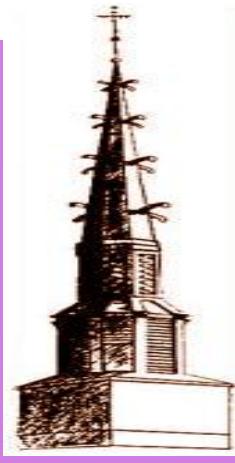


In this week's Steeple >>>

- Fr Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Luke's Place Schedule
- Discussion Group
- Christmas Concert
- Brunch Bunch Treats
- Need Soup & Bread
- Christmas in the Woods
- Bookstore Open House
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- News from the Greens

The Steeple



Dec 4, 2025



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Community Soup Nights at St. Luke's

One of the most enduring signs of God's love is a shared meal. From Abraham and Sarah spreading a feast for strangers to Jesus breaking bread with his friends, Scripture reminds us that hospitality is not just kindness, it is a holy act. It is in that spirit that Lindsey Adams approach me about opening our doors to the wider community for Soup Night every Monday in December from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This is not a church-members-only gathering. This is not an event for a small circle. Lindsey envisioned an evening for *everyone*...anyone from St. Luke's and anyone from Bartlesville who might want come together for a shared meal. That means whether someone is lonely or simply hungry... whether they are well-established in town or just passing through... whether family surrounds them or they come alone... there is a place at the table for them here.

Soup night is to be a celebration of warmth, not just the warmth of a steaming bowl of soup placed in one's hands on a cold evening but the warmth of conversation shared around a table and the warmth of open hearts welcoming neighbors as friends.

There is something nourishing not only for the body but also for the soul when people sit side-by-side, laugh, and tell stories, even if they do not yet know

one another well.

DECEMBER SOUP

SCHEDULE

08
MON

VEGGIE LENTIL W/
GARLIC BREAD

15
MON

POTATO SOUP W/
CRACKERS

22
MON

CHILI W/
CORNBREAD
BEEF DONATED BY AMERICAN HERITAGE
BEEF CO.

29
MON

VEGGIE CURRY W/
JASMINE RICE

We often speak of arms wide open here at St. Luke's. This is one of the ways we mean it. When our Metcalf Hall fills with the aromas of soup and fresh bread, when the sound of children's voices mixes with the greetings of longtime friends and first-time visitors, that is the Kingdom of God taking shape among us. That is community.

I hope you will come. Bring someone with you - a co-worker, a friend, a neighbor, someone who might need a little warmth. Come as you are, stay, and be nourished.

Thank you, Lindsey, for leading us into this ministry of hospitality and connection.

Peace be with you all,

Nick 

At Luke's Place: Dec 5th – Dec 11th, 2025

Dec 6 th	Bookstore Holiday Open House, 10am-3pm, Book Store
Dec 7 th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
	Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
	Brunch Bunch Christmas Treats, 11:30am, Metcalf
Dec 8 th	Ladies' Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
	Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room
Dec 9 th	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
	Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
	Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers
Dec 10 th	Choir, 4:30pm, Choir Room
	YD, 6pm, Rodgers
	Advent Soup Supper and prayer, 6pm, Metcalf
Dec 11 th	Men's Fellowship, 7am, Metcalf
	Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
	Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV
Dec 13 th	Christmas in the Woods, 4-8pm

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, and Rob Dahlgren.

Please add the following to your prayers for the First Week of Advent:

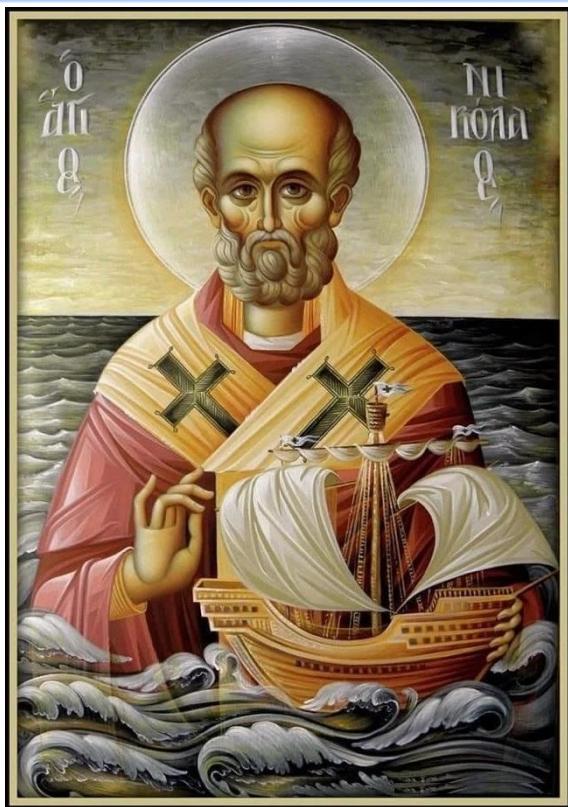
St. Stephen's, Guymon

The Anglican Church of Australia



Advent Soup and Evening Prayer Every Wednesday during Advent 6pm.

