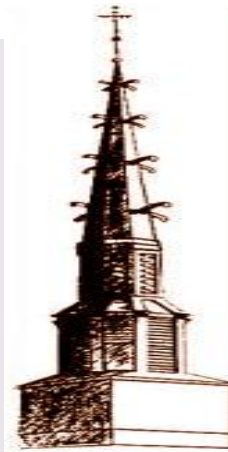


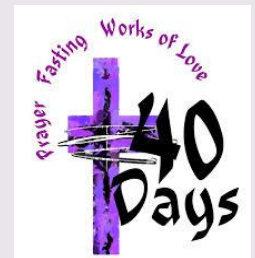
In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- March item for Pack the Backpacks
- Midweek Manna
- Stations of the Cross
- Concern Needs
- Stewardship Webinar
- Camp price deadline
- With Sympathy

The Steeple



March 20, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Dear friends,

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. (Ps. 16.)

A week away at an icon intensive is what it claims to be, intense. Intense, not just in learning technique but in learning the symbology behind each line, each highlight, each facet of light within the image. While most of the time is spent in the studio applying these spiritual truths with brush to the board, there are moments of illumination that spill over into other mediums. For me that has been with pen and paper.

Some of you have asked, “What have you been learning?”

One answer is, new words! Here is one:

“Anagoge,” literally “upward leading” is a spiritual or mystical interpretation of Scripture – or in this case an icon, that seeks a hidden, ultimate meaning beyond the literal, allegorical, moral, and visual sense. Writing an icon is more than an art project, it’s a spiritual practice in which one seeks to discover the icon within – thus by practicing writing icons it leads to encountering anagoge in daily life. All of this – writing an icon as well as faith - as you can imagine begins with prayer.

Anagoge in Daily Life

Thus, when I give attention to my breath (when I stop and listen) I remember whose breath is in me. This embodied memory invites me to recognize in whose image I am made; in whom I live, move, and have my being. Iconologically, this recognition of our

path towards likeness gives direction to my prayer – a prayer that begins with the attention that there is a ladder before me. To climb this ladder is up to me. With each rung I pause and allow truth to penetrate me. This truth is the light that shines in the darkness. I am to contemplate this truth as a way to help me reveal the light within. I am to contemplate in whose name I serve (the light of the world); I am to contemplate that which I seek to cultivate in my inmost being (love); and I am to contemplate in whose Name I shall return. (life itself, life everlasting). With each stroke of the brush, I ascend.

Such was an afternoon reflection.

As we journey together in faith, I am reminded of how essential it is to cultivate daily spiritual disciplines—those sacred rhythms that draw us closer to God, shape our hearts, and deepen our awareness of the divine presence in our lives.

Our life of faith is not something we simply think about; it is something we practice. Just as an athlete trains, a musician rehearses, a gardener tends the soil, or an iconographer writes so too must we nurture our spiritual lives with intention. Prayer, scripture reading, silence, fasting, service, and acts of compassion are not obligations meant to burden us, but invitations into a fuller, richer life. So too, are times of rest, renewal, and reflection. Thank you for that.

When we engage in these holy practices, we begin to see the world—and ourselves—differently. We become more aware of grace, more attuned to God’s voice, and more open to the Spirit’s quiet movements in our daily lives. Over time, these disciplines are not just things we do; they form us into people who reflect Christ’s love in the world. We shine our light!

Jesus said, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” That abundance is not merely about material blessings, but about a life filled with God’s presence—a life in which peace, joy, and love are cultivated within us.

Lent is a season that calls us to such renewal—to commit again to these sacred rhythms. My hope for you all is that you have already or will discover more fully the life within—the light within – practices that lead you closer to God, to the life of Christ already dwelling in you.

Faithfully,
Nick+



Theologian's Corner Cuthbert of Lindisfarne

Bishop and Missionary 20th March 687

St. Cuthbert was born in Northumbria in northern England about 625. One night, while tending a herd of sheep, he saw lights in the sky which he interpreted as a soul being escorted heavenward by a band of angels. Later, he learned that Aidan of Lindisfarne (31 August 651) had died that night, and he resolved to enter the monastic life.

Cuthbert was a monk at Melrose Abbey from 651 to 664, and when the Abbot, Eata, became abbot and bishop at Lindisfarne, Cuthbert accompanied him and was Prior there until 676. Although he had been brought up in the Celtic

customs, he accepted the decrees of the Synod of Whitby in 663, which committed the English Church to following the Roman customs that had been introduced into Canterbury by Augustine, and so he helped to minimize contention over the decision.

Although Cuthbert's real preference was for the solitary life of a hermit, he recognized a duty to minister to the needs of the people about him. Year after year he made long journeys, on horseback and on foot, to Durham and throughout Northumbria, and in the regions of Berwick and Galloway, preaching to the scattered population in remote and sparsely settled areas, instructing them in the faith and encouraging them in the practice of it, urging them in times of sickness not to rely on charms or amulets, but to pray to God and put their trust in His mercy and love. Like Francis of Assisi, he had a remarkable rapport with animals, both wild and domestic.

