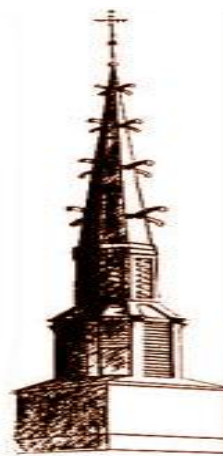


*In this week's Steeple >>>*

# *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
- YD cookout
- Pot Luck June 7<sup>th</sup>
- Jeff's Investiture May 17<sup>th</sup>



May 7, 2026



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



### **The Wonder of Our Common Life**

Dear friends,

Our common life together is precious. This I know in my bones. I will be sure to send out an update about Teresa soon. Please know that we have turned a big corner here and that we are on track to make a full recovery. When Teresa has been lucid, we have talked about timing. So, let's talk. It is important to remember that transition in the Church is not simply about endings. It is also about discernment, prayer, continuity, and the steady work of companionship. In the Episcopal Church, seasons of transition can be deeply communal. That is my hope for us. Thus, the season before us invites us to reflect on who we have been, who we are now, and who God is calling us to become.

One of the people who will help guide our congregation through this important season is the Canon to the Ordinary of the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. In many ways, the Canon to the Ordinary serves as one of the bishop's closest collaborators and pastoral representatives in the life of the diocese. The role includes supporting clergy and congregations, assisting with diocesan administration, helping churches navigate times of change, and walking alongside vestries during moments of discernment and transition. Our Canon to the Ordinary is The Rev. Betsy Randall and she is wonderful!

Some of the things Canon Betsy will do with us and for us is to help explain the transition process, outline the steps involved in calling new clergy, and continue to work closely with the vestry to ensure that the parish remains grounded in prayer, healthy communication, and faithful decision making. It's important to understand that this process is not rushed. The Church should approach transition carefully and intentionally because the calling of clergy is understood not simply as hiring a position, but as discerning vocation within the life of the Church.

Canon Betsy will meet with the Vestry during Monday's regularly scheduled meeting to begin discussing the process of moving forward together. This meeting will provide an opportunity to outline the diocesan transition process, answer questions, and help prepare parish leadership for the work ahead. The vestry, in partnership with diocesan leadership, will play an essential role in guiding the congregation through this season with steadiness, transparency, and hope. While transitions naturally bring a mixture of emotions, they are also deeply woven into the life of faith itself. Scripture reminds us that God often does important work in moments of movement, uncertainty, and change. The Church has always lived between what has been and what is still unfolding. In this holy moment, we are invited not merely to wait, but to remain attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Be assured, friends, that the Diocese will continue to walk alongside St. Luke's throughout this process, offering support, wisdom, and guidance as we begin the transition process.

Faithfully,

Nick+

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### At Luke's Place: May 8<sup>th</sup> – May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

- May 10<sup>th</sup>** Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel  
Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
- May 11<sup>th</sup>** Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf
- May 12<sup>th</sup>** Spiritual Discovery, 9:30am, Library
- May 13<sup>th</sup>** Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
- May 14<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 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, Jason Elmore, and Teresa Phares.

Please add the following to your prayers for this week:

St Augustine's, Okla City    St Michael's, Norman    The Church of North India

May requested Item:



**Birthdays & Anniversaries for May 10<sup>th</sup> – May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Birthdays**

Sigrid Williams	5/12
Jim Stanton	5/12
Murphey Warring	5/13
Joanne Gallery	5/14
Robert Matthews	5/14

**Anniversaries**

CJ & Shelly Jackson	(5/11)
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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 : ramen noodles, Vienna sausage and Jiffy Mix. Homeless needs are: single-serve proteins, single-serve pudding and squeezable jelly.

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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

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### Theologian's Corner: Julian of Norwich

Julian of Norwich was born around 1342. At thirty, she became gravely ill and near death, but during that illness she received a series of visions, or "showings," centered on the Passion of Christ. Those revelations filled her with peace and joy and shaped the rest of her life. She withdrew as an anchoress near the church in Norwich, devoting herself to prayer, contemplation, and writing what became *Revelations of Divine Love*. Over time, she became known as a wise spiritual counselor whose insight carried both deep holiness and practical wisdom.

Her visions return again and again to the boundless love of God. In one famous image, she saw all creation as something

small and fragile, like a little hazelnut resting in God's hand. She wondered how it could continue to exist, and understood: "God made it, God loves it, God keeps it."

Julian wrestled honestly with suffering, sin, and uncertainty. She believed that even when our motives are imperfect, God's mercy is greater than our confusion: "It is enough to be sure of the deed. Our courteous Lord will deign to redeem the motive." She was troubled by questions about judgment and those who had never heard the Gospel, yet the answer she received was not an explanation but a promise grounded in divine love: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

For Julian, the deepest hell was not punishment but sin itself, because sin clouds our vision of God and one another. Yet even there, Christ remains near. Her writing insists that God's posture toward humanity is always loving, patient, and joyful. Fifteen years after her visions, she understood their meaning at last: "Love was his meaning." Before God made us, he loved us. In that love we were created, and in that same love we are held forever.

Together let us pray: Triune God, who in thy compassion didst grant to your servant Julian many revelations of thy nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek thee above all things, for in giving us thyself thou givest us all. Amen.

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## 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.**

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## Altar Flower Requests



*Altar  
Flowers*

Two Sundays in May are in need of memorial and honorarium altar flower request and donations. The open Sundays are the 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> (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](mailto:jybokla@aol.com)) and Penny in the office know as soon as possible so we can save the date for you.



There are still lots of books for the taking in Metcalf. Please browse and take what you want.



ST. LUKE'S BOOKSTORE

11:30am

Stop by the Bookstore and check out our new cards, jewelry, and books!  
Mother's Day is Here!

Tuesday & Thursday  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Sunday



Congratulations to our graduating Senior, Calvin Cutts, Class of 2026!

Onward and Upward,  
Calvin!

## YD Last Week

We had a GREAT time at Sooner last week playing Pickleball, Football, and enjoying lots of burgers and hotdogs (thanks, Mr. Roper and thanks to all the families for bringing the sides and desserts!)

We even had a few friends join the fun!







O Lord Jesus Christ, who hallowed and sanctified motherhood by your Incarnation, and even in your Passion did not forget your blessed Mother, but rather entrusted your beloved Disciple with her care: Grant that we may so honor our mothers, and that those called to motherhood may so love their children, teaching them wisdom and kindness, that our days may be long, and your grace increased among us, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



Join us during the 10:30am service on May 17<sup>th</sup> for Deacon Jeff's investiture. Afterward, we will continue the celebration with coffee hour.

See you on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

## St. Luke's Vestry Members

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

### **Bereavement Team 3**

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

#### St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector  
269-788-7063; [RevPhares@outlook.com](mailto:RevPhares@outlook.com)

Keeli Droege, Choir Director/Organist  
918-697-8509 [keelidroege@gmail.com](mailto:keelidroege@gmail.com)

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
210 East 9<sup>th</sup> St., Bartlesville, OK 74003  
Office Hours: 9am-4pm, M-F  
Email: [StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com](mailto:StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com)  
918-336-1212  
Or contact  
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157