

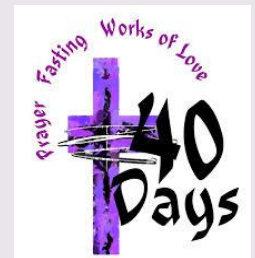
## *In this week's Steeple >>>*

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- March item for Pack the Backpacks
- Faith Forum New Study
- Midweek Manna
- Edge of Heaven
- Medical Response
- YD Life Skills

# *The Steeple*



March 6, 2025



## **The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church**



Beloved in Christ,

This Sunday, we will gather for a joyous occasion—a baptism, a service out of time in this season of Lent. While Lent is a season of penitence and preparation, the Church also proclaims that “Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church” (BCP, p. 298). There is no season in which the grace of baptism is unwelcome, for it is in these waters that we are “sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ’s own forever” (BCP, p. 308).

As you know, baptism is not a private event but a sacramental moment for the whole community, a time for all of us to renew our own baptismal covenant and to remember that we, too, are continually being formed as disciples of Jesus. I therefore encourage you to come and to lend your voice and presence, as we bear witness with Ms. Julia Flowers to the gift of new life in Christ that she will receive her at St. Luke’s.

Next week, I will be away for continuing education at the Prosopeon School of Iconology Intensive in Tyler, Texas. The practice of iconography is more than sacred art to me; it is a theological and spiritual discipline. As the Prosopeon School describes, icon writing is a process of “mystagogical cognition”—a way of coming to know spiritual realities through artistic practice.” In the layering of pigments and the careful application of gold leaf, the iconographer participates in the mystery of divine revelation. Icons are often called “windows into heaven,” but they are also mirrors, reflecting the image of God in each of us. I look forward to deepening my understanding of this ancient tradition and sharing its insights with you upon my return.

As we continue our Lenten journey, I heartily invite you to join in praying the Stations of the Cross this Friday as we walk with Christ toward the cross. Stations will be at 6 p.m. on Fridays in Lent. Our Lenten devotional, *The Poetry of Lent*, offers a weekly opportunity to reflect on the beauty of language as a means of drawing nearer to God. If you have not received one, they will be in the narthex until they are gone. And on Wednesday evenings, remember we will gather for our Lenten Manna Meals, a time of fellowship and simple nourishment, followed by the sung beauty of Vespers. Teresa will be officiating with Margaret and offering a brief homily for our first one.

May this season draw us ever deeper into the mystery of Christ's love, continually shaping us into a people of grace, mercy, and renewal.

Faithfully,  
Nick+

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## Theologians Corner:

### The Book of Common Prayer

and Administration of the Sacraments  
and Other Rites  
and Ceremonies of the Church

Together with The Psalter or Psalms of David

According to the use of  
The Episcopal Church

The Church Hymnal Corporation, New York

### Days of Special Devotion

On page five of the BCP we read the following:

#### *Fasts*

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday

-and

#### **4. Days of Special Devotion**

The following days are observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial: Ash Wednesday and the other weekdays of Lent and of Holy Week, except the feast of the Annunciation.

Good Friday and all other Fridays of the year, in commemoration of the Lord's crucifixion, except for Fridays in the Christmas and Easter seasons, and any

Feasts of our Lord which occur on a Friday.

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The Church, in her wisdom, has given us days to set apart. These are not suggestions but sacred invitations, that call us to slow our hurried pace and root ourselves in the deep and timeless rhythms of grace.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday stand alone as solemn sentinels to the gateway of preparing for the paschal mystery, reminding us of our mortality, our need for repentance, and the unfathomable mercy of God. The Fridays of Lent echo with the suffering of Christ and invite us to enter His passion, not as passive observers but as those shaped by His sacrifice.

These obligations are meant to be embraced—holy moments where heaven bends low, and we, in turn, are drawn nearer to the heart of God. In a world of ceaseless distraction, these days stand as anchors, pulling us back to what is eternal, true, and good.

I encourage you, dear friends, to mark these days with intention this year. Fast and pray. Kneel and reflect. Walk in the quiet company of the saints before us. Let these days be more than words on a page but lived realities that deepen our faith, strengthen our hope, and kindle anew the love of God in our hearts.

The invitation is before us. May we answer it faithfully.

