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The Steeple



September 18,
2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Those Who Sing Pray Twice

The phrase "Those who sing, pray twice," attributed to St. Augustine, holds deep meaning for anyone involved in church music. I have often reflected on this statement, and its truth becomes more evident as the words of hymns become more alive with each song I sing in worship. As such, music in the context of worship is not merely an embellishment to prayer; it is an integral and transformative part of it, heightening both personal devotion and communal

worship.

I think some of you may agree, that singing as a form of prayer has a unique power to reach the depths of the human soul. While spoken prayers engage our intellect and voice, music engages the heart in a way that is often indescribable. There is a certain mystery in how melodies can lift words beyond the ordinary, making them resonate more deeply with our emotions and spirit. When we sing while in worship, I feel as though we are offering something more than words though — in that it is a more heartfelt expression which transcends the limitations of language.

One of the most profound experiences I've had singing in church is witnessing how music brings the congregation together in prayer. Singing in unison creates a sense of unity that spoken words often cannot achieve. In those moments, it is as if our collective voices form a single prayer rising to God. Thus, the communal aspect of worship is enhanced when we sing, as we are not only individuals praying privately but also a body of believers praying together. In this way, music bridges the personal and the communal, allowing everyone to contribute to the shared prayer, regardless of musical ability.

Moreover, singing engages the entire person in prayer—mind, body, and spirit. When we sing, we are using our breath, our bodies, and our senses to communicate with God. The physical act of singing becomes a prayer in itself - a living testament to our faith. I find this especially moving during hymns or chants that have been sung for centuries, especially during the Eucharist. When we engage with these pieces, I feel connected to the many generations of Christians who have sung the

same prayers, offering the same praises and petitions to God as I hope you do. It's a reminder that our faith is not only individual but part of a rich and continuous tradition.

I'd like to thank Margaret and Janet for encouraging us all to use our voices in praise of God and for inviting us all into the rich musical tradition offered by Our Savior Lutheran Church. I believe for them that, "Those who sing, pray twice" encapsulates the power of music to create community. I have seen firsthand how music transforms ordinary moments into sacred encounters. Last Sunday was surely that.

Nick+



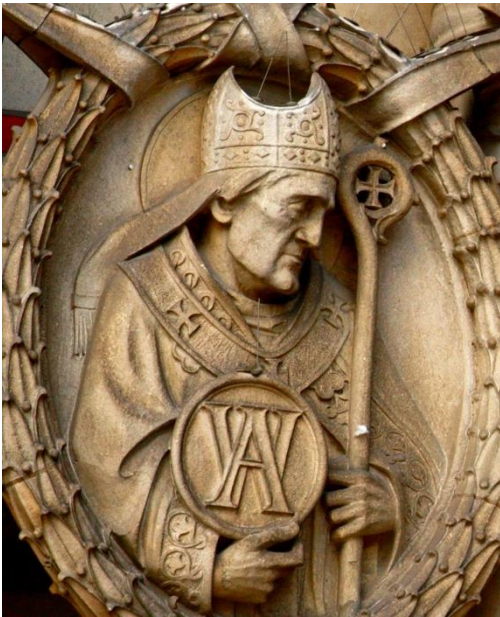
Many, many thanks to our Wonderful Brunch Bunch for the amazing
brunch last Sunday!

Pictured L-R: Boots Kelly, Kelley Lawrence, Cathy & Jim Perrier, Sandy &
Fred Whitson, Margo Proctor, Judy & Sam DuVall, and Pam Hanson.

**Pack the Backpacks monthly request
For September**



Theologian's Corner



Theodore of Tarsus Archbishop of Canterbury

When the pagan Anglo-Saxons invaded England, they drove the native Celtic inhabitants north into Scotland and west into Ireland, Wales, and Cornwall. The Anglo-Saxons were subsequently converted to Christianity by Celtic missionaries from the north and west, and Roman and Gallic missionaries from the south and east. As a result, they ended up with two different "flavors" of Christianity. The difference was expressed mainly in the form of a disagreement about the proper method for calculating the date of Easter, a disagreement which we may suspect was a stand-in for other disagreements a little more difficult to articulate. In 663, a

council was called to settle the dispute, the Synod of Whitby. It decided in favor of the Roman or continental way of doing things.

