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The Steeple



August 6, 2026



Ordinary Time

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



We find ourselves in a profound season of transition, and it is important to first acknowledge that the departure of Father Nick represents a real loss to our parish family. It is entirely natural to feel a sense of grief, uncertainty, or even a wavering spirit as we navigate this new chapter without him.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, our Sunday rhythm will shift significantly. With three different priests each month and one Sunday dedicated to Morning Prayer with our deacon, Jeff, we are losing the comfort of a single, consistent pastoral voice.

While we will welcome these new perspectives, we also need to give ourselves permission to mourn the familiar routine we shared with Father Nick. Everyone processes this kind of change differently, and whatever you are feeling right now is a completely valid reflection of your deep love for our spiritual home.

When experiencing a loss like this, it is a very human response to want to stay busy. It can be tempting to throw ourselves into the machinery of church duties—keeping the rosters full and the services running perfectly—as a way to avoid sitting with the emotional reality of our transition. But our parish is meant to be a place of authentic connection, not just a hub of activity. Let us be careful not to use our ministries as a distraction from our feelings. We are called to be a family that supports one another through the uncomfortable parts of change, where simply being together in our shared vulnerability holds far more value than checking off a task.

Finding our way through this emotional landscape requires grounding ourselves. When the Sunday routine feels unfamiliar and unsettling, the rhythm of daily prayer in

our Episcopal tradition offers a quiet, steady anchor. Engaging in prayer—both individually during the week and collectively on our Morning Prayer Sundays— isn't about "fixing" our sadness or rushing toward the future. Instead, it creates a safe space to bring our grief, our questions, and our hopes to God. It reminds us that we are held by grace, even when everything around us feels unsettled.

As we navigate this tender waiting period together, let us offer one another abundant grace. If you are feeling overwhelmed, please know that it is entirely okay to step back from your usual duties, rest, and just be present in the pews with us. By leaning into our shared prayer life and prioritizing genuine, patient care for one another, we will weather this loss together. Our true strength right now isn't found in how busy we keep ourselves, but in our willingness to support each other and trust in the Spirit's comforting presence as we heal.

Chase Almy, Vestry Member

At Luke's Place: Aug 7th – Aug 13th , 2026

Aug 9 th	Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:00am, Chapel Faith Forum, 9:15am, Metcalf Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:30am, Nave
Aug 10 th	Ladies Prayer Partners, 11:30am, Metcalf Finance Committee, noon, vestry room Vestry, 5:30pm, vestry room
Aug 13 th	Men's Group, 7am, Metcalf Bible Study, 9:15am, Metcalf Green Country Eucharist, 1pm, GCV

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, Sherry Breitman, Barbie Hirst, Jack Stoecker, and Dorothy Buchanan.

Birthdays & Anniversaries for Aug 9th – Aug 15th, 2026

Birthdays

Tim Hanson (8/11)
Evan Tedstrom (8/11)
Gretchen Matthews (8/12)
David Hall (8/14)

Anniversaries

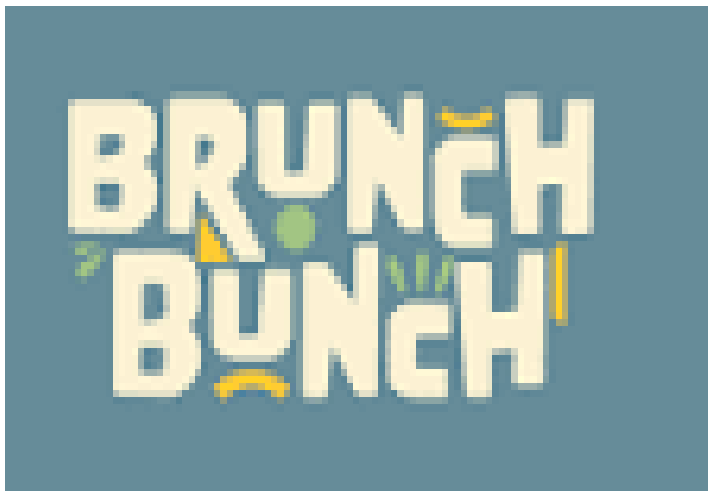
Steve & Susie Clark (8/9)
Gretchen & Robert Matthews (8/11)

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.

