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The Steeple



September 4,
2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Dwell

Ok, no one wants a commercial. But... but.

Have y'all come across the app Dwell yet?

I don't know about you, but I am always trying to find new ways to access God's Word. Even though reading the Bible is already a part of our practice here at St. Luke's – I still felt as if I wasn't connecting with it the way I wanted to. Large swaths of Scripture are read during the church year as part of the daily office - even more so when you factor in Sunday Eucharists and still more through Bible study.

One would think that through all of that exposure we might have it covered. I mean I did – until I felt like I was chewing on old bread. That awareness through me for a loop. But then I thought, do I, at any time, read or listen to it for pleasure?

I didn't know I needed to ask myself that – the just for the pleasure part of it. Not devotional reading – but pleasure.

And that is what Dwell offered me. Pleasure. My favorite part of the app is that you can change translations and listen to people read the Bible from different parts of the world. I'm currently listening to Luke through the voice of Felix who is from Africa. Since Felix's accent is different sometimes his emphasis on certain words and phrases are to. This shift in perspective lends a newness – a freshness all of itself. And that is just the Bible feature.

There are devotions, prayers, stuff for kiddos and you can even get the readings for the daily office. Once I found the Episcopal button and that you could set the readings to an ambient background, I knew I had to try it. And I love it.

So, if you are looking for a new way to enter into God's word this year, try Dwell and as you do go with this collect:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Peace,

Nick+



Keeping the Mind Fixed on the Good

Andrea Jones

Can you remember the tune that goes with these letters? A-B-C-D-E-F-G Sure you do. It was probably in first grade. The tune is the "Alphabet Song." The amazing thing is that even after more than seventy years I still use the melody. Anything you need to find can be assisted by singing (under your breath) that little tune. A-B-C-D.

At one time I had a job filing land abstracts for a Title company and I found the tune essential. A B-C-D. Organizing legal papers for a law firm in Iowa City, Iowa required the alphabet song over and over. Sometimes I would even hear a colleague singing A-B-C-D in the next aisle. We would smile at each other on the way out of the Records Room. The song is just sooo familiar.

There are other songs, you know, rhymes and selections that get into our minds, our hearts, our bones, and pop up in times of joy, boredom, or stress.

At times, I find songs used in advertising irritating, especially an old one used for selling Alfa Romero automobiles. Using the opening bars to Beethoven's Ode to Joy was just wrong, even if the words fit their idea of good retail. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, for a car?

Another song, this one I don't find irritating, "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep." I prayed those words as a child, perhaps you did also. Did we understand at that tender age what a soul was? Not likely, but nevertheless, those words are ingrained today.

Our Father who art in heaven. Now there is a set of words that gets into our souls! I have sat at the side of a dying person, lying in a coma, and when we begin that prayer, their lips will often move in sync to the words.

Are people today aware that what we say, what we sing, what we think is part of who we are? That our minds follow what we allow within our thoughts? That where we go imprints upon our bodies? Keeping our hearts and minds filled with good stuff is not easy. Much of our language is used to entice us to act and think in ways advantageous to the desires of others or not to think at all. -

As a Christian, I find it helpful to keep my ideas fixed on the good, the kind, the joyful. So, singing The Ode to Joy using the words .Joyful,joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Look the rest of the words in our Episcopal hymnal #376.

Now if I could just get that tune out of my head.

(softly humming A-B-C-D-E-F-G)



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.





Theologian's Corner

Katharina Zell

Church Reformer and Writer 1562

Katharina Schütz Zell (1497/8 - September 5, 1562) was a Protestant reformer and writer during the Protestant Reformation. She was one of the first Protestant women to marry a clergyman. Katharina lived all of her life in Strasbourg, now part of France.

Katharina Schütz Zell was most likely born in early 1498 in Strasbourg. Her family was not overly wealthy, but most-likely lived comfortably. Katharina received an excellent vernacular education. It is clear that she learned to read and write German fluently, and eventually developed some basic knowledge of Latin. Katharina's interests in learning were mainly religious, as well as professional training, particularly preparation for an independent profession. This was also not the end of her education. She took it upon herself to continue independent learning throughout the rest of her life.

When Katharina was still fairly young, the teachings and writings of Martin Luther gained fame and began to spread. Katharina was introduced to much of these new teachings and views of religion by Matthew Zell, the pastor who took charge of the St. Lawrence Cathedral in Strasbourg in 1518. Katharina eventually started to take these beliefs as her own through Zell's sermons and Luther's teachings. A few years after Matthew came to Strasbourg, he and Katharine were married by Martin Bucer on December 3, 1523. Katharina Schütz was convinced that she was called to marry Matthew Zell as an expression of her faith in God and her love for others. Katharina was one of the first people to get married to a pastor, even before the marriage of Martin Luther, something that was not necessarily thought too highly of at the time. Her marriage was what would be seen as a true equal partnership in a society that required that the good wife be silent and obedient, and in which women usually only achieved independence as widows. Katharina had two children with Matthew, although they both died at very young ages. Mathew died on January 9, 1548. Though Katharina mourned and grieved his death, this did not stop her work. Katharina herself became ill in 1561 and died on September 5, 1562.

Katharina is noted greatly for her writings and unique personal beliefs. She was very open-minded for a person of her time period and showed it through her actions and writings.

