

Hark! The Herald

Volume 21 Number 5 The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA May, 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.”

What is Pentecost and what difference does it make in our lives today?

The Day of Pentecost is the occasion on which pious Jews from all over the world gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate “The Feast of Weeks”. This feast was a festival at which first fruits were offered to God. On the Day of Pentecost mentioned in Acts chapter 2 a miracle happened: tongues of flame lighted on each person...and each person spoke their own native tongue but, miraculously, everybody understood everybody else!

Pentecost is the Church's celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. It comes from the realization that God's very life, breath and energy lives in, with and among us. Those who are Christians experience life through Jesus because they see the Spirit so fully manifest in Him. On Pentecost Sunday you will hear read a passage from John's Gospel (20:19-23). It tells of a visit of the Risen Christ to the disciples huddled in fear. “Peace be with you,” Jesus says, “As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and added, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” The breath, the life of Jesus himself was released upon them. Pentecost celebrates that we are God-breathed people. This of course reminds us of that wonderful creation story where in Genesis it reads that God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

The feast day of Pentecost remembers a day not long after Jesus' resurrection when the energy of the Spirit was poured out in power upon the Church. It was a unifying Spirit that moved across the various language groups and cultures gathered in Jerusalem that day. People could speak and be understood; strangers heard one another; communion happened. The Spirit breathes God's peace.

Here is what happens when we allow the Holy Spirit to empower and energize us. He gives us the power we need to live the life we ought. We also experience love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control. We call these the “fruit of the Spirit.” These are the qualities of Jesus. The work of the Spirit in us is to continue transforming us into the full stature of Jesus Christ. The process begins in this life and will find its completion when we stand in His presence in Glory.

The celebration of Pentecost moves very naturally into the following Sunday's celebration of the Holy Trinity, the unique way that Christians describes our experience of God. We see the life of the Trinity as descriptive of the whole of reality.

God's pouring out of the divine life in self-emptying love we call the Father. God's complete and open receiving and responding to that love we call the Son. The very awareness of that flow of love between one and the other, which values it with infinite worth and bliss we call the Spirit. Yet all is one complete love. That's a way of thinking of God.

And that same dynamic is present in our lives, breathing us into being. For instance, I experience the Trinity and the Spirit in my relationship with my parish family. There is a love that I have and share with you, and a love that you receive and respond to by returning your love to me. But more than that, after nearly 18 years of ministry together, there is something that exists between us, a reality, a Spirit of love that sees our relationship and values it profoundly with humility and joy. We are blessed to live in such love; love given, received, and valued. Yet it is all one love. That's breathing the Spirit of God.

May God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) continue to work in us, drawing us closer to Him and to one another, that others will be drawn to Him and receive the fullness of life.

Faithfully yours,
Father 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.

Mid-Week Bible Study – "The Message of Esther"
Come join us Wednesday's at 10 a.m. in St. Ann's Hall.

Church Growth Commission

The Church Growth Commission will meet again on Saturday, May 23, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Emma Hunt Room at St. Luke's. Guests are invited to attend. Just let Max or Shirley know. This is a lively group that plans, shares ideas and brainstorm. An overview of action, input and suggestions from our last meeting, can be viewed on the bulletin board in Norvell Hall.

Blessings,
Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert

Bowling Trip A Great Success

Over 25 people participated in the bowling outing on Sunday, April 19, at the Bellevue Bowl in Atwater and everyone had a lot of fun. Thanks to Cheryl Waite for spearheading this project.

T-Shirt Sales have gone through the roof

In response to the demand for the St. Luke's Anglican Church T-Shirts, the Vestry has approved the purchase of a dozen more shirts to be made available to parishioners. Thanks to Linda Meyer for coordinating this project.

May 31 – Youth Sunday

Please invite friends and family for a fun-filled fellowship after the Service.

Enjoy a barbecue of hot dogs & hamburgers, and games. We will recognize our graduates and enjoy good fellowship.

Door prizes - win a St. Luke's T-shirt

If you can help or need more information - talk to Shirley Vaughn Hulbert or Cheryl Waite

Mark Your Calendar.....Invite a new friend.

Pantry News

Here are the pantry needs for this coming month: cereal, peanut butter, crackers, canned soups, canned meats or fish, spaghetti and sauce, Hamburger or Tuna Helper! If you would rather donate cash, please write your check to St. Luke's Anglican Church noting on the memo line "For Food Pantry". Please don't forget to bring recyclable bottles to Ann Bean's red bucket in the kitchen as well. Thank you ahead of time.

Blessings to you and yours, and to those in need.

Monica Bittis

Seven Disciplines for Spiritual Maturity and Growth

As an expression of my love for God, I will do my best to:

- 1) Seek God's plan through a daily time of listening prayer and Bible reading.
- 2) Worship weekly in the Church with emphasis on Holy Communion.
- 3) Participate regularly in a weekly group for Christian sharing, study and prayer.
- 4) Give regularly a definite grateful share of my income to the spread of God's Kingdom through the Church and in the world.

And, as an expression of love for my neighbor, I will do my best to:

- 5) Pray daily for others with thanksgiving.
- 6) Exercise faithfully the particular ministries to which God calls me in the fellowship of the Church and in the world.
- 7) Speak and act so that my daily life is a witness to the love of God in Christ as I have come to know it.

So help me God.

Up-Coming Events

May 1 – First Friday Family Fellowship @ 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Fr. Ron and Linda Parry, 385-0677

3646 Harbor Dr., Merced

Bring your favorite appetizer and beverage and invite a friend.

May 6 – Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles (tr.)

