

In this week's Steeple >>>

The Steeple

- Fr Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Luke's Place Schedule
- Pack the Backpack needs
- New Discussion Group
- Concern Needs
- Casa Hispana Bingo
- Pool Noodle
- YD Quiche Night
- St Matthew the Apostle



Sept 18, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Sing a New Song

Friends, when tragedy upon tragedy weighs heavy on our hearts, I think we often find ourselves without words. The headlines recently have left us speechless, the grief that overwhelms us leaves us weary, and the violence of the world has us searching for light anywhere. The Church has been given a remarkable gift to hold in such times: the hymnody of our tradition, that sacred marriage of poetry and melody.

Our Hymnal is not simply a collection of songs; it is a treasury of prayer. It holds centuries of voices that have sung through joy and sorrow, through triumph and despair. When words alone falter, a hymn lifts us up on the wings of melody. Music carries us where speech cannot; past our defenses, deep into the soul where lament and hope reside side by side. In the dance between poetry and melody then, we encounter the wonder of faith: a God who knows our suffering and yet sings life into the silence of death.

Think of how "*Abide with Me*" soothes the grieving heart, or how "*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*" recalls the mercy that has carried us this far. Even when we cannot pray, the hymns pray for us. They remind us that we are not alone; we sing in chorus with saints, angels, and all who have gone before us.

So, when the world feels fractured and fragile, music can become a balm for our souls. A hymn can be a gentle hand on the shoulder, a reminder of beauty when ugliness surrounds us, a whisper that God's love is deeper than our sorrow. The poetry of most of our hymns gives us words for our faith; their melodies teach our hearts to believe in love. Together, they turn our mourning into a song of trust, and our despair into the faint, stubborn harmony of hope.

Perhaps in this moment, that is what we need most: not explanations, not arguments, but the simple and profound gift of song. For in singing, we are lifted into the presence of the One who

makes all things new. What are your favorite hymns. Write them down and bring them to church. I'm going to ask for them. And soon we will gather to sing them with all our hearts. And may the light generated from that offering enliven our hearts.

Nick+

At Luke's Place: Sept 19th – Sept 25th, 2025

- Sept 20th Casa Hispana Bingo, 5:30pm, Metcalf
Sept 21st Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Sept 22nd Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
St Matthew the Apostle, 12:15pm, Chapel
Sept 23rd Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers Hall
Sept 24th Choir, 5:00pm, Choir Room
YD, 6:00pm, Rodgers Hall
Sept 25th Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf Hall
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Hall
Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
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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 a small group, individuals acknowledge the pain and brokenness of loss, recognize that each journey through grief is unique, share stories, experience both tears and laughter, and 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.

WE WILL BE STARTING A WORKSHOP SEPTEMBER 23RD
CONTACT KAROLE COZBY, NANCY WOODS OR FR. NICK FOR MORE INFO!



Theologian's Corner: **John Coleridge Patteson** **Bishop of Melanesia, Martyr** September 20th, 1871

John Coleridge Patteson was born in London in 1827. He attended Balliol College, Oxford, and graduated in 1849. After a tour of Europe and a study of languages, he became a fellow of Merton College, Oxford, in 1852. In 1855, he heard Bishop George Selwyn of New Zealand (see 11 Apr.) call for volunteers to go the South Pacific to preach the Gospel. He went there, and founded a school for the education of native Christian workers. He was adept at languages, and learned twenty-three of the languages spoken in the Polynesian and Melanesian Islands of the South Pacific. In 1861 he was consecrated Bishop of Melanesia.

The slave-trade was technically illegal in the South Pacific at that time, but the laws were only laxly enforced and in fact slave-raiding was a flourishing business. Patteson was actively engaged in the effort to stamp it out. However, injured men do not always distinguish friends from foes. After slave-raiders had attacked the island of Nakapu, in the Santa Cruz group, Patteson and several companions visited the area. They were assumed to be connected with the raiders, and Patteson's body was floated back to his ship with five hatchet wounds in the chest, one for each native who had been killed in the earlier raid. The death of Bishop Patteson caused an uproar back in England and stimulated the government there to take firm measures to stamp out slavery and the slave trade in its Pacific territories. It was also the seed of a strong and vigorous Church in Melanesia today. Patteson and his companions died on 20 September 1871.

Together we pray: Almighty God, who didst call thy faithful servant John Coleridge Patteson and his companions to witness to the gospel, and by their labors and sufferings didst raise up a people for thine own possession: Pour out thy Holy Ghost upon thy church in every land, that, by the service and sacrifice of many, thy holy Name may be glorified and thy kingdom enlarged; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Next Discussion 9/23: Our Discussion topic for 9/23/25 is "Baptism and John the Baptist."

