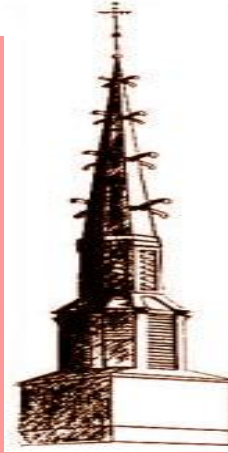


In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Fr Nick
- May item for Pack the Backpacks
- Theologian's Corner
- Altar Flower request
- Brunch Bunch
- Pack the Backpacks Breakfast
- Walking the Mourner's Path
- 2025 YD Graduating Seniors
- Bookstore
- Concern needs
- Post Note
- Camp

The Steeple



May 8, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Mother's Day

Dear St. Luke's,

Each year on the second Sunday of May, families gather to celebrate Mother's Day. This special day has become a tradition that's been deeply woven into the fabric of our society for over a century. But what I didn't know, was that this holiday had roots not only in our own personal affections but also through a Christian concern for peace and

community as well.

The modern American Mother's Day began in the early 20th century, largely through the efforts of Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her mother, a woman devoted to social service and public health. After her mother's death in 1905, Anna launched a campaign to establish a national day of recognition for all mothers. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed it into national observance. But before this, other figures, like Julia Ward Howe an American poet and abolitionist had called for a "Mother's Day for Peace," urging mothers to unite in ending war and injustice.

So, Mother's Day, at its heart, isn't just about flowers and cards. It is a holy echo of the Church's own mission to nurture life and promote peace.

In the Episcopal Church, this calling is visible in every generation. Across our congregations in the United States:

- Over 60% of adult women in Episcopal churches are mothers or primary caregivers.
- A large majority of lay ministries: teaching, hospitality, pastoral care are led by women, many of them mothers or grandmothers.

- In recent decades, an increasing number of women have answered the call to ordained ministry. Many of them balance that vocation with the sacred work of mothering - biological or spiritual.

As such, motherhood in the Church comes in many forms: biological mothers, adoptive mothers, godmothers, mentors, and spiritual mothers in the faith. These are the women who have shaped our lives, taught us how to pray, held us in our grief, and pointed us toward Christ. Thanks be to God for their witness!

Happy Mother's Day!

Faithfully,

Nick+

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, Jean Mason, Adam Thomas, Tom Oakes, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Lynda Stephens, Marcie Zervas, 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, Susie Manley, Steve Clark, and Sue Sherrill.

Please add the following to your prayers for Third Week of Easter

St Augustine's, OKC

St Michael's, Norman

The Church of Ireland

Most gracious God, from your heart you gave birth to all creation, and through your Son, Jesus Christ, you gather up all your children under the shadow of your wings: Through maternal love may we obtain a foretaste of your unconditional and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Theologians Corner: Julian of Norwich

Of Julian's early life we know little, only the probable date of her birth (1342). Her own writings in her *Revelations of Divine Love* are concerned only with her visions, or "showings," that she experienced when she was thirty years old rather than with the details of her biography.

Julian had been gravely ill and was given last rites. Suddenly, on the seventh day, all pain left her, and she had fifteen visions of Christ's Passion. These brought her great peace and joy. "From that time I desired oftentimes to learn what was our Lord's meaning," she wrote, "and fifteen years after I was answered in spiritual understanding: 'Would you learn the Lord's meaning in this thing? Learn it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show it?

For Love.'"

Julian had long desired three gifts from God: "the mind of his passion, bodily sickness in youth, and three wounds—of contrition, of compassion, of will-full longing toward God." Her illness brought her the first two wounds, which then passed from her mind. The third, "will-full longing" (divinely inspired longing), never left her.

