

Hark! The Herald

Volume 21 Number 4 The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA April, 2015
A Welcoming Family...Worshipping Christ...Sharing His love with others.
Serving Jesus Christ since 1879

From the Pastor's Desk

"St. Luke's Anglican Church: A welcoming family, worshipping Christ and sharing his love with others."

"The Meaning of Easter"

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" 1 Corinthians 15:17

In 1 Corinthians 15, St. Paul tells us that the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the central teaching of the Christian faith, and that without this event our faith is nothing. The Apostle writes:

...if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. And if Christ has not been raised your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those who have died in Christ are lost. If for this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Dear Friends in Christ,

What St. Paul means is simply this: if Jesus did not rise from the dead then it would be better for us to spend our Sunday mornings in bed, out on the golf course, or at the Mall. All of our faith, the time spent in prayer and doing good deeds, and the money we give in the name of Christ is a waste, the Apostle contends, if Jesus Christ is still dead.

Without the resurrection the Christian faith is just one more philosophical system built around the words and deeds of another dead, holy man. The Christian faith proclaims unashamedly that Jesus of Nazareth not only lived and died (a fact easily documented in historical documents) but that he bodily arose from the dead. And this event was witnessed by over 500 people.

It is the resurrection that gives the crucifixion its true meaning. It was the visible manifestation of the resurrected Jesus that radically changed his followers from cowering traitors and deniers, to bold and courageous disciples who will eventually be persecuted and martyred for this belief.

This is why Sundays are always feast days. They are "mini" Easter celebrations of the resurrection. And it is his resurrection from the dead that gives us hope. Because he conquered death, death no longer has dominion over us. Because he lives, we shall live also. That is what we celebrate on Easter Sunday and every Sunday. Jesus Christ is risen, and we will be raised from the dead too. Alleluia!

We have a full schedule of activities planned for Holy Week. You are encouraged to participate in as much of Holy Week activities as you are able.

May God draw us closer to him and to one another as we continue our journey together.

Yours in Christ's love,

Fr. Ron

A Call to Prayer and Fasting

On April 2nd our diocesan legal defense team will submit their written briefs to the Fifth Court of Appeal and then on April 7th, they will submit to Judge Black our response to TEC's request the he enforce his earlier judgment. Join with me in daily prayer for Rusty and his team and, if so led, to fasting and prayer on April 2nd and April 7th. Thanks.

Almighty God, who sittest in the throne judging right: We humbly beseech thee to bless the courts of justice and the magistrates in all this land, especially Judge Black and the Fifth Court of Appeal; and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of thee alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen. Book of Common Prayer 821*

Christian Nurture at St. Luke's

Sundays

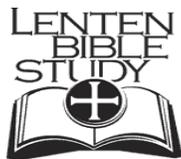
Children's Church meets in Norvell Hall during the worship service and is for children in the primary grades. They follow a liturgy designed for them that is based on the gospel lesson for that Sunday.



The Rector's Forum – "The Message of Romans"

Come join us after Coffee Hour in Saint Ann's Hall.

The Rector's Forum will not meet Easter or the following Sunday. Class will resume on April 19th.



"The Seven Last Words from the Cross"

We will conclude our meditations during Holy Week. On Wednesday we will look at "Fulfillment" and then on Good Friday, we will meditate on the seventh and final word, "Triumph."

Wednesday in Holy Week

10 a.m. Lenten Bible Study – "The Seven Last Words from the Cross", meets in St. Ann's Hall

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

We will gather for prayer prior to our Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study.

5:30 p.m. Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study – "The Seven Last Words from the Cross"

Mid-Week Bible Study Starting on April 22 – "The Message of Esther"

By any assessment, Esther is a rather strange book to find in the Bible. Not only is it, along with Daniel, the only book of the Bible to be set entirely outside the Promised Land, it also shows no interest in that land. More than that, Esther is the only book in the Bible which definitely does not mention God. The book of Esther tells how a Jewish girl became a queen in Persia and saved her people from a plot to destroy them. She is assisted in this by Mordecai, her cousin and guardian. It also explains how a special festival, called Purim, was established to recall and celebrate the deliverance that the Jews had experience.

Come join us Wednesday's at 10 a.m. in St. Ann's Hall.

Church Growth Commission

This group will meet again on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 11:30 -12:30 p.m. in the Emma Hunt Room at St. Luke's. We will enjoy brainstorming, discussion, and fellowship! Interested parishioners are welcome to attend. See Max or Shirley for more information. An overview of input and suggestions from the last meeting can be seen on the Bulletin Board in Norvell Hall.

