

In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- Margaret's Retirement Brunch
- Pot Luck with the Bishop
- Concern needs pies!
- Ignite Youth weekend
- Bookstore Teeshirt order
- Concern Open House
- All Saints' Day/Pledge Sunday Nov 3rd
- Daylight savings Time Ends

The Steeple



October 23, 2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



The Quiet Ministry of a Sexton

In every parish, there are visible ministries—those who preach, teach, and sing—but behind the scenes, there is a dedicated, often unseen, servant: the sexton. While their work may not always be in the spotlight, it is an indispensable part of the life and ministry of our church.

A sexton's role is more than maintaining the physical structure of the church. Yes, they are the ones ensuring that the sanctuary is prepared for worship, that the floors are clean, the pews are polished, and that the lights and heat are working. But their ministry extends far beyond these tasks. A sexton is often the first to arrive and the last to leave, working quietly to ensure that everything is ready for the sacred activities that take place. Whether it's setting up for Sunday services, preparing for a wedding or funeral, or arranging chairs for Bible studies and parish events, the sexton's hands are always at work behind the scenes, making sure the church is a welcoming space for all.

Thus, a church sexton often embodies a ministry of care. Their attention to detail in maintaining the sanctuary and parish grounds reflects a deep respect for the sacredness of the church as a place of worship. They are stewards not just of buildings, but of the environment in which we gather as a community to encounter God. The orderly and well-maintained spaces they create help us focus on our prayers, our fellowship, and our spiritual growth.

In many ways, the work of the sexton mirrors the call of Jesus to serve others with humility and love. Jesus washed His disciples' feet and called us to follow His example of servant leadership. The sexton embodies this service, taking on the role of a humble caretaker, ensuring that the physical space reflects the hospitality and grace of Christ.

As we reflect on the ministry of the sexton, we come to a significant moment in the life of our parish: the retirement of our beloved sexton, Margaret. For years, Margaret has faithfully served our congregation, going above and beyond the call of duty. Whether it was ensuring the sanctuary

was prepared for worship, handling unexpected challenges, or quietly working behind the scenes to support the work of the church, Margaret has been a constant and reliable presence in our community. Her care and dedication have blessed us all, and we owe her a deep debt of gratitude.

At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Courtney as our new sexton. Courtney brings not only a wealth of experience but also a deep commitment to serving this parish community. We look forward to the fresh energy and ideas she will bring to this vital ministry, and we know that Courtney will continue the legacy of faithful service that has been set before her.

Please join me this Sunday in offering heartfelt thanks to Margaret for her years of dedicated service and in welcoming Courtney as she begins her ministry with us. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated individuals caring for the church that we all love.

With Gratitude,
Nick+



Theologians Corner:

James of Jerusalem
Brother of our Lord Jesus Christ

James of Jerusalem is referred to in the New Testament as the brother of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

He was for many years the leader of the Christian congregation in Jerusalem and is generally supposed to be the author of the Epistle of James, although the Epistle itself does not state this explicitly.

James is mentioned briefly in connection with Jesus' visit to Nazareth (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3).

We are told that Jesus' brothers did not believe in Him (John 7:2-5), and from this, and from references in early Christian writers, it is inferred that James was not a disciple of the Lord until after the Resurrection.

Paul, listing appearances of the Risen Lord (1 Cor 15:3-8), includes an appearance to James.

Peter, about to leave Jerusalem after escaping from Herod, leaves a message for James and the Apostles (Acts 12:17). When a council meets at Jerusalem to consider what rules Gentile Christians should be required to keep, James formulates the final consensus (Acts 15:13-21).

Paul speaks of going to Jerusalem three years after his conversion and conferring there with Peter and James (Gal. 1:18-19), and speaks again of a later visit (perhaps the one described in Acts 15) on which Peter, James, and John, "the pillars," placed their stamp of approval on the mission to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:9).

A few verses later (Gal. 2:11-14), he says that messengers from James coming to Antioch discouraged Jewish Christians there from eating with Gentile Christians. (If this refers to the same event as Acts 15:1-2, then Paul takes a step back chronologically in his narration at Gal. 2:11, which is not improbable, since he is dictating and mentioning arguments and events that count as evidence for his side as they occur to him.)

On his last recorded visit to Jerusalem, Paul visits James (others are present, but no other names are given) and speaks of his ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 21:18).

Outside the New Testament, James is mentioned by the Jewish historian Josephus, who calls him "the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ," and reports that he was much respected even by the Pharisees for his piety and strict observance of the Law, but that his enemies took advantage of an interval between Roman governors in 62 AD to have him put to death. His death is also reported by the second-century Christian writer Hegesippus.