As an Advent offering, We will be having a light soup and bread supper then Evening Prayer. We are still in need of Soup and Bread for these evenings. For Dec 10th, we still need 2 more soups and 2 more offerings of bread. Our YD will be joining us during the supper time. **The sign up is across the hall from the office.** Please consider bringing soup or bread then lets end the evening in prayer.



Theologian's Corner: St. Nicholas of Myra

Nicholas was a native of the western part of what is now Asiatic Turkey. He became Bishop of Myra in the fourth century, and there are many stories of his love for God and for his neighbor.

The best-known story involves a man with three unmarried daughters. The father, it was said, could not provide them with suitable dowries. So, Nicholas walked by the man's house on three successive nights, and each time threw a bag of gold in through a window (or, when the story came to be told in colder climates, down the chimney). Thus, the daughters were provided for and all got married and lived happily ever after. Because of this and similar stories, Nicholas became a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

In many countries, Nicholas visits children on his feast day, the 6th of December, and brings them gifts then. In these countries, there is usually no exchange of Christmas presents, but there may be gifts again on January 6, the feast of the coming of the Wise Men, who brought gifts to the Holy Child of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In America, it has been the practice to yield to outside pressure and let Nicholas distribute gifts on December 25.

Nevertheless, many Eastern Orthodox congregations have services in the evening before the 6th of December that feature "visits from Saint Nicholas." He appears as a bishop, with no red suit. Sometimes our Bishop, gives "St. Nicholas special permission to exercise his ministry within the diocese of Oklahoma." The faithful are to leave their shoes outside the church door and find in them afterwards gold coins (actually chocolate wrapped in gold foil) representing the gold dowries of the three daughters.

We are told, but it is uncertain, that Nicholas was imprisoned for his faith before the accession of Constantine and that he was present at the Council of Nicaea in 325. Early stories indicate that he was generous to others but not given to self-indulgence. Indeed, it was said, that even as an unweaned infant, he fasted regularly on Wednesdays and Fridays. Such are some of the stories.

Together let us pray: Grant, Almighty God, that thy church may be so inspired by the example of thy servant Nicholas of Myra, that it may never cease to work for the welfare of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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



Pack the Backpacks December item
Black Dry Erase Markers with chisel tips

CALLING ALL ST. LUKE'S ARTISTS/CRAFTERS

The Bookstore would like to feature the talent here at St. Luke's. Paintings, sketching, sewing or handwork, beading, jewelry making etc. Items will be displayed and can either be for sale or for display only.

Contact Cathy Perrier at 918-336-7974 or 918-520-9927 for further information.

TUESDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

The Tuesday Discussion Group will meet Dec 9th at 6:30pm in Rodgers Hall. Discussion will be on “Why do bad things happen to good people?”.



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)



Christmas Treats

Sunday, Dec
7th, after
10:30am service

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Dec 7th - Dec 13th

Birthdays

Judy DuVall	(12/9)
Chase Almy	(12/13)

Anniversaries

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



St. Luke's
Episcopal Church
Bookstore
& Gifts



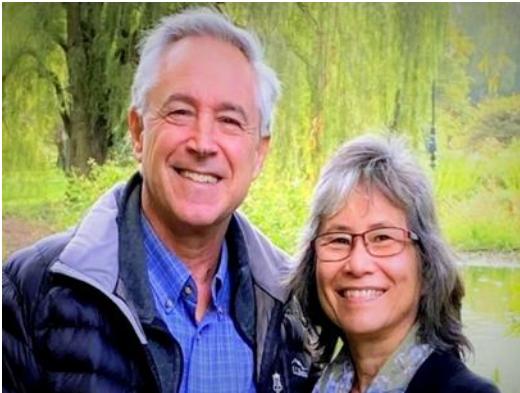
Christmas
Open
House

Saturday
Dec. 6th
10am-3pm

Sunday
Dec. 7th
11:30am-3pm

A selection of inspirational books, gifts, and seasonal items perfect for Christmas giving will be available.

**ENJOY HOLIDAY TREATS
& DOOR PRIZES**



News from Roger and Joanne Green

One precious story from one of the ladies who attended the "Quiet Times Together" was that she used one reflection time to write a letter to God. She wrote out all her frustrations and confusion about why things were happening to her. She wanted to trust God, but it was hard. Then it came to her that she wanted to write a poem to God. She had written poems for other people but never before to God. Afterward, she sat by a small pool of fish and eventually noticed that one of the fish was not a healthy color of white and looked a bit dirty. It hardly moved in the pool. In contrast, the other fish swam back and forth vigorously and looked healthy with bright colors. As she looked at the dirty white fish, she realized that God was having her deal vigorously with issues in her life in order to trust Him. It was keeping her spiritually healthy to actively trust God when it was hard to do. If she had no problems in her life, then she would not need to move much spiritually. Like the dirty white fish, she would only move a little if nothing forced her to move. The hard things in her life made her wrestle with the issues. After she had these thoughts, she thanked God for showing her what had happened to the dirty white fish. She was grateful to have the time to write a letter to God, to write a poem to God, to observe the dirty white fish and to see the value of being forced to grow spiritually because of hard circumstances. Praise to God for His encouragement to her.