She became a recluse, an anchoress, at Norwich soon after her recovery from illness, living in a small dwelling attached to the parish church. Even in her lifetime, she was famed as a mystic and spiritual counselor and was frequently visited by clergy and lay persons, including the mystic Margery Kempe. Kempe says of Julian: "This anchoress was expert in knowledge of our Lord and could give good counsel. I spent much time with her talking of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Julian understood that God was both Father and Mother to us, and understood Christ as exemplifying this maternal face of God. "Thus Jesus Christ, who does good against evil, is our very Mother. We have our being in him, where the ground of motherhood begins . . . As truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother."

Julian's book is a tender and beautiful exposition of God's eternal and all-embracing love, showing how his charity toward human beings is exhibited in the Passion. Again and again Julian referred to Christ as "our courteous Lord." Many have found strength in the words that the Lord had given her: "I can make all things well; I will make all things well; I shall make all things well; and you can see for yourself that all manner of things shall be well."

Together we pray: Triune God, Father and Mother to us all, who in thy compassion didst grant to your servant Julian many revelations of thy nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek thee above all things, for in giving us thyself thou givest us all. Amen.

Birthdays and Anniversaries May 11th – May 17th, 2025

Birthdays



Jim Stanton (5/12)
Sigrid Williams (5/12)
Murphey Warring (5/13)
JoAnn Gallery (5/14)
Robert Matthews (5/14)

Anniversaries



CJ & Shelly Jackson (5/11)

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 : May 9th – May 15th, 2025

May 10th Bob Baughman Service, 2pm
May 11th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Class 2025 Seniors Reception, after 10:30 service
May 13th Spiritual Discovery Book Study, 9:30am, Library
May 14th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
May 15th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV



May Pack the Backpacks Item

Dollar Tree has the 8oz Hand Sanitizer. Either with Aloe or without. Their price is \$1.25 each. The 8oz is what the teachers request for the students.

Last year we distributed over 1,000 of these and sanitizers.

Thank you for your monthly donations.

Concern's current needs - Vienna sausage, canned tuna, toothpaste and for the homeless - single-serve proteins.



We still have openings in June for Altar Flowers. Dates Open:

June 8th

June 15th

June 22nd

June 29th



HOSTED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #1302

PACK THE BACKPACKS BREAKFAST



When: Sunday May 18th 8:30AM-11AM

Where: Fr Lynch Hall 8th and Keeler

Cost: \$10/ticket

Come enjoy pancakes, egg casserole, bacon, sausage, and biscuits and gravy! All proceeds go towards helping us buy school supplies for this coming school year



News from the Greens

"Married individuals have no safe place where they can talk through things," said Ti Ti. "We are seeing many church leaders having problems in their marriages. Can we have some kind of training for the church leaders?" This was Ti Ti's first response to Roger's question to the group of what needs they were seeing.

Roger had organized the March meeting for our six national team members who are part of our Scripture engagement core team for 15 language groups in a country near to Thailand. The meeting had begun with the six sharing their activities, priorities, observations and goals.

Ti Ti continued with her other observations. She also thought it would be good to have Bible studies to encourage individuals who are widowed, Bible studies for people who are divorced, and Bible studies for raising children as single parents. In addition, she thought it would be good to organize a pre-marital curriculum. Lastly, she has seen a need for Bible studies for couples who are not able to have children.

For people who are English speakers, it is easy to take for granted that this kind of Bible curriculum exists in abundance. However, for Christians in some non-English-speaking countries, there are no culturally-appropriate resources like this. While we're in the U.S., Roger and I will be setting up how to research these topics (and more) here and in our local Southeast Asia setting. We'll eventually also be organizing powerpoints, audiovisuals and workshop schedules. We and our team members will plan to test the materials before we invite church leaders from a country near to Thailand to attend a workshop.

After these several years of meeting with small groups of married couples in the U.S., the Philippines and recently in Thailand, God may be opening doors to encourage married couples in a country near to Thailand. Like a vineyard where the grapevines are regularly pruned and fertilized, marriage relationships can have good outcomes especially when they are regularly invested in.

