

*In this Week's Steeple>>>>*

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# The Steeple



August 20, 2026



Ordinary Time

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



### Lessons For Living in Lyrics From Musicals Performed by St. Luke's Family and Friends

"We can make this world a better place to live in.

We can make this world a happier place to be.

We can fill this world with so much love that hate will be forgotten and it has to start with me.

We can make this world a cleaner place to live in where the air is fresh, all people can breathe free.

We can fill this world with so much joy it blooms and blossoms all year through.

The responsibility isn't just for you, this loving must begin with me.

It's the love of God that fills my life with beauty.

It's the love God that fills my heart with song.

It's the love of God that teaches me responsibility and duty and that shows me right from wrong.

It's the love of God that gives my life meaning when the world around me doesn't make much sense.

It's the love of God that shows me how to love my neighbor as myself.

It's God's love that sets me free.

It's God's love that lets me see, God's love is a gift for you and me." from *The Good Samaritan*

"I will kiss you with the love of Jesus.

For the love of Jesus will give you life anew.

May the love of Jesus now surround you, astound you, with the miracles God's love will do in you.

You'll have peace that passes understanding.

You'll have strength to be who you are really meant to be.

You'll have joy that comes from deep inside you to guide you to the miracles - the unexplainable miracles, the now attainable miracles, the love of God will do in you." From *Once Upon a Lily Pad*

"When you turn to me, each time you return to me, I'll take your hand.

Protect your heart.

Show you my face and teach you how to serve me.

Teach you how to trust me.

Teach you to love me.

When you turn to me.

Each time you return to me." God's Promise to Jonah from *The Long Way Round to Ninevha*

Giving thanks for the gift of music,

Dolores McCreary

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### At Luke's Place: Aug 21<sup>st</sup> – Aug 27<sup>th</sup> , 2026

- |                      |                                              |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel       |
|                      | Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf                 |
|                      | Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave       |
|                      | Brunch Bunch Brunch, 11:30am, Metcalf        |
| Aug 24 <sup>th</sup> | Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Vestry Room |
|                      | Back to Basics, 6:30pm, Rodgers              |
| Aug 25 <sup>th</sup> | Election, 7am-7pm, Metcalf                   |
| Aug 26 <sup>th</sup> | Choir, 5pm, Choir Room                       |
| Aug 27 <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, 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, **Miriam** Petrovich, **Jason** Elmore, **Teresa** Phares, **June** Mosley, **Marsha** Tibbits, **Larry** Mueggenborg, **Sherry** Breitman, **Barbie** Hirst, **Jack** Stoecker, **Dorothy** Buchanan, **Bob** Lambert, **Fred** Whitson, and **Jeff** Birk.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries for Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> – Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### **Birthdays**

Darian Kedy (8/25)  
Dennis Mueggenborg (8/26)  
Camden Campbell (8/29)

### **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: canned corn, peas, 16oz peanut butter and unisex deodorant.



**Brunch Bunch Brunch**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**(This Sunday)**

**Yes, our favorite group  
will be serving up  
Brunch right after the  
10:30am service.**

**Come and Enjoy!**

## Theologian's Corner: Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)



**Bernard of Clairvaux**, O.Cist. (Latin: *Bernardus Claraevallensis*; 1090 – 20 August 1153), venerated as **Saint Bernard**, was an abbot, mystic, co-founder of the Knights Templar, and a major leader in the reform of the Benedictines through the nascent Cistercian Order.

Bernard was sent to found Clairvaux Abbey only a few years after becoming a monk at Cîteaux. In 1128, Bernard attended the Council of Troyes, at which he traced the outlines of the Rule of the Knights Templar, which soon became an ideal of Christian nobility.

On the death of Pope Honorius II in 1130, a schism arose in the church. Bernard was a major proponent of Pope Innocent II, arguing effectively for his legitimacy over the Antipope Anacletus II.

The abbot advocated crusades in general and convinced many to participate in the unsuccessful Second Crusade, notably through a famous sermon at Vézelay (1146).

