



HARK! THE HERALD

The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA

August 2016



From the Pastor's Desk

By now, all of you have likely heard the news that our long legal struggle is over. It did not end the way we hoped, or the way we believe would have been just. However, after nearly a decade of legal limbo, we are able to move on and begin the next season for St. Luke's. We have lost our land and buildings, which is a very costly price to pay. However, we believe that we simply followed Jesus and His Word. Whatever cost we pay for that is worthwhile. Scripture tells us that we won't always have riches on Earth, and that sometimes we will even suffer pain and persecution for following Jesus. Even now, there are Christians who are losing their lives, their freedom, and all their possessions as the cost of following Jesus in other countries. Here, we have lost a building.

I don't mean to minimize the personal loss, as we grieve. Many of you have moved out of homes that were filled with family memories. You remember, for example, raising children in a house that is not your own anymore. The loss of a building can be a painful process, and it can even feel like you are losing all the memories connected with that place. However, the value of a building, whether it is a home or a church building, is in the ongoing story it helps you create. You do not have to stay in the same house for the rest of your life to remember raising your children. More importantly, you can love your adult children now, because you raised them in that house back then. Similarly, our wonderful church building helped us live as God's family here in Merced. Some of you were spiritually raised at this address on Yosemite Ave, and some of you raised children here (both "your own" and other dear boys and girls who you helped raise in the faith over decades).

None of that ends because we lost the property. The story of St. Luke's Anglican church started long before we moved to Yosemite Ave, and it will continue long after. We will continue to love and support each other as God's people. We will continue to offer God's salvation to those in our community. We will continue to raise and support followers of Jesus Christ, seeking that everyone at St. Luke's continually grows in the love and knowledge of God. We will continue to be present for each other in the difficulty, grief, and challenges of life and death.

We do not know all the details of what that will look like. Our current estimate is that we have 6 months to a year to move, which gives us time to plan well. We also have options already in place so that we can move and continue as a church anytime we need to change. At this

time, we are waiting to hear the details of what property we will be able to bring with us, and what we have to leave behind. Please be patient and prayerful as we wait for all those details.

I am asking that every member of St. Luke's pray daily for this transition.

Please pray for the following:

- For courage and encouragement for every member of St. Luke's, as we face the challenges and opportunities of change
- For wisdom and discernment for the vestry and for me, as we make decisions about the future
- For good and healthy grieving over the loss of the property, including treasuring our memories here
- For God to use this transition for His glory and for the growth of St. Luke's; that we would deepen our faith through this struggle, become closer to each other by sharing this ordeal, and use our new beginning to reach new people in Merced.

Tote Bag Project

Thanks to everyone who purchased the bags! This is a great and simple way to carry your personal belongings or shopping as you travel around the community; a good conversation piece too! We have sold 25 bags, but have more. See Nancy Wickstrom during the



New Time

Just a reminder that First Friday Family Fellowship time has changed to 6—8 pm.

Choir now meets at 7:00 pm.



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.

Currently on Summer Break.

Church Growth Commission

Saturday, August 13, 2016 - 10:00am in the Hunt Room. Please join us, even if you cannot commit to every month on the second Saturday.

Up-Coming Events

AUG 5 – First Friday Family Fellowship 6—8 pm @ the Causa's 610 El Portal, Merced
Bring an appetizer and drink.
Ada 383-1431

AUG 7—Sisters of Prayer
10:30 am

AUG 13 —Growth Commission 10 am

AUG 9 —Men's Night Out:
Hosting an all church social for August!
6—8 pm Norvell Hall

AUG 10— Choir meets at
7:00 pm

AUG 18—Vestry Meeting
5:30 pm

Pantry News

Please remember donating to the pantry either with non-perishable items or else with money in an envelope marked "Pantry fund." We are counting on each of you during these vacation months. Blessings!



BOWLING PARTY



We will meet at the Bellevue Bowl in Atwater after Church on Sunday, August 28th. We need 15 players for the group rate.

Cost of two games for ages 17 and under is \$7.50, 18 and over is \$8.50. This price includes shoes. There will be financial help for our youth, 17 and under.

Feel free to join us on August 28th, even if you just want to be a cheerleader. There will be a sign-up sheet in Norvell Hall with an envelope for bowling fees. Checks should be made payable to St. Luke's. INVITE your friends and family.

Call Shirley for more information at 722-4782.

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.

Coffee Hour Ministry

AUG 7 Karlyne Paul, Victoria Schuller,
Nancy Tapia

AUG 14 Susan Souza, Kathy Hill, Nancy Wickstrom

AUG 21 Jani Clarke, Sue Dutton, Sylvia Bankson

AUG 28 Lee Ann Mercurio, Wanda Pehl,
Darby Minturn



Love I.N.C. 's Annual Back to School Event

HELP BOYS AND GIRLS K-12 IN NEED OF BACKPACKS *and* the following SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

** Backpacks (K-12)*

** Crayons * Broad-Tip Markers * Notebooks * Pens/Pencils **

*Binders/Paper * Pocket Folders * Loose Leaf Paper * Rulers **

*Glue Sticks * Pencil Crayons * Highlighters * Red Pens **

*Pink Erasers * Mini-staplers*

Love INC will be receiving donations through **AUGUST 15th** at:

HOFFMEISTER CENTER (CPC)

1920 CANAL ST. MERCED, CA 95340

Drop-Off Supplies (9-4pm, M-Thurs)

FOR QUESTIONS CALL (209) 383-7034 or

Send us a Facebook message: LoveINCMerced



Bringing Christmas to 3000 Women

Thank you to those bringing articles for women in the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla. We have until the first week of December. There is a flyer in Norvell Hall and the Narthex explaining the entire program. Call Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert if you have more questions.

Anglican 4th Day

St. Luke's has donated \$1,000 to Anglican 4th Day in the month of June.

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

Members of the Vestry

Class of 2016

Mrs. Sylvia Bankson, Mr. Richard Blank, Mr. Fred Dutton

Class of 2017

Mrs. Linda Meyer, Sr. Warden; Mr. Mike Waite, Jr. Warden; Mr. Rob Mercurio

Class of 2018

Mr. Ed Gardner, Mrs. Kathy Hill, Mrs. Maria Laurel

Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Treasurer; Mr. Jim Hill, Clerk

Diocesan Convention Delegates

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

Contact Us

St. Luke's Anglican Church

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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

A Welcoming Family...Worshipping Christ...Sharing His love with others

St. Luke's Anglican Church

350 W. Yosemite Ave.

Merced, CA 95348

Address Service Requested

PLACE
STAMP
HERE