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The Steeple



December 18,
2024



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Our History

In the chapel at St. Luke's there is a rather large bible that has its place on the altar. Most of the time you'll find it opened to a psalm: 23, 121, 126 or perhaps to the Gospel lesson for the week. On the first page of that Bible there is an inscription signed by The Rev. William Metcalf. No doubt you'll recall the name as it is one in the same as Metcalf Hall. A name you may not recognize, however, is Herman – specifically Al Herman who died last week and who is tied to the namesake of our great hall and first rector.

Shortly after my arrival here at St. Luke's in 2021, Glenn Bonner introduced me to Steven Colaw on behalf of the Herman brothers – Alois and Ted. It was there that I learned that Al (as he was known by friends) and Ted were the grandsons of William Metcalf. As fate would have it, I had the honor to assist Fr. John O' Neil of St. John's Before the Latin Gate at Al's committal service in Memorial Park Cemetery yesterday afternoon. Amidst a handful of faithful friends, I listened with great interest to the family story.

The Metcalf family were missionaries of the Church of England and arrived in Oklahoma before Oklahoma was a state. When the boys were still young the Herman family was transferred to Tulsa by the City Service Oil Company. Both Al and Ted entered the Catholic community through school there and not long after became Roman Catholics themselves – parishioners of St. Anne's until they moved to Green Country Village and came under the care of their faithful friends from St. John's.

From the beginning Mr. Colaw was insistent that I attend yesterday's committal. I was so glad that I did – but still didn't quite understand why. Lots of people change denominations and what is more, the Catholic communities of St. Anne's and St. John's loved those boys, took care of them, long after all of the Metcalf Family passed away. I hadn't even met the boys before. But nevertheless, he insisted good man that he is.

I learned then that it was the desire of Al and Ted's mother that a representative of St. Luke's be present as a testament to their family history. I felt heavy for never have I felt more obliged, honored, and yet part of something so much bigger than myself. Sometimes history places us in quite remarkable places. I thought about that as I shook Ted's hand giving thanks for both Al and indeed the Metcalf family.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, & let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of Al & all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Nick+

Theologians Corner

The Archangel Gabriel



The word angel is from the Greek “aggeslos,” and means “messenger.”

St. Gabriel is one of seven archangels who enter and serve before the Glory of the Lord, and one of the three archangels mentioned in Sacred Scripture: Michael (Revelation 12:7-9), Raphael (Tobit 12:15), and Gabriel (Luke 1:27-28).

The name Gabriel means “Man of God” in Hebrew or “God has shown might.” He is often depicted with a spear in his right hand and a mirror of jasper with an X (the first letter of the word Christ in Greek) in his left hand. The mirror signifies the wisdom of God as a hidden mystery.

According to Sacred Scripture, the archangel Gabriel is the messenger angel who appeared to people in the Old Testament and the New Testament on many different occasions. In some appearances, Gabriel is mentioned by name. On other occasions, Gabriel is thought to be the unnamed angel who appeared and made announcements to Moses, to Saints Joachim and Anne, to the shepherds at Jesus' birth, to the myrrh bearing women approaching Jesus' tomb, and to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane to strengthen him. It is said that: Gabriel taught the Prophet Moses in the wilderness in order to write the Book of Genesis. He revealed the coming of the Savior to the Prophet Daniel (Daniel 8:15-26 and 9:21-27.)

He revealed to Saints Joachim and Anne the conception of the Virgin Mary. He appeared to Zachariah to announce the birth of St. John the Baptist. (Luke 1:10-20)

In Gabriel's best known and most celebrated appearance, he announced to Mary that she would bear a son, who would be conceived of the Holy Spirit, and would be called Son of the Most High,

and Savior of the World. (Luke 1:26-38) Gabriel may have been the unnamed angel, who appeared to St. Joseph in his sleep and instructed Joseph not to divorce Mary quietly. He explained that Mary's child was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and that He would be named Emmanuel, which means God is with us. (Matthew 1:20-24)

Gabriel may have been the angel who appeared to the shepherds near Bethlehem to announce the birth of Jesus. Luke 2:9-14)

Gabriel may have been the angel mentioned by Luke who appeared to the Lord Jesus himself, in the Garden of Gethsemane before His Passion, to strengthen him. (Luke 22:43)

Gabriel may have been the young man that Mark described who was seated in Jesus' tomb and who also appeared to the myrrh-bearing women intending to anoint the body of Jesus. Mark said, "The young man clothed in a white robe told the women. 'Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, he is going before you into Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.' " (Mark 16:5-7)

Feast Day: The feast of St. Gabriel was included in the calendar in 1921, for celebration on March 24, the day before the Feast of the Annunciation. In 1969, the feast day for St. Gabriel the Archangel was changed to September 29 for a combined celebration with the Archangels Michael and Raphael.

Patron Saint: Saint Gabriel is the patron saint of messengers, communication workers, and postal workers.

Together let us pray: O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy angels always serve and worship thee in heaven, so by thy appointment they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CONCERN NEEDS For December

Concern is very low on homeless food items - individual serving-size of pudding cups, fruit cups, and individual type crackers and cereal. Concern also needs spaghetti, macaroni and boxes of cereal.