Our Christmas in July fundraiser is underway. Our hope is to collect \$15,000 to provide a wonderful Christmas for 200 children (birth through age 15) in Washington County. If you would like to donate, please send a check to PO BOX 404, Bartlesville, OK 74005 or PayPal (notate Christmas in July) at concerncares.com.



Brunch Bunch Brunch

August 23rd

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



Theologian's Corner: St Dominic Preacher of Grace Feast Day August 8

In thirteenth-century Europe, there was, in the words of Amos the Prophet, “a famine of the hearing of the Word of God” (Amos 8:11), and the vacuum was frequently filled by superstition, divisive heresy, and a love for this world.

It was in such a world that Dominic de Guzman grew up. The son of a Spanish noble, Dominic had a heart for God from a young age. While a philosophy student, he sold his books to buy food for the starving, and for ten years he served as a canon of the Cathedral at Osma in Spain.

In 1204 or thereabout, Dominic and his bishop, Diego, passed through southern France on a journey, and the journey changed their lives. They discovered a devastated church in the region. Manichees, Cathari, Albigensians—the movement had various names—had propagated a doctrine that included a hatred for creation, for material sacraments, and even for the body itself.

Dominic saw the need for preachers of the true faith who would be learned, disciplined, and poor. With the approval of the bishop of Toulouse, Dominic began to gather a group of men willing to take up the dangers of preaching in hostile territory. As he gathered his preachers, Dominic also established a convent of nuns (mostly converts from heresy), whose example and prayer would lend support to the campaign of the preachers.

Dominic's brethren embraced a liturgical life of prayer, like the monks. They embraced an active ministry, as a community, like the canons. And they dedicated themselves to assiduous study to be equipped to preach and defend the fullness of the truth.

Yet, unlike other forms of religious communities, but hearkening back to the life of the Apostles, they would move about according to the needs of the Church, begging for what they needed and preaching the Gospel wherever they went.

Almighty God, grant unto your people a hunger for your Word and an urgent longing to share your Gospel; that, like your servant Dominic, we might labor to bring the whole world to the knowledge and love of you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Just a reminder that I will be out of the office next week (Aug 10th-14th). Jeff will be available as will Karole. Morning and evening prayer will continue. The bulletins for the next two Sundays will be done and Jeff will handle the Steeple next week. I think all is covered. May you have a blessed week! Penny

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

By now everyone should have received the parish survey in the mail. If not please contact Penny. We would like everyone to take some time, prayerfully complete the survey and return it to the church by August 16th. The responses will help shape the parish profile which will be the first step in finding our new priest. Please call Steve Van Aken 918-914-9041 or Doug McIver 785-342-4328.

Peace

Your Search Committee



MARY MARTHA OUTREACH

Mary Martha Outreach is looking for volunteers to help cover our evening distribution which is being held on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:45pm to 7pm. It's a great opportunity to serve your community by helping those who need a friendly smile and help feed their families. We are needing volunteers to cover September, October, and November right now. Each evening, we need 4 to 5 volunteers, so bring your family (children should be at least 13) or just get some friends together and come to have some fun together. You will be helping clients fill shopping carts with food items and then helping them to their cars. I am sure you will leave feeling better than you came and maybe even wanting to come back again.

This is an opportunity to see how MMO works and all the great things we are doing for our community.

Feel free to contact me (Judy DuVall) if you have any questions.

Cell: 918-841-2287

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

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- Becky Liehr – jbliehr@gmail.com
- Chase Almy – chasealmy88@gmail.com
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Bereavement Team 3

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

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