

Hark! The Herald

Volume 21 Number 3 The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA March, 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.”

Looking at the Right Map

The Christian faith makes the audacious claim that it provides a map by which we can find our way through our life in this world. With this map, we make the astonishing discovery that victory is found in surrender, healing flows from suffering, true leadership is expressed in service, and life cannot be secured except through death.

The inescapable implication in this is that if we're not looking at the world by means of this map, we're not seeing reality. We're not seeing the way God sees.

The good news is that God has made it possible for us to see the way he sees. He has made himself accessible to us in the person of Jesus, who is at the same time completely divine and completely human. Through Jesus, God enables us to participate in his very life.

There are many ways by which we might relate to Jesus in the hope of receiving this gift. During the time he walked this earth, there were people who followed Jesus around, but at a safe distance, and with no commitment or accountability. Things are much the same today. There are those who take the position of scholars who analyze and compare various scriptural manuscripts and related materials, and come up with learned opinions about what Jesus really said or did. And then, of course, there are those who are just plain skeptical, and they relate to Jesus from a position of indifference or unbelief.

If we really want to see what God sees, then the most important thing we can do is to place ourselves in relation to Jesus as disciples to a master. Jesus resorts to some drastic language to make precisely this point. When Peter has a fit over Jesus' prediction of his own suffering and death, he responds, “Get behind me, Satan!” The cross was so central to his mission that he could have no patience with anyone who questioned that destiny. Jesus wasn't turning his back on Peter. Rather he was telling Peter to get back where he belonged — behind him, as a disciple.

Peter's challenge is also our challenge. In Christ, God offers us an accurate map of the spiritual and moral universe we inhabit. But this gift is not available to us if we relate to Jesus merely as interested observers or disinterested scholars or scornful skeptics. It is ours when we get behind Jesus, in the position of disciples. It's not an easy road. But it's a road that will lead us to our true destination.

May God draw us closer to him and to one another as we continue our journey together.

Yours in Christ's love,
Fr. Ron+

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

My dear friends, thank you so much for the out-pouring of love and affection I received from you on my birthday. The crosses are wonderful! I've read each name and scripture verse and will continue to do so during Lent. It was not until I got home and began looking at the crosses did I realize that there were dollar coins inside the treasure chest as well. Thank you. You will always have a special place in my heart.

Love,
Fr. Ron+

Christian Nurture at St. Luke's

Sundays

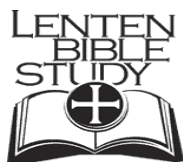
Children's Church meets in Norvell Hall during the worship service and is for children in the primary grades. They follow a liturgy designed for them that is based on the gospel lesson for that Sunday.



The Rector's Forum – “The Message of Romans”

Come join us after Coffee Hour in Saint Ann's Hall.

The Rector's Forum does not meet on the first Sunday of each month.



“The Seven Last Words from the Cross”

Jesus spoke seven sentences, or seven words as we call them, in those six hours while on the cross. The first three words (Forgiveness, Salvation, and Relationships) were spoken in behalf of others, thus giving the final fulfillment and demonstration to what he had taught throughout his public ministry. The last four words (Identification, Suffering, Fulfillment, and Triumph) were spoken concerning his own feelings and his own work—they were personal.

We will meditate on the first six words during our weekly Lenten Bible Studies and then on Good Friday, we will meditate on the seven and final word, Triumph.

Wednesdays in Lent

10 a.m. Bible Study in St. Ann's Hall

Topic – ““The Seven Last Words from the Cross”

Class meets in Saint Ann's Hall; everyone is welcome.

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

During Lent, we will gather for prayer prior to our Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study.

5:30 p.m. Soup Supper and Lenten Bible Study – “The Seven Last Words from the Cross”

There is a sign-up sheet in Norvell Hall for those who would like to bring soup, salad, or bread for the suppers. Only those who sign-up to provide the meal for each Wednesday are required to do so.

Fridays in Lent

Noon – The Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross)

The devotion known as The Way of the Cross is an adaptation to local usage of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death. The number of stations, which at first varied widely, finally became fixed at fourteen. Of these, eight are based directly on events recorded in the Gospels. The service lasts about 20 minutes and is led by a Lay Minister. Please consider making this a part of your Lenten Discipline.

