



HARK! THE HERALD

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

November 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

In a few weeks, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. It is easy to focus on family and food for the holiday, with perhaps only a passing reference to thanking God for our blessings. This month, I would like to encourage all of us to focus on gratitude as a daily practice. Thanking God for His blessings is an act of worship, and when gratitude becomes a habit, we are formed into people of worship. Praising God in church is easy, but we need to carry praise into the world. We do that by taking every opportunity to identify things to praise God for, then practicing putting our gratitude into words. It can be as simple as seeing the sky on a beautiful day and saying, "thank you God." It can also be a time of longer prayer or journaling, as you think through the many blessings you have received. I keep using the word, "habit," because that is the really life-changing element of this. Feeling gratitude and praising God every now and then is wonderful. However, becoming a person who recognizes God's blessings and responds to them all throughout the day changes all of life. It is a cure for bitterness and self-centeredness. It will help you be more giving, more loving, and more happy. It will make prayer more natural and more joyful. When gratitude becomes a habit, you will discover (and remember) that you are more blessed than you ever imagined.

As on every Sunday, I am "preaching to myself" too here. I need and want to be more grateful, and I want thanksgiving to become a habit. Please join me this month in working to form the habit.

So, what I am grateful for?

I am grateful for the generosity and support of St. Luke's. You keep blessing Juliet and me in unexpected ways, and you have become dear to us in the last two years.

I am grateful for Juliet. I had waited a long time to marry, asking God to help me find a partner for life. He has blessed me through her, and I appreciate her daily love and friendship.

I am grateful for God's provision to us through our move. While we miss our old building, who could have imagined that we would receive an even larger church on Sunday mornings, plenty of office space, the opportunity to hold funerals and special services at no extra cost,

and all for rent that was not all that much more than we used to pay for maintenance? I am writing this from my office, which feels like a lavish gift from the Lord. I am grateful too for our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters who were the means for God's blessing to us.

I am grateful for the beauty of this place. After two years in Merced, I appreciate more and more the openness of the Valley as a contrast to the suburban sprawl of my hometown. I love the mountains in the distance. The beautiful sky. The Autumn weather. The beauty of trees and fields. The nearby visits to Yosemite and Sequoia.

I am grateful for the house that we bought this year, which feels like a refuge and a gift.

I am grateful for our puppy Ella, for the joy and pleasure she brings to us.

I am grateful for all the Patti does as our administrator, that Karlyne does as our treasurer, Nancy as our vestry secretary, Mike's tireless efforts as Senior Warden, Max stepping in as Junior Warden during a busy season of his life, Mady and Marian and our choir, Darby and Kathy and our altar guild, all of our ushers and readers and acolytes, Cheryl and Darlene and our coffee hour team, and all of those who serve at St. Luke's. Not only am I grateful on behalf of the church, but I am personally so thankful that your service frees me to focus my time and energy on being a priest.

I am grateful to our bishop, whose wisdom and faithfulness is a gift to our diocese, and whose compassion and generosity have meant so much to Juliet and me.

I could go on and on. More importantly, I am hoping to go on and on, not in writing, but in prayer, as I seek to become a more habitually grateful person. Please join me in the habit.

Blessings,
Fr. Ryan

First
FRIDAY **November 3rd**

John & Sylvia Bankson's home from 6—8 pm

3255 Leaf Dr., Merced, 756-1098. Please call 383-1431 to let them know you are coming and bring an appetizer and your beverage.

Up-Coming Events

Nov 3— First Friday 6-8 pm @
the Bankson's 3233
Leaf Dr., Merced
722-8596

Nov 5—Daylight Savings Time
Ends

Nov 10—Veteran's Day
Observed

Nov 12—Sister's of Prayer
@ 11 am

Nov 14—Men's Night Out 6-8
pm in the conference
room

Nov 16 —Vestry 5:30 pm

Nov 23—Thanksgiving Day

Nov 20-24 Patti on Vacation
Office Closed

Tote Bags

St. Luke's tote bags are
available for \$10 each.
Contact Nancy 384-8034,
nanmausmith@gmail.com



See Cheryl Mayo
to coordinate
bringing food for
coffee hour.

Annual Holiday Gift Bag Project

*Bringing Christmas to women in the Central
California Women's Facility*

Shirley is still collecting needed items such as travel size soap, bath gel, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and lotion. In addition, greeting cards, pencils and scratch pads will be appreciated.

Deadline to donate items is December 3rd. Leave in the office or give to Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert.

Thank you to those friends and parishioners who have already donated! For more information, see the flyer in the Conference Room.

**Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday,
November 5th**



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; Max Dalrymple, Jr. Warden
Class of 2018
Mr. Ed Gardner, Mrs. Kathy Hill, Darby Minturn
Class of 2019
Mrs. Cheryl Mayo, Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Treasurer; Mrs. Victoria Schuller
Mrs. Nancy Tapia, 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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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
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Merced, CA 95340

Address Service Requested

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