

The Steeple

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- Altar Flowers Request
- Anglican Heritage Pilgrimage
- January item for Pack the Backpacks
- Parish Annual Meeting
- YD craft
- Canned Food drive
- Bingo this Saturday
- In Sympathy



January 23, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

As we approach the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul this Saturday so to do we draw near to the end (Do I want to call it that?) to the end of the week of prayer for Christian unity. Since 1908, this week of prayer has sought to remind Christians everywhere of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (John 17.21, BCP 228, BCP 255). Some congregations exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services – much like that of Inaugural prayer service held this week at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. In services all over the world, Christians are reminded of phrases that seek to bind us together in common prayer and in common purpose – phrases like "that unity might overcome estrangement" and that "joy might conquer despair."

Here at St. Luke's, we are not planning to "end" these prayers just because the week is over but rather, we will continue on with them in the daily office as a witness to this great task of not just praying for unity but seeking ways to foster unity in thought, word, and deed. As we have been, we will be praying for the universal church, its members and for its mission. We will continue to pray for churches in the Anglican Communion, those in our diocese, and for those who we are in relationship with albeit outside our diocese but still within the Episcopal Church. We will pray for churches who are not part of the Episcopal Church and especially for churches and ministries within our hometown. This week, if you are interested or if you have been following along in Evening Prayer, we have been praying for Lighthouse Ministries.

If you are seeking ways to foster unity through deed, there is no better way than to partner ecumenically with some of the fine and vibrant ministries within Bartlesville itself. For instance, tonight Y.D. is headed over to Mary Martha Outreach, a resource of Catholic Charities. There, we will join St. Luke's own Judi DuVall in a pilot program which seeks to involve groups that want to help clients there pick out items and stock shelves. If you are more liturgically focused, this weekend at the Anglican Church of the Holy Spirit in Tulsa there will be a funeral for Bishop Cox (formerly the Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma). Both events will find those in attendance in unfamiliar places but nevertheless, provide opportunities where the ground of unity can be cultivated through postures of prayer and compassionate understanding and love.

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in Christ, and the God of peace will be with you.” Phil 4.8

Faithfully,

Nick+

Theologians Corner: The Conversion of St. Paul



On January 25 we remember how Saul (or Paul) of Tarsus, formerly an enemy and persecutor of the early Christian Church, was led by God's grace to become one of its chief spokesmen.

Our primary sources of information about the Apostle Paul are (1) several of his own letters, preserved for us in the New Testament, and (2) the account of him given by Luke in the book of Acts.

The dramatic shift in Paul's life—from a fervent persecutor of early Christians to one of the most influential apostles of Christ—stands as a powerful testament to the transformative power of faith.

The account of Paul's conversion describes his encounter with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. This event not only altered Paul's personal mission but also played a pivotal role in the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

Episcopal churches across the globe commemorate the Conversion of Paul with special liturgies, sermons, and reflections on the themes of repentance, renewal, and the boundless grace of God. The former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, remarked, "Paul's conversion reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's love and that transformation is possible for all."

Thus, the observance of this feast invites the faithful to reflect on their own journeys of faith, encouraging a renewed commitment to spiritual growth and outreach. Paul's story continues to inspire believers to embrace change and carry forth the message of love and redemption.

As the Church honors this momentous shift in Paul's identity, it also reaffirms the enduring impact of his teachings and the universal call to embrace the grace that sees all as one in Christ.

Together let us pray: "O God, who by the preaching of thine apostle Paul hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same by following the holy doctrine which he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."

Prayer List

Please pray for: Liz Green, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, 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, Bob Baughman, Jean Mason, Adam Thomas, Tom Oakes, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Connie Freebern, Lynda Stephens, Marcie Zervas, Margaret Holden, Audrey Harris, Peggy Rockey, Lauren Barlowe, Ken Harvey, Nan Buhlinger, Bill Birk, Kathy Stewart, Carol McSpadden, and Rebecca Landreth.

Please add the following to your prayers this Second Sunday after the Epiphany

**St Mary's, Edmond St Mary's School, Edmond
The Church of the Province of West Indies**

Birthdays and Anniversaries Jan 26th – Feb 1st, 2025

Birthdays



Anniversaries



Scott Williams (1/29)

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!

At Luke's Place : Jan 24th – 30th

Jan 25th Bingo, 5:30pm

Jan 26th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel

Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf

Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave

Jan 27th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom

Jan 28th Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library

Jan 29th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall

Jan 30th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall

Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall

Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

Agape Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers from St Luke's to serve at Agape. You serve hot meals and clean up once a month on the second or fourth Thursday and the shift is a little over two hours during the day. Please contact Becky Liehr if you are interested.