The breakdown of Christian marriages is one of the most heartbreaking things to happen in churches. Please ask God to give His vision to married couples through His Word of who He is and how big, strong, beautiful and unquenchable their love can be.

While we are in the U.S., Roger will be updating Bible apps for two of the 15 language groups. He will also be compiling information for a booklet of Bible verses arranged according to needs people have. In addition, he will continue his Scripture engagement coordination work for five countries in this region.

Roger is especially happy that several people from our regional organization will send representatives to FEBC's (Far Eastern Broadcasting Company) ethnic gathering in Thailand May 15 to 17. Roger has been facilitating how Bible translators in our region can organize Christian radio programs for their language groups, so this kind of gathering is very helpful for vision-building.

As Roger and I work remotely for these five months (three months in Austin and two months in Chicago), please ask God to open doors for much encouragement for Christians in a country near to Thailand. Please also ask God to give wisdom and strength to VVNJ, who is carrying on some of Roger's work of organizing and then sending programmed audio players into a nearby country, as well as leading listening group training and other training. Roger is mentoring VVNJ to eventually become the Scripture engagement coordinator for the 15 Bible translation projects in a country near to Thailand.

We thank God we are now staying in a place that is walking distance to Luke, Juliette, Oliver and Charlie's house. For three months we are now Austinites.

Thank you for praying with us,
Joanne

31 As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. Ephesians 5:31-32 NLT

Many, Many THANKS to our Wonderful Brunch Bunch for the Cinco de Mayo celebration last week!





Mothers! Stop by the bookstore Sunday for your free gift! Happy Mother's Day! Bookstore Staff





2025
GRADUATES

Addie Brown
Annabelle Droege
Ryan McIver
Cara Moore
Luke Olsen
Ethan Peterson
Erin Roper

Join us on Sunday, May 11th for our 10:30 AM service to honor our 2025 High School Graduates!



You are invited to a reception after the 10:30am service, May 11th, to honor St Luke's graduating Seniors.

YD Seniors



Addie Brown

Addie is the daughter of Shawn and Jennifer Brown. She started attending YD and St. Luke's this January. Addie's favorite subject is debate. She has been active with horseback riding and playing piano. Addie plans to attend Oklahoma State University and study either animal science or business. Her favorite activity in YD was playing kickball this spring, "I had so much fun!"



Annabelle Droege

Annabelle is the daughter of Tom and Keeli Droege. She has been involved in the BHS swim team, Bartlesville Splash Club, a swim lesson instructor, symphonic orchestra member (cello), NHS member, Phillips 66 Research Center intern, and Etsy business entrepreneur. Her favorite subjects are math and science. Annabelle plans to attend University of Oklahoma and study nursing. Her favorite YD memory is going to Washington DC and visiting all the different museums.



Ryan McIver

Ryan is the son of Douglas and Jennifer McIver. He has been active in tennis, K-Life, YD, and Boy Scouts. His favorite subjects are chemistry and biology. Ryan plans to attend Oklahoma State University and study chemical engineering. Ryan's favorite YD memory is going to NYC and seeing the 4th of July show.



Cara Moore

Cara is the daughter of Jim and Linda Moore. She has been involved with the BHS swim team, Bartlesville Splash Club, and Girl Scouts. Cara enjoys crocheting in her free time. Her favorite subject is art. Cara plans to attend Wichita State University for dental hygiene. Her favorite YD memories are going to NYC where she learned about the New York School of Urban Ministry and exploring with the church.



Luke Olsen

Luke is the son of Brian and Becky Olsen. He's involved with the BHS swim team, Bartlesville Splash Club, BHS symphonic orchestra (bass), a P66 Research Center Intern, and the Bartlesville Symphony Orchestra. In Luke's free time, he enjoys fishing, card games, and being a Warhammer hobbyist. Luke is planning to go to Oklahoma State University and study musical performance and business. One of his favorite memories of YD is going to Osage Hills State Park as a middle schooler and being surrounded by older high schoolers. Luke would like to thank St. Luke's for supporting various YD activities, and for the donation gifted to YD from the Chip Friley family. Lastly, he would like to thank the fearless YD leaders.



