

# Hark! The Herald

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Volume 21 Number 11 The Newsletter of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Merced, CA November, 2015  
A Welcoming Family...Worshipping Christ...Sharing His love with others.  
Serving Jesus Christ since 1879

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## From the Pastor's Desk

“St. Luke's Anglican Church: A welcoming family, worshipping Christ and sharing his love with others.”



Dear St. Luke's,

It is with joy and gratitude that I thank you for your gracious welcome. As I write this letter, I have been with you for a short time. However, I have already experienced your kindness, humor, and generosity. I look forward to spending countless hours with you, over many years. The New Testament tells us that, because of our adoption by God, we have become a family. This family relationship is true, and is at the core of our identity, linking us with all Christians in every time and place. However, this big picture of the family of God can feel abstract, even unreal. It is in the local parish that we live out this reality. We enjoy the pleasures of old friendships, and we begin the adventure of new ones. Sometimes, we feel like family as soon as we meet each other, and at other times we discover that those we at first found difficult, have become people we dearly love.

My priorities, particularly in my first year with you, include faithfully preaching and administering the sacraments, providing care and support to the hurting in our church, and working with the vestry to provide leadership for our church. Those are needs that are always present. However, my goal is to grow in relationship with you: to be a family. I know that you are already, “A welcoming family, worshipping Christ, and sharing his love with others.” I see that this is a vision statement you are already living out, and not just an aspiration. I want to join you in that.

I know that first-impressions are important, but I am a “long-term” sort of person. I'll do my best to learn names quickly (although this usually takes me awhile!), and begin quickly to get to know you. However, it is the long and slow growth of relationships that I'm looking forward to most. Please don't be reticent to take the first step! I know that some of you are unable to attend regularly due to health restrictions. I want to visit with you; to listen, pray, or bring you communion. I will be periodically checking to see who would like a visit, but please don't feel like you need to wait to be contacted. Talk to me, or call Patti in the office with a time or two that you are able to receive a visitor. Similarly, I'm happy to visit others in the church, to meet for coffee in the morning, to share a home cooked meal,

or discover your favorite local restaurant. I'm reluctant to "invite myself over," even if we call it a "visitation," but I'm happy to accept invitations!

I greatly look forward to serving as your rector, and I am eager to worship and serve the Lord beside you.

Blessings,

Fr. Ryan

### 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.



#### Church Growth Commission

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2015 - 10:00-11:00am in the Emma Hunt Room. All parishioners are invited to attend for discussion and brainstorming!! Contact Shirley or Max for more information....Check the bulletin board in Norvell Hall for actions and update!

*Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert*

#### Pantry News

Thank you for your October donations. They are always most welcome. This month's reminder is to consider donating to either the Rescue Mission or Salvation Army (or any other group you would like) in order to help them serve those in need during the Thanksgiving holiday. Also, don't forget our recycle bucket which supports Father's Discretionary Fund. In a few weeks, we will take an inventory of the pantry items as well as checking to make sure all of them are within the "use by" date.

Wishing you and yours a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving. "Praise God from whom all Blessings flow!"

*Monica*

#### Stewardship Pledges

Please return your stewardship pledge as soon as possible, as 2016 Budget planning has begun.

**Don't Forget!**



**November 1st**



WELCOME to our new Nursery Attendant, Lilia Valencia. Perhaps you had a chance to meet her during the Coffee Hour on October 18th. If not, take the time to say HELLO!

## Up-Coming Events

**November 3, 4** – Mentoring Retreat

**November 6** – First Friday Family Fellowship @ 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Hosted by John & Linda Meyer, 726-0534

257 W. Donna Dr., Merced

Bring your favorite appetizer and beverage, and our host will provide dessert.

**November 8** – BOWLING PARTY... Yes, the last one was a huge success! Join us again on November 8th, 12:30pm at the Bowling Alley in Atwater. Adults \$4.25, Youth \$3.75 per game, shoes included. Invite a friend too!! See or call Mike and Cheryl Waite for more information or just add your name to the signup list. We will travel in carpools on November 8th. This will be a blue St. Luke's T-shirt Day.

**November 10** – Men's Night Out @ Norvell Hall

Mike Waite, 756-4441

**November 11** – Office Closed for Veterans Day

**November 19** – Vestry Meeting 5:30 p.m.

**November 25** – Office Closes at Noon.

**November 26, 27** – Office Closed for Thanksgiving

**November 30 - December 2** – Winter Clergy Retreat

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES... We are in the process of planning Christmas activities for and with our Youth at St. Luke's. The tentative chosen date is Sunday, December 6th, St. Nick's Day. A Christmas tree will be decorated and everyone will be asked to bring an item of food for the Food Bank. Christmas carol singing will be part of this joyous time. Suggestions will be appreciated for this Celebration. Share your ideas at our next Church Growth Committee meeting or see Cheryl or Lisa. Thanks! Shirley+

### 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](http://www.dioceseofsanjoaquin.net)

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Address Service Requested

## *Hark! The Herald*



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ARTICLE DEADLINE FOR *HARK! THE HERALD* IS THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH.  
Send articles to [office@stlukesmerced.org](mailto:office@stlukesmerced.org)

Visit us at our website: [www.stlukesmerced.org](http://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 Rev. Ryan Bradley, Rector, E-mail: [rector@stlukesmerced.org](mailto: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

Class of 2017

Mrs. Linda Meyer, Sr. Warden

Mr. Mike Waite

Mrs. Linda Cometta, Clerk

### **Diocesan Convention Delegates**

Mrs. Sylvia Bankson, Mr. Juan Laurel, Sr.; Mr. Max Dalrymple, Alternate