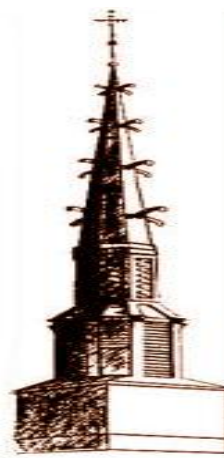


In this week's Steeple >>>

The Steeple

- Fr. Nick's message
- Theologian's Corner
- Pack the Backpacks request
- Concern request
- Volunteers for ministries
- Free Books
- Check out the Bookstore
- Altar Flowers



April 30, 2026



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Liminality

Friends,

There is a particular kind of unease that comes with transition. It often remains beneath the surface showing up in questions that inform our expectations. That's worth noting right now. The most often asked questions are: What happens next? Where is this all going? There is a great temptation to fill that void and sometimes, we can, unintentionally wound the Body of Christ.

Transitions stir up in us anxiety because they ask us to live, for a time, without clear resolution. We are no longer where we were, but we are not yet where we are going. And that in-between space feels remarkably disorienting. Thus, we will speculate in an attempt to restore some sense of homeostasis.

As biblical people we often reach for familiar language to describe this feeling. One of the most common phrases is "the wilderness." Scripture certainly gives us that image, in Israel's wandering, in Jesus being led out, in seasons marked by testing and deprivation. The wilderness has its place. It is a landscape of stripping away, of dependence, of being brought face to face with what is essential.

But I want to suggest that what we are entering now is not the wilderness. It is in ways a more tender time. It's known as a liminal space.

A liminal space is a threshold. It is the space between what was and what will be. Unlike the wilderness, it is not defined by a prolonged exile or testing, but by the transition itself. It is the doorway rather than the desert. It is the moment when one chapter is coming and end and the anticipation of turning towards the next chapter is beginning to arise within us.

In the wilderness, we often feel cast out. In liminal space, we are being led through.
In the wilderness, the work is survival. In liminal space, the work is attention.
In the wilderness, we ask, “How do we endure?” In liminal space, we ask, “How do we remain present?” That distinction matters for us right now.

Because if we mistake this moment for wilderness, we might rush through it, eager as we are to escape the discomfort that comes along with growth. But if we recognize the time before us as precious, then we begin to see its invitation: to honor what is happening now.

Transitions, such as they are, can tempt us to focus only on what comes next. **But the truth is, what comes next is not yet ours to hold.** What is ours is this present moment. This conversation. This Sunday. This gratitude.

To be intentional with one another in a liminal space means choosing presence over projection. It means allowing ourselves the time to say goodbye well. Because goodbyes are not obstacles to get past; they are sacred acts that shape how we carry one another forward. It shapes how we carry each other forward.

There is a grace in taking the time to name what has been shared. To give thanks for it. To acknowledge both the joy and the grief without trying to resolve them. If we allow it, this space can speak to us in a way that ordinary time does not. It can teach us how to hold both love and change at the same time. It can remind us that endings are not erasures, but transformations. And, it can anchor us in the truth that God, the good shepherd, is just as present in the in-between as in the arrival.

Thresholds are holy ground and we are here.

Deep Peace,

Nick+

At Luke's Place: May 1st – May 7th, 2026

- May 3rd Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- May 4th Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
- May 5th Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
- May 6th Choir, 5pm, Choir Room

May 7th

YD, 6pm, Rodgers

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, 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, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, Dan & JoAnn Gallery, Kathleen Turner, Steve Clark, Lauren Gandy, Dean Zervas, Frank Molina, Diane Mitchell, Frank Traylor, Steve Hand, Donna Steward, Clay Smith, Penny Johnson, Kim Shipman, Fred Whitson, Dayna Rathman, Shaina Smith, Ann Morrow, Carrie Washington, Miriam Petrovich, and Jason Elmore.

Please add the following to your prayers for this week:

All Souls', OKC

The Anglican Church of Nigeria

May requested item:



Birthdays & Anniversaries for May 3rd – May 9th, 2026

Birthdays

Jen McIver 5/6
John Provenmire 5/7
Keeli Droege 5/8

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.

Concern

Concern's current needs are : ramen noodles, Vienna sausage and Jiffy Mix. Homeless needs are: single-serve proteins, single-serve pudding and squeezable jelly.