Bernard was canonized just 21 years after his death by Pope Alexander III. In 1830, Pope Pius VIII declared him a Doctor of the Church.

Although acknowledged as "a difficult saint",<sup>[14]</sup> Bernard has remained influential in the centuries since his death and was named a Doctor of the Church in 1830. In 1953, on the 800th anniversary of his death, Pope Pius XII devoted the encyclical *Doctor Mellifluus* to him. He labeled the abbot "the last of the Fathers".

In opposition to the rational approach to understanding God used by the scholastics, Bernard preached poetically, using appeals to emotion and conversion to foster a more immediate experience of faith. He is considered to be a master of Christian rhetoric: "His use of language remains perhaps his most universal legacy." He contributed lyrics to the Cistercian Hymnal.

As a master of prayer, the abbot emphasized the value of personal, experiential friendship with Christ.

Among well-known hymns, he is credited with having written "O Sacred Head Sore Wounded" (#168, #169), "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" (#642), and "O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" (#649, #650) of The Hymnal 1982.

O God, by whose grace your servant Bernard of Clairvaux, kindled with the flame of your love, became a burning and a shining light in your Church: Grant that we also may be aflame with the

spirit of love and discipline and walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



## August 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. .

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



## Parish Survey

Thanks to everyone who filled out the church survey. We will now begin the process of incorporating the information gathered into our parish profile. Updates on the profile have already begun and we believe it will tell the story of who we are and what we want and need in our new rector.

So again, Thank You!

Peace+

Your Search Committee



# 5th ANNUAL LIP SYNC BATTLE IN BARTLESVILLE

Good morning good St. Luke's people! The fifth and final Battle in Bartlesville Concern fundraiser will be Saturday 9/12/26 at 6pm at the Hilton Garden Inn. In the past, St. Luke's has shown up in force to cheer on the local performers, raise money for a great cause, and just laugh and enjoy each other's company. It's more fun to sit together and cheaper too if we buy tables. Tickets are \$75 each, which includes a catered taco meal, 2 drinks and of course the entertainment! We get a free spot at each table if 8. I can get us tickets, and since Tim and I don't want to sit all alone, please join us! Let me know if you have questions-hope you are all enjoying the winding down of summer,  
Pam



## **Where Faith Meets Questions: One Oklahoma Youth's SUMMA Experience**

Ransom Jackson and I sat across from each other at a large wooden table in McClurg, the dining hall at The University of the South. The soaring ceilings, colorful residence hall banners, and stone walls made it feel a little like Hogwarts, especially at Christmas, when the university hangs floating candles from the ceiling. We were both there for SUMMA, a theological debate camp for high school students hosted by the School of Theology at the University of the South. Ransom was a camper from St. Luke's in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and I was serving as Camp Director.

I joked with Ransom that I'm not a natural debater and that it's probably a good thing judging debates isn't part of my job as Camp Director. "For the first time in SUMMA history, we would have a bunch of ties!", I said. He laughed and told me that's not really allowed. Because Ransom had prior debate experience, I took the opportunity to ask him about debate, what drew him to SUMMA, and what he was hoping to gain from the week. When I asked what had drawn him to SUMMA, he said,

"I had prior debate experience in Lincoln Douglas, but it was mainly philosophical, not theological. I wanted to challenge myself to something new. Not to mention I had heard very good things about SUMMA, The University of The South, and the campus/grounds."

As the week unfolded, I quickly discovered why Ransom had been encouraged to come. Every year, SUMMA centers around a single theological resolution, revealed on the first evening. This year's question asked whether "Faith in God is necessary for human flourishing." Campers engaged with Scripture, philosophy, theology, and history as they learned to think critically, articulate their ideas, and respectfully engage with perspectives different from their own. Seminar leaders from across the country challenged campers to ask difficult questions while remaining rooted in Christian faith and intellectual curiosity. Ransom said,

"The lectures were very well done, and I appreciated audience participation being so strongly encouraged."

