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# *The Steeple*



September 11,  
2024



## **The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church**



### **September 11, 2024**

On our recent trip to New York, the Young Disciples made a trip to the 9/11 memorial – ground zero. As you know, the memorial features a cavernous water feature. That morning there were several tour groups around us, so it was easy to hear some of the facts that the guides were offering to their groups. When I heard the words, “This is anything but a fountain,” I took notice.

The guide continued, “The focal points of the Memorial are two pools, that are each nearly an acre in size. They sit in what are the footprints of the former North and South Towers. The pools are the largest manmade waterfalls in North America, each descending 30 feet into a square basin that you can see below. From there, the water in each pool drops another 20 feet and disappears into a smaller, central void.

According to the architect, Michael Arad, the pools represent “absence made visible.” Although water flows into the voids, they can never be filled.” All around us the people fell silent. Someone noticed flowers by particular names and asked about them. “The flowers indicate birthdays.” The flowers were white.

Twenty-three years ago the world changed, and the epicenter of that change was in New York. Decades of war followed. The Presiding Bishop at the time Frank Griswold, was asked to write a prayer, one that could be used in observances of the anniversary of September 11, 2001, perhaps at the conclusion of the Prayers of the People. We return to it this week.

He wrote:

God the compassionate one, whose loving care extends to all the world, we remember this day your children of many nations and many faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Console those who continue to suffer and grieve, and give them comfort and hope as

they look to the future. Out of what we have endured, give us the grace to examine our relationships with those who perceive us as the enemy, and show our leaders the way to use our power to serve the good of all for the healing of the nations. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord who, in reconciling love, was lifted up from the earth that he might draw all things to himself. Amen.

As we remember this day may Bishop Griswold's words awaken in us the memory of that day and the years that followed. May we, upon reflection emerge with new perspective and continue the often arduous work of peacemaking in our own way wherever that may be. May we do this work in the name of Christ.

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.

Pack the Backpacks monthly request  
For September



## Theologian's Corner

### The Exultation of the Holy Cross September 14<sup>th</sup>



#### The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor



intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

In the Episcopal Church we observe this Feast on Sept. 14. The collect for Holy Cross Day recalls that Christ "was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself," and prays that "we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him" (BCP, p. 192). The themes of Holy Cross Day are powerfully expressed by the hymn "Lift high the cross" (Hymn 473).

As alluded to above, this feast is known as "The Exaltation of the Holy Cross" in the eastern church and in missals and sacramentaries of the western church, and it is known as "The Triumph of the Cross" in the Roman Catholic Church. It was one of the 12 great feasts in the Byzantine liturgy. The 1979 BCP is the first American Prayer Book to include Holy Cross Day so it may be new to some of you.

Together let us pray: Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

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### *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, Miriam Petrovich, Lynette Beebe, Joe Norton, Jack Smith, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Shawn, 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, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Sandy Whitson, David Bartosh, Joann Gallery, and Janet Biggers.

**Please add the following to your prayers this Sixteenth Week after Pentecost**  
**Holland Hall School, Tulsa      Casady School, Oklahoma City**  
**Oak Hall School, Ardmore**

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**At Luke's Place : Sept 12<sup>th</sup> – Sept 18<sup>th</sup> , 2024**

**Sept 12<sup>th</sup> Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf**  
**Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf**  
**Green Country MP, 1pm, GCV**  
**Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Brunch Bunch Set Up, Metcalf**

Sept 15<sup>th</sup> Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel  
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf  
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave  
E.P.I.C. Brunch, after 10:30am service, Metcalf  
Sing Along with OSLC, 4:00pm, Metcalf  
Sept 16<sup>th</sup> Ladies' Prayer Team, 11:30am, classroom  
Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Discovery Study, 10:00am, Library  
Altar Guild Meeting, 5:30pm, Chapel  
Catechesis Class, 6pm, Metcalf  
Sept 18<sup>th</sup> Choir, 5:30pm, Choir Room  
YD, 6pm, Rodgers