Parish T-Shirts

The Church Growth Commission will be ordering T-Shirts with the name of our parish on them as a way of advertising our parish in the community and promoting "parish-pride" at our events. A sample T-shirt is available for viewing. A sign-up sheet will be posted so individuals can order the number of shirts and sizes desired. The cost will be \$8.75 per shirt which includes sales tax. Linda Meyer is spearheading this project.

April 19 – Let's Go Bowling

The Church Growth Commission is sponsoring a bowling outing at Noon on Sunday, April 19, at the Bellevue Bowl in Atwater. Parish youth will enjoy free admission...the cost for adults is \$4.25. Folks can carpool to the Bellevue Bowl after Coffee Hour. Cheryl Waite is spearheading this project.

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.

Up-Coming Events

HOLY WEEK

- March 29 The Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.
- April 1 Wednesday in Holy Week
10 a.m. Bible Study: "The Seven Last Words from the Cross"
5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer in the church
5:30 p.m. Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study: "The Seven Last Words from the Cross"
- April 2 Maundy Thursday Liturgy and Stripping of the Altar @ 6:00 p.m.
The day on which the church remembers Christ's institution of the Eucharist.
- April 3 Good Friday Liturgy @ Noon and 6:00 p.m.
Bring the nail you received at the Palm Sunday service.

First Friday Family Fellowship will not meet in April. See you next month at the Parry's.

- April 4 Holy Saturday Liturgy @10:00 a.m.
The Altar Guild and friends decorate the church for the Vigil.

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

- April 4 Easter Eve – The Great Vigil of Easter @ 8:00 p.m.
This is the principal service of Easter. Bring a bell to ring during the service.



- April 5 Easter Day – Choral Eucharist, Rite 2 @ 9:00 a.m.
Bring a bell to ring during the service. Easter Egg Hunt for the children @ 11:00 a.m.

10th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. Luke's

When: April 5th at 11 a.m.

Who: The children of St. Luke's and their friends and family, ages 0-12

Enjoy: Special refreshments, a visit from the Easter Bunny with photos, and a drawing for a "Furry Friend" —must be present to win.

Help Needed: Provide filled, plastic Easter Eggs.

Refreshments—see sign-up in Norvell Hall

If you can help or need information, contact Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert, phone 722-4782 or email: Luke22936@aol.com

- April 12 We will bless the civil union of Art and Eileen Smith during our 9 a.m. service.
They will provide some special "goodies" at the Coffee Hour.
- April 14 Men's Night Out @ 6:00 p.m.
Hosted by Jim Hill, 2419 Koehn CT, Atwater
Respond to Jim at 209 357-0782
- April 18 Love Merced – Meet at Applegate Park at 9 a.m.
- April 22 St Mark the Evangelist (tr.)
We will celebrate this Holy Day during our Evening Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m.
- April 26 Mr. Phil Schmauss, from the Merced County Rescue Mission, will share with us how we can participate in this important ministry.

April 18 – Love Merced

‘Demonstrating kindness...meeting needs...impacting lives with the love of Jesus’

Meet at Applegate Park at 9 a.m.

You are likely familiar with Love Merced, an event that brings the Christian community together to clean up our city twice a year. Each event has drawn more people, who, in addition to loving on Merced, have had the great opportunity to work alongside our neighbors, showing support for our community while being the hands and feet of Christ.

More information and a list of projects may be found at www.lovemerced.com.

Pantry News!

Often, folks tell me that they don't mean to but that they forget about bringing food to the Pantry. We are all busy and this is quite normal for anyone. So, be kind to yourselves! Perhaps, while you read this, you might "plant the Pantry needs in your heart" in hopes that it will become part of your commitment to St. Luke's. We are fine with cereal but are really in need of spaghetti and red sauce, soups and crackers, tuna and canned meats, canned corn beef, Hamburger or Tuna Helper, canned fruits and vegetables or other food items that you think someone would like. Please, remember Fr. Ron's Discretionary fund that is used to buy fresh food that goes along with the food items, and Ann Bean's recycle items that go into the red bucket in the kitchen.

Together, let's commit to keeping the Pantry alive and well. Blessings to you and yours and to those in need.

Save the Date! Friday, May 8
Merced County Rescue Mission
Requests the honor of your presence
“Helping us through the Summer Drought”
To Be Held
Friday, May 8th
Doors Open at 5 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m.
At
Gateway Community Church
353 E. Donna Drive, Merced
Tickets are \$35 per person.



