
November Newsletter



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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[stlukesada](https://facebook.com/stlukesada)

ALL THINGS COME OF THEE, O LORD, AND OF THINE OWN HAVE WE GIVEN THEE

Dear members and friends of St. Luke's,

This year of 2020 has challenged almost everything we know in our daily lives. How we navigate work, school, gatherings, weddings and funerals. I know for all of you just as for me, it has also challenged our understanding of what it is to be together as the body of Christ. We have come together and adapted the ways in which we can worship. We have had to also adapt the ways that we can serve each other and our community. I am so very proud of how St. Lukes has stepped up to the challenges presented even when our understanding of this virus and its impact on our world has been changing and challenging.

It is the time of year when the vestry and the finance committee are planning for next year's budget. During this time, we actively seek pledges from each of you to establish the income we will have to work with in 2021. The treasurer and the finance committee carefully look at each anticipated expense attempting to decide whether that expense will likely increase or decrease. We also review our investment portfolio and the interest being paid because we have routinely needed to use this interest to meet expenses.

The vestry takes this responsibility of using pledged money seriously. We are charged with using all the income belonging to the church wisely. This year has been more difficult than it has been in recent years due to decreased plate contributions and no fund raising events. We have worked hard on this budget process and have had to make some very difficult cuts and decisions. We have not been able to raise budget shortfall-money this year through our fundraising activities we've had in the past such as a pancake supper, a garage sale, spaghetti supper or chili contest. We also have had

a decreased amount of plate offerings. As you can see by doing the math, we are keeping our proverbial “heads above water.” We have very little extra to plan for the inevitable needs of maintaining buildings, the rising costs of utilities and insurance and the decreasing return on our investments.

This year, the vestry and stewardship committee plan a more active campaign to increase annual giving. You will hear some short presentations in church on Sunday to help keep our Stewardship campaign more visible. Members of the vestry and stewardship committee are available to answer your questions and hear your concerns. I would like to challenge the vestry and our parishioners to a goal of increasing our pledges by 10% in both the amount of pledges and in the number of people who do make a pledge. I know it seems lofty, but looking at the amount of income so far this year and projected expenses, this increased money would give the vestry some leeway to more easily balance our budget. I am as uncomfortable as the next person to ask for more money. The reality is, that to keep St. Luke’s an active and growing church community, we all need to reach a little further into our hearts to examine whether we have the capacity to give just a little more.

We each have different motivations and capacities for giving. We have different gifts to offer. Please consider pledging if you have not previously done so. If you already pledged, please carefully and prayerfully consider if you can afford more. Every pledge is gratefully received and every dollar is carefully spent. Our church remains strong and vibrant because generations of members have counted themselves as blessed to support the mission and vision of St Luke’s with generosity and endowments. We thank them for this foresight. Including St. Lukes in your estate planning is also an option you may wish to consider.

I want to thank all of you so much for the hard work you’ve done to help keep St Lukes up and going this year and for your continuing contribution of time talent and monies. I would like you all to prayerfully consider how you can help St Lukes moving forward into 2021 and the future.

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Wallace
Sr. Warden



Stewardship Resources

PROPORTIONAL GIVING CHART



ANNUAL INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME	BEYOND A TITHE											
		15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15
\$90,000	\$1,731	\$260	\$208	\$173	\$156	\$139	\$121	\$104	\$87	\$69	\$52	\$35	\$17
\$100,000	\$1,923	\$288	\$231	\$192	\$173	\$154	\$135	\$115	\$96	\$77	\$58	\$38	\$19
\$110,000	\$2,115	\$317	\$254	\$212	\$190	\$169	\$148	\$127	\$106	\$85	\$63	\$42	\$21
\$120,000	\$2,308	\$346	\$277	\$231	\$208	\$185	\$162	\$138	\$115	\$92	\$69	\$46	\$23
\$140,000	\$2,692	\$404	\$323	\$269	\$242	\$215	\$188	\$162	\$135	\$108	\$81	\$54	\$27

- HOW TO GIVE -

There are several ways you can submit your offering during this time of COVID!

