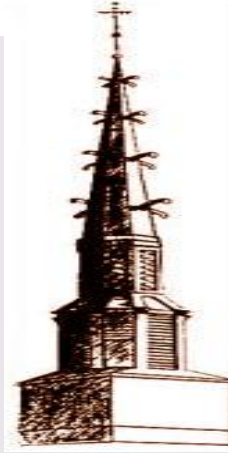


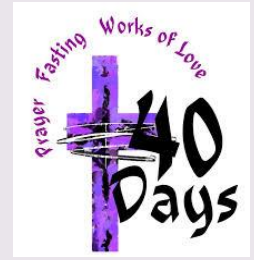
In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- April item for Pack the Backpacks
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Casa Hispana dinner
- Holy Week Schedule
- All Night Vigil
- Palm Sunday
- News from the Greens
- Celebration of Life
- YD and a Movie
- Concern Bingo

The Steeple



April 10, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Rancor on Facebook

Dear friends in Christ,

On Monday, the online community of Bartlesville experienced a wave of confusion, concern, and—unfortunately—miscommunication regarding our unhoused neighbors in town. A now infamous post on social media contained information that was misleading regarding our homeless neighbors and fines they might incur as a result to their situation. The rancor quickly spread.

Understandably the overwhelmingly negative response from the community prompted a clarification from the City of Bartlesville, which posted on its official Facebook page later that afternoon. In the midst of it all, City Councilman Aaron Kirkpatrick offered a calm and helpful statement that brought much-needed clarity and perspective to the situation.

I know how easy it is for anxiety and emotion to rise when it feels like vulnerable people are being threatened or when we're left wondering what's true. And as Christians—particularly as Episcopalians—we are called to be people of truth, not rumor; of courage, not fear; and of compassion, not convenience. We consider it a baptismal mandate to respect the dignity of every human being and when that is threatened, we are ready to take action.

On Tuesday, the Church remembered William Augustus Muhlenberg, a priest who saw the deep connection between liturgy and social action, between sacrament and service. He helped pioneer Episcopal schools and hospitals, places that honored the dignity of every human being—not in theory, but in practice. It seems fitting, then, that on the day after our community wrestled with how best to care for the poor, one of the first responses in our corporate life was that we were praying for a Christian who believed the Eucharist should lead to ethical action.

Muhlenberg didn't just talk about helping—he helped. He didn't just preach about love—he organized it. That's the kind of character we are called to cultivate - not a reactionary charity, but a steady, Spirit-filled commitment to the common good. And, Councilmen Kirkpatrick informed us of one way to do just that, he encouraged us if we were able, to support “Be the Light Mission” as they try to open their homeless shelter.

As Episcopalians, our Baptismal Covenant reminds us that we will “seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and “strive for justice and peace among all people.” That's not a vague hope. It's a charge. When we see misinformation, we are called to seek truth. When we see people hurting, we are called to be agents of healing too.

Scripture echoes this call again and again:

- *“Defend the rights of the poor and needy.”* (Proverbs 31:9)
- *“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”* (Philippians 2:4)
- *“Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in truth and action.”* (1 John 3:18)

Loving our neighbor doesn't mean we will always agree on how to do it. But it does mean that we must be willing to seek truth, to ask hard questions, and to center the lives of those on the margins—not political narratives or internet chatter. For there is still much to be desired from the current proposal/discussion before the council.

It is also helpful for us to be mindful of how we speak. As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 5, our speech should be clear, honest, and trustworthy. A faithful tongue does not distort or inflame—it builds up, corrects, and clarifies.

By doing so we will not lose sight of those actually affected by all of this: the individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our community! Because, as the headlines fade, they remain.

If you are wondering how to respond, here are three small, meaningful steps:

1. **Get informed.** Find the post from Councilman Aaron Kirkpatrick or the City of Bartlesville for clarity on what happened.
2. **Pray for our leaders.** They need wisdom, grace, and accountability.
3. **Act in love.** Whether that means continuing to volunteer, donate, or simply speaking kindly and accurately when conversations arise—every gesture matters.

We have an important part within the Church here in Bartlesville. Not just on Sunday, but every day. Not just in our words, but in our lives. And there isn't anyone I'd rather serve alongside than you.

Nick+



Theologians Corner:



Palm Sunday (The Sunday of the Passion)

This week is Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter at which Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-11a, Lk 19:29-40) and Jesus' Passion on the cross (Mt 26:36-27:66, Mk 14:32-15:47, Lk 22:39-23:56) are recalled. It is also known as the Sunday of the Passion. Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week. Red is the liturgical color for the day and Red is a color that St. Luke's does well.

The observance of Palm Sunday in Jerusalem was witnessed by the pilgrim Egeria in about 381-384. During this observance there was a procession of people down the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem. The people waved branches of palms or olive trees as they walked. They sang psalms, including Ps 118, and shouted the antiphon, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" We shall proclaim the same.

