

Hark! The Herald

Volume 21 Number 8 The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA August, 2015
A Welcoming Family...Worshipping Christ...Sharing His love with others.
Serving Jesus Christ since 1879

“St. Luke’s Anglican Church: A welcoming family, worshiping Christ and sharing his love with others.”
Greetings from the Senior Warden

My dear St. Luke’s Family,

After four weeks visiting our youngest child & three grandchildren in Pennsylvania, it is so wonderful to return to St. Luke’s and see our church family. We missed you! You are ALL so special to John & I ...and we were especially happy to see Ann Bean in her usual pew seat.

The Vestry and Calling Committee have now completed the first interviews (via Skype) from our six pastor applicants. We are beginning our advanced interviews. The Bishop has asked us to pray, pray & pray and listen to the name God is putting in our hearts. Please pray we hear God’s voice.

Angels have been on my heart for the past several weeks, don’t know why but they have kept reminding me that God sometimes uses us regular folks for angel work. AND this reminded me of a true story I want to share, written by a Metro Denver Hospice Physician.

“I was driving home from a meeting this evening about 5, stuck in traffic on Colorado Blvd. and the car started to choke, sputter and die – I barely managed to coast into a gas station, glad only that I would not be blocking traffic and have a somewhat warm spot to wait for the tow truck. It wouldn’t even turn over. Before I could make the tow truck call, I saw a woman walking out of the quickie mart building, & it looked like she slipped on some ice & fell into a gas pump, so I got out to see if she was okay.

When I got there, it looked more like she had been overcome by sobs than that she had fallen; she was a young woman who looked really haggard with dark circles under her eyes. She dropped something as I helped her up, & I picked it up to give it to her.

It was a nickel.

At that moment, everything came into focus for me: the crying woman, the ancient Suburban crammed full of stuff with 3 kids in the back (1 in a car seat), and the gas pump reading \$4.95.

I asked her if she was okay & if she needed help, and she just kept saying ‘I don’t want my kids to see me crying,’ so we stood on the other side of the pump from her car. She said she was driving to California & that things were very hard for her right now. So I asked, ‘And you were praying?’

That made her back away from me a little, but I assured her I was not a crazy person & said, ‘He heard you, & He sent me’.

I took out my credit card & swiped it through the card reader on the pump so she could fill up her car completely, & while it was fueling, walked to the next door McDonald’s & bought 2 big bags of food, some gift certificates for more, & a big cup of coffee.....She told me her name & that she lived in Kansas City.

Her boyfriend had left 2 months ago & she had not been able to make ends meet. She knew she wouldn't have money to pay rent Jan 1, & finally, in desperation, had called her parents, with whom she had not spoken in about 5 years. They lived in California & said she could come live with them & try to get on her feet there.

I gave her my gloves, a little hug & said a quick prayer with her for safety on the road. As I was walking over to my car, she said, 'so, are you like an angel or something?' This definitely made me cry. I said, 'Sweetie, at this time of year angels are really busy, so sometimes God uses regular people'.

.....And of course, you guessed it, when I got in my car it started right away & got me home with no problem.

Sometimes the angels fly close enough to you that you can hear the flutter of their wings...." (They come in all shapes, sizes and colors)

Psalms 55:22 "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." NIV

My prayers are with each and every one of you.

Linda Meyer
Senior Warden



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.

Children's Church will take a hiatus during the summer months.



Pantry News

Hello. Hope you are enjoying these warm days of summer. In spite of it being a time for vacations, many families cannot take a vacation from being in need. Here are items we could use in the Pantry: canned fish such as tuna, cans of hash or spam, spaghetti and tomato sauce, and crackers to go with the soups that are already there. Have a bag for the recycle bin? Just leave it off in the kitchen in the usual place. If you prefer to donate cash, there is an account in place for Pantry needs. Simply place the check or money in an envelope marked Pantry Fund and put it in the Offertory plate. As always, without your help, we can't be there for families who look to us to supply them with food.

Blessings on each of you and your loved ones,
Monica

Church Growth Commission

What is the “Church Growth Commission” at St. Luke’s? It is part of a five year plan for Congregational Growth and Development, adopted by the Vestry on November 15, 2012 and revised by the Vestry on November 20, 2014. A group of parishioners have been meeting once a month since January 2015 for discussion, brainstorming and planning. Reports of our meeting are always posted on the bulletin board in Norvell Hall. Presently we are taking a short break for the summer and will meet again in September. Hopefully, other parishioners will decide to join us at that time. Our meetings are short, productive and active! Talk to Shirley or Max if you want to join us or want information.

Blessings,
Shirley



Change a Life Campaign

The Love INC *Change a Life* cubes are back! Help others change their lives with your spare change. Your support will benefit participants from the Love Plus life skills education and mentoring program, AND help families in need with transitional services. The instructions are inside the cube and you can pick up one of the purple cubes on Sunday in the month of August. Or you may call Love INC at (209) 383-7034. This campaign lasts through the month of September.

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

August 5 – The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ (tr.)

We will celebrate this major Holy Day with Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. The Book of Common Prayer, p. 243

August 7 – First Friday Family Fellowship @ 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Andy & Ada Causa,
610 El Portal, Merced

Bring your favorite appetizer and beverage.

Please let them know if you are coming.

Call 383-1431

August 11 – Men's Night Out @ 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Richard Blank and Ray Fitchett
119 W. 27th Street, Merced

Please call Ray at 723-2358 and let him know if you are coming.

August 12 – St. Mary the Virgin (tr.)

We will celebrate this major Holy Day with Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

O God, you have taken to yourself the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of your incarnate Son: Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. The Book of Common Prayer, p. 243

August 26 – St. Bartholomew the Apostle (tr.)

We will celebrate this major Holy Day with Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your Word: Grant that your Church may love what he believed and preach what he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. The Book of Common Prayer, p. 243



Love INC

Back to School Supplies Needed Through the Month of August

Help boys and girls K – 12 in need of backpacks and school supplies. Every donation counts!

*Backpacks (K – 12) *Crayons *Notebooks *Pens/Pencils *Binders/Paper

Love INC will be receiving donations through the month of August in order to distribute supplies at their Back-To-School Workshop on September 5, 2015. *Please drop off your donations at Central Presbyterian Church, 1920 Canal St., Merced from 9 – 5 p.m.* Questions? Call (209) 383-7034

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Address Service Requested

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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

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
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 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