I personally loved the Quiet Times Together event. It brought much joy to me to have so much time to reflect on God's Word and then to talk about my reflections with a small group of women in increments during the day. I am thanking God that He made it possible. May our Helper, the Holy Spirit, who lives with us and is in us (John 14:17), bring to each woman's remembrance all the things that Jesus said (John 14:26).

Roger continues his work of managing how Scripture is uploaded to apps and websites and distributed through dedicated devices. He has a steady stream of Bible translation teams coming to him to ask for more audio Bible players. Please ask God to keep our whole macro team focused and strong in Him.

On Friday I have an opportunity to present concepts from Luke 10:1-11 and about Discovery Bible Study to a team of people who are being equipped to do Bible translation for their minority language group. Please ask God to touch each person's heart with His truth. A few days ago, I helped a local young woman to reflect on Acts 1:4-5. She felt encouraged that Jesus told the disciples to wait for the gift that God the Father had promised. Her tears flowed as she felt encouraged to wait on God and trust Him in her own situation. Thank you for asking God to bring these opportunities!

I had a good visit with our former landlady and her family in Chiang Mai last month. She has not sent an update recently, so I am concerned how she is doing now. She was supposed to get results from a scan of her whole body in order to know whether there was more cancer. Also, she was

planning to look into what kind of prosthetic would be best. Please ask God to send Christian friends in Chiang Mai to show her much care during this time.

Praise and Thanksgiving to God through Jesus our Lord,
Joanne

*For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness,"
has made this light shine in our hearts
so we could know the glory of God
that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6*

Please also remember those in Southern Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam who are experiencing terrible flooding. One co-worker especially asked for prayer for church brothers and sisters. She said many people are still waiting on their roofs or upper floors for three days now for rescue, but currents are too strong for boats to get through and not enough manpower. The Hat Yai Hospital said it has food, water, fuel for the generator and medical oxygen for only three more days. The meteorological department says it expects for the water to take two weeks to recede; continuous heavy rainfall, overflowing canals and high tide from the sea make it hard for the water to recede.



Dear Friends in Christ in Oklahoma,

Hospitality, Nourishment, and Growth. Our St. Crispin's mission statement rings true for every guest that steps on those hallowed grounds.

Hospitality can be expressed in quiet, practical ways: a clean bed, a warm meal, a place to be still and know that God is near. At St. Crispin's, our staff carries out this ministry with dedication and grace. But some of the tools they rely on, particularly our laundry facilities, are no longer adequate for the work.

Currently, we rely on a few washers and dryers to handle the needs of up to hundreds of guests each week. These machines are aging, inefficient, and not built to sustain the volume of linens and towels required by a conference center of this size.

This year's Bishop's Appeal seeks to change that.

We are inviting you to help upgrade the laundry facilities at St. Crispin's by funding the purchase of commercial-grade washers and dryers. While this may seem like a small matter, it is a vital part of sustaining the ministry of hospitality that defines St. Crispin's.

Our goal is to raise \$35,000, enough to secure new machines and create a larger, more efficient laundry room.

Your generosity will help free our hardworking staff to focus even more of their time on the other aspects of hospitality, rather than on hours of laundry.

We will be accepting gifts through **January 10, 2026**.

Here's how you can support this year's Bishop's Appeal:

1. Ways to Make an Impact

- \$50 – “Adopt a load” and cover the full cost of washing and drying
- \$140 - Supplies one whole week of laundry detergent
- \$500 – Sponsors a folding station or laundry cart

2. Mail a Check

- Send a check to 924 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

3. Give Online

- Click the button below to donate online.

<https://onrealm.org/epiok/Account/Start?ReturnUrl=%2Fepiok%2Fgive%2Fbishopsappeal>

Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your commitment to St. Crispin's, as it celebrates its 60th anniversary.

May God bless you and all those you love this Christmas season.

Blessings,
+ Bishop Poulsom

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER

14

AT 4:00 PM

Featuring

*Susan Mueller & Marjoleine Gravley
& Trinity Recorder Consort*

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
210 E. 9TH STREET

**We will be collecting
donations for Agape.**

REFRESHMENTS
AFTER THE CONCERT

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- rjtzski@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
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

Christmas Eve Service: 4:00pm 12/24/2025
Christmas Day Service 10:00am 12/25/2025