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Aug 7, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



"Always we begin again!"

It's hard to believe that summer is beginning to wind down and the program year is nearly upon us! In the life of the Church, the "program year" refers to that season of our life together, typically beginning in mid-August, when we resume the full rhythm of our shared life in faith forums, choir rehearsals, Wednesday night programs, outreach events, small groups, and all the wonderful ministries that make St. Luke's a vibrant community of faith.

Here, the program year is more than just a return to routine, right? It's a time when we recommit ourselves to growing as disciples of Jesus. Whether that means joining a Bible study, volunteering with youth, singing in the choir, serving in worship on Sunday morning or during the week, this season offers each of us a chance to go deeper in faith and in fellowship.

The phrase "Always we begin again" mentioned above is one I love. It is attributed to St. Benedict of Nursia, the 6th-century monk who wrote the Rule of St. Benedict, a guide for monastic life that continues to shape Christian spirituality today. While the exact phrase doesn't appear verbatim in the Rule, its spirit is deeply woven throughout Benedict's teachings and is something fundamental to the pattern of our life together too.

To "always begin again" is to recognize that our spiritual life is a lifelong journey, not a one-time accomplishment. It reflects the understanding that God's mercy is constant, and every day offers a new opportunity to return to the sacred path. Spirituality, stability (remaining committed to a particular community and practice), and conversion of life (a continual turning toward God) all go hand in hand here. And so, "Always begin again" is a call to us for not only yearly renewal but daily renewal, to not give up when we fall short, and to return with grace and trust to our commitments.

As we step into this new program year, may we do so with gratitude, anticipation, and a renewed sense of purpose friends. Surely the Holy Spirit is at work here among us. Let's show up for one another, and for the work God is calling us to do in Bartlesville and beyond.

Faithfully,

Nick+

At Luke's Place: Aug 8th – Aug14th, 2025

**Aug 10th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Vestry Room
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave**

**Aug 14th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV**

Pack the Backpacks has another successful year!

All the paper, pens, crayons, and yes, backpacks are gone for another year. Over 2700 backpacks were distributed through the doors of St Luke's by Tuesday. That many students will be ready when school starts next week. The generosity of this community is amazing. Our donation basket is still in the Narthex. Even though we do not have a specific item requested, ANY school supplies you donate will be greatly appreciated. Rulers, paper, notebooks, markers, scissors, etc are needed for next year. If you are out shopping, grab a box of crayons or a package of #2 pencils. All are needed to keep this ministry going.



**GOODBYE
SUMMER**



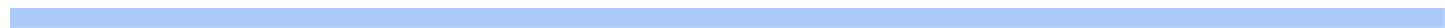
Theologian's Corner: The Transfiguration

This week we commemorate the moment in time when Christ, as He was beginning to teach His disciples that He must die and rise again, revealed Himself in shining splendor to Peter, James, and John. Moses and Elijah were present and are taken to signify that the Law and the Prophets testify that Jesus is the promised Messiah. God the Father also proclaimed him as such, saying, "This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him." For a moment the veil is drawn aside, and men still on earth are permitted a glimpse of the heavenly reality, the glory of the Eternal Triune God.

In the East, the Festival of the Transfiguration has been celebrated since the late fourth century and is one of the twelve great festivals of the East Orthodox calendar.

In the West it was observed after the ninth century by some monastic orders, and in 1457 Pope Callistus III ordered its general observance. At the time of the Reformation, it was still felt in some countries to be a "recent innovation," and so was not immediately observed. Now, however, the day is found on most calendars.

A recent tendency in the West is to commemorate the Transfiguration on the Sunday just before Lent, in accordance with the pattern found in the Synoptics, where Jesus is beginning to speak of his forthcoming death just about the time of the Transfiguration, so that it forms a fitting transition between the Epiphany season, in which Christ makes himself known, and the Lenten season, in which he prepares the disciples for what lies ahead. That may be the case, however, the Feast of the Transfiguration is for us traditionally held on August 6th.



