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The Steeple



October 16, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Service Abroad



One of the last days Teresa and I were in Spain, we made plans to attend an Anglican Church in the heart of Valencia. Most of the congregation was made up of folks from Great Britain and Australia who had moved to Spain for everything from family and retirement to jobs and calls. The pastor, Julian, greeted us at the door and by our Spanish he knew that we were American right away. We were welcomed, nonetheless. In fact, the congregation was hospitable to a fault – if that is a thing?



The order of service was much the same as ours at St. Luke's and as you would expect, the entire thing was in Spanish, not English. I'll be honest, I could only pick up a word or two here or there in the liturgy. Nevertheless, because the order of the mass was almost identical to ours, I felt like I could really participate despite the service being in a different

language. That was wonderful. When it came time for the peace, we were welcomed yet again and encouraged to partake in the Eucharist. We did. And as I did, I realized just how much I yearned for home, for St. Luke's.

That's the beautiful thing about the Book of Common Prayer, isn't it? You can go almost anywhere in the Anglican Communion and the services, or at least the order of the mass, will be similar. Though the language may be different, it truly is wonderful to know where you are and be present in the service when you are away from home. And while it's comforting, still it makes you miss your community – that's the real experience at least for me.

I hope that as you find yourself abroad perhaps this holiday season or later, you will include church as a part of your travels and avail yourself to community abroad. Perhaps you already do. You can be sure, at any rate, that worshiping abroad provides a perspective one cannot attain unless one goes. That's for sure.



After the service we were invited out into the courtyard to share coffee and sweets. Some things never change. Julian's wife, Nicky (Think Ann Evans only British) said that one of the ways they are reaching out is by doing things right in their own backyard. It may surprise you, but most of the folks that go there actually commute to church – yet they are making connections one cup of café negra at a time.

Other than Rome, I've never been to a more Catholic city in my life. And, much like the Episcopal Church is in the U.S. the Anglican Church in Valencia is a haven not only for expats but people searching for a home that is loving, protestant, and catholic. I really didn't know what to expect, but I'm glad we went, met other Anglicans, and learned that we really aren't that different after all. Wouldn't you know, the last song came over us like a wave – "It is well with my Soul." Yes, even in Spain.

Peace,
Nick+

Theologians Corner:



The Holy Grail in Valencia

Archeological studies, historical documents, the testimony of Tradition, recent discoveries about the design and the inscription in the base, comparative analyses with other similar cups around the world, references from the ancient liturgy, various investigations from distinct scientific disciplines, and even the legends of the Grail all of these indicate it is perfectly plausible that the Holy Chalice of Valencia was in the hands of Jesus Christ at the Last Supper, and that it contained the Most Precious Blood of the Redeemer. In contrast, there is no evidence

that counters this position.

The mystifying beauty of the Holy Chalice is striking, as is the uniform shape, and the resplendent whole of the ensemble, calling visitors to ask themselves if they are truly before the "Precious Chalice" of the Lord.

Only the top portion is the sacred relic: a cup in the form of a carefully shaped and polished bowl. In the light, it reflects various streaks of warm tones. The cup is made of a type of veined sardonyx agate that comes from the region between Alexandria and Syria. Without a doubt, it is a Palestinian artifact, crafted in the first century AD. It is an example of a Jewish "Blessing Cup" for the ritual Paschal Supper in the Hebrew tradition, the most important piece in a Jewish family's treasury.

This Cup, quite familiar to those at the Last Supper, is the one that St. Peter and the Popes (up until Sixtus II) continued to use to celebrate the Eucharist. This is referenced in the ancient Roman Canon of the Mass: "Taking this semi-precious cup (accipiens et hunc praeclarum Calicem) in his holy and venerable hands This Canon (or Prayer) was at first reserved to the Bishop of Rome, and is the only one that uses the expression this same" (et hunc), referring to the Chalice of the Lord.

During the persecution of Valerian (of the year 258) the deacon St. Lawrence sent the cup to his native Huéscá, Spain

Then during the Muslim occupation, it was hidden in various places in the Pyrenees until it was brought to the monastery of San Juan de la Peña.

In the 11th century, in order to protect the chalice, the reliquary was attached to it: the base (an inverted cup with a mysterious inscription) and the rest the handles, the pearls, and precious

stones). But the elegant Cup kept its simplicity, without decoration, just as it was in the First Century.

In 1399, the Holy Chalice became part of the Reliquary of the Crown of Aragon. King Afonso the Magnanimous had it brought to his Palace in Valencia and, later, he delivered it to the Cathedral in Valencia (in 1437), where it has been venerated since. It has been taken out of the Cathedral on very few occasions (to save it from wars and persecution, and in thanksgiving visits to the places where it was safeguarded on these occasions.)