1. Mail it to: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
 PO Box 890
 Ada, OK 74821-0890
2. Set up regular Payments through your bank.
3. Drop off in a sealed envelope in the church's mailbox.
4. Coming soon - an Online secured option!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church 2021 Pledge Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

For the calendar year January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021, with God's help I/we pledge to commit (please choose one):

\$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Monthly

\$ _____ Quarterly \$ _____ Yearly

I would like more information on Estate planning.

I would like more information about contributing to Endowment funds.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

"Life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and always."

~ Henri-Frédéric Amiel

St. Luke's Episcopal Church 2021 Time & Talent Card

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

For the calendar year January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021, with God's help I/we pledge to commit time and/or talent to the following:

___ Mission & Outreach ___ Vestry

___ Building and Grounds ___ Virtual Ministry

___ Prayer Ministry ___ Choir/Music

___ Pastoral Care Ministry ___ Hospitality

___ Children's Formation ___ Worship Roles

___ Youth Formation ___ Adult Formation

___ Usher ___ Finance

___ Stewardship ___ Fundraising

___ Archives ___ Altar Guild

I would like more information about _____

Please add other ideas to the back of this card.



There is no doubt in my mind, heart, or experience that the soul of St. Luke's Ada, at its core, shines brightly as a giving community. From day one, as a supply priest, I experienced your giving soul. From your insistence on giving me and the grands donuts every Sunday to a generous good-bye when my tour of supply work had ended, you demonstrated time and again your giving love. Since returning as your priest in charge, I have continued to experience your giving nature through the occasional bowls of soup, invitations to your back yards, spoiling the grands, along with many other manifestations of your giving selves. There is one person in our midst however, who embodies for the whole of the congregation, the heart of giving, Ms. Lili Saunkeah.

Since I have known Lili, I have experienced her giving sweet soul on many occasions. She has blessed my grandchildren so many times with gifts and never expects anything in return. I understand that this is a Native tradition. Her mother, Peggy, has explained to me that "In the Native culture, many times 'the most valuable' is saved to give away and 'storing or hording things' is not understood. There is a high value placed on giving away and sharing what is ours. Once something is given away, all strings to that gift are broken. The gift is given with no expectations. Native people believe that what is given always comes back to the giver in one way or another in another form of good." This is a spiritual value that Lili's parents have passed on to her and clearly, she has integrated the spirit of giving into her life.

I do believe we are all hardwired to give, that giving is a part of our nature. And when we give, we are changed. Perhaps this is why we love the Christmas traditions, which ultimately point to the Advent theme of the gift that God has sent, is sending, and will continue to send... the gift of Emmanuel, God with us. I am so so grateful for all the outward and visible ways that you have gifted me and each other with the reminder that God is with us, especially during this unique time of uncertainty. This is also the gift that St. Luke's is to the Ada community. I am awed, time and again, at the varied ways that you are involved, generously giving of your time and talents, in the larger community.

As we enter the season of stewardship, you are invited to intentionally and prayerfully re-examine the ways that you give of your time, talent, and financial resources to St. Luke's and to consider how you'd like to give in 2021. Every person and all resources are needed going forward. As you know this is a time that is shifting our relationship with almost all aspects of our lives, including our relationship with St. Luke's. While there's a list of "time and talent" options, please feel free to offer ideas and possibilities of doing church in new and different ways. It is time to think outside the box, of course within the Episcopal framework. What is the "most valuable" resource/s that you have to offer St. Luke's as we continue to fulfill our mission to God's world?

With much gratitude;

Mother Tammy





A word from the Deacon

It's hard to believe a month has already gone by since the last newsletter! Some days seem to speed by, and at other times they seem to drag on. And sometimes, in this era of pandemic, every day seems to be just like the day before. Every Monday morning on the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health Incident Command Team call (the team that plans our hospital emergency response to the pandemic), the incident commander starts out by saying "Welcome to Operational Week #..." (insert week number here). This week is Operational Week 34, which means that we've been at this for about 8-1/2 months now. That's a long time to be in crisis-mode.