Soon after, the Archbishop of Canterbury died, and the English elected a successor, Wighard, and sent him to Rome to be consecrated by the Pope. Wighard died in Rome before he could be consecrated, and the Pope (Vitalian) took it upon himself to choose a man to fill the vacancy. He consecrated Theodore of Tarsus (the native city of the Apostle Paul), a learned monk (not a priest) from the East then living in Rome, 65 years old. This surprising choice turned out to be a very good one. Theodore was (as Bede put it in his Ecclesiastical History) "the first archbishop whom all the English obeyed." Having made a tour of his charge, Theodore filled the vacant bishoprics and in 672 presided over the first council of the entire English Church, at Hertford. He established definite territorial boundaries for the various dioceses and founded new dioceses where needed. He found the Church of England an unorganized missionary body and left it a fully ordered province of the universal Church. The body of canon law drawn up under his supervision, and his structure of dioceses and parishes, survived the turmoil of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and are substantially intact today.

He founded a school at Canterbury that trained Christians from both the Celtic and the Roman traditions and did much to unite the two groups. The school was headed by Adrian, an abbot born in Africa but later resident in Italy, who had been the Pope's first choice for Archbishop, but who had refused and recommended Theodore instead. Adrian was learned in the Scriptures, a good administrator, and fluent in Latin and Greek. The school taught Bible, theology and sacred studies, Latin and Greek (Bede alleges that some of the students knew these languages as well as they knew English), poetry, astronomy, and calendar calculation (of some importance for political reasons, as stated above). Adrian died on the 9th of January 710. Theodore died the 19th of September 690 at 88 years old.

Together we pray: Almighty God, who didst give thy servant Theodore of Tarsus gifts of grace and wisdom to establish unity where there had been division and order where there had been chaos: Create in thy church, we pray thee, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, such godly union and concord that it may proclaim, both by word and example, the Gospel of the Prince of Peace; 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, 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, Joann Gallery, Janet Biggers, and Marcie Zervas.

Please add the following to your prayers this Seventeenth Week after Pentecost
St Andrew's, Grove Center for the Assistance of Infants and Families
(CAIF)Ministry for Education & Welfare of Young Children, Diocese of Uruguay

At Luke's Place : Sept 19th – Sept 25th , 2024

Sept 19th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Green Country MP, 1pm, GCV

Sept 22nd Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel

Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf

Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave

Sept 23rd Farris service, 10:00am

Sept 24th Spiritual Discovery Study, 10:00am, Library

Catechesis Class, 6pm, Vestry Room

Sept 25th Choir, 5:30pm, Choir Room

YD, 6pm, Rodgers

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Sept 22nd – Sept 28, 2024



Birthdays

D.J. Nezam	(9/22)
Anna Oliphant	(9/22)
Steve VanAken	(9/24)
Mary Jo Peterson	(9/25)
Dan Gallery	(9/26)
Melinda Droege	(9/26)
Bryan Megee	(9/28)



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!

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



Its just about time for Pub Theology again! Thursday,
September 26th, 6:30pm, Tumbleweed's



OSLC and St. Luke's singalong last Sunday



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.



The Service for Diana Farris will be Monday, September 23rd, 10:00am, here at St Luke's.

YD Scavenger Hunt



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.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ST. LUKE'S

To Father Nick and His Powerful Praying Congregation,

It is with such profound gratitude that we write to every one of you. Many of you are our life-long friends and some of you were perfect strangers...(emphasis on PERFECT) There were times, in the last 4 years, that all WE could do was CRY, "Oh Lord"... And ST Luke's was there. Your prayers individually as well as a congregation not only lifted Luke up...it lifted our entire family up knowing there was a beautiful and loved church that came together in worship praying for our Luke.

I know that God heard all the 'knocking' on Heaven's gates. I like to visualize our prayers floating around in heaven as light as feathers and yet as light and gentle as they are, they are filled with such an intensely passionate and powerful purpose.

During these last 4 years of Luke's journey through cancer, and all it entailed, you all were steadfast in thoughts, prayers, love, the lighting of candles and so much more. Your unwavering prayers gave us hope when we needed it most. We all are forever grateful.

