



HARK! THE HERALD

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

May 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

This year, our Lenten soup supper and study nights were inspired by John Dickson's excellent book, *The Best Kept Secret of Christian Mission*. Whether you attended the series and want to keep learning or had to miss the study, I strongly recommend the book for your personal study. I would like to give a few highlights, both to spread the message a little more and as a reminder to those who participated.

When we hear about "evangelism," "sharing the gospel," or "participating in Christian mission," we can often feel intimidated. We might feel that we should be doing something along those lines, but we don't know where to start. Maybe we feel as if we have tried and failed in the past, so we have given up. We may even want to believe that this must be someone else's gifting or responsibility, so that we free ourselves from the guilt or responsibility of participating in this sort of ministry.

However, what we are really talking about is participating in God's mission. He is at work in the world, and He has brought us into His family, allowing (and requiring) us to join His "family business." As a result, joining the Christian mission isn't a special ministry for a few, nor is it one specific task (like standing on a street corner and asking strangers if they want to become Christians). The Christian mission is what God is doing in the world, and we join it in many ways.

We participate in God's mission by promoting the gospel with our prayers. That means we are doing incredibly important work when we pray for friends and family to respond to God's invitation to join His family. We are joining local missions when we pray for Merced and surrounding areas to become places transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. We serve in missions around the world when we pray for specific missionaries and their ministries, or when we pray for ministry in specific places.

Likewise, our financial giving is participation in the ministry of promoting the gospel. The apostle Paul frequently features this support, as he emphasizes that those who join with evangelists and missionaries are partners in those ministries. Perhaps you could choose one missionary family and one local evangelistic ministry to

support with both your prayers and a regular gift?

Dickson writes that both our good works (especially those performed through the church and other Christian ministries) and our consistent Christian behavior are also ways that we participate in Christian mission. Volunteer with ministries in town such as Alpha Pregnancy Center and Love, INC. Strive toward kindness and integrity. There are so many ways to join in God's mission even when we are not telling others about Jesus aloud.

Further, our speaking about Jesus is not just an individual action. Our praise and worship proclaims Jesus and His gospel. When we attend church and worship with enthusiasm and commitment, non-Christians are drawn to Him. Some worship most enthusiastically through their singing. Others through quiet prayer before the service. Still others through their service as ushers and lay readers and altar guild members. But each of us has a role to play in our public worship, and true worship is always proclamation.

Of course, we also share in God's mission through talking with people individually. However, this too can take many forms. We can talk to strangers, but we can also talk to friends and family and neighbors. Often, the best place to start is to ask questions. "What do you believe about God? What do you believe the purpose of life is?" Listen with curiosity and compassion. Try to understand not only what they are saying but what it would be like to live with those beliefs. As you show interest, they will likely share more and more, while also beginning to ask what you believe and why.

Finally, we need to remember the importance of the message we share, and we need to be clear in our ability to tell that message. I encouraged each person who attended our study to try the following "homework," and I'll repeat the same suggestion for each of us: Trying writing the gospel message down in your own words. I suggest aiming for a half-page to a page of writing. That's short enough to serve as practice for telling someone the gospel briefly (rather than lecturing them) but long enough to give meaningful and substantial details. Try this exercise on a regular basis, and you will begin finding it easier and easier to tell others the Christian story. In doing that, you will be blessed with one more way to join in God's family mission.

First
FRIDAY **May 5th** at the Meyer's home at 257 W.
Donna Dr., Merced. Bring an appetizer and your
beverage. Please call Linda to let her know you are coming at 726-0534.

Up-Coming Events

MAY 4—Sisters of Prayer 11 am

MAY 5 —First Friday 6-8 pm @
The Meyer's, 257 W. Donna
Dr. 726-0534

MAY 9—Men's Night Out 6-8
pm, TBA

MAY 14—Mother's Day

MAY 18—Vestry 5:30 pm

MAY 25—Ascension Day
Service 6 pm

MAY 29—Memorial Day

June 2—First Friday @ the
Bankson's



Thank You Once Again

Our traditional Easter Egg Hunt was again enjoyed by all, especially youth, friends and family! Many people pitched in with eggs, refreshments, prizes and hiding eggs.

Miranda, our courageous Easter Bunny, (the suit is hot) shared photos with us, soon to be on hand. A special thank you is extended to our Sunday School/ Child Care workers and supporters, Lisa and Cheryl, especially including our loyal, flexible and hardworking regular Nursery Attendant, Lilia. It takes a FAMI-LY! Blessings....Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert

Merced County Rescue Mission Oasis Benefit Dinner

Fri, May 12, 2017 at 5:30 PM

LOCATION

Gateway Community Church
353 East Donna Drive
Merced, CA 95340

JOIN US!

Tickets are \$35 per Person | \$250 for a Table of 8

The Merced County Rescue Mission is holding our 6th Annual Oasis Benefit Dinner, on Friday, May 12th, 2017. We hold this event in May to help secure additional funds to assure Mission services and programs continue during the summer months when financial contributions are low.

**Coffee
Hour**



See Cheryl Mayo
to coordinate
bringing snacks
for coffee hour.



Employment Opportunity with Love INC

Love INC is looking for a Furniture Coordinator for 15-20 hours per week. This is a paid position. Email questions to Annette@loveincmerced.com or go to the application page at:

<https://form.jotform.us/70947845284166> to apply.

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



Diocese of San Joaquin De- fense 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

Alpha Pregnancy Help Center

In conjunction with ...



Cordially invites you to our annual day of golf fundraiser

Where? Rancho Del Rey Golf Club

When? On Friday, 5/12/17 from 8:30 to 3:00

Who? The first 20 golfers to sign up

Entry? No entry fee ... just a willing heart to raise pledge support

Why? If you own a set of golf clubs, and if you would like to help Alpha reach more moms and save more babies from being aborted ... then you're exactly who we're looking for!

This is not speed golf or racing around the course all day trying to complete as many holes as possible. Besides the terrific breakfast, lunch, beverages, snacks & prizes ... you will also be treated to on-course video lessons to help you with your over-all game improvement.

To sign up or to learn more about this exciting opportunity, please call:

PGA of America member Jim Coles @ 805-471-2214

or

Alpha's Director Rhoda Parhams @ 209-383-4700

PGA member Jim Coles www.golfpromarathons.com 805-471-2214
jim@golfpromarathons.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

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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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
STAMP
HERE