

# The Steeple

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July 9, 2026



Ordinary Time

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



### Greetings St. Luke's Family,

I hope your summer so far has been relaxing and fulfilling. Several of our families were hit hard by the strong winds on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Prayers are lifted up for things to return to normal. It was a rough weekend- weather wise.

On the home front (here at the church), the summer mood has officially arrived. Activity within the building has slowed. The Backpack group is still working diligently, but the majority of the organizing is slowing down for a couple of weeks. Packing the backpacks is coming so please look at the schedule in the Steeple and find a time you can come and pack a few of them.

New carpet has been laid in the library. They are finishing the project today. It looks great. Now are there any donations for new furniture? This room has needed an upgrade for a while. Thank you so much to our donors for the new carpet!

The Vestry and Search Committee will be meeting (separately) this week. The Vestry is dedicated to taking care of the business of the church as usual. The audit has been performed, and the Diocese has been notified. This allows us a smaller percentage to pay the Diocese for Mutual Ministry Support. The Search Committee is dutifully following all the steps the Diocese requires for the search of a rector. You will be hearing from them soon. And when your input is requested, please consider replying. From this information, they will have a better idea of the needs of the parish. Your participation is vital.

I hope you have enjoyed Fr Thom on Sundays during the service and Faith Forum. He will be with us one more Sunday, then Fr Bob Gates will be back for a week.

After that, we are hoping the Diocese will have Fr Thom back for the month of August. He has grown fond of us -imagine! And maybe he will bring Bo (Beau?- not sure of the spelling) back to help at the altar. He is starting his journey to the Deaconate so he is in training with Jeff and Fr Thom when he can come from Tulsa. September 6<sup>th</sup> will see Canon Betsy here to celebrate so we are covered for the rest of the summer.

One last thing before I close. September 20<sup>th</sup> is the Bishop's bi-annual visit to St. Luke's. Usually that means confirmation and a dinner afterward. Please have that in the back of your mind to reserve that date to be present and to help if needed.

Stay cool!

Penny

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### At Luke's Place: July 10<sup>th</sup> – July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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|-----------------------|---|
| July 12 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel<br>Faith Forum, 9:15am, Rodgers  |
| July 13 <sup>th</sup> | Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave<br>Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf<br>Finance Committee, noon, Vestry Room<br>Vestry, 5:30pm, Vestry Room |
| July 16 <sup>th</sup> | Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf<br>Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf<br>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, Mary Wallace, Lynda Stephens, Marcie Zervas, Audrey Harris, Nan Buhlinger, Dionna Cameron, Betty Rogers, Dan & JoAnn Gallery, Kathleen Turner, Steve Clark, Dean Zervas, Frank Molina, Diane Mitchell, Frank Traylor, Steve Hand, Donna Steward, Penny Johnson, Kim Shipman, Shaina Smith, Ann Morrow, Carrie Washington, Miriam Petrovich, Jason Elmore, Teresa Phares, June Mosley, Marsha Tibbits, Larry Mueggenborg, and Sherry Breitman.

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

**St James, Wagoner      Trinity, Eufaula      The Anglican Church of South Sudan**

## Birthdays & Anniversaries for July 12<sup>th</sup> – July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Birthdays

Jeff Hall (7/14)  
Jeanne Julstrom (7/17)  
Susan Brooks (7/18)  
Heather McCraw (7/18)

### Anniversaries

David & Kim Breedlove (7/18)

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: adult toothbrush and toothpaste, unisex deodorant, travel size shampoo and conditioner.



## Name Tag for Sunday Services

If you need a name tag to help our visiting clergy, please let the office know and one will be made for you. You can leave a note in the offering plate, email the office, or leave a note on the desk.



## Theologian's Corner:

### Argula von Grumbach (1492-1554)

Argula von Grumbach would have been a remarkable woman in any age, but her brilliance shines especially brightly in her setting—Germany in the sixteenth century. She became the first published Protestant woman writer, and participated publicly in the theological and political debates of her time.

Argula was born in 1492 into a noble family in the Bavarian countryside. When she was ten, her father presented her with an illustrated copy of the German Bible—a lavish gift which seems to have made an impression on the young Argula. Her education continued when she was a lady-in-waiting at the court, in a time when renaissance and reform were stirring the air in Munich and Germany.