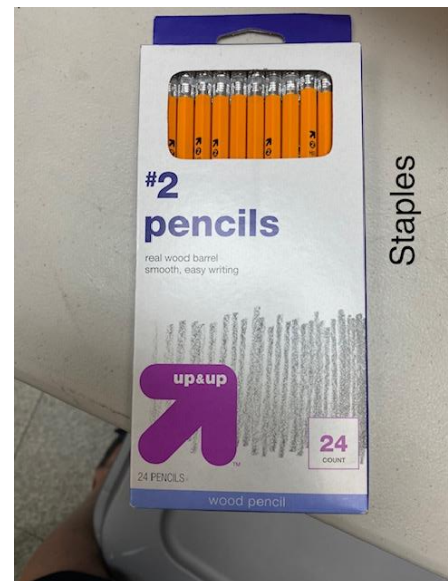
Popes St. John Paul II (in 1982) and Benedict XVI (in 2006) celebrated the Eucharist in Valencia with the Chalice, as Jesus did at the Last Supper, and as the Popes did until the 3rd century.

The Holy Chalice has always been venerated as a true and valuable relic of the Passion of Jesus Christ. It has great architectural, historical, artistic and cultural value. But its greatest worth is that it was the Cup that Jesus looked at, and took in his hands, and in which he consecrated his Most Precious Blood. It is a witness of the Eucharist, which gives us Eternal Life.

Pack the Backpacks monthly request

For October

For October please bring either small packages of 8 to 12 count pencils or large packages of 16 to 24 count pencils. Either size needs to be number 2 pencils with the eraser. Don't spend the extra money for sharpened pencils. The pictures are Walmart or Staples brands of the large packages. Price should be about \$0.50 for the small packages and \$1.00 for the large.



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.

Prayer List

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Norma Perrier, Connie Finch, Tony Clapper, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, 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, Marcie Zervas, Margaret Holden, and Roberta Johanssen.

Please add the following to your prayers this Twenty First Week after Pentecost

**Diocesan Seminarians Iona School of Formation Aspirancy Program
(especially Jeff Birk)**

At Luke's Place : Oct 17th – Oct 23rd, 2024

- Oct 17th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV
Oct 20th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Baptism & Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Oct 21st Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom
Vestry , 5:30pm, Vestry Room
Oct 22nd Spiritual Discovery Study, 9:30am, Library
Oct 23rd Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Oct 20th – Oct 26th, 2024

Birthdays

Brian Olsen (10/20)
Kate Carroll (10/23)
Ruth Todd (10/23)



Anniversaries

Scott & Jen Peterson (10/25)



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!



Margaret's Retirement Brunch

October 27, 2024

After the 10:30am Service

Let's celebrate Margaret!

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or the Church office!
(918-336-1212)



With the Bishop! November 10th, after
the 10:30am Confirmation service.
Please bring a dish to share and join in
a meal with our Bishop Poulson Reed
and the Confirmands.



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

The Bookstore will be ordering the 'Rose Window' tee shirts at the end of October. There are 2 different images: One with HOPE and one with JOY on the front of the shirt. These will be black long sleeve tee shirts, sizes S-XXXL



and will be \$40.00. Short sleeve black tees are \$35.00 Please order through the Bookstore or call Cathy Perrier 918-336-7974._ (the image on the right is not the actual shirt- but lets you see the image logo)

Concern is needing 300 pies for the Thanksgiving Baskets this year and St Luke's has been asked to supply them. We could use some help with funds to purchase them. If you can help, just mark your check or envelope 'Concern Pies' and make the check out to St Luke's. Thank you in advance. St Luke's folks are always so generous and giving.



YD Service Project

We did have a wonderful time last week helping our very own Penny with yard work! I believe we counted over 30 large bags of leaves and a truck bed full of limbs. See attached photos. Our kids worked hard!! Thanks to the Cutts for dinner and to Penny for the caramel apples!





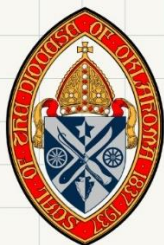
Many, many heartfelt thanks to our YD for the work in my yard! Its never looked so beautiful! Because of you, I met a new neighbor who came over to compliment your work and giving spirits. They were quite impressed with St Luke's youth. Of course, here at St Luke's, we know how wonderful you are! But it says quite a volume when the community sits up and takes notice of the kids we love so much. You bless me and every member with your compassion and love when we are in your presence. Thank you again! Penny

IGNITE

Senior High Retreat



NOVEMBER 8-10
\$150 TO REGISTER
REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 1



IMPORTANT CHILDREN/YOUTH DATES

2024-25

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CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS

November 1, 2024



IGNITE HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

November 8-10, 2024 @ St. Crispin's



NEW BEGINNINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

February 15-16, 2025 @ St. Crispin's



ACOLYTE & CHOIR FESTIVAL

February 22-23, 2025 @ St. Paul's Cathedral, OKC



SUMMER CAMP SEASON

June 1-July 2, 2025 @ St. Crispin's



For More Information

www.epiok.org

Special Sundays coming up.....

Margaret's Retirement Brunch (Oct 27th), All Saints' Day (Nov 1st), Stewardship Sunday (Nov 3rd), Bishop's Visit and Confirmation Sunday (Nov 10th), Christ the King Sunday (Nov 24th), and the beginnings of the new Liturgical Year with Advent.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Sandy Whitson, Margo Proctor

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