

*In this week's Steeple >>>*

- Fr Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Luke's Place Schedule
- Discussion Group
- Christmas Concert Canceled
- Brunch Bunch Treats
- Need Soup & Bread
- Christmas in the Woods
- Remembrance Tree
- YD shops for Angel Tree
- Christmas Services

# *The Steeple*



Dec 11, 2025



## The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



### Second Week of Advent

Beloved in Christ,

Advent always has a way of arriving right when we need it most. Just as the light begins to leave the day behind earlier and earlier and where we feel a bit frayed at the edges, the Church quietly lights another candle and reminds us that hope is not a sentimental thing, it is God's steady promises breaking into the ordinary places of our lives.

In this second week of Advent, we hear again the voices of the prophets and the saints calling us to prepare the way of the Lord. Not by pretending everything is fine, but by daring us to believe that God can meet us even in the places that feel uncertain, weary, or unfinished. Advent hope is not fragile. It doesn't require perfect circumstances or perfect people. It simply asks that we stay awake to the God who is drawing near.

This is one of the great gifts of our tradition: the conviction that God's light grows even when the world gives us every reason to doubt that the sun will ever shine again. Every act of kindness, every moment of forgiveness, every small gesture of courage, these are how we lean into the promise that Emmanuel is not just a name but a lived reality.

As we move toward Christmas, I want to encourage you to make a commitment now to be present for our Christmas services this year. Bring your family. Invite a friend. Reach out to the neighbor who mentioned they've been looking for a place to worship. This season is full, yes, schedules are tight, and travel will demand our attention but gathering together, shoulder to shoulder, in the glow of candlelight is one of the ways we proclaim to the world that hope still has a home.

For some of us, this is the moment we've been waiting for. For others, it may be the first step back into a community or a first step toward finding one. Whatever your story, you never know what grace might meet you, or someone you love, when you walk through the doors on Christmas Eve.

My prayer for each of you this week is simple: that the God who comes quietly, faithfully, and tenderly will stir hope in your heart again and again. The kind of hope that reminds us we are not alone. The kind that carries us all the way to Bethlehem.

May the peace of Christ guard your hearts and your minds.

Nick+

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### At Luke's Place: Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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| Dec 13 <sup>th</sup> | Christmas in the Woods, 4-8pm, 1000 Hazel Ct   |
| Dec 14 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel<br>Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf<br>Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave |
| Dec 15 <sup>th</sup> | Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf<br>Community Soup Night, 4-8pm, Metcalf                                |
| Dec 16 <sup>th</sup> | Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library<br>Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers  |
| Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> | Choir, 4:30pm, Choir Room<br>YD, 6pm, Rodgers<br>Advent Soup Supper and prayer, 6pm, Metcalf                     |
| Dec 18 <sup>th</sup> | Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf<br>Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf<br>Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV              |

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### *Prayer List*

**Please pray for:** Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Connie Finch, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, 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, Dan & JoAnn Gallery, Freda Bretz, Kathleen Turner, Steve Clark, Lauren Gandy, Susan Brooks, Dean Zervas, Frank Molina, Diane Mitchell, Rob Dahlgren, and Frank Traylor.

Please add the following to your prayers for the Second Week of Advent :  
St. John's, Woodward      Grace, Yukon      The Church of Bangladesh



**Advent Soup and Evening Prayer  
Last Wednesday this Advent,  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup>  
6pm.**

As an Advent offering, We will be having a light soup and bread supper then Evening Prayer. For Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, we still need 1 more soup. **The sign up is across the hall from the office.** Please consider bringing soup then lets end the evening in prayer.