Ethan Peterson

Ethan is the son of Scott and Jen Peterson. He's involved with the BHS swim team, Bartlesville Splash Club, and BHS symphonic orchestra (cello). His favorite subjects are math and biology. Ethan enjoys working out, fishing, and spending time with friends and family. Ethan plans on attending Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada. He's going to major in marine biology and minor in economics. Ethan's favorite YD memory is mistakenly getting into a random white van that he thought was the St. Luke's van while shopping for giving tree kids at Walmart as a middle schooler. Ethan would like to extend a special thank you to the YD members, leaders, and congregation for extending their arms to him as part of the St. Luke's family.



Erin Roper

Erin is the daughter of Steve and Katherine Roper. She is involved with BHS swimming, Splash Club swim club, National Honor Society, Jazz Choir, World Language club, Special Olympics, and Vestry. Her favorite subject is Spanish. Erin plans to attend and swim at Truman State University and major in biology and minor in Spanish. Erin's favorite memory in YD was the trip to NYC: "I was never so happy, terrified, and amazed in my whole life, especially all at the same time! The trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I was able to experience thanks to St. Luke's". Erin would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Father Nick, the Vestry members, the YD leaders, and the congregation for their love and support. "St. Luke's was a great place to grow up!"

WALKING THE MOURNER'S PATH

A Christ-Centered Grief Ministry



The ministry of Walking the Mourner's Path seeks to serve individuals who are in grief through a series of Eight Weekly Workshops.

Together in the small group workshops individuals:

- Acknowledge the pain and brokenness
- Recognize that each journey through grief is unique
- Share stories
- Experience both tears and laughter
- Help each other in a safe environment to continue healing

Walking the Mourner's Path is a transformative eight-week journey that reflects on where God is in our grief and loss. If you are interested in finding out more or joining our next workshop, please contact Karole Cozby or Nancy Woods for more information.

"come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28-29



The Post-**Note** says:

We continue to Celebrate the Easter Season and what is better to celebrate than FREE? Come to the St. Luke's Book Store on any Tuesday or Thursday from 10:00 to 12:00 OR on Sunday after the 10:30 worship service and get FREE!

Free what you may ask? That is the Celebration Surprise! Come in the Book Store, look around for any uplifting items you may like and then choose

your FREE from the selection. How great is that?

And by the way (BTW) Happy Easter! Alleluia! Alleluia! Mthr Andrea

2025 ST. CRISPIN'S SUMMER CAMP

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1

<p>NEW All Ages Camp</p> <p>June 1st - 7th ☀️ \$550 Grades 4th - 2025 HS Grads *with Leadership Training and Outreach Service for Senior High Campers</p> <p>Senior High</p> <p>June 8th - 14th ☀️ \$550 Grades 10th - 2025 HS Grads</p> <p>Intermediate</p> <p>June 15th - 21st ☀️ \$550 Grades 4th - 6th</p> <p>Junior High</p> <p>June 22nd - 28th ☀️ \$550 Grades 7th - 9th</p>	<p>NEW Optional Saturday Stayovers</p> <p>June 7th - 8th ☀️ \$150 Grades 10th - 2025 HS Grads</p> <p>June 28th - 29th ☀️ \$150 Grades 7th - 9th</p> <p>ABC Camp</p> <p>June 28th - 29th ☀️ \$225 Grades K - 3rd (with an adult companion)</p> <p>Mini Session</p> <p>June 29th - July 2nd ☀️ \$325 Grades 2nd - 5th</p> <p>Intensives</p> <p>June 29th - July 2nd ☀️ \$375 Grades 6th - 2025 HS Grads *Arts & Crafts, Musical Theatre, Ropes</p>
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*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

stcrispins.org/camp

2025 Theme:
"I Have Called You Friends"

St. Luke's Vestry Members

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

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



HE IS RISEN!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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