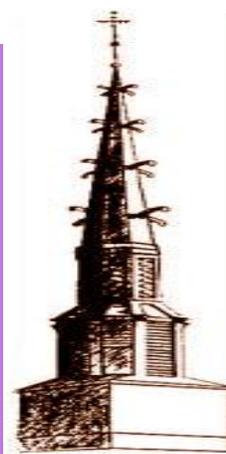


In this week's Steeple >>>

# The Steeple

- Fr. Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Discussion Group
- Brunch Bunch
- Pack the Backpacks request
- Maundy Thursday Vigil
- YD Treasure Hunt
- Holy Week
- Concern request



Mar 19, 2026



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



### When the “Priest’s” Texts Go Awry

It used to be that scams were easy to spot. Suspect grammar. Strange email addresses. Messages that felt just a little “off.” But those days are quickly fading. With the rise of artificial intelligence and increasingly sophisticated phishing tactics, the messages circulating today can sound eerily human. They can mimic tone, personality, and even look like they came from me. And that is precisely the point.

Over the past couple of years, clergy across the country have seen a rise in scams where someone impersonates the rector. A message arrives, sometimes by email, sometimes by text, beginning with something like:

**“Hi, this is Fr. Nick. Are you available?”**

If you respond, the request escalates:

**“I’m tied up in meetings and need a quick favor. Could you purchase a few gift cards and send me the codes? I’ll reimburse you.”**

Or:

**“I’m working on something confidential and need your help urgently. Please don’t call right now just text back.”**

These messages are designed to create urgency, to bypass your better judgment, and to rely on your trust. They often sound polite, even pastoral. That’s what makes them dangerous.

Let me be as clear as I can be: I will never ask you for money, gift cards, or sensitive information through email or text. Ever. Not on a busy day. Not in an emergency. Not even if I say “please”. If I need something from you, we will speak directly. You will hear my voice, or better yet, you will see the whites of my eyes.

So what should you look for?

- Unexpected urgency: “I need this right now,” or “I’m in a meeting and can’t talk.”
- Unusual requests: especially anything involving money, gift cards, or passwords.
- Subtle differences in contact info: an email that looks close to mine, but not quite right.
- Pressure to keep it quiet: “Don’t call,” or “This is confidential.”

- A shift in tone: familiar, but just slightly off.

If you receive something like this, do this:

- Do not respond. Report it. Delete it.

There is something deeply human at work in these scams. They rely on trust, on generosity, on our instinct to help when asked. In a strange way, they exploit the very virtues we seek to cultivate in the Christian life. And that can leave us feeling embarrassed, or even a little foolish, if we fall for it.

But hear this clearly: being targeted is not a sign of weakness. It is a sign that you are part of a community where trust and care are real. The call, then, is not to become suspicious of one another, but to become wise. As our Lord says, to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” Not cynical. Not hardened. But attentive.

Thank you for your vigilance, your care for one another, and your willingness to protect this community we share. These small acts of attentiveness are, in their own way, part of our common life in Christ.

Peace,  
Nick+

### **At Luke’s Place: Mar 20<sup>th</sup> – Mar 26<sup>th</sup>**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Mar 22<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel<br/>Faith Forum, 9:15am,<br/>Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave</b> |
| <b>Mar 23<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf</b>   |
| <b>Mar 24<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library</b>   |
| <b>Mar 25<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Choir, 5pm, Choir Room<br/>Midweek Manna Lenten Program, 6pm, Metcalf</b>                                      |
| <b>Mar 26<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Men’s Group, 7am, Metcalf<br/>Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf<br/>Green Country Morning Prayer, 1pm, GCV</b>      |

**Discussion Group will meet Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in  
Rodgers Hall. Topic of discussion: Cast the First Stone**

## Prayer List

**Please pray for:** Ben Baker, Steve McCraw, Josh Harris, David Swindell, Connie Finch, Terry Grogan, Tyler Roberson, Jerry Nezam, Lynette Beebe, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Steve Linn, Jean Mason, Adam Thomas, Bill Pendley, Mary Wallace, Lynda Stephens, Marcie Zervas, Audrey Harris, Peggy Rockey, Nan Buhlinger, Bill Birk, Carol McSpadden, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, Dan & JoAnn Gallery, 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, Fred Whitson, and Dayna Rathman.

**Please add the following to your prayers for the Fourth Week in Lent:**  
**Church of the Redeemer, Okla City    The Anglican Church of Kenya**



### March requested Item:

3in X 5in Ruled Index Cards 100 count package



# Maundy Thursday Vigil



Every year during Holy Week, we have an all night vigil beginning on Maundy Thursday night and into Good Friday morning. This vigil is held in the chapel and the chapel door is left unlock all night as people come and go to pray. Sign up for one hour time slots will be in the Narthex until then.

“Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” Matt. 26: 40-41



## Theologians Corner: Joseph Guardian of our Lord March 19th

All that we know of Joseph we learn from the first two chapters of Matthew and of Luke. Otherwise, he is mentioned only in passing in Luke 3:23; John 1:45; John 6:42 as the supposed father of Jesus. (Mark does not mention him at all.)

In the face of circumstances where a man of lesser character might have reacted very differently, Joseph graciously assumed the role of Jesus' father. He is well remembered in Christian tradition for the love he showed to the boy Jesus, and for his tender affection and care for

Mary, during the twelve years and more that he was their protector.

Joseph was a pious Jew, a descendant of David, and a carpenter by trade. (The Gospels use the Greek word TEKTON, which means "builder," as in "architect." It has been suggested that he may have been a mason, a metalworker, or a building contractor. In favor of the traditional translation, we have a passage in the writings of Justin Martyr, who was born in Palestine, probably around 100, who tells us that he has seen plows and ox-yokes still in use which were said to have been made in the carpenter-shop at Nazareth.

We may not believe that the particular claims were all accurate, but they are testimony to what the Christians of Palestine in the early second century believed that Joseph's occupation had been, and this may be an idea continuously handed down in the community there since the early first century.) Because of the silence of the Gospels, and because Jesus entrusted Mary to the care of John, it is generally believed that Joseph died a natural death after the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve (Luke 2:41-51), but before the Baptism of Jesus when He was thirty. Joseph's influence during those early years must have been tremendous. When Jesus spoke of God as being like a loving Father, He was using a word that he had first learned as a child to apply to Joseph. Joseph stands as a testimony to the value of simple everyday human things, and especially that human thing called "fatherhood."

Together we pray: O God, who from the family of thy servant David didst raise up Joseph to be the guardian of thy incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to thy commands; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries for March 22<sup>nd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

### Birthdays

Sandi Dice	(3/25)
Blair Ellis	(3/25)
Vicki Travaglini	(3/28)
Nancy Vano	(3/28)

### 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.**

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## Concern

Concern's current needs are : Spam and for homeless : small pull top canned vegetables, single serve fruit cups and pudding, and single serve dry milk.

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**YD learned about St Luke's stained glass windows with the help of Dolores McCreary**







**March 29<sup>th</sup> , 10:30am Service:** Meet in Metcalf Hall. The service will begin in there and then process to the Nave.



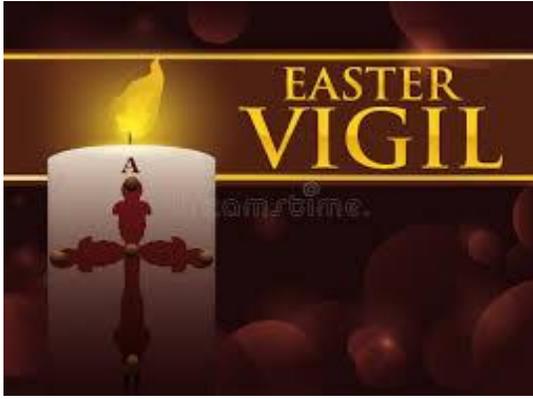
**Maundy Thursday Service:**  
**April 2<sup>nd</sup> , 6:00pm.** This service will include Washing of Feet



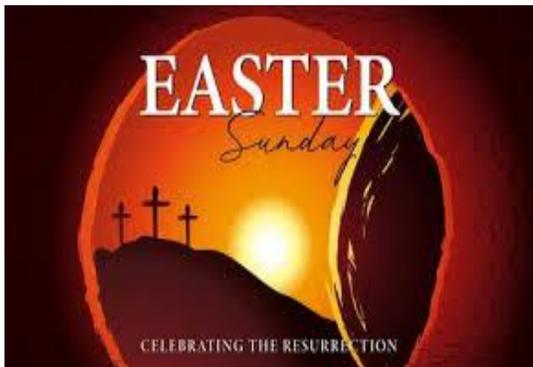
**Good Friday Service:**  
**April 3<sup>rd</sup> , 12:00pm.** Eucharist from the Reserve



**Holy Saturday Service:**  
**April 4<sup>th</sup> , 9:00am.**



**Great Easter Vigil Service:**  
April 4<sup>th</sup> , 6:00pm. Meet in Courtyard to begin service.



**Easter Services:**  
April 5<sup>th</sup> , 8:am & 10:30am



to



The Feast of the Annunciation is celebrated annually on **March 25** to commemorate the Angel Gabriel's announcement to the Virgin Mary that she would conceive Jesus Christ. Also known as the [Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord](#), it marks the Incarnation, occurring exactly nine months before Christmas.

# Brunch Bunch fed us well!





## St. Luke's Vestry Members

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### **Bereavement Team 3**

Becky Liehr, Cathy Perrier, Kris Bonner,  
Mary Jo Peterson

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