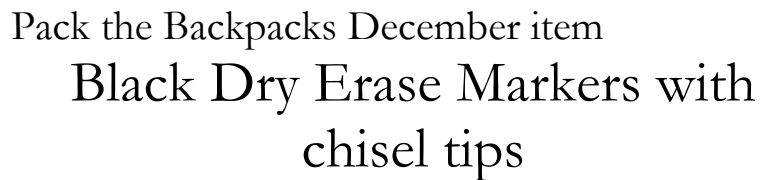
**Theologian's Corner:  
Thomas Merton  
Monk, Poet, Spiritual Writer 1968**

Thomas Merton was born in 1915 in France, of American parents. His early education was in France (Lycee de Montauban 1927-8) and England (Oakham School, 1929-32; Clare College, Cambridge, 1933-4). He came to America and attended Columbia University, graduated in English in 1938, worked there one year as a teaching assistant, and got his M.A. in 1939. In 1939 he joined the Roman Catholic Church, and taught at St Bonaventure for the next two years.

In 1941 he entered the Trappist monastery of Gethsemani near Louisville, Kentucky. The Trappists, called more formally Cistercians of the Strict Observance, are (or were before Vatican II) an extremely strict Roman Catholic monastic order, devoted to communal prayer (they spend at least four hours a day in chapel, chanting the praises of God), to private prayer and contemplation, to study, and to manual labor. Except for those whose special duties require otherwise, they are vowed not to speak except in praise of God. Thus, when not singing in chapel, they are silent.

Together we pray: Gracious God, who didst call thy monk Thomas Merton to proclaim thy justice out of silence, and moved him in his contemplative writings to perceive and value Christ at work in the faiths of others: Keep us, like him, steadfast in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ; who with thee and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Concerns current needs are: sugar and "just add water" pancake mix.



The Tuesday Discussion Group will meet Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in Rodgers Hall. Discussion will be on .

Now that the Star Tree is empty of children's gifts, its time to turn it into the Remembrance Tree. Please bring an ornament in memory of someone and hang it on the tree during the Christmas season. If you do not have one for a remembrance, just bring a meaningful ornament to add so we can cover the tree. Its so special to see all the ornaments from different households. Please add yours. (all will be returned after)





**Birthdays & Anniversaries for Dec 14<sup>th</sup> - Dec 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Birthdays**

**Anniversaries**

Robert Clark (12/14) Fr Lee & Lynda Stephens (12/17)

**If your or a love one's name doesn't appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday and/or wedding anniversary**



The Christmas Concert is canceled this year due to illness.



# *The* Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

By the Grace of God  
The Right Reverend Poulson Reed  
VI Bishop of Oklahoma  
Will ordain

**Jeffrey Phelps Birk**  
**Andy Duane Bowers**  
**Kelsey Michele Carter**  
**Robert Duane Kuhlman Jr.**

To the Sacred Order of Deacons  
In Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

The Eve of the Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle  
Saturday, the Seventeenth day of January  
In the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-six  
Four o'clock in the afternoon

Saint Paul's Episcopal Cathedral  
127 NW Seventh Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Reception to follow

Cassock, Surplice, (or Alb), and White Stole  
Your Prayers and Presence are Requested

[Live Stream Ordinations](#)



## YD Shop for the Angel Tree







## FantasyLand of Lights Johnstone Park

Mark the evening of Dec 15th on your calendars and come drive through Johnstone Park, see the Christmas light displays, and support our Vestry members as they work the Gingerbread House at the end of the park.





## Service At St Luke's, 4:00pm

After the Christmas Eve Service, join us in Metcalf Hall for eggnog and wassail. If you have extra treats from Christmas celebrations, please bring those to share.

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Brunch Bunch serving up Christmas Treats last Sunday









## St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Nancy Woods, Sr. Warden – [Nancywoods120@gmail.com](mailto:Nancywoods120@gmail.com)
- Karole Cozby, Jr Warden – [kscozby916@gmail.com](mailto:kscozby916@gmail.com)
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- Robert Lonski- [rjtazski@yahoo.com](mailto:rjtazski@yahoo.com)

### **Bereavement Team 2**

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

### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector  
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918-336-1212  
Or contact  
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157

Christmas Eve Service: 4:00pm 12/24/2025

Christmas Day Service 10:00am 12/25/2025