### Birthdays and Anniversaries, Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – Sept 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

#### Birthdays



Karole Cozby	(9/16)
Stefanie Tedstrom	(9/20)
Bill Jones	(9/21)
Nick Olsen	(9/21)

#### Anniversaries

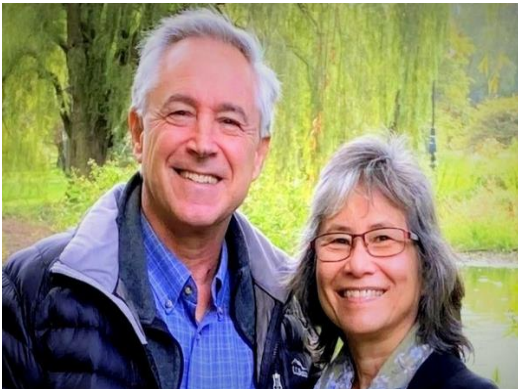


If your or a loved one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

## News from the Greens:

Dear praying friends,

Thank you for standing with Roger and me as we provide Scripture engagement planning and tools for communities in 15 Bible translation projects in a nearby country. Roger continues with organizing Scripture recordings, devices and training for each language team. We value your prayers, too, for those who are having to leave their homes in order to find safety. Our hearts go out to them. Please ask God to help them reach their destinations and start a new life there. So much needs to get organized in the new places, especially for school-age children.



Another prayer request is Sunday, Sept. 15, when I'll lead the first of four after-church sessions for four Thai mothers and their daughters. Through discussing the book of Ruth, Psalm 63:1-5, the Tabernacle, Ephesians 5:21-32, 1 Corinthians 7:32-38, Genesis 2:15-25, and Song of Songs 2, I assist mothers and daughters to feel more comfortable talking with each other about topics that might formerly have felt taboo. We've had good results from Mother/Daughter events in the past. I yearn for the Lord's enabling and blessing. May His Holy Spirit bring ease and harmony to these sessions, open the hearts of the mothers and daughters and make them strong in who they are in Christ in the context of family and either singleness or marriage.

Then on Monday, Sept. 16, Roger and other colleagues will help me lead a week-long Scripture engagement orientation for two interns who will be doing research at a local church. The purpose of the research is to understand which Scripture engagement tool would be most appreciated by the church members. The orientation includes introductions to anthropology research, EthnoArts, spiritual formation, trauma healing, group Bible listening, Discovery Bible Study, Bible storying, participatory methods, praying for loved ones who don't yet know Jesus, family ministries, and a practice interview session through an interpreter. There are a lot of moving parts to this orientation, so please ask God for His grace that the interns will receive a good overall picture of the variety of possibilities for experiencing the richness of God's Word.

Thank you for praying for a beautiful beginning to Esther and Noah's marriage! The wedding was full of precious moments of celebrating. We enjoyed the family time (including time with Noah's family) and getting to know Esther's and Noah's friends better. In the wedding ceremony, we all loudly affirmed that we would support Esther and Noah in their marriage. 😊 We thank God we could be there. Now, we are continuing to ask God to guide Esther and Noah and lead them ever closer to Him and to each other in their first year of marriage.

Since there has been daily rain for months, Roger and I have been doing mold prevention with silica gel packs and also doing clean-up (or throw-out) for things we either forgot to mold-proof or didn't know to mold-proof. A couple of days ago the water company turned off our house water for the whole day. Ironical, right? So, our daily life has its own challenges.

We are so grateful for your prayers. Thank you for being a team with us,  
Joanne



*The name of the Lord is a strong fortress;  
the godly run to him and are safe.*  
*Proverbs 18:10*

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If you enjoy baking, you might like to try making bread. St. Luke's is in need of bread bakers for 1st, 2nd, and 5th weeks. Really this is a simple recipe that I can give to you.

Contact Wendy Hall . Call or text 918 440 4355.

