



HARK! THE HERALD

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

June 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

Over the past year and half, I have enjoyed leading the Lenten studies, Bible studies, and Sunday classes at St. Luke's. I have also heard feedback from many of you that you would like more opportunities both to learn and to spend time with others from our church. This fall, we will begin a new ministry that I think will be a wonderful addition to St. Luke's, meeting those desires and several others. I am writing to you about them now because I hope you will take some time to think and pray about joining and possibly offering to help in one of our needed roles.

Our new "life groups" ministry is modeled on a ministry that has been a wonderful addition to our sister churches in Bakersfield (Trinity) and Oakdale (St. Matthias). At Trinity, these groups have become central to the life of their church, with almost everyone at the church participating. St. Matthias began more recently, but they are seeing similar commitment grow. My hope is that we will reach the same place at St. Luke's, with these groups becoming central to our life together. I would like to see us reach a point where everyone belongs to one of these groups.

What will this look like?

Several times a year, we will have groups meeting for about 8 weeks at time. This allows members to make a specific commitment, and you can re-join the same group or try another one in the future. Groups can meet at different times, hosted by different people. That means that we can have daytime and evening groups. Each group has the opportunity to share, pray, and eat together. However, the primary activity is a "sermon-based" discussion. In many Bible studies and book groups, the greatest difficulty is getting people to prepare for the meeting, and you often have a mixture of people who have done the reading and those who have not. In these groups, being in church on Sunday, listening to the readings and the sermon, is your preparation. You will receive questions and topics based on the sermon and readings, which will allow you to think through the Bible readings and respond to them. The focus will be on under-

standing and applying the Bible together. If you have to miss church one week, you can catch up by listening to the sermon online.

People who have participated in these groups not only learn from the study, but they often become more engaged in church on Sunday. Knowing that you are going to discuss the readings makes listening to them more fun. Talking with others about how to apply what you learned turns the sermon into the start of responding to God's word, rather than the end!

Meeting in these groups also allows us to share life together, supporting and listening to each other. It means that a group will be praying for you regularly. Even in a church committed to being a family, like ours, it is easy for us to miss needs and major events in each other's lives. Meeting together in smaller groups helps us look out for each other.

My hope is that we will begin with a few groups in the fall, with at least one in the daytime and one at night. Each group needs a host, as meeting in homes helps create a welcoming atmosphere. Each group also needs a facilitator. These are not teachers who do all the talking. Rather, they are people who lead the discussion by helping everyone participate. I will provide all the material for questions, support the facilitators and hosts, and visit each group regularly.

I will give you more information as we get nearer to beginning. For now, please think and pray about joining, and possibly offering to host or facilitate a group.

Love INC Back-to-School Drive

Love In the Name of Christ is holding its annual back-to-school backpack & supply drive through August 5th. Supplies may be dropped off Monday through Thursday from 9—4 pm at Central Presbyterian Church, 1920 Canal Street in Merced. They are collecting boys and girls supplies for grades K –12. (See their flyer in this newsletter.) For more information you may contact Love INC at 383-1265 or email reception@loveincmerced.com. Please take your supplies to Central Presbyterian no later than August 5th by 4 pm.

First
FRIDAY **July 7th** Location to be announced. Bring an appetizer and your beverage.

Up-Coming Events

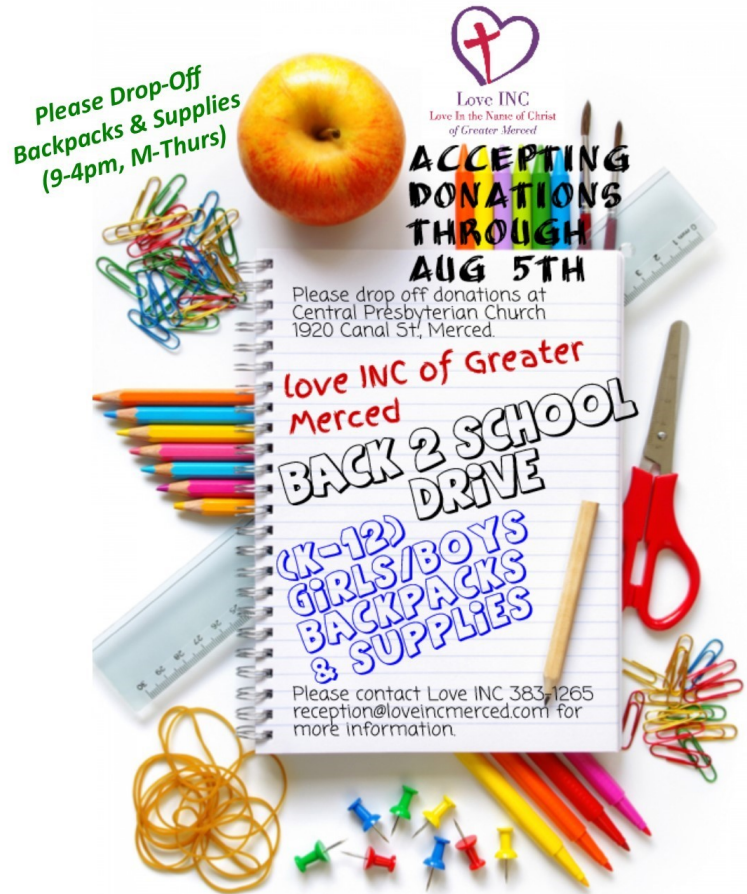
- JUL 4**— Independence Day
Office Closed
- JUL 7**—First Friday 6-8 pm @
- JUL 8**—Growth Commission
meets @ 10 am in the
Conference Rm
- JUL 11**—Men's Night Out
6-8 pm TBA
- JUL 12—16**
Fr. Ryan on Vacation
- JUL 18—21**
Fr. Ryan Continuing
Education Days
- JUL 27**—Vestry 5:30 pm

Tote Bags

We have St. Luke's tote bags in stock. See, call or email Nancy Wickstrom at 384-8034, nanmau29@gmail.com



See Cheryl Mayo to coordinate bringing food for coffee hour.



**Donation receipts available upon request **

Happy 4th of July

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:36

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
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, Mrs. Linda Meyer
Class of 2018
Mr. Ed Gardner, Mrs. Kathy Hill
Class of 2019
Mrs. Cheryl Mayo, Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Treasurer; Mrs. Victoria Schuller
Ms. Darby Minturn, Clerk

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

Contact Us

St. Luke's Anglican Church

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M - Th 8 am - 2 pm
Friday 8 am—Noon

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

Send articles to:
office@stlukesmerced.org

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

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Merced, CA 95340

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