Easter Flowers

Please clip this coupon and turn into the Office before April 2nd if you would like to donate to the decorating of the Altar for the Easter services. Please attach your check and make them payable to St. Luke’s Church (Easter Flowers on the memo line). Thanks. *[You may also call the office and let Patti know your intentions.]*

Please indicate the celebration, thanksgiving or memorial message you desire and return to the Church Office.

in celebration of _____ or,

in thanksgiving for _____ or,

in loving memory of _____

By: _____

Please give your name(s) as you want it to appear in the bulletin.

Thank You Notes

Dear Fr. Ron and Friends at St. Luke's:

March 17, 2015

What a delightful time I had with you on March 8th! I was blessed by my time with you for worship and in the fellowship afterwards.

After meeting with the Vestry/Search Committee I continue to be excited about the future and am praying daily for the next Rector of St. Luke's.

This week I was blown away by your generosity in giving to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund - \$1,170.00!!! I assure you that those funds will be used to the Glory of God in assisting our clergy, seminarians and their families!

May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and grant you peace! (Numbers 6)

Your Servant and Bishop

+Eric

The Rt. Rev. Eric Menees

Dear Father Ron

February 27, 2015

During the days that followed your service, I passed to and fro along Yosemite Ave. Traversing between our home in Atwater and the Hospital caring for my wife as she was recovering from pneumonia. Constantly wishing I had the time for a visit to tell you what a pleasure it was to share with your congregation the work that God is doing through the Gideon Ministry. Your congregation's generous donation of \$358.77 will place 72 Hotel/Motel Bibles or 266 New Testaments. Remember what a single copy of God's Word can accomplish by being in the right place at the right time. God can accomplish much when His people desire to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout their community, the nation and the world. We solicit your prayers as we continue assisting you toward that goal.

May God continue to bless your congregation as you support this work. May you continue to be a lighthouse for the Gospel of Christ in your community. Thanks again for the privilege and blessing of being a part of your service to share God's wondrous work.

Yours in Christ,
Grady Williams
Merced Camp, Gideons International

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

So many of you were indeed faithful servants who stepped up to the plate to help with the significant transportation needs of our family during the final days of our stepdad, Dave Wenrich. Being in assisted living, Mom's care and transportation needs are extraordinary, and there were so many of you right there to help us out. We can't thank you enough! St. Luke's is a precious family and a shining example of what life in the Lord's fellowship is all about. Fr. Ron and Linda, thank you, too, for your loving support throughout that challenging time. Father Ron, your homily at the memorial service was absolutely beautiful and spoke to many hearts. Bless you.

You all knew Dave to be an incredibly sweet-natured, kind and gentle man. I believe Jesus' promise that the next life is glorious beyond what we could ever imagine, and we all rejoice that Dave is reveling in that glory!

Love and blessings,
Patrice Nelson (with appreciation also from Curtis and Lorraine)

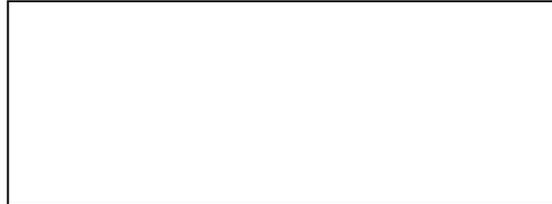
Thank you Sisters in Service Team B for your faithful service this past quarter.
Welcome Sisters in Service Team C and your Team Leaders, Maggie Mayo, Molly Hart, and Karlyne Paul.

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

Weekly Services

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion [Children's Church meets during the Service]
11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study after Coffee Hour

Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer/Healing Service

Church Staff

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach, Archbishop, Anglican Church in North America
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Eric Vawter Menees, Bishop
The Very Rev. Ron Parry, Rector (Home: 385-0677), 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 2015
Mr. Max Dalrymple, Jr. Warden
Mrs. Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert
Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Treasurer

Class of 2016
Mrs. Sylvia Bankson
Mr. Richard Blank
Mr. Fred Dutton
Mrs. Linda Cometta, Clerk

Class of 2017
Mrs. Linda Meyer, Sr. Warden
Mr. Frank Reed
Mr. Mike Waite

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Mrs. Sylvia Bankson, Mr. Juan Laurel, Sr., Mrs. Carolyn Reed; Mr. Max Dalrymple, Alternate