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The Steeple



August 27, 2026



Ordinary Time

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Halftime of the Green Season

This Sunday, the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, feels a bit like halftime in the long green season of Ordinary Time. There are 27 Sundays after Pentecost in 2026, so Sunday number 14 lands right about at midfield. If the liturgical year were a football game, this would be the moment when the team heads into the locker room, catches its breath, reviews the game plan, and gets ready for the second-half kickoff.

And what is our game plan? The Church's collect for this Sunday says it beautifully: "Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works".

That sounds less like a pep talk about winning yards and more like a coach reminding us of what kind of team we are meant to be: **rooted in God's love, strengthened in faith, nourished by grace, and sent out to bear good fruit.** Ordinary Time is not "ordinary" in the sense of boring. It is the season of practice, discipline, endurance, and growth -- the long stretch when disciples are formed.

So maybe this Sunday is our locker-room moment. How has the first half gone? Where have we shown courage, patience, generosity, or faithfulness? Where do we

need to tighten up our defense against distraction, fatigue, or discouragement? Where do we need a stronger offense of prayer, mercy, and hope?

The whistle is about to blow for the second half. Let's take the field again with energy, gratitude, and trust in God's grace. The season is still underway, and there is holy work ahead.

Blessings and peace, Jeff†

At Luke's Place: Aug 28th – Sept 3rd, 2026

Aug 30th Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel
 Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf
 Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Aug 31st Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Vestry Room
Sept 2nd Choir, 5pm, Choir Room
Sept 3rd Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf
 Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf
 Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

Please add to your prayers:

St. Luke's, Tulsa Espiritu Santo, Tulsa The Church of the Province of West Africa
St Aiden's, Tulsa Trinity, Tulsa Church of the Holy Cross, Owasso
The Episcopal Church The Church in Wales

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, 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, and Jeff Birk.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Aug 30th – Sept 5th, 2026

Birthdays

Cathy Perrier	(8/30)
Heidi Droege	(8/31)
Yovene Vaughan	(8/31)
Jim Warring	(8/31)
John Werts	(8/31)
Yvonne Walters	(9/1)
Annabelle Droege	(9/3)
Nancy Warring	(9/3)
Mark Peterson	(9/5)

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.

September for Concern

September 12 is the big fundraiser for Concern. St Luke's has been a supporter of Concern since its inception. One of the main services for Concern is a food pantry. Many here at St. Luke's will not be able to attend the Battle in Bartlesville event, however, we can still support Concern in a big way. The month of September will be for our ministry to Concern through the food pantry. Every Sunday let's bring a canned good or nonperishable food item to drop into the plastic tote under the coat rack by Metcalf. Can we fill that up every Sunday in September? Let's try. Just grab a canned good or two out of your own pantry every Sunday you come to church this month. With everyone contributing, it can fill up fast. Let's help Concern this September!

Brunch Bunch Brunch

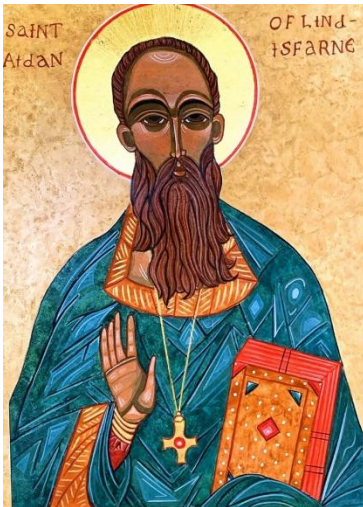


Theologian's Corner:

Aidan of Lindisfarne

651 A.D.

Feast Day- August 31



Little is known of Saint Aidan's early life, save that he was an Irishman, possibly born in Connacht, and that he was a monk at the monastery on the island of Iona in Scotland.

Saint Aidan lived in a time of conflict in the British Isles. There was conflict between Christianity and the pagan religions of the Anglo-Saxons and also conflict between the Christianity of the Celts and that of the Romans.

In 633, King Oswald of Northumbria determined to bring Christianity to the pagans of his kingdom. From his fortress of Bamburgh, he sent messages to Iona asking for missionary monks to come and minister to his people.

Aidan arrived in Northumbria around AD 635 accompanied by 12 other monks and was established as Bishop of the area. King Oswald gave him the island of Lindisfarne, (now known as the Holy Island) for his Bishopric. It was eminently suitable for him since the island was cut off from the mainland except, twice a day during the periods of low tide, when a land bridge was uncovered. It provided both solitude and a base for missionary work. Here St. Aidan established an Irish-type monastery of wooden buildings...a small church, small, circular dwelling huts, perhaps one larger building for communal purposes and workshops as needed. There the monks spent time in prayer and studious preparation before venturing out into the community to spread the gospel.

Aidan lived a frugal life, and encouraged the laity to fast and study the scriptures. He himself fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays, and seldom ate at the royal table. St. Aidan tirelessly engaged in preaching and pastoral work. He traveled mainly by foot and visited all he came across. As St. Bede tells us; *"Whether rich or poor, if unbelievers, to embrace the mystery of the faith, or, if already Christians, he would strengthen them in the faith and stir them up, by words and actions, to alms and good works. He was accustomed not only to teach the people committed to his charge in church, but also feeling for the weakness of a new-born faith, to wander round the provinces, to go into the houses of the faithful, and to sow the seeds of God's Word in their hearts, according to the capacity of each."*

When a feast was set before him he would give the food away to the hungry. The presents he received were given to the poor or used to buy the freedom of slaves, some of whom entered the priesthood. During Lent Aidan would retire to the small island of Farne for prayer and penance.