*Fr. Ron will be available to hear your confessions throughout Lent.
Please call to make an appointment.*

Address Updates

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dutton
2163 Spanish Bay Ct.
Merced, CA 95340
Home phone: 209 349-8027

Mike (and Arlo) Smith
1351 E. 27th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Up-Coming Events

March 6 – The Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross) in the Church @ Noon

March 6 – First Friday Family Fellowship
Currently we do not have a host.

March 6 – Love In the Name of Christ of Greater Merced @ 6:00 p.m.
Annual Dinner Auction Fundraiser @ Gateway Community Church, 353 East Donna Drive, Merced, CA
“Love Changes Lives”

Tickets: \$30 each and are available at Hope Christian Bookstore
John and Linda Meyer are hosting a table if you would like join them.

March 8 – Bishop Eric Menees will be with us.

Bishop Eric will be with us for worship and fellowship time during Coffee Hour. Everyone is asked to make special effort to be in church and to welcome our chief pastor.



The Bishop's Discretionary Fund

The Bishop's Discretionary Fund is a fund provided by the faithful and distributed by the Bishop of the Diocese as special needs and specific emergencies arise. Please make checks payable to St. Luke's and write Bishop's Fund on the memo line. Thank you.

Parish Indoor Picnic during Coffee Hour

In celebration of Bishop Eric's visitation, we will have a Picnic Lunch during Coffee Hour.

Here's is how it will work:

Parishioners whose names begin with A – M, please bring a salad.
Parishioners whose names begin with N – Z, please bring a dessert.
Ham sandwich fixings will be provided.
Plates and eating utensils will be provided.

March 10 – Men's Night Out, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Food...Fellowship...Sharing...Worship

Where? TBA

Invite a friend.

March 13 – The Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross) in the Church @ Noon

March 18 – Feast of Saint Joseph (tr.) @ 5:00 p.m.

“O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*”

March 20 – The Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross) in the Church @ Noon

March 25 – The Annunciation

We will celebrate this Holy Day with an Evening Prayer Service at 5:00 p.m.

“Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*”

March 27 – The Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross) in the Church @ Noon

The Weekly Lectionary

The Lessons appointed for the Season of Lent are intended as background and preparation for Easter. The Old Testament Lessons present a synopsis of the history of salvation from Creation to the Captivity in Babylon. The Gospels, beginning with the Third Sunday, consist of the great Johannine Signs which illuminate the Church's understanding of Holy Baptism.

Church Growth Committee

This group will meet again on Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 11:30 -12:30 pm in the Emma Hunt Room at St. Luke's. We will enjoy brainstorming, discussion, and fellowship! Interested parishioners are welcome to attend. See Max or Shirley for more information. An overview of input and suggestions from the last meeting can be seen on the Bulletin Board in Norvell Hall.

PLANNING AHEAD....MARK your Calendar... TENTH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT at St. Luke's

WHEN: After the 9:00 A.M. Service on EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015...10:45 A.M.

WHO: KIDS 0-12 for the children of St. Luke's, INCLUDING their FRIENDS & FAMILY!

ENJOY: Special Refreshments, a visit from the EASTER BUNNY with photos, and a drawing for a "Furry Friend" (have to be present to win) -- Kids, don't forget your Easter basket.

HELP NEEDED: Provide filled EASTER EGGS, plastic eggs are fine (not boiled) - 1-2 dozen.

REFRESHMENTS--see sign-up in Norvell Hall.

If you can help or need more information, call or talk to Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert

email: Luke22936@aol.com ph:722-4782

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

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



St. Luke's Anglican Church
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Address Service Requested

Hark! The Herald



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ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR *HARK! THE HERALD* IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH.
Send articles to office@stlukesmerced.org

Weekly Services

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion [Children's Church meets during the Service]
11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study after Coffee Hour
Wednesday: 10 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
The Very Rev. Ron Parry, Rector (Home: 385-0677), E-mail: rector@stlukesmerced.org
Mrs. Mady Montague, Choir Director; Mrs. Marilynne Isenberg, Organist
Mrs. Patti McClain, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Sue Linardos, Sexton

The Herald Staff

Mrs. Wanda Pehl, Mrs. Sue Dutton, Mrs. Winnie Mitchell,
Mrs. Linda Herlitz, Mrs. Ann Bean, Mrs. Trudy Holck

Diocesan Convention Delegates: Mrs. Sylvia Bankson, Mr. Juan Laurel, Sr., Mrs. Carolyn Reed;
Mr. Max Dalrymple, Alternate

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