Some of my favorite moments happened between the lectures. Conversations continued over meals. Campers lingered after worship. Students who had spent time arguing opposite sides of the resolution were laughing together on the walk back to the residence hall. There was also a strong emphasis on experiencing life together in Christian community, and in particular a community committed to SUMMA's motto to "speak the truth in love." As Camp Director, those moments mattered just as much to me as the lectures. Watching students continue conversations over lunch, encourage one another after debates, and gather for worship each day reminded me that formation often happens in the spaces between the scheduled events. It's hard not to slow down in Sewanee. The wooded paths, stone buildings, and views across the Cumberland Plateau seem to invite the kinds of conversations SUMMA hopes students will have. Ransom later reflected:

"The final walk and compline at the cross was a very impactful and conclusive ending to the camp, but both of the services in All Saints were also very meaningful. I was struck by how similar the services were, no matter where I went. (I know this is because the Episcopal Church follows the BCP, but that does not limit the impact.)"

Even in the debate tournament, campers were encouraged to approach every argument and cross-examination from a place of spiritual grounding. Campers prepare with their teams before debating individually against students from other teams. Ransom's debate team was recognized as one of the tournament's top-performing teams, finishing the week with one of the highest overall debate records. They were recognized at the closing Eucharist.

As the week went on, I loved seeing the campers grow not only as debaters but also as listeners, leaders, and disciples. The program encourages campers to discover that faithful disagreement can strengthen relationships and deepen understanding, reminding them that loving one another is just as important as making a compelling argument.

How rare that is in our world today. We could all learn something from them.

As Camp Director, I had a front-row seat to that transformation. Spending the week with Ransom and nearly 40 other young people from around the country was good for my soul. They reminded me that thoughtful disagreement doesn't have to divide us. These students tackled some of Christianity's biggest questions with curiosity, conviction, humility, and kindness. Watching them challenge one another while continuing to worship, laugh, eat, and live together gave me tremendous hope for the future of the Church.

When I asked Ransom what he would take home from SUMMA, his answer was simple.

“It’s nice to know that intelligent people within my age group are not only thinking about important questions but also are encouraged to do so. Thanks to SUMMA I have more deeply focused on these theological questions.”

If that's the kind of young person we hope to raise in the Church, curious, faithful, thoughtful, and unafraid to ask difficult questions, then SUMMA is doing exactly what it was created to do.

One of the things I appreciate most about SUMMA is its commitment to accessibility. Through a generous scholarship fund supported by donors, most campers receive significant financial assistance. These scholarships make it possible for students from dioceses across the Episcopal Church, including Oklahoma, to experience a week of intellectual challenge, spiritual growth, and friendship.

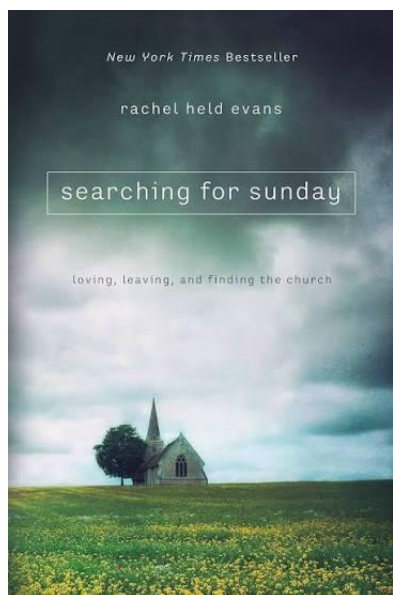
If you know a high school student who might thrive in this kind of environment, I'd love to talk with you about SUMMA 2027. I hope to welcome even more young people from Oklahoma to my new home in Tennessee.

-Teresa Phares

Link to find out more about SUMMA: <https://new.sewanee.edu/summa/>

Dates for 2027 are July 13-21.

Applications for 2027 will open September 1.



