mark Peterson	(9/5)
Teresa Phares	(9/6)
David Breedlove	(9/7)

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!**



BUY YOUR PRIEST A BEER DAY

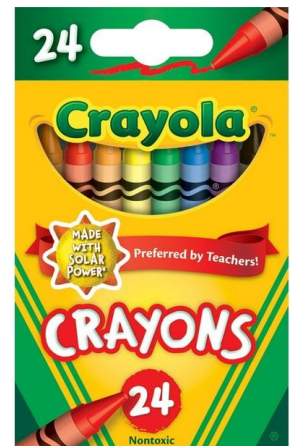
We have Sept 9th at the Palace Rooms planned for this special Feast Day. Vestry will be meeting earlier in the evening at St Luke's and then adjourn around 6:45pm to escort Fr Nick to the Palace Rooms for beer, cocktails, and fellowship. The Palace Rooms have reserved the Speak Easy room for us- Just ask where we are at the door or at the bar. Join us!



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

Pack the Backpacks monthly request

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!

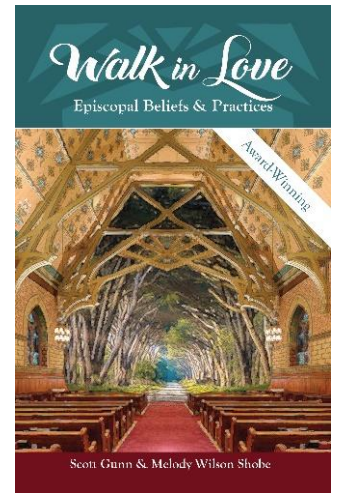




Spiritual Discovery Group will start back September 3rd, 10:00am, in the Library. Everyone welcome!

Faith Forum is Back!

Faith Forum is every 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.



YD has its first Gathering for the School Year at Sooner Park





First week of YD was a success at Sooner Park! We had a great turnout of kids ranging from 6th grade up to 12th. We had a delicious BBQ dinner together provided by the Ryals, then played games until the sunset - "guess who," frisbee golf, and pickleball! (I'm forwarding some photos)

The leaders this year are Tom Droege, Kate Roper, and Blair Ellis (with crucial help from Jen McIver and Becky Olsen).

Next week we'll have dinner with the congregation and share the slideshow from our NYC trip!



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.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT CONCERN

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918-336-4693



September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite I 10:30am Holy Eucharist - Rite II	2 Labor Day Office Closed 4:00pm Evening Prayer	3 10:00am Spiritual Discovery Book Study 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:30pm Catechesis Class	4 4:00pm Evening Prayer 5:00pm Choir 6:00pm YD Meeting	5 7:00am Men's Breakfast 9:15am Bible Study 1:00pm Holy Eucharist Rt. I 4:00pm Evening Prayer	6 12:00pm Outreach Committee Meeting	7
8 8:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite I 10:30am Holy Eucharist - Rite II	9 11:30am Ladies' Prayer team 12:00pm Finance Committee 4:00pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Vestry Meeting 6:45pm International Buy Your Priest a Beer Day	10 10:00am Spiritual Discovery Book Study 12:00pm P.E.O 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:30pm Catechesis Class	11 4:00pm Evening Prayer 5:00pm Choir 6:00pm YD Meeting	12 7:00am Men's Breakfast 9:15am Bible Study 1:00pm Holy Eucharist Rt. I 4:00pm Evening Prayer	13	14 Brunch Bunch set up Tedstrom Wedding (Blessing)
15 8:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite I 10:30am Holy Eucharist - Rite II 11:30am Brunch Bunch event	16 11:30am Ladies' Prayer team 4:00pm Evening Prayer	17 9:00am Casa Hispana cooking 10:00am Spiritual Discovery Book Study 4:00pm Evening Prayer 5:30pm Altar Guild meeting 6:30pm Catechesis Class	18 4:00pm Evening Prayer 5:00pm Choir 6:00pm YD Meeting	19 7:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Casa Hispana cooking 9:15am Bible Study 1:00pm Holy Eucharist Rt. I 4:00pm Evening Prayer	20	21 9:00am Casa Hispana set up 5:30pm Casa Hispana Bingo Fundraiser
22 8:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite I 10:30am Holy Eucharist - Rite II	23 9:00am Casa Hispana cooking 11:30am Ladies' Prayer team 4:00pm Evening Prayer	24 9:00am Casa Hispana cooking 10:00am Spiritual Discovery Book Study 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:30pm Catechesis Class	25 4:00pm Evening Prayer 5:00pm Choir 6:00pm YD Meeting	26 7:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Casa Hispana cooking 9:15am Bible Study 1:00pm Holy Eucharist Rt. I 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:30pm Pub Theology	27	28
29 8:00am Holy Eucharist - Rite I 10:30am Holy Eucharist - Rite II	30 11:30am Ladies' Prayer team 12:15pm St Michael and All Angels Feast Day/ Eucharist 4:00pm Evening Prayer	1 9:00am Casa Hispana cooking 10:00am Spiritual Discovery Book Study 4:00pm Evening Prayer 6:30pm Catechesis Class	2 4:00pm Evening Prayer 5:00pm Choir 6:00pm YD Meeting	3 7:00am Men's Breakfast 9:15am Bible Study 1:00pm Holy Eucharist Rt. I 4:00pm Evening Prayer	4 6:00pm Blessing of the Animals	5

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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

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