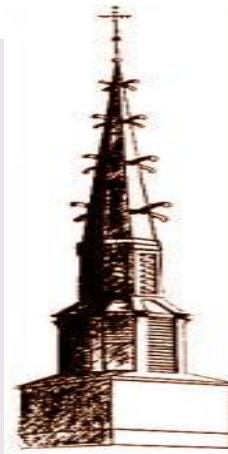


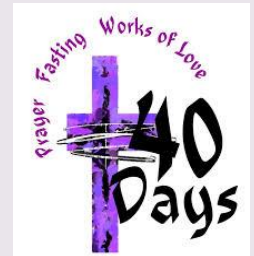
In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- Theologian's Corner
- April item for Pack the Backpacks
- Midweek Manna
- Stations of the Cross
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Casa Hispana dinner
- Celebration of Liz
- Holy Week Schedule
- All Night Vigil
- Palm Sunday

The Steeple



April 3, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Bearing Burdens

Dear St. Luke's,

This past Sunday, we reflected on the call to forgiveness—the difficult, daily work of releasing others from their debts and stepping into the grace that Christ extends to us. But as we continue our pilgrimage through Lent, we must also ask: how do we live out that forgiveness within the fabric of our Christian community? What does it mean to bear one another's burdens as we walk this

road together?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in *Life Together*, reminds us that Christian community is not built on our own strength but on Christ's. "The burden of men was so heavy for God Himself that He had to endure the cross," Bonhoeffer writes. "God verily bore the burden of men in the body of Jesus Christ." If this is true, then our call to bear one another's burdens is not an optional practice, but the very shape of our life together.

Paul exhorts the church Galatia saying, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." This is not just about sharing physical needs—though that is certainly a part of it. It is also about carrying the unseen burdens: the weight of guilt, sorrow, and the long road of repentance. When we choose to stand with one another, to listen without judgment, and to walk patiently beside the struggling, we enact the same grace that Christ has given us. Forgiveness, then, is not a solitary act. It is sustained in community, where we remind one another of the mercy we have received.

In Lent, we are keenly aware of our own frailty. We fast, we pray, we repent—not as individuals in isolation, but as members of one body. As we deny ourselves, we learn how much we need each other. When we confess, we recognize that healing comes not only from God but through the

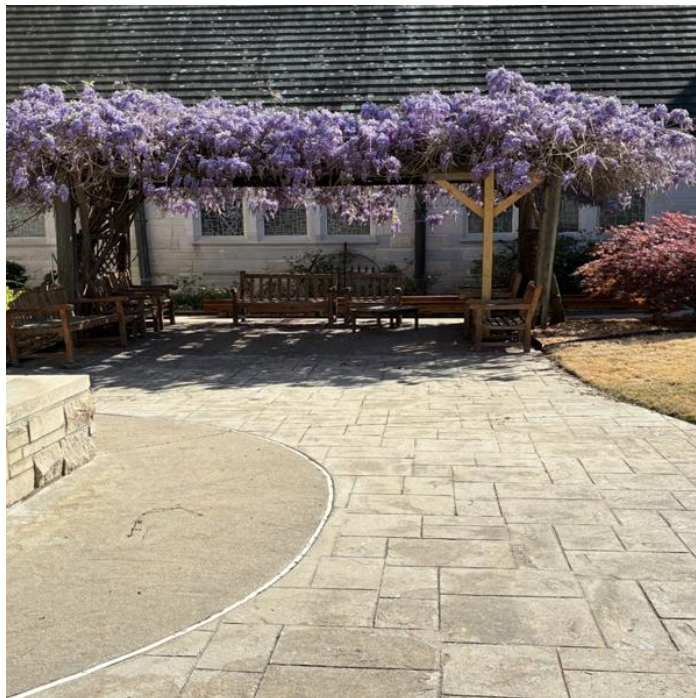
loving presence of our brothers and sisters. James urges to do this and more, “Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” This is the work of bearing burdens—not only helping with suffering but holding space for one another’s repentance and renewal.

Bonhoeffer too speaks of the Christian’s responsibility to listen, writing, “He who no longer listens to his brother will soon no longer be listening to God either.” To bear burdens means to listen deeply—to carry the weight of another’s story without rushing to fix it, but to hold it in prayer and solidarity. It is a holy act of presence, a refusal to let anyone walk alone.

So, as we continue in this Lenten season, may we be reminded of the hallowed call to live life together. Where is God asking you to bear another’s burden? Who needs your listening ear, your quiet companionship, your willingness to walk beside them? This is not easy work, but it is the work of Christ in us. As we bear one another’s burdens, we find that our own are lifted, and the road to Easter is not walked alone.