ANGLICAN HERITAGE PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimage to England & Scotland - June 22-July 3, 2025

*** PLEASE NOTE *** ** PLEASE NOTE ** ** PLEASE NOTE **

This pilgrimage replaces the "Pilgrimage to England" previously announced.

The destinations, travel dates, cost,
and registration deadline have all changed.

*** [Please click here for the updated information.](#) ***

The following is an invitation from The Rev. Dion Crider, Dean of the Iona School for Ministry, Diocese of Oklahoma.

I am thrilled to share that Fr. Nathan Carr and I are joining forces to combine our individual pilgrimages into one incredible journey to England which I will be leading June 22nd through July 3rd. This unified pilgrimage will not only celebrate our rich Anglican heritage but also include an expanded list of destinations that promise to inspire and deepen our faith.

A pilgrimage is so much more than just a trip - it's a sacred journey. As we visit these historic sites, their stories, beauty, and holiness will invite us to experience God's presence in new and profound ways. Together, we will walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before us, worship in spaces steeped in centuries of prayer, and reflect on what it means to follow Christ in our time.

Here's the great news: **Spaces are still available, and the deadline to register has been extended to February 1!**

I would love for you to join us on this transformative journey. If you're interested, please feel free to reach out to me for more details. For a full itinerary, pricing, and information on the amazing places we'll visit, click the link below.

If you have any questions at all, please contact The Rev. Dion Crider at dcrider@epiok.org.

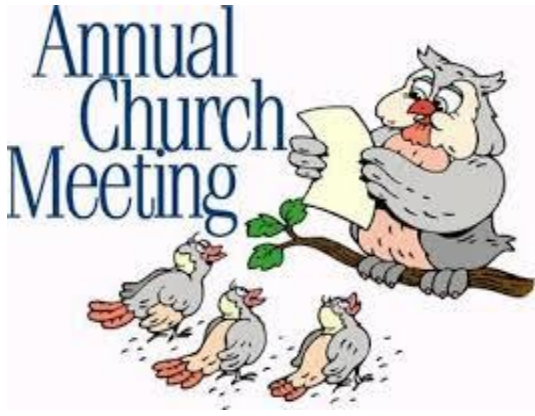
*** [Please click here for the updated information.](#) ***



YD

We had so much fun last Wednesday with Father Nick leading us in a collaborative art project to bring out our creativity (see attached pics). Thanks to the Craigs for dinner!





Annual Parish Meeting

February 9th, after the 10:30am service.

January Pack the Backpacks Item

12 count colored pencils, any brand will be the item for January 2025.

Wal-Mart prices

Pen + Gear \$0.97

Crayola \$1.97

Cra-Z-Art \$1.22



Altar Flowers

The cost remains \$50 minimum for each Sunday and if you have special requests for colors, tell us so we can let the florist know.

All Sundays between Feb 2nd and Ash Wednesday on March 5th are open for flowers placed on the High Altar.

Please let me or the office know as soon as possible those that you would like to honor/memorialize on any of these Sundays. Fresh flowers always look so special on the High Altar and your message is noted in the bulletin.

Many thanks,

Jo Baughman, Flower Fund Chairman

jybokla@aol.com



YD Annual Canned Food Drive for Concern will be soon. Let's make this the biggest year yet! Beginning February 1st, please make a point to bring as many canned goods as you can every time you come to worship until February 18th.

Concern's current needs are: ramen noodles, Vienna sausages, and homeless: women (or unisex) deodorant, and mini personal tissue packs.



Our Deepest Sympathies to Cheryl and Steve Van Aken for the passing of Cheryl's brother, Marty Burke, and one of their closest friends, Mary Gillette. May the dearly departed rest in peace.



The Daily Office of Morning and Evening Prayer is held every weekday (except for Friday) in the Chapel. MP begins at 9:00am and EP starts at 4:00pm and EP can also be found on the St Luke's Facebook page if you would like to follow along at home.

Pack the Backpacks Presents



SATURDAY JANUARY 25TH **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

Doors open at 5:30pm, games start at 6pm
Tickets \$12

Includes: Admission price and 10 cards
for tickets, call 918-331-6924, message us on
Facebook-Washington County School Supply
Drive, or you can buy at the door

We are a nonprofit run solely by donations and grants. All proceeds from bingo will go towards buying school supplies and backpacks.



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
Hall, Karen Lewey, Debbie
Mueggenborg

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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F
Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157