With such love to an amazing community of servants,

Our Family...

Dan and Peggy Van Auken and Ant Ancy Woods

Luke, Suz and Mason Karel

Matt, Kimberly, Hailey, Betsy and Charlie Van Auken

PS. Luke went back this fall to University of Kansas as a junior... (He left there as a freshman after a relapse) He is grateful to God and so many many many people for their fervent prayers. He is a warrior...

PSS...We pray for you and yours and for the loving compassionate leadership of Father Nick and for ST Luke's Church.

Such great works you are doing for the kingdom of Christ



Our Choir is back!

After a summer hiatus, our choir returned to the chancel a couple of weeks ago and it is so nice to have them back



Stewardship Seasonal Volunteer Request

Dear St. Luke's,

I hope this message finds you well. As we approach Stewardship Sunday, I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to anyone who would like to join our committee as a seasonal volunteer this October. We will do most of work during the week of October 27th.

This occasion will be a time to come together in service as we prepare for the stewardship luncheon on November 3rd. Whether you've volunteered before or are new to offering your time, we would love to have you with us during this important week.

If you are available, please let us know which days and times work best for you by contacting the office. We are flexible and appreciate any time you can offer. I look forward to working alongside you as we prepare for this special season.

With gratitude and blessings,

Karen Lewey
St. Luke's Stewardship Committee

Stay cozy and show your St Luke's spirit! Order your sweatshirt and or long-sleeved tee today. Proceeds will go to support YD. Payment is due on delivery. Please make checks payable to St Luke's. Contact Laura Birk 918-914-1013 if you have any questions. October 13th is the last day to order. Thanks for your support.

The Bookstore will be reordering the Rose Window black tees if you would also like one of these. Please contact Cathy Perrier about them.

[Luke's Place Clothing Order Form](#)





Walk in Love God Walks with Us



Our walk in love began early in our relationship. Living in Utah, a Methodist and a Catholic in the land of the Latter-Day Saints, becoming Episcopalian only seemed logical.

When we moved to our current hometown, two things attracted us to the congregation that became our home: a stunning building designed by a world-renowned architect, a perfect setting for two young architects early in their career; and a Boy Scout trailer in the parking lot, perfect for an Eagle Scout from years earlier. Both our children were baptized within the walls of this church. Our son was confirmed and lived his scouting life through the troop chartered by the church. And our daughter has lived her entire spiritual life at our congregation. All of it has been a walk in love.

That walk, and the love that accompanies it, sustained us through a dark time that came suddenly and unexpectedly. In 2021 we tragically lost our 15-year-old son. Our priest brought calm in that devastating moment and was a constant reminder that God walks with us. From the congregation in the days and weeks that followed, meals were prepared, boxes of supplies arrived, there were calls, emails, texts, visits from our community of faith. We never doubted that God was with us, walking with us and, many days, carrying us. Our faith deepened. We were renewed in the unending love of God and upheld by a congregation of friends that gave of their time, their treasures, and their love with no expectation for repayment.

The stewardship of their lives, their walk with us in love, upheld us. Through them, we have experienced how much Christ has loved us. And because of that, we are to be able to give to others from all the gifts that God has given and to continue to walk in love. | tens.org

Questions for Reflection:

What is the relationship between compassion and generosity? How have you experienced both?



Todd and Elizabeth Medd are members of Gethsemane Cathedral, Fargo, North Dakota. Through the death of their son, Liam, they established the 4-6-3 Foundation with a mission to provide lifesaving tools, techniques and resources to youth and their parents, coaches, teachers, and mentors to reduce the stigma around depression and end suicide. 463foundation.org



THE EPISCOPAL
NETWORK FOR
STEWARDSHIP

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Jo Baughman – jybokla@aol.com
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk – lpbirk73@gmail.com
- Mark Peterson- markandmarypeterson@gmail.com
- Steve Heidorn- sgheidorn@yahoo.com
- Dolores McCreary – dolomc37@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Erin Roper-
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com

Bereavement Team 3

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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector
269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
918-697-8509 keelidroege@gmail.com



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Or contact
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