Numerous references in early Christian documents show the esteem in which he was held in the early Church.

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.



PLEASE JOIN US.....ALL ARE WELCOME

Concern is very excited to showcase our services in our newly improved building at 333 S. Penn at our upcoming open house sponsored by East Cross Church. Concern has been blessed with numerous capital improvements. Many thanks to Lyon Foundation, Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, City of Bartlesville and Oklahoma Department of Human Services. All are invited to stop by our open house on Sunday, October 27, 2024 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. You will be able to tour our facilities, hear first hand about our services and enjoy some light refreshments. Children can enjoy a few activities. We will also be collecting canned goods during the open house.

No RSVP is necessary.



CONCERN NEEDS

Concern's current needs are canned green beans, tuna and chicken; and homeless - single serve canned proteins, reusable vinyl or canvas bags and toothpaste.

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, and Margaret Holden

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

All Saints', McAlester

Chapel of the Holy Family, Montevideo, Uruguay

At Luke's Place : Oct 24th – Oct 30th, 2024

- Oct 24th Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf**
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV
 - Oct 27th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel**
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Retirement Brunch for Margaret after 10:30am service
 - Oct 28th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom**
Charlie Lee Memorial Service, 1:30pm
 - Oct 29th Spiritual Discovery Study, 9:30am, Library**
 - Oct 30th Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room**
YD, 6pm, Rodgers
-

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

Birthdays



Ben Powell	(10/28)
Rhonda Cerveney	(10/29)
Rob Dahlgren	(10/29)
Grayson Ellis	(10/29)
Elaine Ryan	(10/30)
Lisa Beeman	(10/31)
Janet Holland	(11/2)

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!



Margaret's Retirement Brunch

October 27, 2024

After the 10:30am Service

Let's celebrate Margaret!



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.

ARE YOU CONNECTED?

In our Church Management Software you can....

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- Communicate with groups & teams
- Follow church announcements
- Look up members
- Keep track of your giving
- Create and join events

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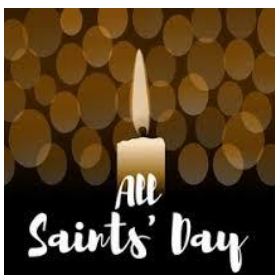
Call Nancy Woods
(918-914-3263)
or the Church office!
(918-336-1212)



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)



All Saints' Day will be celebrated Sunday, Nov 3rd along with Pledge Sunday. If you have the name of a loved one you would like listed in the Necrology during this service, please contact the church office to add their name(s).

IGNITE

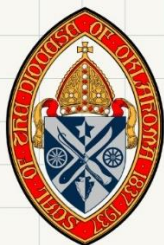
Senior High Retreat



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

Just a reminder: I will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday (Oct 24 & 25).

Penny



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

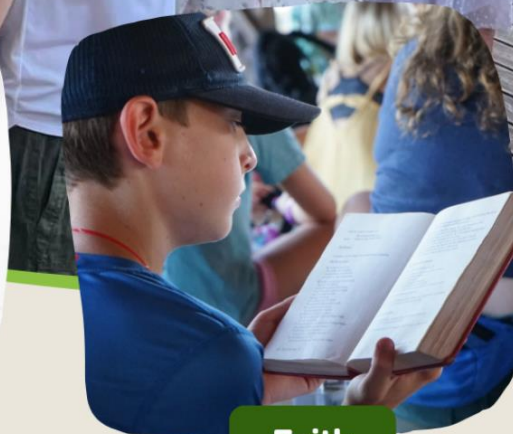
www.epiok.org

Special Sundays coming up.....

Margaret's Retirement Brunch (Oct 27th), All Saints' Day (Nov 3rd), 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.



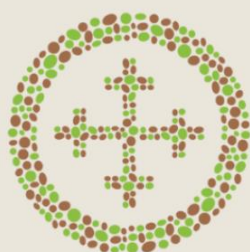
Fun



Faith



Friends



ST. CRISPIN'S SUMMER CAMP

At St. Crispin's Summer Camp, our mission is to form our campers and encourage a passion for Jesus in a safe and inclusive environment with no barriers to experiencing God's love – because we are all God's children. We seek to accomplish this through prayer, study, daily worship, meaningful relationships, play, and an established rule of life.



EARLY BIRD RATE ENDS APRIL 1ST! | [STCRISPINS.ORG/CAMP](https://stcrispins.org/camp)



November 3rd!

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 2

Laura Birk, Nancy Megee, Sandy Whitson, Margo Proctor

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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Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157