Theodore, the Archbishop of Canterbury, made Cuthbert Bishop of Hexham, but he was a solitary by nature, and promptly exchanged bishoprics with Eata so as to

remain at Lindisfarne. After two years, he retired to the neighboring island of Farne as a hermit, and died there the following year. We remember Cuthbert today.

Together we pray: Merciful God, who didst call Cuthbert from following the flock to be a shepherd of thy people: Mercifully grant that we also may go without fear to dangerous and remote places, to seek the indifferent and the lost; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer List

Please pray for: Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Connie Finch, 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, Lynda Stephens, Marcie Zervas, Margaret Holden, Audrey Harris, Henri Richard, Peggy Rockey, Lauren Barlowe, Ken Harvey, Nan Buhlinger, Bill Birk, Carol McSpadden, Rebecca Landreth, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, David Anderson, Joanne Gallery, Freda Bretz, Kathleen Turner, Susan Dick, and Susie Manley.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Second Sunday in Lent

Church of the Redeemer, Okla City The Church of the Province of Central Africa



**Stations of the Cross every
Friday in Lent at 6pm in the
Nave. Join us!**

Birthdays and Anniversaries Mar 23rd – Mar 29th, 2025

Birthdays



Blair Ellis (3/25)
Sandi Dice (3/25)
Vicki Travaglini (3/28)
Nancy Vano (3/28)

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 : Mar 21st – Mar 27th, 2025

Mar 21st Stations of the Cross, Nave , 6:00pm
Mar 22nd Tony Clapper Memorial Service, 1pm
Mar 23rd Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Mar 24th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom
Mar 25th Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
The Annunciation, Eucharist, 12:15pm, Chapel
Mar 26th Midweek Manna, 6pm, Metcalf
Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Mar 27th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV



March Pack the Backpacks Item

3in X 5in Ruled Index Cards 100 count package. They need to be the same size, quantity and "ruled".

Please help fill the basket!

Midweek Manna During Lent

Poetry in Lent will be presented along with Vespers every Wednesday during Lent, 6pm, Metcalf Hall.. Please check the Nathex for the poems and booklet. A light supper will be served before the program. Please sign up to help with soup, bread, or cookies one week. The sign up is on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the office.

Concern's current needs - tuna, Spam and for homeless - single serve proteins.

Thank you!

YD delivers cans to Concern





To Marcus and Matthew Clapper and families for the loss of their father, Tony Clapper. Tony's service is Saturday, March 22nd, 1pm, St. Luke's.

To Lauren and Juanita Green and family for the loss of their daughter, Liz. Services are pending.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. BCP 499

2025 STEWARDSHIP WEBINARS

Webinars are provided by TENS, The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. The Diocese subscribes annually to TENS and congregations are able to use this subscription to access resources and annual pledge campaign materials. This year they have made these webinars available to be offered in our diocese to our congregations.

**APRIL
1ST
6:30-8PM**

The Economic Halo of Your Church

Your church is an important part of the economic, social, and cultural landscape of your community. Learn to understand and leverage data.

**MAY
6TH
6:30-8PM**

Time & Talent- Focusing on "the Other T's"

Learn best practices and tips for identifying and recruiting an effective stewardship team and supporting them in their ministry.

**AUG.
19TH
6:30-8PM**

Recruiting & Training a Stewardship Committee

Time, Talent, and Treasure are the building blocks of Stewardship Ministry. Learn how to ensure that each gift is recognized.

**SEPT.
23RD
6:30-8PM**

Stewardship Campaign Best Practices

Get ready for your annual pledge campaign with a review of best practices, tools, and strategies to maximize your members' engagement.

REGISTER HERE!





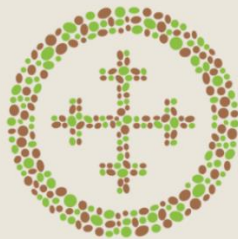
Fun



Faith



Friends



ST. CRISPIN'S SUMMER CAMP

At St. Crispin's Summer Camp, our mission is to form our campers and encourage a passion for Jesus in a safe and inclusive environment with no barriers to experiencing God's love – because we are all God's children. We seek to accomplish this through prayer, study, daily worship, meaningful relationships, play, and an established rule of life.



EARLY BIRD RATE ENDS APRIL 1ST! | [STCRISPINS.ORG/CAMP](https://stcrispins.org/camp)

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
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- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – kscozby916@gmail.com
- Chad Ellis – w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
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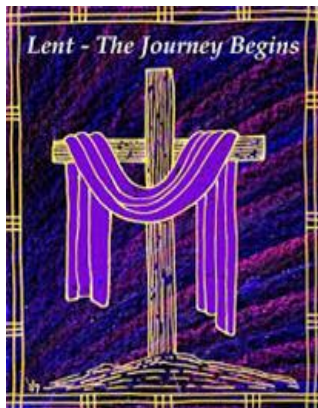
Bereavement Team 3

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

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