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, Ken Harvey, Nan Buhlinger, Bill Birk, Carol McSpadden, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, David Anderson, Dan & JoAnn Gallery, Freda Bretz, Kathleen Turner, Susan Dick, Steve Clark, Lauren Gandy, Betty Hardin, and Dean Zervas.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Seventh Week of Pentecost
St Matthew's, Sand Springs St Bede's, Westport The Episcopal Church in the
Philippines

Birthdays and Anniversaries Aug 10th – Aug 16th, 2025

Birthdays



Tim Hanson (8/11)
Evan Tedstrom (8/11)
Gretchen Matthews (8/12)
David Hall (8/14)
Juanita Green (8/16)



Anniversaries

Robert & Gretchen Matthews (8/11)
Bill & Mthr Andrea Jones (8/16)

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!



"Heavenly Father, thank you for this new school year. Please watch over our children, keep them safe, and help them learn and grow. Bless their teachers and classmates, and guide them in all they do. In your name, Amen."



Chancel Choir rehearsal will begin again on August 20th from 5:00-6:30 pm. Choir will lead us once again in our musical worship starting September 7th. If you are interested in being part of the Chancel Choir ministry, please contact Keeli Droege at 918-697-8509 or keelidroege@gmail.com.



Our Wonderful Brunch Bunch will be serving up Brunch, August 24th, after the 10:30am Service, so plan to stay after or come back if you attend the earlier service. Let's share some fellowship and good food! (donations will be accepted)

Mark your calendar now, for our 2025 Empty Bowls event on August 26, 2025, at The Center in Bartlesville Ok from 11:30am to 1:30 pm. For your \$25 ticket price, you get to sample over 40 vendors in our area and pick a free one-of-a-kind bowl to take home. We will also have a Silent Auction, and you can catch up with all your friends, over lunch! We are celebrating our 25th year serving Bartlesville. Come celebrate with us!! See Steve Clark for tickets.





FOLLOW ME

Father Nick always has a good sermon every Sunday. Every now and then he speaks about a topic, and it sticks with me. The Sunday I am talking about is when the Sermon was about Elijah and Elisha. Elijah kept informing Elisha to stay where he was and Elisha only spoke, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you." Father Nick went on to make a comment about, "Follow Me."

My mind heard those two words and went into song from John Denver. I remembered the first verse and thought of Janice, but as I kept singing the song, I realized it was also about my Faith in my God. The words go: It's by far the hardest thing I've ever done. to be so in love with you and so alone. Follow me where I go what I do and who I know, make it part of you to be a part of me. Follow me up and down all the way and all around, take my hand and say you'll follow me. It's long been on my mind.

You know, it's been a long, long time and I've tried to find the way that I can make you understand, the way I feel about you and just how much I need you. To be there where I can talk to you when there's no one else around. Follow me where I go what I do and who I know. Make it part of you to be a part of me. Follow me up and down, all the way and all around. Take my hand and say you'll follow me. You see I'd like to share my life with you, and show you things I've seen. Places that I'm going to, places where I've been. To have you there beside me and never be alone, and all the time that you're with me, we will be at home. Follow me where I go what I do and who I know. Make it part of you to be a part of me. Follow me up and down, all the way. Take my hand and I will follow you.

Music always brings me Joy and this was no exception. It brought back a lot of memories of my past and my future. My journey is still ongoing and Janice will always be in my heart and mind as I journey along listening to music. As I am writing this, I remembered a song from my Farmers Union Camping days. "I Know Where I'm Goin'," came to mind. Don't remember all the words but these, "I know where I'm goin', and whom I'm gonna see. I have a friend named Jesus, waiting there for me."

There is a Peace surrounding me and believing in what I know. I know I started this with, follow me, but I have never completely done that. I have always believed, don't follow me, for I may not lead. Don't lead me, for I may not follow. Walk beside me and let's enjoy the journey together. It's always more enjoyable to share memories with someone, even if you're alone, because with God's Love, you are never alone. It is through him that we listen to, "Follow Me." Follow me, where I go and who I know, reminds me of the first 2 laws of God, love thy God, and love thy neighbor.

Once again, I am reminded that Love is the strongest thing that I can give or receive to or from anyone. I will always have Janice's Love with me wherever I go. May your days be filled with laughter and joy, and may you always feel the love of friends and family, even if they are not with you.

Robert

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Bereavement Team 2

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