Looking forward to hearing from you.



## **Needed: Altar Bread Bakers**



## **OSLC and St. Luke's singalong**

We invite St. Luke's and former Our Savior Lutheran members and friends to a sing-a-long THIS Sunday, September 15th at 4 to 5 PM in Metcalf Hall. Marjoliene Gravley and Susan Mueller, parish musicians of OSLC, will be our music leaders. We will be singing portions of the Lutheran liturgy and many of our shared hymns. Our worship services are very similar and it will be exciting to sing together to praise God! There's a rumor that Father Nick might be chanting?

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## **CONCERN NEEDS**

Pantry needs are macaroni and cheese, 15 oz canned tomato sauce and homeless – canned single serve proteins and vegetables and reusable bags with handles.

Reminder of the Battle in Bartlesville fundraiser on Sat., Sept. 21, 2024 at Hilton Garden Inn. Tickets can be purchased for \$75 at [concerncares.com](https://concerncares.com) by Friday, Sept. 13th.

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# YD POOL PARTY

YD met at Father Nick's house tonight for pizza and a pool party.

Only the boys showed up this week, so we had some good ol' fashion fun with water volleyball and cannonball contests. It was a great night - perfect weather!



## Trunk or Treat News

If St Luke's is to have our Trunk or Treat Event, we need helpers. The Haunted Garage needs a group to plan and execute if we are to have that. The Trunk or Treat event needs planners and workers. It's been a very fun afternoon in the past but those who have put it on, have other obligations this year and won't be able to contribute as in the past. If you would like to take this on or help, please let the office or Nancy Woods know.







# Stewardship

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

## ... BRUNCH BUNCH ...

This ministry was born from a suggestion, (Thank you Laura Birk!), that creating a fellowship of the "new kids" or new members of the church might be a good way for them to become an active part of St. Luke's. Our new members who started this ministry thought that having a brunch would be a wonderful way to share fellowship after the 10:30 service. The "Bunch" decided to serve brunch once a quarter and they have planning sessions a week or two ahead of the event. These sessions are yet another way that fellowship with each other happens. They are pretty fun in themselves! Every September they check to see if anyone wants a break from the group. So far, no one has wanted to retire. They decorate Friday before the brunch and clean up after - with Margaret's help. (She is amazing!) At first, they did not put out a donation basket; now they do, but most members just donate their contributions. There is a reserve of money which they have decided to gift appropriately during Christmas season. The Brunch Bunch loves working together and serving our church family. St. Luke's is so thankful for their efforts and the love they pour out to our family!

Members are:

Judy & Sam Duvall, Pam & Tim Hanson, Joan & Steve Heidorn,  
Boots Kelly & Kelley Lawrence, Cathy & Jim Perrier, Margo Proctor and Sandy & Fred Whitson.

## September 9<sup>th</sup>, We Celebrated our Priest!









## We Will Never Forget

### St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – [Nancywoods120@gmail.com](mailto:Nancywoods120@gmail.com)
- Jo Baughman – [jybokla@aol.com](mailto:jybokla@aol.com)
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – [kscozby916@gmail.com](mailto:kscozby916@gmail.com)
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- Laura Birk – [lpbirk73@gmail.com](mailto:lpbirk73@gmail.com)
- Mark Peterson- [markandmarypeterson@gmail.com](mailto:markandmarypeterson@gmail.com)
- Steve Heidorn- [sgheidorn@yahoo.com](mailto:sgheidorn@yahoo.com)
- Dolores McCreary – [dolomc37@gmail.com](mailto:dolomc37@gmail.com)
- Steve Roper- [sdroper2006@yahoo.com](mailto:sdroper2006@yahoo.com)
- Erin Roper-
- Robert Lonski- [rjtazski@yahoo.com](mailto:rjtazski@yahoo.com)

### **Bereavement Team 3**

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

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918-336-1212  
Or contact  
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

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Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist  
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