Peace,
Nick+

Our lovely Courtyard Wisteria



Theologians Corner: St. Andrew Archbishop of Crete

Saint Andrew, Archbishop of Crete, was born in the city of Damascus into a pious Christian family. Up until seven years of age the boy was mute and did not talk. However, after communing the Holy Mysteries of Christ he found the gift of speech and began to speak. And from that time, he began earnestly to study Holy Scripture and the discipline of theology.

At fourteen he went off to Jerusalem and there he entered the monastery of Saint Savva the Sanctified. Saint Andrew led a strict and chaste life, he was meek and abstinent, such that all were amazed at his virtue and reasoning of mind. As a man of talent and known for his virtuous life, over the passage of time he came to be numbered among the Jerusalem clergy and was appointed as a writing clerk.

In the year 680 the “locum tenens” (temporary) of the Jerusalem Clergy, Theodore, included archdeacon Andrew among the representatives of the Holy City sent to the Sixth Ecumenical Council, and here the saint contended against heretical teachings, relying upon his profound knowledge of Christian doctrine.

Shortly after the Council he was summoned back to Constantinople from Jerusalem and he was appointed archdeacon at the church of Hagia

Sophia, the Wisdom of God. During the reign of the emperor Justinian II (685-695) Saint Andrew was ordained bishop of the city of Gortineia on the island of Crete. In his new position he shone forth as a true luminary of the Church, a great theologian, teacher and hymnographer.

Saint Andrew composed many inspired writings, including the Great Canon of Repentance which is prayed on Monday through Thursday of the first week of Lent, after the usual beginning of Compline, and following Psalms. On Thursday of the fifth week, the “Great Canon” is sung continuously in its entirety.



Saint Andrew has also composed the Canon for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, three Odes for Compline of Palm Sunday, and also in the first four days of Passion Week, as well as verses for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and many other Church hymns. His hymnographic legacy was continued by other great composers of following ages: Saints John of Damascus (December 4), Cosmas of Maiuma (October 12), Joseph the Hymnographer (April 4), Theophánēs the Branded (October 11), etc.

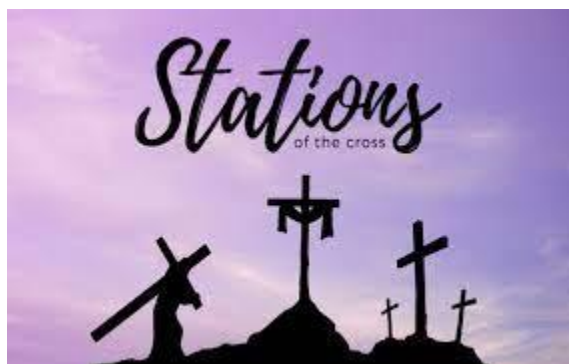
Church historians are not of the same opinion as to the date of death of the saint. One suggests the year 712, while others -- the year 726. He died on the island of Mytilene, however, while returning to Crete from Constantinople. As it is the fifth Thursday in Lent, we remember St. Andrew today.

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 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Church of the Resurrection, Okla City Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America



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

Birthdays and Anniversaries April 6th – April 12th, 2025

Birthdays



Morgan Phares (4/9)

Anniversaries



Chad & Blair Ellis (4/8)

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 4th – April 10th, 2025

- April 4th Stations of the Cross, Nave , 6:00pm
April 5th Liz Green Celebration of Life, 2pm, Metcalf
April 6th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
April 7th Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, classroom
April 8th Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
April 9th Midweek Manna, 6pm, Metcalf
Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Apr 10th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV



April Pack the Backpacks Item
8-Digit Display Handheld Calculator, Portable , White
Color, Elementary School

Midweek Manna During Lent
Wednesdays 6pm, Metcalf
Lite Supper

Poetry in Lent and Vespers

**Thank you to everyone who has brought the soup,
bread, and cookies**

**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

Holy Week

at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Palm Sunday	April 13th	8:00am Rite I, 10:30am Rite II
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Maundy Thursday	April 17th	6:00pm
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All Night Vigil	April 17th	begins at 9:00pm - chapel
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Good Friday	April 18th	Noon
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Holy Saturday	April 19th	9:00am - in the chapel
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Easter Vigil	April 19th	6:00pm - begins in courtyard
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Easter Sunday	April 20th	8:00am Rite I, 10:30am Rite II
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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 13th, before each service, meet in Metcalf Hall for the blessing of the palms and Processional. Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!



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

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:

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