

Hark! The Herald

Volume 21 Number 7 The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA July, 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."

Farewell Address

Sermon given on June 28, 2015

Our dear family in Christ,

In my first sermon, eighteen years ago, I shared with you that we were beginning a new dance and that while each of us knew how to dance we were going to have to learn how to dance together. Learning to dance together meant that we would have to get to know each other, learn each other's strengths and weaknesses, learn to forgive each other when we stepped on each other's toes, learn to trust each other, and learn to listen to the One who was playing the music.

For eighteen years we have been dancing together and the dance we are doing now is not the dance we were doing then because we are not the same people. Together we have grown spiritually as we have submitted ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Linda and I have thanked God for you every day for the past eighteen years. Wherever we go we boast of your love for Christ and for one another, of your loving, caring, gracious spirit, of your faithfulness in prayer, of your generosity in the giving of your hearts, your time, your abilities, and your monies in His service. You are precious to us, and we will never forget you. We love you so much!

We have never ceased to pray for you. In January of 1997, when Rob Glasgow called informing me of your decision my daily prayer has been, "Father, draw us closer to you and to one another." Our Father has been answering this prayer. Through all the challenges we've faced, you've kept Christ preeminent, and you've grown in your love for him and your willingness to be discipled. You've become a family, a family who welcomes others to our services, a family who cares about each other, and a family who also cares about the needs of those beyond our parish walls.

I've prayed that God would give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, so that you might gain a deeper understanding of his purposes; that you would live lives that honor our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, so that he would be proud of you as you work hard for him; that as you learn more and more about how God works, you would learn how to do the work he has given you to do, that you would be inwardly strengthened by His Holy Spirit so that you might endure with joy the sufferings of a disciple of Christ.

Each day I've prayed Psalm 69:6-7 for myself:

*O God, you know my foolishness, and my faults are not hidden from you.
Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, Lord God of hosts;
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me, O God of Israel.*

And where we have failed in this, we ask your forgiveness.

Finally, my dear brothers and sisters, while our dancing together is coming to an end, the dance will continue...just with a new partner. I am confident that the Lord of the dance will continue to watch over you, that he will continue to preserve, protect and defend you, that he will continue to draw you closer to himself and to one another, so that when your new dance partner arrives your hearts will be so knit together that your next dance will exceed anything that has gone before.

The chorus from the 1963 hymn, The Lord of the Dance, has been going through my head this morning.

Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

And so my brothers and sisters, as I have said nearly every Sunday for the past eighteen years, "May you continue to walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God."

With much love and affection,

Fr. Ron and Linda

Thank You...Thank You

Dear Friends,

Linda and I were so overwhelmed by the Retirement/Farewell Party you gave us on June 20th. Our thanks go out to all who had a part in the planning, preparation, and carrying out of the party...it was awesome! We appreciate so very much the cross, the Memory Book, and the generous monetary gift. Thank you so very much. You are dear to us, and forever will be.

May God richly bless you always,

Fr. Ron and Linda

Calling Committee Report

Dear St. Luke's Family,

The Calling Committee is now well on its way towards calling the next rector of St. Luke's. We have received five applications from Bishop Eric, and will begin interviews with the candidates shortly. Our reception of applications closes on July 23 2015 so we will still be open to applications till at least that date. The Bishop also informed he received a total of twelve applications for rector of St. Luke's.

All the applicants have been vetted by Bishop Eric and have good references. Our plan is to first interview the five candidates by skype, then if no other applications have come in, the Vestry will pick the final two (or possibly three) candidates for face to face interviews and decide who will be the next rector of St. Luke's.

I'm asking all parishioners to commit yourselves to earnest prayer & fasting for the Vestry of St. Luke's especially, as the church bylaws places the responsibility on them to call the next rector of St. Luke's.

As it is obvious by now we will not have a Rector in place on July 1 2015 so Bishop Eric has scheduled priests to come and celebrate Mass Sunday mornings. Father Tom Foster of Modesto, will be the celebrant on most Sundays so we thank him and welcome him to St. Luke's!

If anyone has any question or concern about our search process please do call on me or the calling committee/vestry.

Thank you all,

Juan Laurel

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

During May, we received more generous donations. Thank you so very much. This month our biggest need is for dinner such as canned stews or Hamburger Helper-type of boxed meal.

Have a happy 4th of July. God Bless America and you as well as those in need.

Church Growth Commission

The St. Luke's Church Growth Commission will meet Saturday, July 18th, 2015 at 10:00 am in the Emma Hunt Room. We enjoy discussion, brainstorming and fellowship. An overview of input, action and suggestions can always be seen on the Bulletin Board in Norvell Hall. See Shirley or Max if you would like to join us! We meet ONLY for an hour once a month.

Blessings,
Shirley

Thank You

Dear St. Luke's Family for all you do...Thank You.

A prayer to thank you. May God whose love is everywhere bless you every day.

Thank you for the very special House Blessing and cards. We were so happy you could come and join us. You are wonderful friends.

Our Love and prayers,

Fred and Susie Dutton

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

July 1 – Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Apostles (tr.)

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

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdom: Grant that your Church, instructed by their teaching and example, and knit together in unity by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, which is Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

July 3 – First Friday Family Fellowship @ 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Jack and Jani Clarke,

1286 Avignon Dr., Merced

Bring your favorite appetizer and beverage.

Please let them know if you are coming.

Call 349-8346 or email janiclarke@att.net

July 4 – Independence Day

We will celebrate this holiday with Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; 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. 242*

July 14 – Men’s Night Out @ 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Andy Causa, 610 El Portal, Merced.

Please call Andy at 383-1431 to let him know if you are coming.

July 22 – Saint Mary Magdalene (tr.)

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

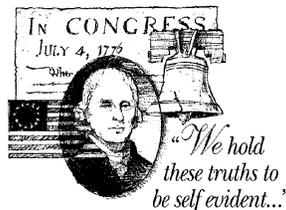
Almighty God, whose blessed Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and mind, and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: Mercifully grant that by your grace we may be healed from all our infirmities and know you in the power of his unending life; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen. The Book of Common Prayer, p. 242*

July 29 – Saint James, the Apostle (tr.)

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

O gracious God, we remember before you today your servant and apostle James, first among the Twelve to suffer martyrdom for the Name of Jesus Christ; and we pray that you will pour out upon the leaders of your Church that spirit of self-denying service by which alone they may have true authority among your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen. The Book of Common Prayer, p. 242*

Happy birthday America!



“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

It is good to be reminded that our rights are divine endowments from our Creator (not from any government or court) and that governments are creations of the people whose intended purpose is to preserve and protect these rights.

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

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