Her parents died when she was 17; she married at 18 and moved to another country town, where she managed the household, finances, and land; bore, raised, and oversaw the education of four children; and pursued her interests in theology.

Argula took on a more public role when, in September of 1523, she learned that the theologians at the nearby University of Ingolstadt had forced a young Lutheran tutor to recant his beliefs in public. He was saved from burning at the stake, but was to be exiled and imprisoned. Argula wrote a letter to these clerics, accusing them of “foolish violence against the word of God,” and notes that “nowhere in the Bible do I find that Christ, or his apostles, or his prophets put people in prison, burnt or murdered them, or sent them into exile.” She defends the writings of “Martin and Melancthon,” which she has read, and decries the University’s failed attempts to hide the truth of these reformers and of Scripture.

Despite her being a lay person and a woman, she says she is compelled to speak by her divine duty as a Christian to confess God’s name (she quotes Matthew 10) and to be unashamed of Christ (Luke 9). Her knowledge of Scripture and artful use of it was striking to her readers of the time, and is striking now. Her letter is a variegated composition with textures from across the Bible, picking up Gospels, Psalms, and prophets to form the skeleton and teeth of her impassioned arguments.

She closes by saying, “What I have written to you is no woman’s chit-chat, but the word of God; and (I write) as a member of the Christian Church, against which the gates of Hell cannot prevail.” Her letter was immediately printed as a pamphlet, which was then reprinted in fourteen editions over two months. More pamphlets, letters, and poems followed, and consequences followed too. However, she did not seem ever to regret that she—like her beloved forebears Judith, Esther, and Jael—had been called by God into decisive action.

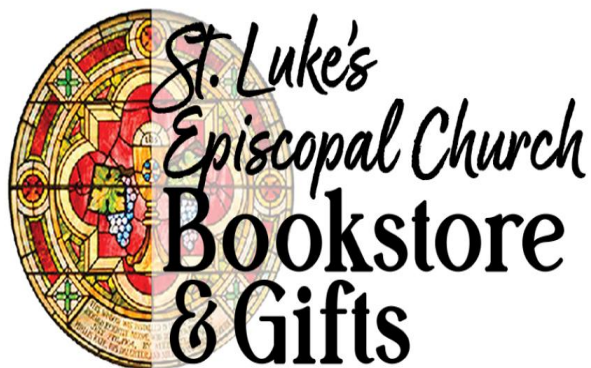
**A**LMIGHTY God, who gave your servant Argula von Grumbach a spirit of wisdom and power to love your Word and to boldly draw others to its truth: Pour out that same spirit upon us, that we, knowing and loving your Holy Word, may be unashamed of Christ and may not sin against the Holy Spirit that is within us. **Amen.**

## July School Supply Item Needed



For July and August 2026, the featured item for Pack the Backpack will be 24-count Crayola Crayons. Please purchase the Crayola brand; for your reference, the current pricing at Walmart is \$1.44. Staples has them on sale for \$0.50 right now, limit 10.

Last year, we distributed over 2,600 boxes to students.



### Summer Hours:

Sundays only after the 10:30am Service

Or By Appointment. Check with the office if you need to shop anytime during the week.

## Pack the Backpacks information and timeline:

Join us for the packing of the backpacks or backpack pickup. If you have not seen the process it is pretty amazing. I am including a link to Signup Genius where you can sign up for a time, or just come to St. Luke's Church 8th, and Dewey at the times below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054BA8A92CAAFF2-64437884-pack#/>  
(copy and paste this site in your web browser to sign up)

### Packing backpacks

Thursday July 30th through Saturday August 1st

- Thursday July 30 – 6-8 pm
- Friday July 31 – 9:30-11:30am AND 1:30-3:30pm
- Saturday August 1 - 9:30-11:30am

### Backpack pickup

- Sunday August 2nd 2pm – 7pm
- Monday August 3rd 8:30am – 7pm

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Thank you to everyone who has extended condolences on the death of my dad. I appreciate everything (cards, flowers, calls, hugs) because they have helped with the loss. It wasn't unexpected- my dad was 100 and declining in health, but it still leaves a void. Your caring meant the world. His funeral is tomorrow (Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>)so I will be out of the office for the day. Thank you, again.

-Penny

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## St. Luke's Vestry Members

- Karole Cozby, Sr. Warden- [kscozby916@gmail.com](mailto:kscozby916@gmail.com)
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### **Bereavement Team 3**

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

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

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