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February 13, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Dear St. Luke's

With all the concentration on restructuring as of late, The Episcopal Church has initiatives of its own.

Since the instillation of Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe in November, The Episcopal Church has embarked on a significant restructuring initiative aimed at enhancing its mission and service to dioceses nationwide. The Presiding Bishop has been at the forefront of this transformation, emphasizing a realignment of churchwide staff to better support local ministries. This effort responds to the 81st General Convention's directive to reduce personnel costs by \$3.5 million over three years, approximately 5% of the church's total staffing expenses.

A key component of this restructuring is the proposed reduction of the diocesan assessment rate to 10% by 2033. This initiative aims to alleviate financial pressures on dioceses, enabling them to allocate more resources directly to their communities. The budget plan anticipates a 2% annual increase in diocesan revenues over the next three years to support this transition.

For our communities in Oklahoma, these developments hold particular significance. The anticipated financial relief from reduced assessment rates we hope will empower our diocese to invest more robustly in local ministries and outreach programs. Moreover, the churchwide staff realignment promises enhanced support tailored to our unique regional needs, fostering a closer partnership between dioceses and the broader Episcopal Church.

Navigating this period of change will be interesting. Perhaps by doing so, we can ensure that the restructuring efforts resonate with our local context here in Oklahoma, especially when thinking how we might strengthen our mission and outreach here in Bartlesville.

For more information, please visit the following article:

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2025/02/19/presiding-bishop-outlines-coming-realignment-of-churchwide-staff-prioritizing-service-to-dioceses/>

Together we pray: Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the

hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Faithfully,
Nick+

Theologians Corner:

Martin Luther Pastor & Reformer, 1546



Martin Luther was born November 10, 1483, at Eisleben, in Germany. His intellectual abilities were evident early, and his father planned a career for him in law. Luther's real calling lay elsewhere, however, and in 1505, he entered the local Augustinian monastery. He was ordained as a priest on April 3, 1507.

In October 1512, Luther received his doctorate in theology, and shortly afterward he was installed as a professor of biblical studies at the University of Wittenberg. His lectures on the Bible were popular, and within a few years he made the university a center for biblical humanism. As a result of his theological and biblical studies, he called into question the practice of selling indulgences. On the eve of All Saints' Day, October 31, 1517, he posted on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg the notice of an academic debate on indulgences, listing 95 theses for discussion. As the effects of the theses became evident, the pope called upon the Augustinian order to discipline their member. After a series of meetings, political maneuvers, and attempts at reconciliation, Luther, at a meeting with the papal legate in 1518, refused to recant.

Luther was excommunicated on January 3, 1521. The Emperor Charles V summoned him to the meeting of the Imperial Diet at Worms. There Luther resisted all efforts to make him recant, insisting that he had to be proved in error on the basis of Scripture. The Diet passed an edict calling for the arrest of Luther. Luther's own prince, the Elector Frederick of Saxony, however, had him spirited away and placed for safekeeping in his castle.

There Luther translated the New Testament into German and began the translation of the Old Testament. He then turned his attention to the organization of worship and education. He introduced congregational singing of hymns, composing many himself, and issued model orders of services. He published his large and small catechisms for instruction in the faith. During the years from 1522 to his death, Luther wrote a prodigious quantity of books, letters, sermons, and tracts. Luther died at Eisleben on February 18, 1546.

Together we pray: O God, our refuge and our strength, who didst raise up thy servant Martin Luther to reform and renew thy church in the light of thy word: Defend and purify the church in

our own day and grant that, through faith, we may boldly proclaim the riches of thy grace, which thou hast made known in Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, 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, 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, Carol McSpadden, Rebecca Landreth, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, and David Anderson.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Grace, Ponca City

The Church of Bangladesh

Birthdays and Anniversaries Feb 23rd – Mar 1st, 2025

Birthdays



Jeanne Eastman (2/27)
Jerry Nezam (3/1)

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!

At Luke's Place : Feb 21st – Feb 27th

- Feb 23rd Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- Feb 24th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom
Feast Day of St Matthias the Apostle service, 12:15pm, chapel
- Feb 25th Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
Altar Guild Meeting, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
- Feb 26th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall
- Feb 27th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

February Pack the Backpacks Item

8 or 16 Watercolors, Crayola preferred but any brand for February 2025.

Walmart prices and pictures are below

8 count Crayola brand at Walmart is \$2.34

8 count Cra-Z-Art brand at Walmart \$1.34

16 count Crayola brand at Walmart \$3.97



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



Updated Photos for the Wall/Directory

Sara Clements will be taking new and updated photos for the Hallway Wall Directory between the 8am and 10:30am services and then again after the 10:30am service Sunday, **February 23rd**. Then, a second round after the 10:30 service on Sunday, **March 2nd**.

She will be located in the Walking the Mourners Path room upstairs by the Beard Library.

BINGO

BY CASA HISPANA *night*

Join us for an evening of Bingo, Raffles, Family Fun, and Hispanic Food
For tickets, call Mili at 918.907.1584

Saturday, Feb. 22nd
5:30 PM
St Luke's Episcopal Church

CasaHispana.Bartlesville@gmail.com

Games start at 6:00 PM

\$12 Ticket

Include:
Admission Price & 10 cards



All proceeds benefit Casa Hispana, a Bartlesville non-profit organization that provides support to local individuals and families by enabling connections to community resources, offering translation services, English and citizenship classes, and providing highly subsidized dental care to under-served communities



Annual Meeting Election results: New Vestry Members: Sherry Deason (3yr term), Fred Whitson (3yr term), Robert Lonski (3yr term. Diocesan Convention Delegates: Nancy Woods, Darian Kedy, & Jim Perrier. Nominating Committee Chair: Jennifer McIver. Nominating Committee: Chase Almy, Kathy Haddon, Sandy Whitson, Scott Williams.



SHROVE TUESDAY

the door.

Its Almost Time! Shrove Tuesday will be March 4th beginning at 5:30pm in Metcalf Hall. Pancakes and the Fixins' will be prepared and served by Our Vestry! Bring the family for dinner before we begin the Lenten Season. Donations will be taken at

Ash Wednesday Services at St Luke's, March 5th :

12:00 (noon)

6:00pm

*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall
return BCP 265*



**Midweek Manna Will begin the middle of March on
Wednesdays. Watch the Steeple for dates and times.**

Check out St Luke's Bookstore for Lenten
Devotionals and Studies.

Faith Forum will begin a new study March 9th. Listen for
announcements and read the Steeple for information.

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- Sherry Deason -
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey – kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Laura Birk – lpbirk73@gmail.com
- Steve Heidorn- sgheidorn@yahoo.com
- Dolores McCreary – dolomc37@gmail.com
- Steve Roper- sdroper2006@yahoo.com
- Fred Whitson-
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com

Bereavement Team 3

Becky Liehr, Kate Carroll, Cathy
Perrier, Kris Bonner, Mary Jo
Peterson

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector
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