**The Spiritual Discovery Group will start meeting again every Tuesday at 9:30am in the Library, beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>. The book study will be “Searching for Sunday” by Rachel Held Evans. You may purchase the book in the Bookstore.**

## Something New for You

Our Parish is offering small group activities at various times so there can be something for everyone. Thursday Bible study, The Daily Office, Ladies Prayer Partners, Spiritual Discovery Class, Men's Breakfast, Thursday Eucharist at Green Country Village and the Altar Guild are all examples of these activities.

Last year, we started an evening activity called "The Discussion Group." Nineteen people tried it at least once. On average, we had seven or eight there each week. We met 26 times and discussed a different topic each night.

In talking about the Discussion Group restarting this Fall, an evening Bible study was suggested. We have decided to combine the Discussion Group format with an evening Bible study and call it the Bible Discussion Group.

The Bible Discussion Group will discuss a Biblical topic (marriage, King David, Creation, Baptism, Paul, Biblical contrasts or contradictions and many more topics). We will continue to meet for one hour at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays. We may take several nights to Discuss one topic. If that sounds interesting to you, watch for future announcements about our meetings or contact your Lay Catechist Tom Reyburn. 970-209-4695, SjmtnMan@gmail.com.

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### Outreach Fund Distribution - Your input, please

As you may know, funds held in St. Luke's Outreach Fund are being distributed to Concern, Agape, Bartlesville Public School Foundation, and Mary Martha Outreach.

St. Luke's Outreach Committee selected these organizations and the percentages of the funds to be distributed to each last year. The Vestry approved the organizations and percentages at their December 2025 meeting, which are in effect this year.

It is now time to revisit the topic in preparation for next year's distributions. Some of the questions to be considered are:

- Should we continue to financially support these particular organizations?
- Should we consider directing funds elsewhere, in lieu of one or more of these?
- Should the percentages change?

### **The Outreach Committee would like to hear from you!**

If you would like St. Luke's to consider donating to a different organization during 2027, please contact me or any of the Committee Members. Although we are likely to limit the number of recipient organizations to four, we may consider swapping one or two of the 2026 organizations in favor of others.

**When contacting the Committee, please provide the following information which will be used in the consideration / evaluation process:**

- A half-page statement of purpose of the organization, including how its programs align with the values of St. Luke's.
- The organization's most recent 990. (Available online at <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>)
- The organization's most recent Year-end Financial Report.

**The Outreach Committee would like your input by September 11th, please.**

2026 Outreach Committee Members

Becky Liehr

Cathy Perrier

Steve Clark

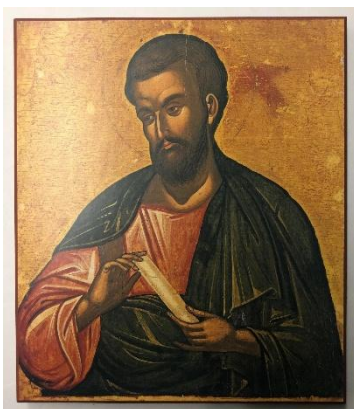
Ransom Jackson

Deacon Jeff (Chairman)



On September 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be only one service at 10:30am. Canon Betsy Randall will be here the 6<sup>th</sup> and Bishop Poulson Reed will be here for his bi-annual visit on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Since neither can make the 8:00am service and getting a supply priest for the early service was difficult,

it was decided we would just have the one service at 10:30am those two Sundays. Please note this change if you attend the earlier service. Please have patience as we navigate changes in our schedule from time to time. They are not permanent.



**St Bartholomew**  
**Feast Day August 25<sup>th</sup>**

One of the twelve apostles. His name appears only in the listings of the Twelve in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts. Many believe he is the Nathanael mentioned in John. Tradition, based on the writings of Jerome and Eusebius, says that Bartholomew wrote a gospel, preached to the people of India, and died a martyr. Hippolytus claims that he was flayed (skinned) alive, then crucified, and finally decapitated for his Christian belief. Bartholomew is

commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on [Aug. 24](#).

## St. Luke's Vestry Members

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- Karen Lewey, Jr Warden - [kgrammy07@yahoo.com](mailto:kgrammy07@yahoo.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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