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, Jack Smith, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Shawn, Stephanie Gallegos, Pat Sare, Jim Carroll, Kate Carroll, Steve Linn, Chuck McCarty, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Adam Thomas, Bob Lambert, Jack Bridendolph, Tom Oakes, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Connie Freebern, Lynda Stephens, Jim Perrier, Marcie Zervas, Margaret Holden, Audrey Harris, Peggy Rockey, Lauren Barlowe, Ken Harvey, Mary Gillette, and Luke Karel.

Please add the following to your prayers this Third Week of Advent
St Matthew's, Enid The Anglican Church of Tanzania

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

Dec 19th Men's Group & Breakfast, 7am, Metcalf
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Dec 22nd Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service, 4pm
Refreshments, after service, Metcalf
Dec 25th Christmas Day service, 10am

No Events Dec 26th- Jan 4th

Birthdays and Anniversaries Dec 22nd – Dec 28th , 2024

Birthdays



Debbie Mueggenborg (12/24)
Sheila Taylor (12/24)
Mark Wright (12/28)

Anniversaries



Doug & Connie Freebern (12/23)
Bill & Chryl Bridendolph (12/28)

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!

Please bring your ornament(s) for the Remembrance Tree! The tree will stay up through the 5th of January.



Church office will be closed Dec 24th, 25th, and Jan 1st.

Penny will be on vacation Dec 26th-31st. Happy Holidays!

Friends in Deed, Inc.

Invites you to join the festivities and

Free Christmas Day Dinner

11:30am to 2:30pm

Location: Adams Blvd Church of Christ

3700 Adams Blvd

(a non-denominational event by community volunteers)



Advent



A Season of Reflection and Reverence

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

Dec. 4th, 11th, 18th.

Light Supper · Reflection · Vespers

Sign ups for meal prep outside the Church Office.



Christmas at St. Luke's

Christmas Eve - 4 PM

Christmas Day - 10 AM

After the Christmas Eve service, join us in Metcalf Hall for egg nog and wassail. AND if you have any extra or leftover Christmas goodies from parties or baking, please bring them to share!

DUST

But I am but a lowly common peasant in this world. I work in the dust and then clean myself from it. Even if I do not work, I still will have dust that falls and collects on me. You see dust comes in many forms. It can be an uplifting word or a discouraging word. It can be the songs of Nature or also the ravages of the same. Today while listening to a show on the opening of Notre Dame, I was inspired of how dust can affect what is around us, and we just don't know it. While Notre Dame was burning, the firefighters kept the flames from reaching the organ and were very careful not to spray water on the organ. In the aftermath of the fire, officials started taking assessments of the damage. What they found was it was not as bad as everyone feared. The towers still stood, and the organ was not damaged, except for the ashes that fell on it. When reparations started, the organ was completely disassembled, cleaned and inspected. No damage was done from the fire, but a lot of work was done to clean all the "dust" out of the mechanism and pipes. A lot of dust over the years laid inside and on the organ. This dust was found to be toxic lead dust. They also had to repair some thermal damage caused by the 2019 heatwave. When the organ was completely assembled, they turned to the tuning of the organ. For this they had to have complete silence so they could hear the tone and adjust it accordingly. Since there was construction going on, the organ was tuned during the night when no one was around. They could do some of the basic tuning during the day, but most of it was done at night with 4 of the organ pianists assisting. After the opening ceremonies, the organist that played, was interviewed on how he felt. He commented that the sound resonated throughout Notre Dame more than before. The resonance lasted 8 seconds or more where before it would resonate about 5 to 6 seconds. They realized that when Notre Dame was on fire, the firefighters were washing the walls down cleaning all the dust off of the walls. All the dust was cleaned from the organ and the sound was almost as pure as it was when it was first played 100+ years ago. Life for Notre Dame has been made new again. It made me think of how much dust do we carry around in our life? Dust that we can't just wash off because it lives inside

us. It burdens us and slows us down. Just as the water from the firefighters and the restorers cleaned the organ, they cleaned all the dust and made everything new again. We can do that also, if we think about it. As Isaiah 52:2 states - "Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; Loose yourself from the chains around your neck, O captive daughter of Zion." As we go into this Advent Season, let the "dust" fall from you and release it from yourself to enjoy the new sound of Life that is and always will be, inside you. The more "dust" you let go from your life the more you will shine in the light of others bringing Joy and Peace for all around you. I have heard stories lately of the division of family and friends because of this year. Do we really need this toxic dust to stay inside us? As with the organ, when it was cleaned, it sounded and resonated with a new sound. Sometimes we must look at life from a different direction to truly understand what is needed to continue forward. I pray for all to come together as a country and work through any problems we may have. And yes, there will always be problems that come up. If you get them resolved, that's good. If not, you can always refer to Mark 6:11 that states, "Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against them." Do not carry the dust with you to weigh you down in life. Shake it off and start to resonate with your fullest sound for others to hear.

Robert

A Meditation from Robert Lonski





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