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, Steve Clark, Lauren Gandy, Susan Brooks, Dean Zervas, and Graham Hunt.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Thirteenth Week of Pentecost
Christ Church, Tulsa The Anglican Church of South America

Concerns current needs are: canned chicken, Spam and small jars of peanut butter; and for the homeless: unisex deodorant, toothpaste and bars of soap.

Birthdays and Anniversaries Sept 21st – Sept 27th, 2025

Birthdays



Bill Jones	(9/21)
Nick Olsen	(9/21)
D.J. Nezam	(9/22)
Anna Oliphant	(9/22)
Steve VanAken	(9/24)
Mary Jo Peterson	(9/25)
Melinda Droege	(9/26)
Dan Gallery	(9/26)



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!

For September please collect either small packages of 8 to 12 count pencils or large packages of 16 to 24 count pencils. Either size should be number 2 pencils with the eraser. Don't spend the extra money for sharpened pencils. The pictures are Walmart or Staples brands of the large packages. Price should be about \$0.50 for the small packages and \$1.00 for the large.

Collection basket is in Nartex.

BINGO

BY CASA HISPANA

night

Join us for an evening of Bingo, Raffles, Family Fun, and Hispanic Food

For tickets call 918.907.1584

Saturday, September 20th, 2025

5:30 PM

St Luke's Episcopal Church

CasaHispana.Bartlesville@gmail.com



Games start at 6:00 PM

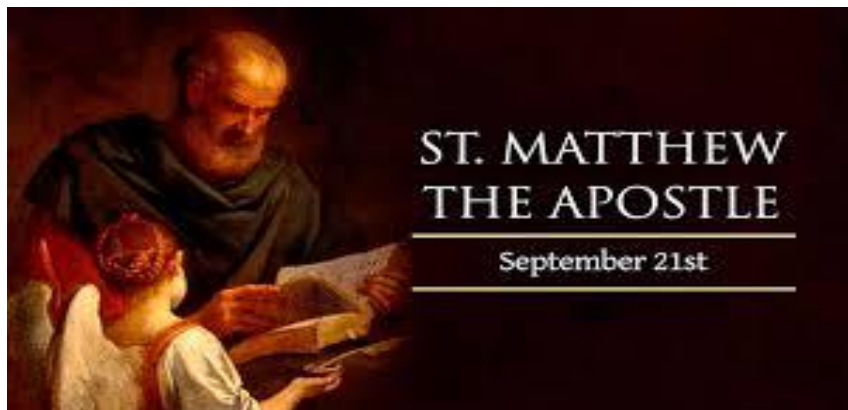
\$12 Ticket

Include:

- Admission Price &
- 10 cards



All proceeds benefit Casa Hispana a Bartlesville non-profit organization that provides support to local individuals and families by enabling connections to community resources, offering translation services, English and citizenship classes, and providing highly subsidized dental/health care to under-served communities



St Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist Feast Day will be celebrated September 22, 2025, 12:15pm, in the Chapel.

Death to the Pool Noodle

By Mother Andrea Jones

I recently decided to sign up for an exercise/swimming class at the YMCA. Seven months ago, I had double knee surgery and recovery has been slow. I was encouraged to go for this class by a good friend who assured me swimming was a gentle way to speed up my recovery. I have now attended three weeks of water work and am seeing real progress. There has been a small glitch however.

The pool noodle. Two classes ago my friend suggested we do some special work using a pool noodle. They look innocent. Who would imagine a hot pink, hollow, five foot long, foam tube could be so humbling to a casual user. The darn thing is entirely resistant to being submerged in any way. Trying to get the thing under water, behind your back and under your ankle is frustrating. Pushing on one end forces the other end up in the air, demonstrating to everyone the battle is engaged. Shoving one end between your legs gets it under water, but only half of your body distance from where it would be of use, at the bottom of the pool where my ankle is. Facing the pool wall, I try to cram the thing down as I bend my knee back, but it resists going anywhere near the foot. All the while I am wrestling, the hot pink noodle is squeaking and burping loudly. I am determined to learn how to do this gracefully, but so far, I suspect I look like a seal wrestling an anaconda. No one looks my way, perhaps in sympathy, or with kindly glances, but I suspect I could be the topic of many dinner table conversations in the evening.

The challenges we encounter daily can be tremendous, or annoying or silly. How we use those tests is our choice. The Bible says that if one is faithful in the little things of life, one can be entrusted to greater things. Hula hoops? Inner tubes?

Anyone know a better verse of scripture?

DEATH TO POOL NOODLES.



SAVE THE DATE!

SAT. NOV. 8TH

Metcalf Hall 5:30pm

FOOD • FAMILY FUN • FELLOWSHIP

Quiche Night with YD



St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – Nancywoods120@gmail.com
- 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- sandyswhit@gmail.com
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com

Bereavement Team 2

**Laura Birk, Nancy Megee,
Wendy Hall, Karen Lewey,
Debbie Mueggenborg**



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