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

May 8

National Day of Prayer Observance

Noon @ Bob Hart Square

Plan to spend time on May 8th in prayer for our nation. A number of folks will gather at Bob Hart Square for prayer. Please join us if you can. “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

Merced County Rescue Mission Oasis Dinner

Doors Open at 5 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Gateway Community Church, 353 E. Donna Drive, Merced

House Blessing at Fred and Sue Dutton’s at 7:00 p.m.

2163 Spanish Bay CT, Merced, CA 95340

Directions from St. Luke’s: East on Yosemite Ave., right into Chaparral Dr. (1st street passed Parsons).

Turn left on Pebble Beach; right on Cypress Point Dr. and then left on Spanish Bay Court to 2163

May 10 – Mother’s Day



May 12 – Men’s Night Out @ 6:00 p.m.

Hosted by Max Dalrymple in Norvell Hall

Respond to Max at 209 485-3602

May 14 – Ascension Day



We will celebrate this major Holy Day with Evening Prayer and Holy Communion at 6:00 p.m. Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

May 24 – The Day of Pentecost (Wear something red today.)



Memorial Day Remembrance

During the prayers of the people we will remember those who died in the service of our country. If you have a family member or friend who died while serving in the armed forces, please call the Office (383-1888) with their names. Thank you.

May 31 - Honoring our Graduates

We will honor those students who are graduating from middle school, high school, or college on Sunday, May 31st. Please call the Office (383-1888) and let Patti know the names of family members who are graduating this year. Thank you.

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. BCP 829

What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means “fiftieth day” and is celebrated fifty days after Easter.

Why do we celebrate Pentecost?

There are three major festivals commemorated in the Christian calendar. The first two, Christmas and Easter, are well known to both believers and non-believers. It is possible that even some liturgical Christians may not be familiar with the third, the festival of Pentecost. God the Father’s wonder Christmas gift of His one and only Son, and Christ’s Easter triumph over the power of sin, death, hell and the grave would be of no benefit to us if the Holy Spirit did not give us the gift of saving faith. Through the Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to believe and trust in Christ as our Savior. This precious gift of faith in the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ is the reason Pentecost is the third “mega-festival” of the church and why we celebrate it with such joy and thanksgiving.

What is the liturgical color for Pentecost?

Red is the liturgical color for this day. Red recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples that day. The color red also reminds us of the blood of the martyrs. These are the believers of every generation who by the power of the Holy Spirit hold firm to the true faith even at the cost of their lives.

Why Pentecost is sometimes called “Whitsunday”.

A tradition in ancient times was to baptize adult converts to the faith on Pentecost. The newly baptized catechumens would wear white robes on that day, so Pentecost was often call “Whitsunday” or “White Sunday” after these white baptismal garments.

What is the Season after Pentecost?

Because Pentecost is the day that God poured out His Holy Spirit on Christ’s disciples, the Season after Pentecost is centered on sanctification, the work of the Holy Spirit in the day to day life of the Christian. This is reflected in the liturgical color for this season: green, the color of life and growth. Through the gift of faith that comes only from the Holy Spirit, Christians are enabled to trust in Christ and proclaim Him in their daily lives by service to their neighbors. The Season after Pentecost is the longest season of the church year -- it lasts from Trinity Sunday until the first Sunday of Advent. This is the non-festival portion of the liturgical calendar during which the church stresses vocation, evangelism, missions, stewardship, almsgiving, and other works of mercy and charity as ways in which Christ empowers us by His grace to share the Gospel with others. The Gospel readings during this Season tend to focus on the hard sayings of Jesus.

Mark your Calendars

What: Retirement/Farewell Party for Fr. Ron and Linda

When: June 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Where: St. Luke’s Anglican Church

More info in the June *Herald*.

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

Thank You Very Much

Many thanks to all of you for your prayers and cards for our Mom, Lorraine Murphy. She loves receiving them! She's in La Sierra, room 22 if you wish to visit. If you want to send her a card, feel free to send it to our home if you prefer: 4063 Toulon Court, Merced, 95348. Thanks for loving and supporting her through all this -- she's improving! Blessings, Curtis and Patrice Nelson

The Easter Egg Hunt was again a success this year!! The helpers were fantastic!! Our team consisted of those donating eggs, hidens and refreshments. Our Easter Bunny was Miranda; what a wonderful job she did. Hopefully, we will have some great photos to share. Check out the bulletin board in Norvell Hall. The winner of our "Furry Friend" was Jacob Small, congratulations!! Of course, we must not forget our great parents, grandparents and family friends who brought the "little ones" to our wonderful Easter Service at St. Luke's. Blessings!! Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert

Hi Jessie (Hall),

I hope this email finds you well. Dan and I have been to Long Beach, Anaheim, Hesperia and Clovis. Each place visiting family. We are now ready for some down time.... we are at Lake McSwain for a week. God did provide a place for us to rent, it's not fancy but affordable, in Clovis. We really are trusting this is where God has lead us and personally I am praying it is for just a season. The couple that owns the mobile home we are renting lives next door in a ranch style house. They are a few years older than us, and the wife just found out her husband has Alzheimer. She is in need of some help taking care of 20 acres. That's why rent is cheap. She would rather have help than money. And for now we can help easier than pay higher rent.

It's dark and dreary inside but when you go outside the view is amazing. So I guess it's fair to say that it has its pros and cons. One thing that is clearing missing is our church family @ St. Luke's we both miss everyone so much. We will in the next few weeks start looking for a new church home.

Please say hi to all

God Bless you and Keep you
Love you
Patti (Baird)



St. Luke's Anglican Church
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Merced, CA 95348



Address Service Requested

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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

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

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