

# The Steeple

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May 28, 2026



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



### Dear St. Luke's,

There is a running joke in many Episcopal circles that if you are ordained a deacon, sooner or later you will be asked to preach on Trinity Sunday. It has become something of a rite of passage. Clergy will often smile and say, "Well, it's your turn now," as though being handed the doctrine of the Trinity is a kind of liturgical hazing ritual. And in all honesty, there is a reason the joke persists. Trinity Sunday arrives immediately after Pentecost, when the Church has just celebrated the dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and then suddenly asks the preacher to stand before the congregation and somehow explain the mystery of one God in three

Persons. Countless preachers have turned to analogies involving water, shamrocks, eggs, or sunlight only to discover that they have accidentally drifted into one ancient heresy or another.

And yet, beneath the humor lies something very important. Trinity Sunday is not an excuse to have a theological exercise or a Sunday reserved for seminary professors. It is one of the most significant feasts of the Christian year because it draws us into the very heart of who God is. We believe in the Father who creates, the Son who redeems, and the Holy Spirit who sustains and sanctifies. The Trinity is not something we seek to explain so much as a mystery into which we are invited. Every baptism is done in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Every Eucharist is shaped by this reality. Every blessing, prayer, and act of Christian life emerges from the life of the Triune God.

The good news for preachers is that Trinity Sunday is not about "figuring God out." If we could fully explain God, God would cease to be God. The task is not to reduce the mystery but to proclaim faithfully that the God revealed in Jesus Christ is relational, self-giving love from all eternity. That is not pressure so much as invitation.

Which is why we are especially grateful this year that Deacon Jeff will be preaching. Jeff has already spent meaningful time reflecting and working around this very subject matter, and he comes to this Sunday with both theological acumen and pastoral sensitivity. More importantly, he comes not as someone attempting to conquer the mystery, but as one willing to stand within it alongside the Church. Trinity Sunday may carry a certain reputation among preachers, but it is ultimately a Sunday of wonder, worship, and deep joy. We look forward to hearing Deacon Jeff help guide us more deeply into the life of the God who has always been greater, more beautiful, and more loving than our words can fully contain.

Nick+

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### At Luke's Place: May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

- May 31<sup>st</sup>** Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel  
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- June 1<sup>st</sup>** Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
- June 2<sup>nd</sup>** Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>** Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
- June 4<sup>th</sup>** Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf  
Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf  
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, Danny Clem, David McAtee, Steve Linn, Jean Mason, Adam, 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, Jason Elmore, and Teresa Phares.

**Please add the following to your prayers for this week:**

**St Luke's, Chickasha    St Timothy's, Paul's Valley    The Episcopal Church in the  
Philippines**

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries for May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Birthdays

Tom Chamberlain (6/5)  
Karen Dahlgren (6/5)  
Steve Heidorn (6/6)  
Shelly Jackson (6/6)

### Anniversaries

Bill & Jackie Gallery (6/2)  
Fred & Sandy Whitson (6/3)  
Jeff & Laura Birk (6/4)

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: canned green beans and tuna; and homeless needs are: single-serve fruit cups, Ensure and electrolyte drinks.

Childrens' Musical Theatre of Bartlesville  
presents:

Disney  
**FROZEN**

July 16-19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

At the Center

Tickets go on sale in June



## Theologian's Corner:

### Dunstan of Canterbury



Dunstan was born near Glastonbury in the southwest of England about the year 909, ten years after the death of King Alfred. During the Viking invasions of the ninth century, monasteries had been favorite targets of the invaders, and by Dunstan's time English monasticism had been wiped out.

In monasticism's restoration in the tenth century, Dunstan played the leading role. He was born of an upper-class family, and sent to court, where he did not fit in. At the urging of his uncle, the Bishop of Westminster, he became a monk and a priest, and returned to Glastonbury, where he built a hut near the ruins of the old monastery, and devoted himself to study, music, metal working (particularly the art of casting church bells, an art which he is said to have advanced considerably), and painting. A manuscript illuminated by him is in the British Museum.

Dunstan returned to court and was again asked to leave; but then King Edmund had a narrow escape from death while hunting, and in gratitude recalled Dunstan and in 943 commissioned him to re-establish monastic life at Glastonbury. (Glastonbury is one of the oldest Christian sites in England, and is associated in legend with King Arthur and his Court, with Joseph of Arimathea, and with other worthies. It has been said that the Holy Grail, the chalice of the Last Supper, is hidden somewhere near Glastonbury.)