Upon reflection, Palm Sunday observance was generally accepted throughout the church by the twelfth century. However, the day was identified in the 1549 BCP as simply "The Sunday next before Easter." The blessing of branches and the procession were not included at that time. The 1928 BCP added the phrase "commonly called Palm Sunday" to the title of the day. A form for blessing palms was provided by the Book of Offices (1960). But it wasn't until the 1979 that the BCP presented the full title for the day, "The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday" (BCP, p. 270).

In the 1979 BCP, The liturgy of the palms is the entrance rite for the service. The rubrics state that the congregation may gather at a place apart from the church and process to the church after the blessing of the branches of palm or other trees (BCP, p. 270). We will gather in Metcalf Hall for this. The liturgy of the palms includes a reading of one of the gospel accounts of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. The branches then will be distributed to the people **after** the prayer of blessing. People are to hold branches in their hands during the procession.

The Prayer Book notes that the hymn “All glory, laud, and honor” (Hymns 154-155) and Ps 118:19-29 may be used (BCP, p. 271). The Hymnal 1982 also provides “Ride on! ride on in majesty!” (Hymn 156) and “Hosanna in the highest” (Hymn 157) for the procession at the liturgy of the palms. The Hymnal 1982 provides musical settings for the opening anthem, the blessing over the branches, and the bidding for the procession (Hymn 153). Here at St. Luke’s however, our procession will be accompanied by music from the heart of Dolores McCreary.

The procession will halt for a station at an appropriate place. For us this will be the church’s front door. The BCP provides a stational collect which may be used there (p. 272). When the service includes the eucharist, which ours of course does, the liturgy of the palms is followed by the salutation and the collect of the day. The service changes focus abruptly from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the solemnity of the Passion. Be prepared for this. In the 1979 BCP, the Passion gospel is drawn from one of the three synoptic accounts of the Passion, one of which is appointed for each of the three years in the eucharistic lectionary. This year the Passion account is from Luke’s Gospel.

The Passion is announced simply, “The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.” The customary responses before and after the gospel are omitted (BCP, p. 272). The Passion will be read by both lector and priest. It is customary for us to observe a brief time of silence when the moment of Jesus’ death is described by the narrator.

As we approach the most sacred days of our Christian year, I invite you to join us in the solemn and holy journey of Holy Week—a week that leads us from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the foot of the Cross, and ultimately to the empty tomb.

Each step of this week draws us deeper into the mystery of God’s love and Christ’s passion. We gather not just to remember, but to participate in the story that has shaped our faith for generations.

Whether you’ve walked this road many times or never before, there is space for you here. Come and encounter the sacred rhythm of this week. Come and be transformed.

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, JoAnn Gallery, Freda Bretz, Kathleen Turner, Susan Dick, Susie Manley, Fred Whitson, and Melissa Whitaker and baby Colton.

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

St David's, Okla City Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Birthdays and Anniversaries April 13th – April 19th, 2025

Birthdays



Ethan Peterson (4/16)
Becky Liehr (4/18)
Bill Gallery (4/19)

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 : April 11th – April 17th, 2025

- April 11th Stations of the Cross, Nave , 6:00pm
 Martin Burke Celebration of Life, 11am, Nave
- April 13th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
 Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
 Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- April 14th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom
 Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room
 Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
- April 15th Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
- April 16th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
 YD, 6pm, Rodgers
- April 17th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
 Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall

Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Maundy Thursday Service, 6pm, Nave
April 17th All Night Vigil, 9pm-8am, chapel
April 18th Good Friday Service, noon, Nave

April Pack the Backpacks Item



8-Digit Display Handheld Calculator, Portable,
Elementary School

You may find some at the Dollar Tree for \$1.25

Concern's current needs - canned tuna and
16oz peanut butter.

YD Movie Night





We're praising God the Ngap* people are hearing God speak to them in their own language. The Ngap New Testament was printed in 2019, but COVID prevented distributing the Bibles and interrupted recording because travel was not permitted to or from the Ngap area. Recording resumed in 2023 and was finished in 2024. Roger recently added the Ngap audio to the Ngap Bible phone App along with video of the Gospel

of Luke in the Ngap language. Now the Ngap can read, listen, and watch the life of Jesus.

Most Ngap people live in two nearby countries, but 2000 Ngap people have migrated to Bangkok. A Ngap church was started and the Ngap Bible translator will share the Ngap Bible app there this week. Audio players with the Ngap Bible audio will be distributed after training several Ngap how to lead Bible listening groups where questions and discussion are encouraged. Please ask God to bring many Ngap Christians to join the listening group training. May God stir the hearts of Ngap men, women, and children as they read, listen and watch God's word all in their heart language.

We are delighted about the new radio programs by the Mairu* team. 72 15-minute programs with Mairu music and a Bible lesson are being broadcast weekly by Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC). The Mairu team spent six months writing the scripts and recording these 72 programs. Team members were thrilled to hear the first broadcast on March 16. Their friends and relatives sent word that they heard the programs and were amazed to hear their language on the radio for the first time in their lives. Roger invested many months arranging for these programs, so it is exciting see the impact they are having. Pray the Mairu people will listen each weekend.

Roger and I love our work and look forward to more adventures.

