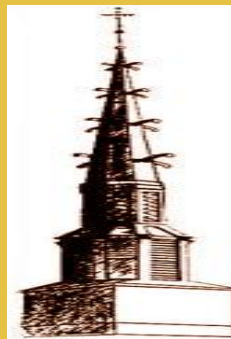


In this week's Steeple >>>

The Steeple

- Message from Fr Nick
- Christmas in the Woods
- Theologian's Corner
- Christmas Wish Tree
- Lots for YD (and parish)
- Pack the Backpack item
- St Luke's Vestry & YD
- Charitable Distribution
- Office Closed for Holiday
- Advent Supper & Program
- Bookstore Open House
- Vestry Working Fantasy Land



November 20,
2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Christ the King Sunday: Celebrating the Reign of Christ in Our Lives

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, we here at St. Luke's are preparing to celebrate Christ the King Sunday this weekend. The Reign of Christ invites us to reflect with wonder on God's son who is the Lord of all creation. It remains for us a day rooted in hope not just in some arbitrary recognition of sovereignty. Christ the King reminds us of the ultimate fulfillment of God's kingdom—a realm of justice, peace, and love.

Our life here at St. Luke's aligns beautifully with this celebration. Our calling to be a welcoming, worshiping, and a serving community mirrors the vision of Christ's kingdom: inclusive, transformational, and rooted in grace.

With feast and mission aligned then, here is a little background on the celebration this weekend.

Christ the King Sunday was instituted in 1925 and has since become a time for Christians worldwide to proclaim Christ's lordship, especially in challenging times. Scholars like Neil Alexander and Marion Hatchett emphasize the importance of this feast as a culmination of the church year, leading us into Advent with a renewed sense of God's mission in the world. Liturgical theologians such as Gordon Lathrop, Scott Gunn, and Derek Olsen further highlight how this day connects us to the broader narrative of God's redeeming work through Christ, encouraging us to live as active participants in God's kingdom.

Our own diocese even – encourages this active participation through a renewed vision of Christ's Kingdom to be vital congregations, who are steadfast in prayer, and courageous witnesses of Christ's love in the world.

At St. Luke's, may we use this occasion to recommit ourselves to living as faithful stewards of Christ's teachings. Together, through worship, service, and outreach, let us reflect the light of Christ in Bartlesville and beyond.

Together let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Faithfully,
Nick+

YOU ARE INVITED!



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, Kate Carroll, Steve Linn, Chuck McCarty, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Estelle Sams, Adam Thomas, Bob Lambert, Carla Curry, Jack Bridendolph, Tom Oakes, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Connie Freebern, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Marcie Zervas, Margaret Holden, Don McCoy, Jean McCoy, Audrey Harris, Peggy Rockey, and Lauren Barlowe

Please add the following to your prayers this Twenty Sixth Week after Pentecost
St Andrew's, Lawton Church of the Holy Trinity, Fray Bentos, Uruguay

At Luke's Place : Nov 21st – Nov 27th, 2024

Nov 21st Men's Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am
Green Country Service, 1pm, GCV
Nov 24th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Nov 27th Office will close at noon
Nov 28th & 29th – Office closed for Thanksgiving

Birthdays and Anniversaries, Nov 24th – Nov 30th, 2024

Birthdays



Doug Freebern (11/30)

Anniversaries



Jo & Bob Baughman (11/24)

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!

Foster Children Christmas



The Christmas Wish Tree is in the narthex. We have been asked to provide 40 baby dolls for little girls 1 to 3 years old that are in foster homes. There will not be any stars this year, just a sign up sheet by the tree. The DHS Christmas party, where the dolls will be distributed, is on December 6th so they need to be **brought to the church no later than December 4th**. Thanks, as always, to the Good People of St. Luke's for making this happen every year.

God's Peace,
Steve & Cheryl Van Aken

The Theologian's Corner Mechtilde of Hackeborn (1240 – 19 November 1298)



Mechtilde was a Saxon (from what is now Germany) Benedictine nun in the monastery of Helfta. Born Matilda von Hackeborn-Wippa, in 1240 or 1241, she belonged to one of the noblest and most powerful Thuringian families; her sister was the illustrious Abbess Gertrude of Hackeborn (not to be confused with Gertrude the Great, below).

She was famous for her musical talents and was called the "Nightingale of Helfta". Gifted with a beautiful voice, Mechtilde also possessed a special talent for rendering the solemn and sacred music over which she presided as *domina cantrix*.

Mechtilde is best known for her revelations. The Lord would say to Mechtilde: Everything you have and by which you can please me you have from me and through me. In one extraordinary vision she perceived that "the smallest details of creation are reflected in the Holy Trinity by means of the humanity of Christ, because it is from the same earth that produced them that Christ drew his humanity." At the age of 50, Mechtilde went through a grave spiritual crisis, as well as physical suffering. Much troubled, Mechtilde, first had recourse to prayer. She had a vision of Christ holding in His hand the book of her revelations, and saying: "All this has been committed to writing by my will and inspiration; and, therefore you

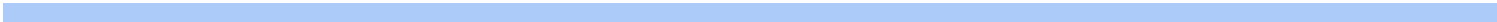
have no cause to be troubled about it." He also told her that He wished this book to be called The Book of Special Grace, because it would prove such to many.

Mechtilde died in the Monastery of Helfta, on November 19, 1298.

