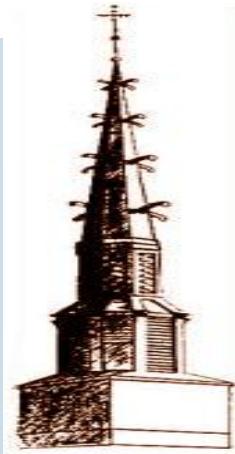


In this week's Steeple >>>

- Fr Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Luke's Place Schedule
- Pack the Backpacks request
- Discussion Group
- Altar Flowers
- Jeff's Ordination
- Baptism
- Governor's Awards

The Steeple



Jan 22, 2026



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Winter Weather on the Way

Dear Friends,

Winter, it seems, is finally going to make its presence known in the next couple of days. The weather forecast reminds us that “chill and cold” are no longer poetic excerpts from our liturgy, but very real companions for the days ahead.

The Book of Common Prayer gives us language for moments such as this in Canticle 12, where creation itself is invited to join the chorus of praise: “O chill and cold, bless the Lord; praise him and highly exult him forever.” Even the elements that make us reach for heavier coats and warmer spaces are drawn into God’s larger song.

As of now, it is not my intention to cancel worship this weekend if at all possible. Gathering for prayer, Word, and Sacrament matters, especially when the days are short and the cold presses in. That being said, wisdom and care for one another also matter. We will be monitoring the weather closely and, if a decision to postpone worship becomes necessary, we will make it sometime on Saturday and communicate clearly and promptly through email. Please keep an eye on email and social media for any updates.

As of today, we are still waiting on the three-way valve to be installed, completing the work on the heating and cooling system. With temperatures dropping this weekend we will be monitoring our pipes over the next few days ensuring that they do not freeze. As of now, the services on Sunday are set to be held in Metcalf Hall.

If we do find ourselves worshiping with extra layers and a bit of a shuffle to our steps, we can take comfort in this: we are, after all, called to glorify the Lord! Even in chill and cold we can still bless His holy name.

Peace,
Nick+

Note from the office: As of 1:00pm this afternoon, we were notified the missing part is in and the workers are on their way to install it and get our heat up and running for this Sunday.

At Luke's Place: Jan 23rd – Jan 29th

Jan 18 th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel Faith Forum, 9:15am, TBD
	Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave or Metcalf
Jan 26 th	Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf Conversion of St Paul Eucharist, 12:15pm, chapel Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room
Jan 27 th	Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library Discussion Group, 6:30pm, Rodgers
Jan 28 th	Choir, 5pm, Choir Room YD, 6pm, Rodgers
Jan 29 th	Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

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, Frank Traylor, Steve Hand, Donna Steward, Clay Smith, Penny Johnson, Kim Shipman, and Matt Clark.

Please add the following to your prayers for the First Week after Epiphany:
St Mary's, Edmond St Mary's School, Edmond Province de L'Eglise



Theologian's Corner: Phillip Brooks Bishop and Preacher

Phillips Brooks is best known today as the author of “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” Former generations, however, accounted him the greatest American preacher of the nineteenth century (and not for lack of other candidates). His sermons are still read.

He was born in Boston in 1835 and educated at Harvard and at Virginia Theological Seminary. After ten years of ministry at two churches in Philadelphia, he returned to Boston in 1869 and was rector of Trinity Church there until 1891. He was then elected Bishop of Massachusetts, and died two years later.

He once wrote, “Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones.”

Together we pray: Everlasting God, who dost implant thy living Word in the minds and on the lips of all who proclaim thy truth: Grant that we, like thy pastor and preacher Phillips Brooks, might proclaim thy Gospel in our own generation with grace and power. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who livest and reignest with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Jan 25th -31st

Birthdays

Ryan McIver (1/25)
Scott Williams (1/29)

Anniversaries

Jerry & DJ Nezam (1/25)

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.



January requested Item:

12 count colored pencils



Ministry Reports for Annual Meeting

Are Due January 27th

Discussion Group

The Tuesday Discussion Group will meet January 27th at 6:30pm in Rodgers Hall. Topic of discussion will be **“Mary, the Holy Mother”**

Altar Flowers

Everyone who comes to St. Luke's loves to see the fresh flowers on the High Altar. They make the service even more meaningful for so many.

We have five open Sundays before Ash Wednesday on February 18th.

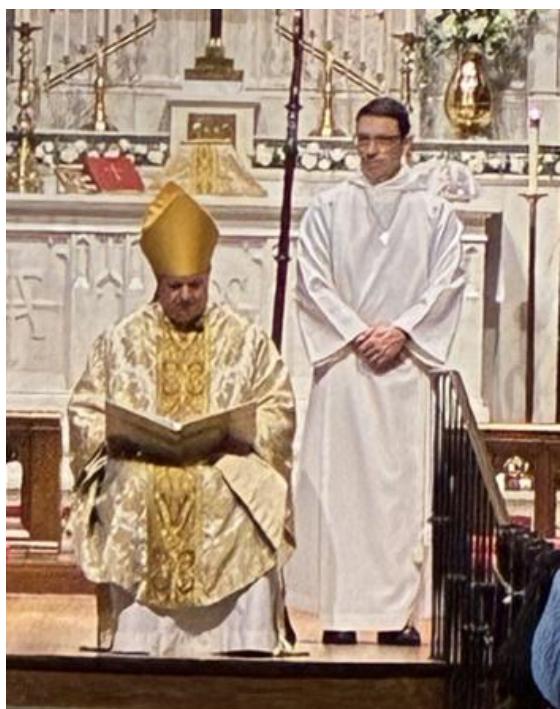
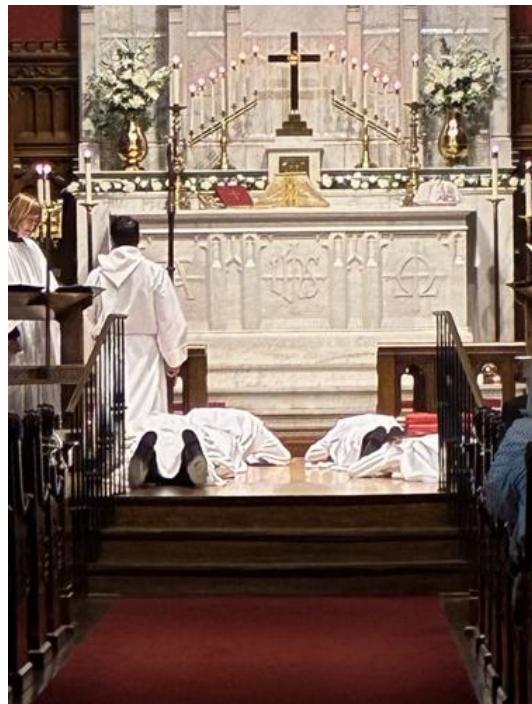
If you would like to remember or honor someone February 1, February 8 or February 15, please let Penny in the office and Jo Baughman, Flower Fund Chairman know the date you pick and the exact wording you would like in the Sunday bulletin for that week.

The cost remains at \$55 or more contribution for each Sunday, and please carefully mark your donation for the Treasurer to record to the Flower Fund. Do check the important dates on your calendars and we would appreciate having all of these Sundays filled.

Baptism 1/11/2026



Jeff's Ordination



Governor's Arts Awards Ceremony January 20, 2026

Congrats, Lauren!



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



Cartoon from: Facebook.com/marie

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