As we know churches are dealing with the situation in different ways. I'm thankful our Episcopal leadership has been thoughtful in providing guidance for our parishes and missions, balancing safety and science with our desire, and need, to be in spiritual and physical community with each other. This careful consideration of balance is reflective of our Anglican/Episcopalian theology of Scripture, Tradition and Reason. And it really should come as no surprise, as our church has always sought to find the *via media*, the middle way. Some have taken this negatively, implying that the Episcopal Church overly compromises or is unwilling to take a firm position on controversial matters. But another way to look at *via media* is as the "golden mean", which acknowledges that truth generally falls somewhere in between two extreme positions.

Although none of us today have ever been in this position before, others have had to deal with these very same conditions and concerns. I recently read an article in which the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati has been fielding calls from rabbis across the country wanting to know what was being preached 100 years ago, during the flu pandemic of 1918. They are seeking inspiration to share with their congregations from the words of long-passed rabbis who experienced similar challenges and fears. One common theme of these 100-year-old sermons: trying to find meaning in the midst of the 1918 pandemic:

"The hand of God has lain heavily upon the world in these past weeks. There is so much to learn these days in the uncertainty of life. Let me plead with you - nay, demand of you - that you make peace with one another. There is so much newness, so much smallness in our makeups. Whatever we do, let's be friends, bury past quarrels. Life is so short and uncertain" (Rabbi Ferdinand Hirsch).

Another sermon spoke of the familiar attempt to weigh economic and humanitarian decisions:

"It is hard to answer the man who says his business has been hurt by the quarantine, but it will be impossible to answer the one who says, 'my child has died'..." (Rabbi Moise Bergman).

No, none of us have ever been here before, but others before us have. We can learn from them. And, just as they did, we can lean on the comfort and love of our God who strengthens us.





Notes from Bridget

Our website now has a [prayer wall](#) that lists requests from others. You are invited to read the requests and pray for each one. If you want to submit a request, visit the [prayer request page](#) and enter your information and specific request. You may post with your name visible or you may post anonymously. Your request will need to be approved by a website administrator before it posts. I will try to review the prayer requests regularly and ask that you look to the website to pray for those who have asked for your prayers. Mother Tammy has a wonderful vision for our website and we're working within the limitations of the website software to provide added features.



Matthew 25

The theme for this month's newsletter is "stewardship"; the food distribution program we share with Asbury First United Church is certainly devoted to stewardship of our time and energy as well as resources provided by the Regional Food Bank. Sharon Weirick, the "procurement officer" from Asbury, shared the following information with me in October:

17,840 pounds of food was ordered to serve 275 families the third Thursday of October (250 for the morning and 25 for the evening distributions October 22). Most of the food is available through the CFAP and USDA programs; however the free food supplies are beginning to be limited and the cost to the program this time was \$446.12. I asked Sharon about their funds and she told me they are OK right now, but may need some financial help for the holidays. She said the Regional Food Bank has indicated they are facing challenges such as shipping delays, rising food prices, and changes in the CFAP (pandemic related) program distribution.

She also shared a chart of the number of families and individuals served each month. The number of families has increased from 219 in January to 500 in October; the number of individuals has increased from 627 in January to 1500 in October. (2 distributions are held each month; each family is allowed to receive food only once per month)

Volunteers from St. Luke's Church have served two months in the evening of the third Thursday. So far we have had only about 20 families come each month; however these are all people who are unable to come to the morning distributions so they are very grateful for the opportunity to pick up their food between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. Volunteers this month were Darla Thomas, Shirley Mixon, Christine Pappas, Wayne Hanway, Julie Lawson, Bridgette and Audrey Forshay, April Nesbitt, and Angus and Suzanne McFarlane. Also lending a hand were Amy Frazier, Doug Weirick, and Susan and Erik Carrigan

