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February 6, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Annual Meeting

Dear St. Luke's,

This is a gentle reminder of our annual meeting scheduled for this coming Sunday, February 9th! I hope that you know that your presence and participation are essential to the life and ministry of St. Luke's. As such, I hope that you will make every effort to attend this weekend.

According to the canons of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, a quorum is necessary to conduct the business of the church. A quorum ensures that the decisions made at these meetings reflect the views and contributions of the entire congregation. This is a cornerstone of our governance, ensuring that every voice is heard, and that our actions align with the broader vision of our community.

Beyond the procedural necessity, attending this meeting holds significant spiritual value. It is an opportunity for us to come together, to reflect on our journey into the heart of Christ, and to seek guidance and inspiration for the year ahead. Your presence, therefore, is a testament to our shared commitment and dedication to the mission of the church: to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. It is through these gatherings that we strengthen our bonds and renew our faith together and learn what it means to love - with arms wide open.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Brunch Bunch, who have graciously agreed to host the meeting this year. Their generosity and hospitality remind us of the warmth and fellowship that binds us together as a congregation - something I can't get enough of. The Vestry and I look forward to sharing a meal and fellowship with all of you on this most joyous occasion.

May we come together with open hearts and minds, ready to engage, support, and uplift one another in Christ. Your presence truly matters, my friends... and we are stronger together.

Faithfully,

Nick+

Theologians Corner:

The Martyrs of Japan



The Christian faith was first introduced into Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and later by Franciscan missionaries. By the end of that century, there were probably about 300,000 baptized believers in Japan.

Unfortunately, this promising beginning met reverses, brought about by rivalries between different groups of missionaries and political intrigues by the Spanish and Portuguese governments, along with power politics among factions in the Japanese government itself. The result was a suppression of Christians.

The first victims were six Franciscan friars and twenty of their converts, who were executed at Nagasaki on **5 February 1597**. (They were tied to crosses, the crosses were raised to an upright position, and they were then quickly stabbed to death by a soldier with a javelin.)

After a short interval of relative tolerance, many other Christians were arrested, imprisoned for life, or tortured and killed; and the Church was totally driven underground by 1630. However, when Japan was re-opened to Western contacts 250 years later, it was found that a community of Japanese Christians had survived underground, without clergy, without Scriptures, with only very sketchy instructions in the doctrines of the faith, but with a firm commitment to Jesus as Lord.

In 1966 Shusaku Endo's work "Silence" won the Tanizaki Prize and has been called by critics as one of the twentieth century's finest novels. As empathetic as it is powerful Silence has been hailed as an astonishing exploration of faith and suffering.

Set in 1640, Father Sebastian Rodrigues, an idealistic Jesuit priest, sets sail for Japan determined to help the brutally oppressed Christians there. He is also desperate to discover the truth about his former mentor, rumored to have renounced his faith under torture. Rodrigues cannot believe the stories about a man he so revered, but as his journey takes him deeper into Japan and then into the hands of those who would crush his faith, he finds himself forced to make an impossible choice: whether to abandon his flock or his God. Silence is tour de force set amidst the backdrop of the story of the Martyrs of Japan.

Coincidentally, Endo wrote a "Life of Jesus" from a Japanese perspective. Endo was born in 1923 and converted to Christianity as a boy. His stories and novels attempt to integrate his religious faith with Japanese culture.

Together we pray: O God our Father, who didst bring the holy martyrs of Japan through the suffering of the cross to the joys of eternal life: Grant that we, encouraged by their example, may hold fast to the faith we profess, even unto death itself; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, 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, Kathy Stewart, Carol McSpadden, Rebecca Landreth, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, and David Anderson.

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

**Christ Memorial, El Reno
and Polynesia**

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand

Birthdays and Anniversaries Feb 9th– Feb 15th , 2025

Birthdays



Anniversaries



Nancy Woods 2/12

Jim & Cathy Perrier (2/15)

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!

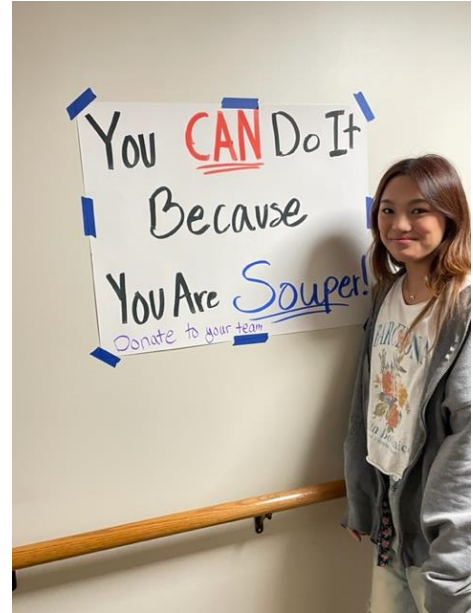
At Luke's Place : Feb 7th – Feb 13th

- Feb 9th Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- Feb 10th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom
- Feb 11th Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
- Feb 12th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall
- Feb 13th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV



YD

After last Wednesday night, we are ready to start collecting canned goods for the food pantry at Concern! The kiddos did a great job decorating our collection space so everyone can choose to donate their cans in support of either of their favorite Superbowl teams :) To make the evening even better, the Moores scored a touchdown with their chicken spaghetti!





