



HARK! THE HERALD

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

October 2016



From the Pastor's Desk

I am pleased to announce a wonderful change coming soon to St. Luke's. In the near future, we will be introducing our new liturgy from the Anglican Church of North America. It is both beautiful and clear. However, it is also traditional, and it will help form us into the people who love and serve God well. We offered services on Wednesday nights so that anyone who was interested could experience the new options for services, and I received feedback from many of you. This was followed recently by a meeting of the worship commission, where I received more detailed responses from every member of the commission (which was made up of about 20% of people attending St. Luke's). We had several options to choose between, and the overwhelming majority of the commission recommended the "Holy Communion - Common Text". If you are interested in reading this liturgy, you can find it for free online at http://anglicanchurch.net/?/main/texts_for_common_prayer.

Members of St. Luke's and our worship commission praised the liturgy as a return to tradition, since it brings back elements that were removed from the 1979 prayerbook. In some ways it is even more traditional than our Rite 1 service, while it has clear and modern language like Rite 2. While we refer to it as a "new liturgy," several members of the commission said that it seemed so familiar as if they had the whole service memorized the first time they heard it. They also praised the Common Text service as seeming to "flow better" than the other main option we considered.

I believe that all of the liturgical options provided by the House of Bishops and offered to us by Bishop Menees are good options. They are sound in theology and rich in power to form us as Christians. As a result, I took the feedback of the worship commission and all other members who talked with me especially seriously. Because all options were good ones, I did not need to advocate for any one option. Instead, my concern was to find the best fit for St. Luke's.

Taking that into account, I have decided (with the blessing of the Worship Commission) that we will adopt the "Holy Communion - Common Text" service until at least the beginning of Lent. Before we reach Lent, the Worship Commission will be giving me feedback on the service again, and I welcome all members of St. Luke's to join them for that feedback after we have had a few months to adjust to the new service. At that time, we will decide whether or not to stay with this liturgy, or to re-consider our other options.

When we introduce the new liturgy on Sunday mornings, we will also switch to the English Standard Version as

our translation of the Bible, as well as moving to the Anglican Church of North America's lectionary (or assigned readings for each week). The lectionary change is fairly minor, and I suspect most people will not notice it. However, I am very happy about the change in Bible translation.

The English Standard Version of the Bible is a far more accurate, beautiful, and clear translation than the translation we are currently using. I strongly recommend it to you for your own daily Bible reading. I find that in preaching at St. Luke's over the last year, I have frequently had to explain the outdated language and sometimes confusing translations of the Revised Standard Version. You will notice this very positive change to the English Standard Version immediately. This is also an important change because the English Standard Version is the standard for the Anglican Church of North America. By adopting it, we will be hearing exactly the same readings each week as all of our sister churches across the continent.

However, the best change coming as a result of all this may be the introduction of our new worship booklets. We will be creating easy-to-use booklets with the entire service printed out. This means that every week, you will be able to participate in the entire service without having to flip through the Book of Common Prayer from section to section. This will be especially important for visitors, who can feel intimidated and mystified by our service. Readings and hymns will still be included in a separate insert each week, but we will be making inexpensive but attractive booklets that can be re-used for many months before being replaced.

Creating these booklets will take a little time, but I look forward to introducing the new service as soon as I am able to complete them. I hope that you will look forward to this, and will enter into using our new liturgy with joy and enthusiasm. More importantly, I hope that these new additions to our service will help us all worship our amazing God and be formed as His followers and family.

BRINGING CHRISTMAS to 3000 WOMEN

The Annual Gift Bag project for the inmates of the California Women's Facility, Chowchilla is moving along! We have several bags of needed items. Gift bags will be put together during the first week of December. **DEADLINE** for collection of items is November 19th. Information in Norvell Hall. Please give items to Shirley.



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

We will hold our next Meeting on Saturday, October 8th, Emma Hunt Room., 10:00am. Please feel free to join us for brainstorming and discussion! Agenda and Minutes are always displayed on the Diocesan Bulletin Board in Norvell Hall. We always meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Coffee Hour

OCT 9 Nancy Wickstrom

OCT 16 Maria Laurel,
Susan Souza

OCT 23 Shirley Vaughn-
Hulbert,

OCT 30 Men

Up-Coming Events

OCT 7—First Friday

John & Linda Meyer
257 W. Donna Dr.
Merced 726-0534
Bring an appetizer and drink.

OCT 8 —Growth Commission 10 am

OCT 11 —Men's Night Out 6—8 pm Location TBA

OCT 16—Worship Commission 11 am

OCT 20 —Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm

OCT 28-29—Diocesan Convention

Pantry News

Thank you so much for the Sept. donations! Suggested Pantry needs: canned meats or fish as well as canned vegetables and fruit. We have a good amount of pasta but could use more sauce. We are, also, attempting to buy basic fresh food to fit the family needs. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation to help in that part of our parish mission, please place your offering in an envelope with the name "Pantry Fund" marked on the front. Every offering is important. Blessings to you and yours!

BOWLING PARTY

Laughter, cheers and a great "spirit" was evident during the St. Luke's Bowling Party at the Bellevue Bowl, on Sunday, August 28th. In addition, our blue St. Luke's T-shirts were a great conversation piece.

Thanks to all the great bowlers and cheerleaders!! Shirley & Church Growth Commission

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 final process.

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

Tote Bag Project

We have ordered 36 more St. Luke's tote bags. What a great Christmas gift! See Nancy Wickstrom or Linda Meyer for purchase; only \$10.00.



Weekly Services

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion [Children's Church meets during the 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

Mrs. Mady Montague, Choir Director;

Mrs. Patti McClain, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Sue Linardos, Sexton

Members of the Vestry

Class of 2016

Mrs. Sylvia Bankson, Mr. Richard Blank, Mr. Fred Dutton

Class of 2017

Mrs. Linda Meyer, Sr. Warden; Mr. Mike Waite, Jr. Warden; Mr. Rob Mercurio

Class of 2018

Mr. Ed Gardner, Mrs. Kathy Hill, Mrs. Maria Laurel

Mrs. Karlyne Paul, Treasurer; Mr. Jim Hill, Clerk

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Norman Montague, Calvin Nixon, Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert; Karlyne Paul, alternate.

Contact Us

St. Luke's Anglican Church

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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

A Welcoming Family...Worshipping Christ...Sharing His love with others

St. Luke's Anglican Church

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Merced, CA 95348

Address Service Requested

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