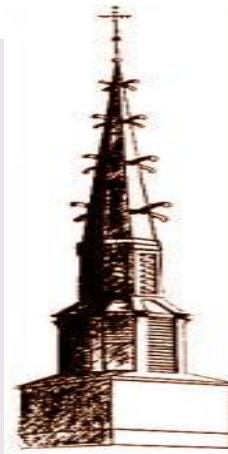


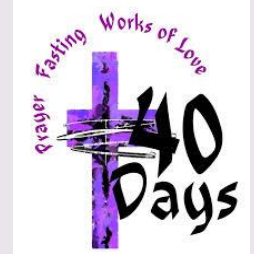
In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
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- March item for Pack the Backpacks
- Midweek Manna
- Stations of the Cross
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The Steeple



March 27, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



The Great Litany

Dear friends,

I continue to be reminded that Lent offers us several questions to ponder. One question certainly must be, “What distractions can we shed so that might draw nearer to God?” As we move deeper into this season, the call to repentance and renewal intensifies. The Church, in her wisdom, provides a rhythm that leads us gradually into the depths of self-examination and grace over several weeks. As such, during the coming weeks, our liturgical response will reflect this shift, culminating in the solemn and searching prayers of The Great Litany just before Palm Sunday.

You'll recall that Lent is often described in three movements: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving – perhaps with the addition of self-denial. These disciplines are meant to strip away the unnecessary patterns of life and sharpen our awareness of God's presence, which is even more vital as we approach Holy Week. This season is not only about personal devotion; it is also about communal transformation too. I think we've seen that in learning new songs and our communal gatherings on Wednesdays, don't you? Together, as the Body of Christ, we are continuing to prepare our hearts for the Paschal mystery, learning to see God's mercy in deeper ways.

Last night, Teresa reminded us that in this fast-paced and ever-changing world Lent calls us to a countercultural practice: slowing down. Time is not something to be spent, wasted, or managed; it is a gift to be received – as such, we do ... give deep thanks for the time that we have been given. The Church teaches us that how we spend our time reflects our deepest values. Here are some ways to sanctify the time remaining in this holy season:

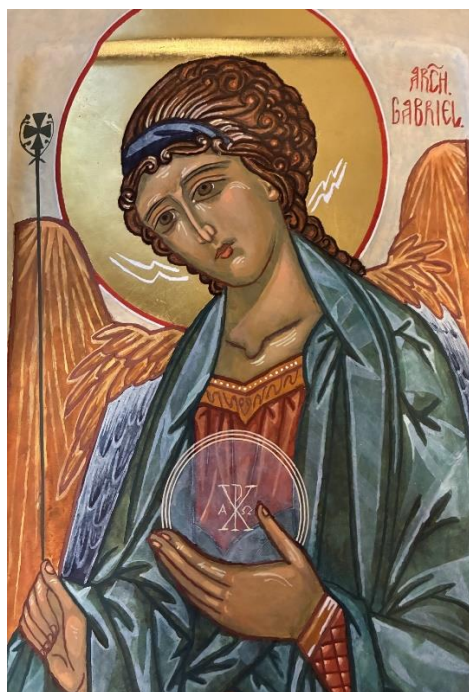
1. **Keeping the Daily Office:** The Book of Common Prayer offers us a rich tradition of morning and evening prayer, a way to pause and re-center our days around God's presence. Even setting aside five minutes for silence and a Psalm can make a difference.

2. Practicing Intentional Sabbath: Set aside one day (or even an afternoon) to rest in God. Resist the urge to fill every moment with productivity. Go for a walk, read Scripture, or simply sit in stillness and notice the beauty of creation.
3. A Lenten Fast of Hurry: Consider fasting from rushing. If you find yourself constantly moving from one task to the next, practice mindfulness in your daily routine. Eat meals slowly. Drive without the radio. Walk at a gentler pace.
4. Offering the Gift of Time: Almsgiving is often associated with money, but our time is just as precious. Spend intentional time with someone who may be lonely. Write a note of encouragement. Listen deeply in conversation, without distraction.

As I mentioned above, as we approach Palm Sunday, our liturgical prayers will shift in tone. The Great Litany—a sweeping prayer of intercession and confession—will soon shape our worship, giving voice to the purgation of sin and our collective longing for God’s mercy. This ancient prayer invites us to lay everything before God: our fears, our failures, our hopes. It is a powerful moment of reckoning and renewal.

Let the remainder of this season be for us a time of courage. Lent asks us to face ourselves honestly and embrace the refining fire of God’s love. The deepening of this season is not about striving harder, but about surrendering more completely to the One who redeems and restores us all.

Deep peace,
Nick+



Theologian's Corner:

John Keble Priest, Poet, Renewer of the Church



John Keble, born 1792, ordained Priest in 1816, tutor at Oxford from 1818 to 1823, published in 1827 a book of poems called *The Christian Year*, containing poems for the Sundays and Feast Days of the Church Year. The book sold many copies, and was highly effective in spreading Keble's devotional and theological views. His style was more popular then than now, but some of his poems are still in use as hymns, such the three beginning:

New every morning is the love
Our waking and uprising prove,
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.

Sun of my soul, thou Savior dear,
It is not night if thou be near.

Oh, may no earthborn cloud arise
To hide thee from thy servant's eyes.

Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God.
The secret of the Lord is theirs;
Their soul is Christ's abode.

Keble was Professor of Poetry at Oxford from 1831 to 1841, and from 1836 until his death thirty years later he was priest of a small parish in the village of Hursley near Winchester.

On 14 July 1833, he preached the Assize Sermon at Oxford. (This sermon marks the opening of a term of the civil and criminal courts, and is officially addressed to the judges and officers of the court, exhorting them to deal justly.)

His sermon was called "National Apostasy," and denounced the Nation for turning away from God, and for regarding the Church as a mere institution of society, rather than as the prophetic voice of God, commissioned by Him to warn and instruct the people.

The sermon was a nationwide sensation, and is considered to be the beginning of the religious revival known as the Tractarian Movement (so called because of a series of 90 Tracts, or pamphlets addressed to the public, which largely influenced the course of the movement) or as the Oxford

Movement (not to be confused with the Oxford Group -- led by Frank Buchman and also called Moral Re-Armament, or MRA -- which came a century later and was quite different).

Because the Tractarians emphasized the importance of the ministry and of the sacraments as God-given ordinances, they were suspected by their opponents of Roman Catholic tendencies, and the suspicion was reinforced when some of their leaders (John Henry Newman being the most conspicuous) did in fact become Roman Catholics. But the movement survived, and has profoundly influenced the religious thinking, practice, and worship of large portions of Christendom.

Their insistence, for example, that it was the normal practice for all Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion every Sunday has influenced many Christians who would never call themselves Anglicans, let alone Tractarians.

Keble translated the works of Irenaeus of Lyons (28 June 202), and produced an edition of the works of Richard Hooker, a distinguished Anglican theologian (3 Nov 1600). He also wrote more books of poems, and numerous hymn lyrics. Three years after his death, his friends and admirers established Keble College at Oxford.

We remember John Keble on his saint's day of March 29th.

Together we pray: Grant, O God, that in all time of our testing we may know thy presence and obey thy will, that, following the example of thy servant John Keble, we may accomplish with integrity and courage that which thou givest us to do, and endure that which thou givest us to bear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, 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 Third Sunday in Lent

Santa Maria Virgen, Okla City

Province de L'eglise Anglicane Du Congo



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

Birthdays and Anniversaries Mar 30th – April 5th, 2025

Birthdays



Lauren Green (3/30)
Daisy Droege (4/3)

Anniversaries



Scott & Sigrid Williams (4/2)

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 28th – April 3rd, 2025

Mar 28th Stations of the Cross, Nave , 6:00pm
Mar 30th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Mar 31st Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom

Apr 1st Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
Apr 2nd Midweek Manna, 6pm, Metcalf
Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Apr 3rd Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV



March Pack the Backpacks Item **ONE SUNDAY LEFT!**

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 6pm, Metcalf Lite Supper Poetry in Lent and Vespers

We could use another soup maker, bread bringer, & cookie carrier for the 9th of April

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

Thank you!



A CELEBRATION OF LIZ

Join us on April 5, two days after her 40th birthday, to celebrate the life of Elizabeth “Liz” Green who died way too soon on March 17. It will be a time of sharing, celebrating, remembering, and just hanging out. A program of sorts will begin around 2, with refreshments during and after. Nothing very formal at all. Just an opportunity for us all to remember the joy she brought into all our lives. Come with stories to share, joy to spread, pictures to show, and comfort to give. Metcalf Hall is part of the St. Luke’s building, and is immediately adjoining

the parking lot on 8th and Dewey. Call Lauren 918-440-0457 or Juanita 918-841-1922 with questions. Online access is being worked out and will be available on the St Luke’s Bartlesville Facebook page and St Luke’s Bartlesville You Tube channel.

Casa Hispana Fundraiser

Spaghetti dinner with Peruvian meat sauce!

\$12/dine in or carry out



Saturday April 26, 2025

5pm – 7pm

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

918-907-1584

CasaHispana.Bartlesville@gmail.com

\$12/dinner includes spaghetti with meat sauce and water / vegetarian sauce available

Family carry out special (serving for 4) \$40



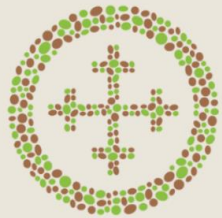
Fun



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

Schedule for Holy Week

- Palm Sunday.....April 13th 8:00am Rite I, 10:30am Rite II
(meet in Metcalf for the Procession of the Palms)
- Maundy Thursday Eucharist.....April 17th 6:00pm
- Maundy Thursday All Night Vigil....April 17th beginning 9:00pm
(sign up for one hour watch in the chapel. Chapel door on south side will be unlocked all night to allow entrance. Come, watch, and pray the night before Jesus' crucifixion)
- Good Friday Service.....April 18th Noon
- Holy Saturday Service.....April 19th 9:00am Chapel
- Great Easter Vigil.....April 19th 6:00pm meet in the courtyard
- Easter Services.....April 20th 8:00am Rite I & 10:30am Rite II
-



April 17th- April 18th

9:00pm- 8:00am

Chapel

The sign up board will be in the Narthex beginning next week. Please sign up to watch and pray in the chapel at the Altar of Repose for one hour. Enter and exit through the south Chapel door.

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:

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269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
918-697-8509 keelidroege@gmail.com

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Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157