Annual Parish Meeting

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

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



WHAT is the Souper Bowl of Caring and WHY it MATTERS!

It's an annual event where communities come together, inspired by the Super Bowl, to tackle hunger locally. For over three decades, the Souper Bowl of Caring has empowered individuals, organizations, and schools to raise food and funds for food banks and community-based charities.

As millions of people tune in to watch the Super Bowl, we're also tuning in to the needs of our neighbors. The Souper Bowl of Caring is about taking action to fight hunger at the local level, ensuring that no one has to go without the food they need.

Help us reach our goal of making a difference in our communities. Whether you're a sports fan or not, it's a chance to be part of something bigger. Let's make this year's Souper Bowl of Caring the most successful one yet!

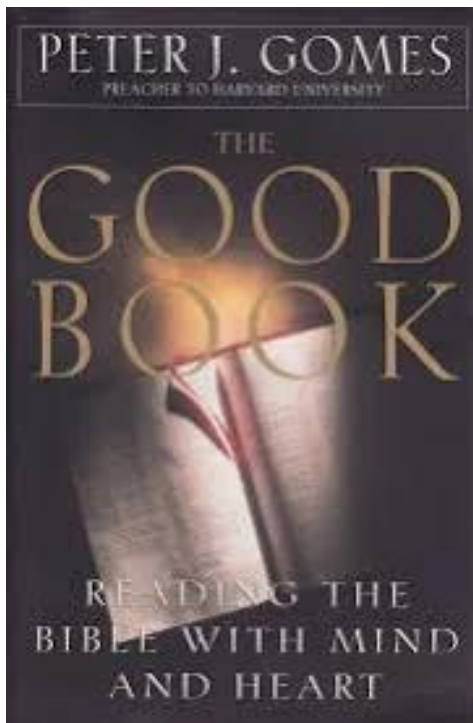


St Luke's Youth have been participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring for most of those three decades. Every year all those cans go to Concern. This year our YD is asking us to bring as many cans as we are able to carry and place them under our pick to win the Super Bowl which is by Metcalf Hall under the coatracks. We have until Feb 18th. Your participation is so important for the hungry in our community.

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



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.



The Spiritual Discovery Book Group will be starting a new study using 'The Good Book' by Peter Gomes. This study begins February 11th at 9:30am in the Library upstairs. Everyone is welcome to join us!

You may order the book through St Luke's Bookstore



Candle Sticks to be Refurbished in Kansas City during Lent.

My friends, have you ever noticed that we Episcopalians have a fondness for candles? We put them everywhere—on the altar, behind the altar, in Advent wreaths, even in our windows at Christmastime. Some might think it's just because we like a bit of atmosphere (and let's be honest, candlelight is far more forgiving than fluorescent bulbs), but the truth runs much deeper.

Candles in the nave, especially on and behind the altar, are not just decorative; they are theological. They remind us of Christ, the Light of the World, shining in the darkness. They symbolize God's presence in our worship and our prayers rising to heaven. And—let's not forget—they also serve the very practical purpose of making sure the clergy don't lose their place in the prayer book!

Our silver candlesticks from the high altar were taken to Kansas City this week to be cleaned, buffed and resealed. It's been twenty-five years since the last time this was done, so they are due. Not to worry though, we expect them to be gone six weeks and back in time for Easter. A big thank you to Mark & MaryJo Peterson for their generous donation to Altar Guild Fund for the refurbishment work and for Becky & Jim Liehr for taking the candlesticks to Kansas City.

So, when you see these candles burning, let them be more than background ambiance. Let them be a reminder that God's light is always with us, guiding, warming, and sometimes even challenging us to carry that light beyond these walls. And if, on occasion, you see a nervous acolyte trying to light them with shaking hands, say a little prayer for them—because even the smallest flame, like the smallest act of faith, can be a powerful thing.

Wendy Hall



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.



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FORKS & FELLOWSHIP

St. Luke's Fellowship is thrilled to announce a new opportunity within our church. Single adults and married couples of all ages are encouraged to sign up to be placed in small dinner groups that will meet at least four times throughout the year. The Fellowship team will create small groups of no more than eight people per group and assign a leader for each group. Then it's up to your group to schedule dinners or activities to get to know each of your members. You can have dinner at your home, you can go to brunch after church or choose to meet at a local restaurant/coffee shop/gathering place. The purpose of this fellowship opportunity is to develop relationships with folks of all ages in the church. These times can foster opportunities to make friends outside of our usual social circles, getting to know new people in our church family.

If you are interested, you can register on-line or drop by the office. Answer a few basic questions by Sunday, February 23. Groups will be notified in early March, and each group will plan their own schedule to meet at least 4 times during the year.

[Click here to register](https://forms.gle/n2wqhpPTZBbMZczf9) OR type this into your browser: <https://forms.gle/n2wqhpPTZBbMZczf9>

Questions? Call Steve Heidorn: 918-914-1412

Group Placement Questions

1. Name: _____
2. Contact Information (Email): _____
3. Age Group (20-30's) (40-50's) (60+) _____
4. Which worship service do you attend? 8:00am _____ 10:30am _____
5. How long have you been attending St. Luke's? _____ years
6. I am registering as an individual _____ couple _____
7. Second adult's name: _____
8. Second adult's email: _____
9. Are you willing to help coordinate/host your first meeting? Yes _____ No _____

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

Happy
Valentine's
Day

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