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### *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, David Anderson, Joann Gallery, Freda Bretz, Kathleen Turner, Susan Dick, and Susie Manley.

**Please add the following to your prayers for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Emmanuel, Shawnee**

**The Anglican Church of Burundi**

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries Mar 9<sup>th</sup> – Mar 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### Birthdays



Judy Chamberlain (3/11)  
Jim Lindsey (3/15)

### Anniversaries



Tom & Martha Reyburn (3/13)  
Steve & Cheryl VanAken (3/13)

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 7<sup>th</sup> – Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

- Mar 7<sup>th</sup> Stations of the Cross, Nave, 6:00pm
- Mar 9<sup>th</sup> Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel  
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom  
Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room  
Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
- Mar 11<sup>th</sup> Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup> Midweek Manna, 6pm, Metcalf  
Choir, 5pm, Choir Room  
YD, 6pm, Rodgers Hall
- Mar 13<sup>th</sup> Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall  
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall  
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

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## March Pack the Backpacks Item



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

Walmart price is \$0.72 per package. This is a comparison price.

This past year we distributed over 1,100 of the 3in X 5in Ruled Index Cards. Our current inventory shows we have 120.

Thank you for your monthly donations. Each package of index cards will help fill the backpack for a student that needs help in Washington County.

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## Need Volunteers!

Midweek Manna will begin the 12<sup>th</sup> of March on Wednesdays.

Light supper at 6pm then service. A sign up sheet for the meals is on the blue bulletin board. Please consider helping with a soup, bread, or cookies. Our YD will be joining us for dinner.

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

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ERIC H.F. LAW AND STEPHANIE SPELLERS

# The Episcopal Way

Church's Teachings for a Changing World  
VOLUME 1



Faith Forum will begin a new study March 9<sup>th</sup>. “The Episcopal Way” Vol. 1. Order it through the Bookstore, Church Publishing, or Amazon.

Spring Forward **March 9<sup>th</sup>**!



Daylight Savings Time begins March 9<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before you go to bed Saturday night!



# 2025 ST. CRISPIN'S SUMMER CAMP



REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1



## All Ages Camp

June 1st - 7th ☀️ \$550

Grades 4th - 2025 HS Grads

\*with Leadership Training and Outreach  
Service for Senior High Campers



## Optional Saturday Stayovers

June 7th - 8th ☀️ \$150

Grades 10th - 2025 HS Grads

June 28th - 29th ☀️ \$150

Grades 7th - 9th

## Senior High

June 8th - 14th ☀️ \$550

Grades 10th - 2025 HS Grads

## ABC Camp

June 28th - 29th ☀️ \$225

Grades K - 3rd (with an adult companion)

## Intermediate

June 15th - 21st ☀️ \$550

Grades 4th - 6th

## Mini Session

June 29th - July 2nd ☀️ \$325

Grades 2nd - 5th

## Junior High

June 22nd - 28th ☀️ \$550

Grades 7th - 9th

## Intensives

June 29th - July 2nd ☀️ \$375

Grades 6th - 2025 HS Grads

\*Arts & Crafts, Musical Theatre, Ropes

← Rates listed are the Early Bird Rates, and will increase to the Regular Rates after April 1  
\*\*Grades are based on 2025-26 school year  
\*\*\*See our website for more details about discounts, scholarships, staff applications, and more

Questions? Reach out to our Camp Director, Teresa Phares, at [tphares@epiok.org](mailto:tphares@epiok.org)



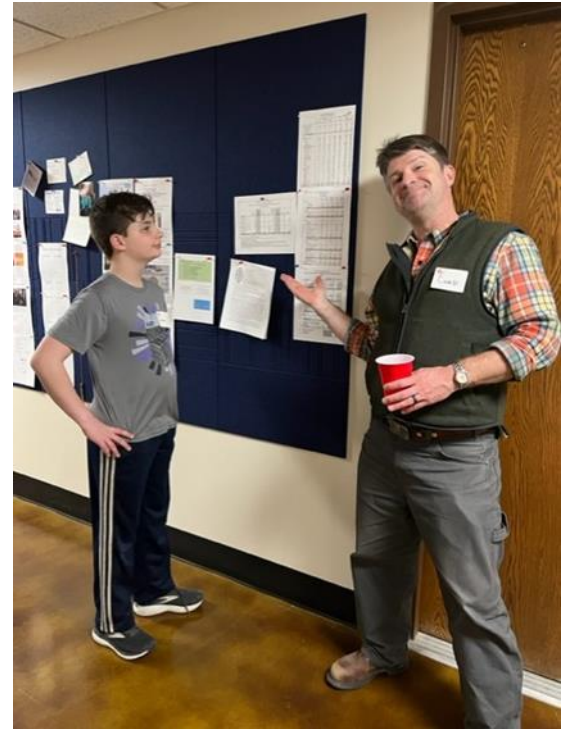
[stcrispins.org/camp](http://stcrispins.org/camp)

