



HARK! THE HERALD

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

March 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

Give up, give to God, and give to those in need.

Give up:

Are there things you know you should remove from your life? Perhaps there is a sin that has been weighing on your conscience. Perhaps it is something less serious, but still a distraction from God and the life He desires for you. Lent, particularly as we begin the season, is an excellent time to take inventory of your life and soul, giving up those things that weigh you down in your following of Jesus.

However, we traditionally give up a little more than this in lent. We engage in some form of fasting, which is when we reduce or remove a good thing from our lives for a temporary period as a spiritual discipline. The act of giving up a good thing reminds us that we do not have to give-in to every desire we have, while also directing our attention to God and our reliance on Him. Many choose to give up some foods throughout lent or all eating for a day or part of a day each week. Another choice could include giving up television or a similar activity. Every Sunday is a feast day, celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, so we never fast on Sundays (which is why Sundays are not included in the 40 days of lent).

Give to God:

As we set aside things in lent, we also free up and dedicate time to God. Lent is traditionally a time to spend a little more time in prayer, reading the Bible, and practicing other spiritual exercises. If you do not already practice morning and evening prayer, this would be an excellent habit to practice in lent. However, you can also be creative in what you take on during lent. Perhaps you could take a walk each evening, and pray for your neighbors as you pass each house. Maybe when you drink your coffee in the morning, you could make it a practice to talk to God about whatever is on your mind (no matter how small the topic seems to you), in order to become a person who shares you life more intimately with God. If you have children at home or are married, you might decide together to spend at least part of your conversation each night talking about God, such as asking each person to describe one thing worth thanking God about for the day or one way in which they learned about God.

Give to those in need:

Finally, in lent it is traditional to give to those in need. I hope we each seek to do this throughout the year, although I am well aware that I can be forgetful in this area. However, there is a close connection between remembering our own spiritual poverty and becoming more compassionate toward the poverty of others. When we see ourselves as people who

have not earned the many gifts and graces of God, we become more open to giving to others. There are many ways to do this. You can give a financial gift or your time to a ministry such as Love Inc or Alpha Pregnancy Center here in town. You also look for ways to give simple acts of kind service to neighbors or your church family. Perhaps you can plan to look for opportunities to help others, and commit to serving in a small way at least once a week during lent.



Lenten Study and "Soup Suppers"

Wednesdays, March 8 through April 5

5:30-7:00

Location: to be announced

We will have a study based upon *The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission: Promoting the Gospel with More than Our Lips* by John Dickson. Reading the book is highly recommended, but it is not required for participating in the study.

Topics will include:

Understanding the gospel as a story

Our worship, prayer, and actions as "missionary" acts

Removing the obstacles that keep us from sharing Jesus with others

I believe the theme of this study is at the center of God's intentions for St. Luke's in this season, and I strongly encourage you to attend or read this book on your own.

We are still deciding whether to meet in a restaurant or to host it in a home (or a rotation of homes). If you have an idea or would like to offer your home for one or more weeks, please contact Fr. Ryan

New opportunities to serve:

Have you ever considered being an acolyte or lay reader?

Acolytes carry the cross in the Sunday service and assist the priest near the altar.

Lay readers lead the psalm and prayers of people (and sometimes the other readings), and typically also assist as "lay Eucharistic ministers (LEMs), administering the



March

MAR 5— Linda Herlitz

MAR 12—Maria Laurel

MAR 19 & 26—Sign-ups needed

Tote Bag Project

We have St. Luke's tote bags in stock. They are a very versatile, quality bag for your shopping and other needs. See, call or email Nancy Wickstrom at 384-8034, nanmau29@gmail.com



Up-Coming Events

- MAR 1**—Ash Wednesday
- MAR 5**—Sister of Prayer 11 am
- MAR 10** —First Friday 6-8 pm @ the Bradley's 2162 Spanish Bay Ct. (across the street from the Dutton's)
- MAR—12** Daylight Savings Time
- MAR 14**—Men's Night Out 6-8 pm @ the Bankson's 3255 Leaf Dr. 722-8596
- MAR 16**—Vestry 5:30 pm
- MAR 17**—St. Patrick's Day
- MAR 19**—Worship Commission 11 am

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 final process.

News from the Diocese may be found at:
www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net

wine at communion. They can also lead morning or evening prayer services at the church, and with a little additional training, may take communion to the sick and shut-ins after the service on Sundays. You must be confirmed to serve as a lay reader and LEM.

Both types of service are wonderful opportunities to participate in the Sunday service in a unique way, worshiping God while also serving Him and His gathered people. Acolytes and lay readers can request how often they are able to serve, and the more who are willing to serve, the less burden there is on each who serve.

Fr. Ryan will be offering a special training session for those two ministries in the near future. Please let him know if you might be interested. Attending the training does not commit you to serve, and it can be an excellent way to discern if you might enjoy such service.





Daylight Savings
Time begins
Sunday, March
12th!

Church Growth Commission

Needed: New Chair for Church Growth Commission.

Responsibilities are.....

1. Schedule Meetings (presently 10:00am on 2nd Saturday of the month) We have a meeting place!
2. Communicate via email, phone, Hark the Herald
3. Create an Agenda
4. Conduct a One-Hour Meeting
5. Take notes - present Minutes to Vestry on 3rd Thursday - through liaison

Call or email Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert if you are interested. Luke22936@aol.com 722-4782

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on healing
please contact

Pam Douglas
(559) 706-8998 call/text
or email
STS@alphahpc.com



“ I am so thankful for this experience and God’s faithfulness even to the doubters (Which I was) because I was once an ashamed, depressed, isolated, empty person, and now I am an alive, free, joyful, outgoing person again. Thank You God for your undeserved love, grace and mercy.”

Annual Dinner Auction 2017
“Build a Bridge of Love”



Friday, March 3rd 2017
6-9 pm

Gateway Community Church
353 East Donna Drive Merced, CA

Keynote Speaker:

Pastor Sam Estes

City Advance Director of Sanger

Tickets \$25 each or a Table of 8 for \$175
Purchase Online at loveinmerced.com or eventbrite.com

or
First Baptist Church Hoffmeister Center
500 Buena Vista Dr. Merced 1920 Canal St, Merced

There will be a silent, dessert, and live auction

For more event information
Call 209.383.7034, ext. 120

www.loveinmerced.com | info@loveinmerced.com

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; Mrs. Sue Linardos, Sexton

Members of the Vestry

Class of 2017
Mr. Mike Waite, Sr. Warden; Mr. Rob Mercurio, Mrs. Linda Meyer
Class of 2018
Mrs. Maria Laurel, Jr. Warden, 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

Maria Laurel, 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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www.stlukesmerced.org

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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

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

Address Service Requested

PLACE
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