Ministries

All these ministries within St Luke's need you

Please consider volunteering

Altar Guild	Grounds & Courtyard	Bereavement
Stewardship	Bookstore	Lay Readers
Ushers	Compassionate Care	Choir
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Youth	Audio/Video
Ladies' Prayer Partners	Christian Formation	Acolytes



Theologian's Corner

Catherine of Sienna

Catherine Benincasa, born in 1347, was the youngest of twenty-five children of a wealthy dyer of Sienna. At the age of six, she had a vision of Christ in glory, surrounded by His saints. From that time on, she spent most of her time in prayer and meditation, over the opposition of her parents, who wanted her to be more like the average girl of her social class. Eventually they gave in, and at the age of sixteen she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic, where she became a nurse, caring for patients with leprosy and advanced cancer whom other nurses disliked to treat.

She began to acquire a reputation as a person of insight and sound judgement, and many persons from all walks of life sought her spiritual advice, both in person and by letter. She persuaded many priests who were living in luxury to give away their goods and to live simply.

In her day, the popes, officially Bishops of Rome, had been living for about seventy years, not at Rome... but at Avignon in France, where they were under the political control of the King of France. Catherine visited Avignon in 1376 and told Pope Gregory XI that he had no business to live away from Rome. He heeded her advice, and moved to Rome. She then acted as his ambassador to Florence, and was able to reconcile a quarrel between the Pope and the leaders of that city. She then retired to Siena, where she wrote a book called the *Dialog*, an account of her visions and other spiritual experiences, with advice on cultivating a life of prayer.

After Gregory's death in 1378, the Cardinals, mostly French, elected an Italian Pope, Urban VI, who on attaining office turned out to be arrogant and abrasive and tyrannical, and perhaps to have other faults as well. The Cardinals met again elsewhere, declared that the first election had been under duress from the Roman mob and therefore invalid, and elected a new Pope, Clement VII, who established his residence at Avignon. Catherine worked tirelessly, both to persuade Urban to mend his way and to persuade others that the peace and unity of the Church required the recognition of Urban as lawful Pope. Despite her efforts, the Papal Schism continued until 1417. It greatly weakened the prestige of the Bishops of Rome, and thus helped to pave the way for the Protestant Reformation a century later.

Catherine is known (1) as a mystic, a contemplative who devoted herself to prayer, (2) as a humanitarian, a nurse who undertook to alleviate the suffering of the poor and the sick; (3) as an activist, a renewer of Church and society, who took a strong stand on the issues affecting society in her day, and who never hesitated "to speak truth to power"; (4) as an

adviser and counselor, with a wide range of interests, who always made time for troubled and uncertain persons who told her their problems -- large and trivial, religious and secular.

Together we pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who didst kindle the flame of thy love in the heart of thy servant Catherine of Siena: Grant unto us the same strength of conviction and power of love that, as we rejoice in her triumph, we may profit by her example; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Altar Flower Requests



*Altar
Flowers*

The month of May is in need of memorial and honorarium altar flower request and donations. The open Sundays are the 17th, 24th (Pentecost) and 31st (Trinity Sunday). If any of these times are special to your family and you would like to place flowers on the High Altar, please let Jo

Baughman, Flower Chairman (email: jybokla@aol.com) and Penny in the office know as soon as possible so we can save the date for you.



Carol Murphy is downsizing her extensive book collection as she prepares to move to Green Country Village in the coming weeks. Well over 150 of her books are now available for the taking on the tables along the south wall of Metcalf Hall.

Book topics range from the inspirational and spiritual to cooking and how-to advice. You can browse this free, no-return library after Sunday services or any other time the church is open (Monday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm).

For future reference, Carol will be moving to apartment 308 at Green Country Village, 1025 Swan Drive. Thank you, Carol, for sharing with us!



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

Stop by the Bookstore and check out our new cards, jewelry, and books!

Tuesday & Thursday

11:00am-1:00pm

Sunday

11:30am

St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Karole Cozby, Sr. Warden- kscozby916@gmail.com
- Karen Lewey, Jr Warden - kgrammy07@yahoo.com
- Becky Liehr – jbliehr@gmail.com
- Chase Almy – chasealmy88@gmail.com
- Lisa Beeman – lisabeeman89@gmail.com
- Steve Heidorn- sgheidorn@yahoo.com
- Dolores McCreary – dolomc37@gmail.com
- Steve VanAken- scvanaken@sbcglobal.net
- Fred Whitson- sandyswhit@gmail.com
- Robert Lonski- rjtazski@yahoo.com
- Cathy Perrier – bling4mimi@hotmail.com

Bereavement Team 3

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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

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269-788-7063; RevPhares@outlook.com

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist
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