Aidan had to ensure that his efforts did not die with himself and his Ionian monks. St. Aidan realized from the first the value of education and established a school in order to train the next generation of Christian leaders for Northumbria. He began with twelve boys, who learned the practical work of being monks, priests and missionaries by observing and working with the older monks. The monastery he founded grew and helped found other monasteries throughout the area. It also became a center of learning and a storehouse of scholarly knowledge.

Aidan and King Oswald worked hand in hand, especially at first, since St. Aidan and his monks could not speak the language of the people. King Oswald translated for them until they became proficient in English.

In 642 AD, the King Oswald was killed in battle against the pagan King Penda. King Oswin was appointed as Oswald's successor. He also supported Aidan's apostolate.

Aidan preached widely throughout Northumbria, traveling on foot, so that he could readily talk to everyone he met. King Oswin presented St. Aidan with a fine horse and trappings so the Bishop would no longer have to walk every where. No sooner had St. Aidan left the King's palace when he came across a poor man asking for alms. The bishop gave the man his new horse and continued on his way. King Oswin was most distressed when he heard. St. Bede has left us the following account: *"The King asked the bishop as they were going in to dine, 'My Lord Bishop, why did you give away the royal horse which was necessary for your own use? Have we not many less valuable horses or other belongings which would have been good enough for beggars, without giving away a horse that I had specifically selected for your personal use?' The bishop at once answered, 'What are you saying, Your Majesty? Is this child of a mare more valuable to you than this child of God?'"*

After that response, the King humbled himself before his Bishop and said, *"I will not refer to this matter again, nor will I enquire how much of our bounty you give away to God's children."* It was later that evening when St Aidan had a premonition of King Oswin death saying to his attendant, *"I know the king will not live very long; for I have never before seen a humble king. I feel he will soon be taken from us, because this nation is not worthy of such a king."*

It wasn't long after this incident in 651 when King Oswin was murdered in Gilling, by his cousin. Eleven days afterward, St. Aidan also died after serving 16 years in his episcopate. He had become ill and a tent was constructed for him by the wall of a church. He drew his last breath while leaning against one of the buttresses on the outside of the church. This beam survived unscathed through two subsequent burnings of the church and at the church's third rebuilding, the beam was brought inside the church and many reported miracles of healing by touching it.

What St. Aidan had achieved may not have been clear to him at death but subsequent history showed the strong foundations and lasting success of his mission. The missionaries trained in his school went out and worked for the conversion of much of Anglo-Saxon England. Saint Aidan of Lindisfarne is credited with restoring Christianity to Northumbria.

O loving God, you called your servant Aidan from the cloister to re-establish the Christian mission in northern England: Grant that we, following his example, may use what you have given us for the relief of human need, and may persevere in commending the saving Gospel of our Redeemer Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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. .



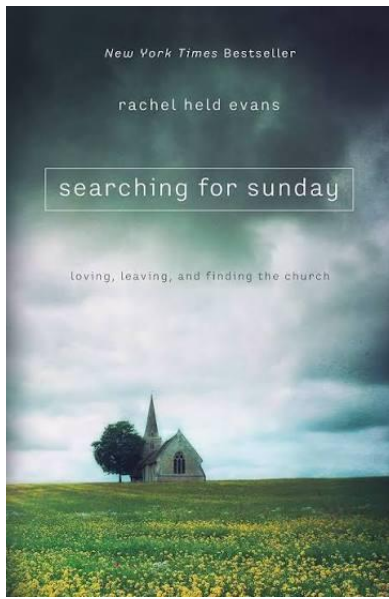
The Church office will be closed September 7th for the Labor Day Holiday. Have a wonderful weekend.



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



The Spiritual Discovery Group will start meeting again every Tuesday at 9:30am in the Library, beginning September 8th. 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.



Sexton on Vacation

Courtney will be on vacation from September 2nd-8th. If you find any paper products out in any location, please let the office know and I will try to restock.

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)



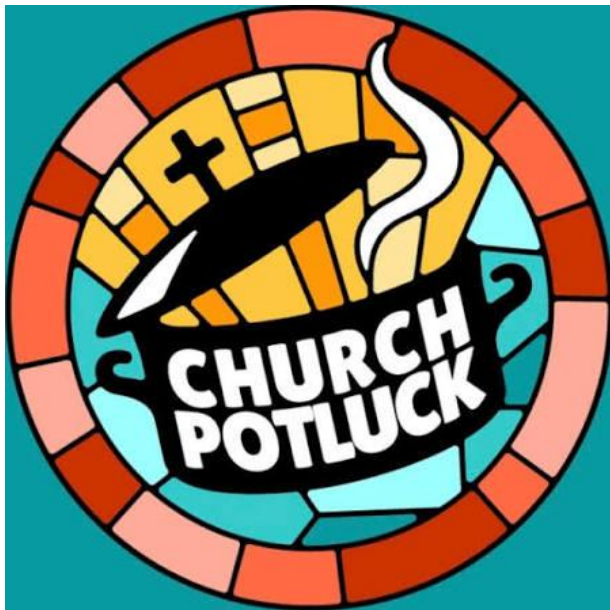
Thanks for the reminder that change can be beautiful

Welcome September!



On September 6th and 20th, there will be only one service at 10:30am. Canon Betsy Randall will be here the 6th and Bishop Poulson Reed will be here for his bi-annual visit on the 20th. 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.



September 20th

St Luke's will be having a parish pot luck with the Bishop after the 10:30am service. Meat and beverages provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

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
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- Cathy Perrier – bling4mimi@hotmail.com

Bereavement Team 3

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

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Or contact
Penny Williams, secretary 918-766-2157