



# HARK! THE HERALD

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

November 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

This year we celebrate our first Advent and Christmas in our new church building. It is a beautiful building that is becoming more and more of a home to us. As with any change, however, we will be learning to live in our new space. We will seek to honor our treasured family traditions, while also trying new ways of celebration. Many of you have already experienced this in your family. Juliet and I are continuing to navigate this in our second year of holidays. We are learning to join the traditions of each other's families, while also slowly creating our own as a new family. We are also having an experience many of you know well. Having moved into our first home, we are learning to celebrate the holidays in a new space. Suddenly, there are new options for Christmas decorations and hosting dinners and having guests.

At St. Luke's, we will be maintaining traditions, while also trying some new things in our new space. First Friday is a beloved tradition in our church. It has long been one of the favorite fellowship times in our church, and is an even more important priority as we have less space for fellowship at the church. This December, the Vaughn-Hulbert's are seeking to make First Friday a special holiday celebration. You can read the details in Shirley's announcement later in this issue. I encourage you to come, even if you don't usually attend. For this month, please bring the whole family. We would love to celebrate with the children of our church.

I have also been considering, praying about, and asking for lots of input about our Christmas services. Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We thought about having a Sunday morning service, a Sunday afternoon service, a Sunday evening service, or a Christmas morning (Monday) service. I decided that two

services were the most we could offer without overly burdening our team of choir and altar and acolytes and ushers and all the rest. I also didn't want to divide up the church into too many services, so that those who could only attend one service wouldn't feel like they missed seeing their church family. I wanted us to offer two services that people could attend while still feeling like they had time to spend with family and friends on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

So, we are going to try something different this year, but it will also be a return to a tradition that many of you told me you love and miss. We are going to offer our final advent service on December 24 at the usual time (10 am, Sunday morning), then we are going to have our Christmas service at 10:30 pm on Christmas Eve, ending at midnight. It will be a beautiful, traditional service with eucharist ("keep the Mass in Christmas!"). We will sing many Christmas carols together. The church will be decorated beautifully so that the space is both celebratory and contemplative.

Yes, it will be late. I wondered if families would come with children, until many of you told me that coming to "Midnight Mass" on Christmas was one of the favorite memories of your childhood. I wondered about those who drive at night, but my hope is that for Christmas, we can arrange rides for all those who need them. I wondered if all of us would get a little sleepy. However, Christmas Eve becoming Christmas Day is a magical time, and it is a moment we should celebrate in a way that is unique from every other occasion throughout the year. Make a special memory for your children. Take a nap on Christmas Eve afternoon. Celebrate with a wonderful dinner with the family or friends first. Then, bring them to join us on Christmas Eve. Sing with us and worship alongside us, until we can say together, "Merry Christmas."

Blessings,

Fr. Ryan

## Up-Coming Events

**Dec 1**— First Friday 6-8 pm @  
the Vaughn-Hulbert's  
317 W. Alexander Ave., Merced  
RSVP 722-4782

**Dec 12**—Men's Night Out 6-8  
pm in the conference  
room

**Dec 21** —Vestry 5:30 pm

**Dec 22—26** Patti on Vacation  
Office Closed

**Jan 5**—First Friday

## Tote Bags

St. Luke's tote bags are  
available for \$10 each.  
Contact Nancy 384-8034,  
nanmausmith@gmail.com



See Cheryl Mayo  
to coordinate  
bringing food for  
coffee hour.

## Advent services

Sunday, December 3 10 am

Sunday, December 10 10 am

Sunday, December 17 10 am

Sunday, December 24 10 am

### ***Traditional Christmas Mass***

Sunday, December 24 10:30 pm

### ***Christmas Season Service***

Sunday, December 31 10 am

### ***Epiphany Service***

Sunday, January 7 10 am

## First FRIDAY

**December 1st**

The Vaughn-Hulbert's home at 317 West Alexander Ave., Merced 6:00—8:00 PM

This is a great time to welcome new friends to St. Luke's.

Youth Welcome! Enjoy Christmas Carol singing with Mady.

Need a Ride? Make arrangements or call Shirley & Norm to help out.

Bring your favorite finger food and a favorite

beverage. Desserts, lemonade, water and coffee will be provided.

RSVP to Shirley or Norm at 722-4782 or email: Luke22936@aol.com

YOUR HOSTS: Shirley & Norm Vaughn-Hulbert and Judy & Howard Smith

## **New Candles**

There are now electronic candles at the back of the church. If you wish to light a candle for a loved one, please do so before the service. After worship, please turn them off using the switch on the bottom of the candle. We cannot use real candles because of fire concerns. Cheryl Waite or Sylvia Bankson will be available if you have any questions.

## **Annual Holiday Gift Bag Project**

*Bringing Christmas to women in the Central California Women's Facility*

Central Valley Women's Facility. There is still time to donate needed items for women in the CVWF. Correspondence and personal hygiene items, together with donations of money for additional needs and required packaging, will be appreciated. Checks should be made

payable to Wesley Methodist Church with "Prison Gift Bags" on the memo line. See Shirley or leave with Patti in the office. Also, items can be taken to First Friday on December 1st. Deadline DECEMBER 3rd.

Many THANKS to friends and parishioners who have donated to this special project!!!

There is still time to bring items for the Holiday Gift Project for the women at the Central California Women's Facility.

## **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County will be having a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to open their ReStore at 1230 Broadway Avenue in Atwater (the former Passadori's store) on Saturday, December 2nd at 10 AM. This is a project they have been working on for years and will be an asset to Merced County residents.

**Weekly Services**  
Sundays  
10:00 am Holy Communion

**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](mailto:rector@stlukesmerced.org)  
Mrs. Mady Montague, Choir Director; Mrs. Marian McFarland, Organist  
Mrs. Patti McClain, Administrative Assistant

**Members of the Vestry**  
Class of 2017  
Mr. Mike Waite, Sr. Warden; Mr. Rob Mercurio; Max Dalrymple, Jr. Warden  
Class of 2018  
Mr. Ed Gardner, Mrs. Kathy Hill, Darby Minturn  
Class of 2019  
Mrs. Cheryl Mayo, Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Treasurer; Mrs. Victoria Schuller  
Mrs. Nancy Tapia, Clerk

**Diocesan Convention Delegates**  
Karlyne Paul, Mike Waite; Richard Blank, Kathy Hill, Sylvia Bankson alternates.

## Contact Us

St. Luke's Anglican Church

Office Business Hours:  
M - Th 8 am - 2 pm  
Friday 8 am—Noon

Phone: (209) 383-1888

Web site:  
[www.stlukesmerced.org](http://www.stlukesmerced.org)

E-mail:  
[office@stlukesmerced.org](mailto:office@stlukesmerced.org)

ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR  
*HARK! THE HERALD* IS THE  
20<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH.

Send articles to:  
[office@stlukesmerced.org](mailto:office@stlukesmerced.org)

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

**St. Luke's Anglican Church**  
435 W. 21st Street  
Merced, CA 95340

Address Service Requested

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