Together we pray: Almighty God, who didst give to thy servant Mechthilde special gifts of grace to understand and teach the truth in Christ Jesus: Grant, we beseech thee, that by her teaching we may know thee, the one true God, and Jesus Christ thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Vestry Spends Evening with YD

We enjoyed time with our Vestry (the leadership of our church) on Wednesday. We ate delicious "truck stop tacos" Vestry provided, learned about the leadership of the church, and made advent candles together. It was a nice multi-generational evening!





December 15th 4 pm at St. Luke's
Christmas Concert & Reception 🎵

Featuring the Bartlesville Bells handbell choir, The Recorder Consort, piano and organ duets by Susan Mueller and Marjoleine Gravely, Keeli & Daisy Droege (vocal, piano)

Reception will be in Metcalf Hall immediately after the Concert



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

Come and check out your St Luke's Bookstore for Advent calendars, Wreaths, Candles, and Devotionals. Get ready for this Advent Season with the help of St Luke's bookstore! All profit goes to Outreach in the community. (See further for the Bookstore's Open House info!)

The Bookstore will be ordering the 'Rose Window' tee shirts . 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)





Come and Support Your Vestry at Fantasy Land of Lights in Johnstone Park, Dec 5th from 6-10pm! Vestry members from St Luke's will be working at the Gingerbread House and hoping to spy some St Luke's folks enjoying the lights! So make sure you drive through the park and stop to say hello to your Vestry members on Dec 5th!

Pack the Backpacks!

For **November**: 0.7mm mechanical pencils



These prices are from Wal Mart. Over 1,000 of these pencils will be needed next year if trends continue. Both of these have 24 ct, but different brands. Any count will be welcome, as long as the size lead is 0.7mm.

LOTS·4·YD

As some of you know, St. Luke's owns the two empty lots to the east of our building. There is an old garage there that is not big enough to house our church van. For some time now we have wanted to build a bigger garage that would not only keep our van secure but also provide space for our lawn equipment and storage for other items as well. The big question (along with following the requirements from the city) has been what to do with the lots... most importantly, how to provide a good space for our youth to use.

Fr. Nick and Laura Birk recently visited with our youth group to ask them what they would like! Below is a list of their ideas.

What we need from the congregation is your vote for the idea or ideas that you think would create a great use of the space!

Of course, this space would not be limited to youth group! If you would be so inclined to play pickleball on the court, skydive from a tower or show your skills on the basketball court...understand ALL are welcome! :-)

Please submit your votes/ideas in the suggestion box that you will find in the Narthex! You can add your name or not...we promise not to sign you up for helicopter rides without your consent!

- | | |
|--|---|
| Hedge maze | Stadium seating |
| Dog park | Colosseum |
| Skate Park | Soccer field, kickball, football. |
| Vegetables | Octagon |
| Labyrinth | Enough contact with water. |
| Benches (not used) | Chess table |
| Pickle ball | Skydiving tower. |
| Tennis | Senior adults patio off garage with smoker. |
| Volleyball | Fire-pit |
| Gaga ball | Slip and slide |
| Outdoor service area | Train track |
| Basketball court | Windmill |
| Diamond | Ball Pit |
| Trees on side open middle | Giant trampoline |
| Garden | Helicopter pad with radio tower |
| Swing set. (Playground for older people) | |

With great thanks!
YOUR VESTRY!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE OR MAKE SUGGESTIONS!

Stewardship Notes

Grateful hearts, Generous Hands

Dear Parish Family,

As the season of Thanksgiving fills our hearts with gratitude, we are reminded of the abundant blessings God bestows upon us daily. This time of year, invites us to reflect not only on what we have received but also on how we are called to steward those blessings for the greater good.

Stewardship is an expression of our faith, recognizing that all we have is a gift from God. It is an opportunity to respond to God's generosity by sharing our time, talents, and treasures in ways that further His kingdom. This Thanksgiving, may we encourage one another to consider how we might deepen our commitment to faithful stewardship.

One practical way to do this is through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable. However, if you are 70 ½ or older, when a Qualified Charitable Distribution is made directly to the charity, up to \$100,000 per individual can be donated without creating a taxable event. The distribution can satisfy all or part of the individual IRA owner's required minimum distribution from their retirement account.

If you might be considering this, it is important to make sure that the funds are distributed directly to the eligible charitable organization and not distributed to the individual to maintain this as a non-taxable event for the retirement account owner. If you are 70 ½ or older and would like to consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution you can read about it on the IRS.gov website and talk to your investment professional to determine if this is a good option for you.

A QCD allows you to support ministries close to your heart while also meeting the required minimum distribution without increasing your taxable income. It's a beautiful way to combine wise financial planning with heartfelt generosity.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

Your Sister in Christ,
Sandi Dice.



*Join us for some
holiday cheer!*

Christmas Open House at St. Luke's Bookstore

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
10AM TO 3PM

•••••

- ~See Santa and Mrs. Claus from 1-2PM.
- ~Explore a curated selection of inspirational books, gifts, and seasonal items perfect for Christmas giving.
- ~Enjoy complimentary holiday treats.
- ~Enter our hourly raffle drawings.





Advent



A Season of Reflection and Reverence

Wednesday Evenings 6:00 p.m. to 7:30p.m.

Dec. 4th, 11th, 18th.

Light Supper + Reflection + Vespers

Sign ups for meal prep outside the Church Office.

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, Wendy Halll, Karen Lewey, Debbie Mueggenborg

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Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
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