2025 Theme:

"I Have Called You Friends"



# YD Learn Life Skills from Vestry Members





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## St Luke's Medical Response

St Luke's medical response guidelines were reviewed at the annual meeting. These guidelines are intended as congregational preparation for responding to a medical event, and as a call to activate EMS quickly. The objective is to have Bartlesville Ambulance on-site within 10 minutes of recognition of a medical need.

Brief (15 minute) drills using these guidelines will be held, targeting 3/9, 3/23, and 4/6 for Care Team members, AV Crew, Ushers, Officiant, and anyone else interested. The drills will occur just after the 10:30 service.

-Chad Ellis



## Edge of Heaven

Working around the house or when I'm in the shop working, I always have music going for, I call it, background white noise. Sometimes a song comes on that grips me. Today not only a song but an artist. Marc Broussard singing, "Edge of Heaven" followed by "Return to Pooh Corner". While listening to them, I had to stop and listen to the words. The first song had "Grains of sand slipping through my hands," as part of the song. The sand became my memories of the past slipping through my mind remembering the good and sad times. We are living on that edge of heaven every day. But are we truly living it or just going through the motions to get through the day. Lately as I am working at bringing my business home, I am reminded of all the "stuff" I am sorting through, is not truly mine. I am

but a steward in this life given the task to take care of what God has provided me. I don't truly own anything in this life. After I am gone, it will become somebody else's to take care of. Some of which will be used to benefit their life while other things may just be discarded like yesterday's news. This is where I am at right now. What is important to life, not me, but to life. As it is said, "One man's treasure, is another man's junk." As the sand falls through my fingers, there is some that sticks to my hand. These are the little pebbles that become memories that will stay with me forever. You can try to wipe them off, but you will always remember. This is truly the Edge of Heaven that I live in.

When "Return to Pooh Corner" came on, it reminded me of the memories of my past that I had not remembered for a while. Just as the song goes, count all the bees in the hive, I remember being out in the country and laying on the ground and looking up at the stars. Just as the bees, it hard to count them all but it sure is fun trying. Sometimes while looking up, I would see a shooting star and other times, the aurora borealis. I shared a lot of these memories with my friends growing up. Sometimes not talking but just listening to the music playing and singing along. Enjoying the moment on the edge of forever, sometimes feeling stranded all alone surrounded by friends. Truly, life is a blessing that we enjoy in our own different ways. When you lose something that you held close to your heart, that feeling of being stranded tends to get a little closer to your heart and you work at living to continue. Just as the story of Christopher Robin goes, as he grew older, married and had a son, he lost sight of Pooh. It then took a turn when he gave his stuffed bear to his son. He tucked his son into bed and kissed him and as he turned to leave, he could've sworn he heard Pooh say, "boy, welcome home." The love was still in Christopher's heart for Pooh, he just forgot to listen. Love is what we need to keep in our hearts and minds in this turmoil of life. Show mercy in your actions where it is possible and needed. Remember that you were that young child once. You can still try to count all the bees in the hive or even all the stars in the sky. You never know when you might even see something wondrous that will create a memory. Who knows, while you are pondering all this, "Esmeralda's Song" may come on and give you pause.

Robert

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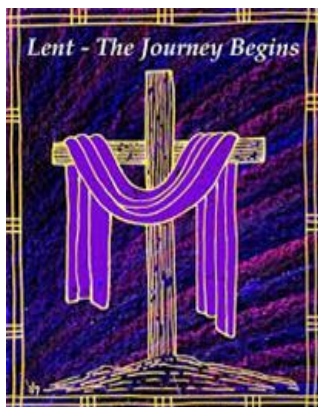
### **Bereavement Team 3**

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

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