Suzanne McFarlane





Youth

Honestly, I had to look up the word stewardship when asked to write this article. I had a very vague idea of its meaning, but not enough to write an entire article on it. So I thought that if I, as quarter aged lady who has been in the church my whole life, had to look it up, so might some of the youth within my ministry. Of course, I could be completely wrong; it would not surprise me if they had a deeper understanding of the word than I do. Our youth in this church are pretty “woke” if I do say so myself. So, for those who might need the help like I did; stewardship is the word we use for giving our time and efforts to the church as they are needed within the church. Although I think that is put pretty simply. So how can we include our youth, or our students in stewardship, especially during this time when acolytes are not a thing? That’s always my go to starting point. I think that, right now, the best avenue of stewardship is through outreach. One simple way to begin, or continue your stewardship journey is though prayer. I can’t think of anyone on the earth who does not need to be prayed for in one way or another. If you want a more outward and visible form of stewardship, consider sharing your gifts with us! Can you play an instrument? Sing? Write poems or stories? We can publish these things within our church, SHARE YOUR GIFT! Would you like a chance to take care of the lawn? There are so many ways YOU can become a steward in the church. Take charge and communicate with someone that you want to be a part of what makes the church “the church”. It doesn’t get done without each and every person in the congregation, ESPECIALLY our youth. This is a pretty short and to the point article because I truly believe that getting youth involved in stewardship is pretty short and to the point. Youth today have a leadership mindset. Bring that mindset into the church, channel the fire you have and bring it to church. You are the future of the church, bring the future to church. Let me say that again for the youth in the back; YOU are the future of the church Bring. The future. To. The. Church.

Caity Dowing



TREASURER'S UPDATE

Hello Everyone - just a brief update on St. Luke's finances. On October 12, 2020 I had received \$149,293.50 towards the \$201,740.00 pledged for 2020. I have received \$4,355 in other donations. Please keep your pledge payments as current as possible as the monthly expenses continue. Thank you and stay safe.

Barbara Suess
Treasurer





The Endowments and Investment committee would like our congregants to prayerfully consider adding a gift to St.Luke's in your estate planning. The members of the past have laid a firm foundation for the future of St.Luke's and have allowed the church to remain financially stable with no debt. This is remarkable, and to ensure that St.Luke's has the same foundation for generations to come, we must ask you to give generously as you are able.

Thank you,

Katrina McCurdy



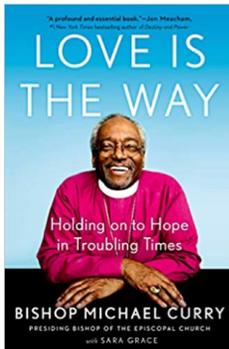
- Blurbs for the Month -



NOONDAY PRAYERS MON-FRI AT 12:00P ON FACEBOOK LIVE
<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesada>



LOOKING AHEAD: NOVEMBER'S BOOK NOVEMBER 19TH, 2020



PRAYER REQUESTS

Have a prayer request? Send it to the Prayer Team and prayers will be sent daily!
Contact Mother Tammy tammywooliver@gmail.com or Tori Davidson toriart@aol.com to have your prayer requests added to the Daily Prayer list!



WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE OF PRAYER AND HEALING

Join us for a Facebook Live Service at 6p <https://www.facebook.com/stlukesada>

or

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/122700664?pwd=aHN3RDc0M2pwMFFhVEFMY2JDZFg3dz09>

Meeting ID: 122 700 664

Passcode: 130306

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,122700664#,,,,,0#,,130306# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,122700664#,,,,,0#,,130306# US (Tacoma)



INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT CONFIRMATION AND THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?

CONTACT Mother Tammy FOR MORE INFORMATION!!!! CLASSES STARTING SOON!



COMING IN ADVENT!!!

Spend time with Mother Tammy on Sunday afternoons doing Advent creating a Soul Collage!! She has been trained and certified in this process and is ready to share it with you! You do not have to be an artist or “creative”... just open to trying! She considers it a wonderful way to prepare the way for the Lord this Adventide! The SoulCollage website share that it is about:

SoulCollage® is an expressive arts practice done individually or in community. Founded by Seena B. Frost, the method develops creativity and intuition, encourages self-discovery, and provides personal guidance.

SoulCollage® meets you wherever you are on this journey called life. You don't have to be an artist to make SoulCollage® cards. Anyone can create and enjoy this powerful practice.

