

Hark! The Herald

Volume 22 Number 4 The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA April, 2016
A Welcoming Family... Worshipping Christ... Sharing His love with others.
Serving Jesus Christ since 1879

From the Pastor's Desk



Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We made it through another Lent, and into this glorious season of Easter. Thank you again for all the wonderful people who served (in so many areas) during Holy Week. As we move through this new season, I want to encourage you to embrace the idea that Easter really is a season! The traditional term is the “Great Fifty Days of Easter.” Think about that for a moment. We put great emphasis on the 40 days Lent, as we prepare for Easter. Yet, I often find myself reaching Easter Sunday, and barely remembering that the week of Easter is especially holy - much less the 50 days of the Easter season! In the past, I have been more aware of this same tendency with Advent and Christmas, and I am finally learning to honor the 12 days of Christmas as a period to focus on the real significance of the Incarnation, blessedly relieved from the distractions of a culture that puts away elves and reindeer on December 26. Fortunately, Easter does not face quite the same commercial competition for our Christian devotion, but we can still end up “setting aside” Easter too soon.

This season, will you join me in seeking to honor the “Great Fifty Days?”

1) Let us seek daily to remember the Resurrection! Let us remind ourselves and each other to rejoice in gift Jesus has given! Let us also seek to live as people who have been forgiven by forgiving each other (and ourselves) for the sins Jesus has dealt with in us. Let us live as people empowered by the gift of God for His service. Let us live in the intimacy of the Resurrection, knowing that our lives are joined with Jesus as we share in His Resurrection.

2) If Lent is the “spring cleaning” for our lives and souls, let us enjoy our newly cleaned homes! You know that living in a clean and well-ordered home is much nicer than living in chaos and mess, and keeping a home clean and organized is much easier than the initial cleaning. If there was a change you made in Lent or at Easter, a sin you have repented of, a good habit you made or a bad habit you gave up, now is the time to re-commit to that. What was work in Lent can now be joy in Easter. To give a trivial example, maybe you gave up desserts in Lent, and it took weeks to stop missing them. Now, Easter has come and you are free to enjoy again. However, you find that you feel better because you have been eating in a healthier way. Why not make a decision that, even though you can eat desserts again, you are only going to do so on special occasions, or once a week, or whatever works for you? Just because you gave something up for Lent, does not mean you have to take it up again. I am writing this primarily for the sake of weightier issues than desserts. Is there a sin God convicted you of? Is there a habit that was hurting your relationship with God or with the people you love? Give it up, or keep giving it up now. You may already have done the hardest part.

3) We form new practices in Lent, why not try a new practice for the Great 50 Days of Easter. Now, instead of focusing on a practice of self-discipline, why not form a discipline of rejoicing and worship? If you enjoy singing, you might try singing a worship song each day for this season. If there is another art form you prefer, try practicing that each day to the glory of God. You might try something as simple as sitting down each day, welcoming God with a brief prayer, then just enjoying being with Him for 5 minutes. This

might seem odd at first, but I recommend smiling (even if you do not especially feel like it) when you “greet” God, and then just sitting in silence for a bit. The physical act of smiling can help you feel the joy and pleasure of being with God. You can then go on to tell God specific things that you are thankful for. There are many other examples of practices of joy and worship to try. Let me know what you come up with!

Key Inventory

As part of our stewardship at St. Luke’s we are beginning our periodic key inventory. If you have any keys for St. Luke’s, please bring them by the office during one of the times listed below. Patti will briefly check the number of your key against our inventory sheet, so that we can confirm that we have the correct information. If you have a key you no longer need (such as one issued for a ministry you are no longer serving in), this is also the perfect time to return it.

If you are unable to come during the listed times, please call the office, and we will arrange an appointment around your schedule.

Key Inventory Times: Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9 am and 1 pm during the month of April.

S.H.A.R.E.S. Now Powered by eScrip

The SaveMart S.H.A.R.E.S. cards will no longer be needed – or active – beginning on April 1. The fundraising program that helps schools and nonprofit organizations earn thousands of dollars each year is now electronic. You will need to sign up online at escrip.com/savemart or escrip.com/foodmaxx to participate. Click on the yellow Sign Up icon and follow the instructions. We will also have a link to the sign up page on our website in the near future. If you need assistance with the process, email Patti at office@stlukesmerced.org for help or call the office if you do not have internet access. Once you are enrolled, simply give your registered phone number at checkout each time you make a purchase at SaveMart or Food Maxx stores and St. Luke’s will receive 3% of your qualified purchases.