However, we think it is wise to consider where we want to relocate about three years from now. We're planning to move our residence to Chicago in mid-2028.

Chicago is where our children Daniel, Katie and her husband Colin live. We've never lived in Chicago before and have no friends there. So our plan is to take some time each year (beginning this year) to set up how we'll eventually live our lives in Chicago. In addition, we want to spend time being part of our grandsons' lives. So, for 2025, our schedule will be April 16 to July 16 in Austin, Texas, close to our grandsons and July 19 to September 22 in Chicago. We'll continue our Wycliffe assignment remotely while in the U.S. We will be preparing training we will lead upon our return to Thailand. Roger will also be programming more Bible phone apps for our group, and updating Bible apps already in use. Please ask God to use our work to help the people groups of Southeast Asia to know Him and follow Him with their whole heart.

Thank you for praying with us,

Joanne

p.s. Thank you for continuing to pray for the earthquake victims who suffered devastating loss and have ongoing challenges. We have not been much affected in our location.



Our daughter Juliette, her husband Luke, and our grandsons Oliver, 5 1/2 yrs., and Charlie, 1 yr.



Roger made bookmarks for the Ngap to share so everyone can get the Ngap Bible App.

** Name of the language has been changed due to sensitivity.*

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

April 13th, before 10:30am service (8:00am service will meet in chapel), meet in

Metcalf Hall for the blessing of the palms and Processional.

Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna in the Highest!



Holy Week

at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Palm Sunday | April 13th | 8:00am Rite I, 10:30am Rite II |
| Maundy Thursday | April 17th | 6:00pm |
| All Night Vigil | April 17th | begins at 9:00pm - chapel |
| Good Friday | April 18th | Noon |
| Holy Saturday | April 19th | 9:00am - in the chapel |
| Easter Vigil | April 19th | 6:00pm - begins in courtyard |
| Easter Sunday | April 20th | 8:00am Rite I, 10:30am Rite II |

Celebration of Life

Please join Cheryl and Steve Van Aken for the Celebration of Life for Cheryl's brother, Martin Burke, on Friday April 11th, at 11:00am. A small reception will be held afterward.

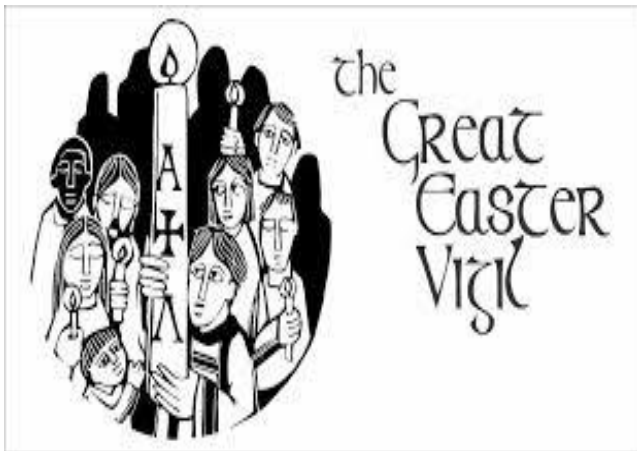


April 17th- April 18th

9:00pm- 8:00am

Chapel

The sign up board is in the Narthex. 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 (9th st).



April 19th, 6:00pm. Please meet in the courtyard for the lighting of the new Pascal Candle and Processional



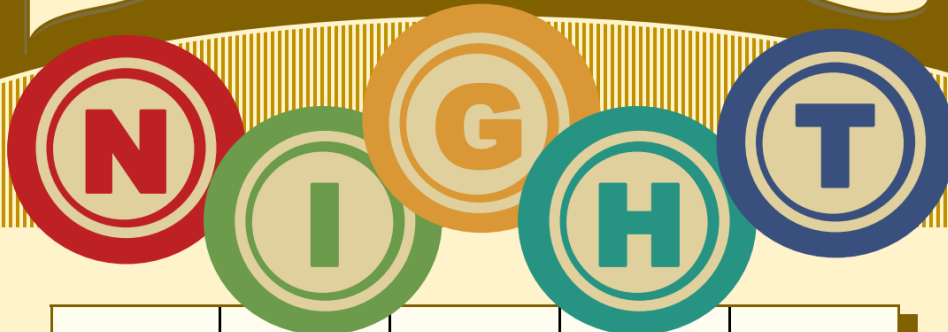
Easter Egg Hunt

Sponsored by YD

Easter Sunday, April 20th, 9:30am Courtyard

CONCERN PRESENTS

BINGO



| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 11 | 18 | 39 | 55 | 75 |
| 30 | 31 | 46 | 52 | 65 |
| 9 | 45 | 60 | 70 | |
| 13 | 57 | 63 | | |

**\$27
presale/10
games**

**AGES
13 & UP**

**Silent
Auction**



**SATURDAY | COOPER & MILL
APRIL 26TH | STARTS 6 PM**

INFO AND TICKETS AT CONCERNCARES.COM

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

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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 East 9th St., Bartlesville, OK 74003
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F
Email: StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com
918-336-1212
Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157