One of Katharina's occupations was that of a pamphleteer. Pamphlets were essential for Protestantism during the Reformation. The pamphlets served to inform a wide audience quickly and with dogmatic effectiveness on current affairs. As a woman of this time period, Katharina did have challenges not faced by male pamphleteers would not have had. In facing criticism Katharina would remind her critics that she never forgot her responsibility as a wife and that she was her husband's partner. "This is why my pious husband only called me his curate, although I never stood on the pulpit – something I did not have to do in my line of duties."

Katharina's experiences do not reflect those of the majority of women during the Reformation. Women of this time period were expected to conform to certain roles and rules which were institutionally and socially enforced on them. Katharina is an example of a woman who broke through these barriers to get her beliefs out to the public. Katharina also differs from some other women reformers in that she was not subject to much threatening opposition. One woman who faced some of this opposition was Argula von Grumbach, another influential pamphleteer.

Together we pray: Almighty God, whose servant Katharina Zell toiled for the reform of thy church both in word and in deed: Fill us with the wisdom to speak out in defense of thy truth, with love for thee and for our neighbor, that we may serve thee and welcome all thy people with a mother's heart; through Christ our Lord. 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, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Connie Freebern, Marcie Zervas, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Sandy Whitson, Everett Lees, and David Bartosh.

Please add the following to your prayers this Fifteenth Week after Pentecost
St. Patrick's, Broken Arrow Anglican Center for Solidarity and Assistance (CASA)
Job Training Ministry, Diocese of Uruguay

At Luke's Place : Sept 5th – Sept 11th , 2024

Sept 5th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf

Green Country MP, 1pm, GCV

Sept 6th Outreach Committee, noon, Vestry Room

Sept 8th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
 Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
 Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
 Sept 9th Ladies' Prayer Team, 11:30am, classroom
 Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room
 Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
 Buy Your Priest a Beer Day, 6:45pm, Palace Rooms
 Sept 10th Spiritual Discovery Study, 10:00am, Library
 Catechesis Class, 6pm, Metcalf
 Sept 11th Choir, 5:30pm, Choir Room
 YD, 6pm, Rodgers

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Sept 8th – Sept 14th , 2024

Birthdays

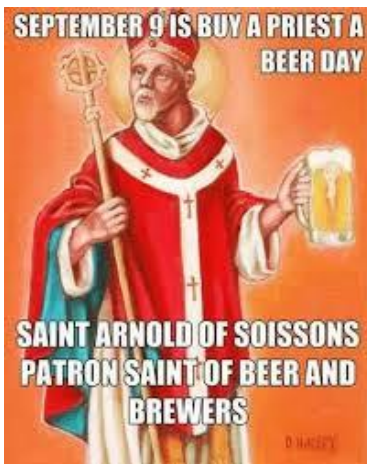


Steve Roper	(9/8)
Katherine Todd	(9/9)
Robert Lonski	(9/10)

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!

Pack the Backpacks monthly request



StEWArDShiP **Pastoral Care**

The ministry of PASTORAL CARE strives to visit those who are unable to attend St Luke's but whose hearts want to be remembered and included. Each month we share our time with those once faithful friends to keep them abreast of the happenings at St Luke's and listen to their stories. If this is something you are drawn to, please contact Karole Cozby at 918-914-2939



OSLC and St. Luke's singalong

We invite St. Luke's and former Our Savior Lutheran members and friends to a sing-a-long 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?

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

www.concerncares.com

918-336-4693



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 by Friday, Sept. 13th.



Walk in Love

Do you all mean it?



“Do you all mean all that kingdom of God stuff you have us talk about?” he asked me as we sat on the pavement outside the building where the camp talent show/karaoke night was taking place.

This was the third night in a row where I sat adjacent to the all-camp activity with this particular camper, processing challenges that happened throughout the day; boundaries that got pushed, relationships that got thorny, repeated instructions that got ignored. Every night we’d make a little bit more progress and I almost looked forward to our evening conversations, even while they were complicated.

“What makes you ask that,?” I asked him in return.

“Just curious,” he replied.

“We try to mean it,” I answered, “It isn’t always easy and it isn’t always a straight line, but I think we try to mean it.”

“We’ll see, I guess,” he noted before walking away, the bulk of our conversation having already finished.

For the next two nights we would keep up the pattern of our evening conversations. He would coyly smile every time I walked up. “I must be your favorite camper,” he’d say laughing.

On the last day of camp, he made eye contact with me across the parking lot and ran up after loading his suitcase in the trunk.

“I think I almost believe you – all that kingdom of God stuff. It doesn’t make sense, but I almost believe you.”

Walking in love isn’t always a straight line and it isn’t always comfortable and it isn’t always easy to believe. But in the moments when the world feels like it’s overflowing with pain and hurt and brokenness, I hear his words echo in my head: “I think I almost believe you – all that kingdom of God stuff. It doesn’t make sense, but I almost believe you,” and I figure I can try to start the walk again – one step, one conversation, one honest answer at a time. | tens.org

Questions for Reflection:

What do you find it hard to believe sometimes? When walking in love gets hard to do, who do you look to for inspiration to keep trying?



The Rev. Spencer Hatcher serves as the Executive Director of the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, NH where she’s lucky enough to be a part of a summer camp that serves the dioceses of Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.



THE EPISCOPAL
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STEWARDSHIP

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