Under Dunstan's direction, Glastonbury became an important center both of monasticism and of learning. The next king, Edred, adopted Dunstan's ideas for various reforms of the clergy (including the control of many cathedrals by monastic chapters) and for relations with the Danish settlers. These policies made Dunstan popular in the North of England, but unpopular in the South.

Edred was succeeded by his sixteen-year-old nephew Edwy, whom Dunstan openly rebuked for unchastity. The furious Edwy drove Dunstan into exile, but the North rose in rebellion on his behalf. When the dust settled, Edwy was dead, his brother Edgar was king, and Dunstan was Archbishop of Canterbury. The coronation service which Dunstan compiled for Edgar is the earliest English coronation service of which the full text survives, and is the basis for all such services since, down to the present.

With the active support of King Edgar, Dunstan re-established monastic communities at Malmesbury, Westminster, Bath, Exeter, and many other places. Around 970 he presided at a conference of bishops, abbots, and abbesses, which drew up a national code of monastic observance, the Regularis Concordia. It followed Benedictine lines, but under it the monasteries were actively involved in the life of the surrounding community. For centuries thereafter the Archbishop of Canterbury was always a monk.

Dunstan took an active role in politics under Edgar and his successor Edward, but under the next king, Ethelred, he retired from politics and concentrated on running the Canterbury cathedral school for boys, where he was apparently successful in raising the academic standards while reducing the incidence of corporal punishment. On Ascension Day in 988, he told the congregation that he was near to death, and died two days later.

Together we pray: Direct your Church, O Lord, into the beauty of holiness, that, following the good example of your servant Dunstan, we may honor your Son Jesus Christ with our lips and in our lives; to the glory of his Name, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



### June 7<sup>th</sup> Celebration

**Pot Luck, Anyone?** After 10:30am service Lets have a good ole' parish potluck to see the Phares family off. Meat will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. Canon Betsy from the Diocese will be joining us that Sunday.



### Trinity Sunday is this Sunday

Fr Nick will be in Colorado with our youth until June 2nd. Mother Andrea has graciously agreed to be Celebrant and Deacon Jeff will be preaching.



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

**We will be closed from  
May 24<sup>th</sup> – June 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Normal Hours  
Tuesday & Thursday  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Sunday  
11:30am



### **News from the Greens:**

Every day at the apartment complex for two weeks, we asked God, "Please touch the hearts of people here to want to follow Jesus." On the last day of the two weeks, God brought \*Bert to us. We talked at length the first day and felt a lot of compassion for his circumstances. The second time we talked, he said that we would be friends forever, because God had brought us to him and him to us. After the third time, we could sense how comfortable we three

were to sit and share at the picnic table together. And Roger and I saw that we were the best people to be his friends to point him to Jesus. So even though it's not easy to be Bert's friends, we are completely certain that God brought Bert to us.

As one of my prayer partners commented, "Who else would be better to be Bert's friends than people who know Jesus?"

So, the trajectory has been set. Roger and I will be Bert's friends forever. However, Bert is on a journey, and he is not at journey's end yet. And we will need lots of patience, and he will need lots of patience before we reach journey's end. That is the way with friendships, especially friendships started by God.

We will say good-bye soon to Bert when we start driving on Monday to go to Chicago. Please ask God to work in Bert's life so that he too will become a worker in God's harvest field.

Please continue to ask God to provide a way for VVNJ to get an airplane ticket to a major city in the country near Thailand. VVNJ is supposed to lead a Scripture engagement intro workshop for three translation teams during June 8 to 12. Travel is very challenging in that area.

No one has yet applied for the Scripture engagement research internship where we will be interviewing Northern Thai church members through an interpreter. Soon the administrators will consider whether to offer the internship to organizations outside of Wycliffe. I hope to lead the Scripture engagement research orientation during September and do the interviews during October. It's a good internship opportunity for someone who is considering cross cultural work. Please ask God to bring just the right two people to interview Northern Thai Christians with me about what keeps them going when it's hard to follow the Lord.

Praise God with us that we have been encouraged by a set of new friends through Luke and Juliette's church in Austin, TX. We've also been encouraged by old friends in this area. We thank God that Austin has become a place where we can feel like we are coming home. Please ask God to help us to build friendships next month in Chicago too.

Thank you for praying for us as we prepare for our return to Thailand on June 30.

*When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him,  
"Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."  
. . .For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.  
Luke 19:5*



St Luke's had some familiar visitors!

Roger and Joanne were in town and dropped by the office to visit and thank us for our monetary donations and support. The Greens were married here at St. Luke's in the 1980's. Joanne is a former Phillips employee and St. Luke's member before she changed careers and became a missionary. She and Roger work for Wycliffe Bible Translators out of California.

## 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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