Christian Nurture at St. Luke’s

Sundays

Children’s Church meets in Norvell Hall during the worship service and is for children in the primary grades. They follow a liturgy designed for them that is based on the gospel lesson for that Sunday.



Easter Activity Thank You

The Easter Sunday activities for our family and friends, especially youth, was again a joyous and enjoyable time! Thank you friends for your help, which was numerous. We enjoyed special refreshments and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Thanks so much Miranda! The Easter Egg Hunt was well attended by Sunday school friends and visitors. Our egg supply was overwhelming as usual and donated by so many parishioners. A special "thank you" is extended to our egg hidiers, Charity, Kyle and Brian. Check out the bulletin Board in Norvell Hall for photos. Blessings! Shirley & Church Growth Commission

Church Growth Commission

ST. LUKE’S CHURCH GROWTH COMMISSION will have their meeting on SATURDAY, APRIL 23, at 10:00 am in Norvell Hall. Add yourself to Shirley's email list at Luke22936@aol.com or call 722-4782. Agenda and Overview of meetings are always on our Bulletin Board in Norvell Hall. You are always welcome, even if you are not available every month.

Graduates 2016

Please let Patti or Shirley know if you have graduates in the family - Jr. High, High School or College.

Pantry Update

Deepest thanks to everyone who donated last month from giving financial aid to a big carton of marvelous canned goods. This really helps to keep the Pantry active as a resource for those sent to us from Love, Inc. We always can use canned soups, meats, fish and stews, vegetables, fruit as well as cereal, peanut butter and jelly, and hamburger or tuna Helper. What a great family we have! Blessings to you and yours and to those in need.

Coffee Hour Ministry

APR 3	Molly Hart, Nancy Tapia, Ada Causa
APR 10	Molly Hart, Linda Cometta, Linda Meyer
APR 17	Molly Hart, Mady Montague, Glenda Small
APR 24	Molly Hart, Nancy Tapia, Suzanne Miles

Up-Coming Events

April 3 – Sisters of Prayer meet at 10:30 a.m. after church

April 12 – Men's Night Out 7 – 9 p.m.
Food, Fellowship, Sharing, Worship
125 Panorama Point Ct., Merced
RSVP to Rob Mercurio 726-7994
Invite a friend.

April 17 – Worship Commission meets 11:00 a.m.

April 21 – Vestry Meeting 5:30 p.m.

April 23 – Growth Commission Meeting 10:00 a.m. Norvell Hall

April 25 - 27 – Clergy Retreat

Diocese of San Joaquin Defense Fund

Make check payable to St. Luke's Church, earmarked for the Defense Fund.

By representing the Diocese, they are representing us.
Remember them in your prayers during the appeal process.

News from the Diocese may be found at: www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net



St. Luke's Anglican Church
350 West Yosemite Avenue
Merced, CA 95348

Address Service Requested

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St. Luke's Anglican Church
Office Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Phone: (209) 383-1888 FAX: (209) 383-4935
Web site: www.stlukesmerced.org
E-mail: office@stlukesmerced.org

ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR *HARK! THE HERALD* IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.

Send articles to office@stlukesmerced.org

Visit us at our website: www.stlukesmerced.org

Weekly Services

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion [Children's Church meets during the Service]

Church Staff

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, Archbishop, Anglican Church in North America

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Eric Vawter Menees, Bishop

The Rev. Ryan Bradley, Rector, E-mail: rector@stlukesmerced.org

Mrs. Mady Montague, Choir Director; Mrs. Marilynne Isenberg, Organist

Mrs. Patti McClain, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Sue Linardos, Sexton

Members of the Vestry

Class of 2016

Mrs. Sylvia Bankson

Mr. Richard Blank

Mr. Fred Dutton

Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Treasurer

Class of 2017

Mrs. Linda Meyer, Sr. Warden

Mr. Mike Waite, Sr. Warden

Mr. Rob Mercurio

Mr. Jim Hill, Clerk

Class of 2018

Mr. Ed Gardner

Mrs. Kathy Hill

Mrs. Maria Laurel

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Norman Montague, Calvin Nixon, Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert; Karlyne Paul, alternate.