



HARK! THE HERALD

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

September 2017



From the Pastor's Desk

Our growth commission has planned an exciting event for September. I want to share not only the event, but use it to think about our values and mission as a church.

On Sunday, September 17, we will have a church picnic at Lake Yosemite, beginning at 4PM.

Karlyne Paul was able to arrange the event with Gary and Amy Davis and the Boat Club, who are generously providing us with their clubhouse. Gary and Amy have also offered to take us sailing on their boats. The church will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. If you attend St. Luke's regularly, please sign-up to bring sides, drinks (non-alcoholic), or desserts. Guests do not need to bring anything. Please make sure to sign-up to attend and to let us know how many guests you will be bringing so that we can make sure to have enough food. There may be a \$6 entrance fee per car, so carpooling is especially recommended. Sign-ups for food and to attend are available at coffee hour, and Karlyne can answer questions.

The primary purpose of the growth commission is to find creative ways to introduce others to our church, with the hope that they will join the people of God (most importantly), and perhaps also join us as members of St. Luke's. I chose to write the words, "introduce others to our church," rather than "evangelize," because there is so much confusion and even fear connected with that word. We feel inadequate when we imagine that we are supposed to "make Christians" out of people who are not interested in God. Of course we are inadequate for that! That's the work of God. The Holy Spirit prepares people to put their trust in, and give their loyalty to, Jesus Christ. It is by God's grace that they enter His family as Christians. Our role is important, but it is also modest. We invite

people to learn about and experience Jesus Christ. We answer questions, as best we can. We try to live in a way that demonstrates that our beliefs and behavior go together. We teach and mentor those we have influence with (such as children and grandchildren). We listen to others, offering the compassion demonstrated by Jesus.

Inviting friends to join you at a lake day with St. Luke can be an act of faithfulness, and a means of evangelism. However, it isn't difficult or something you need to think too much about. Just bring a friend. Bring friends who don't know many Christians, so they can see that you're not the only nice one! Then, they'll be much more likely to come when you invite them to church in the future. Invite a friend who used to go church (St. Luke's or somewhere else) but doesn't anymore. Maybe it will be the start of them returning to following Jesus. Bring children or grandchildren, and they might show an interest in God and church that surprises you. Bring someone just because you enjoy their company, and let's find out together what the Holy Spirit might do.

At the same time, the lake day is also about having fun together as a church family. Sharing good memories and having fun together builds trust and affection. Scripture teaches that we are joined as a family through our relationship with Jesus Christ. Spending time together helps us honor and enjoy that reality. This too is evangelistic. Hospitality is inviting someone into your loving home. A family that loves spending time together can be an incredible blessing to others if they invite them to family dinners and holidays. The more we enjoy being together, the more hospitality we can give to others (as long as we don't let our enjoyment of each other prevent us from being welcoming to our guests). A church giving hospitality is one of the most effective and beautiful forms evangelism. So, come have a great time at the lake to the glory of God.

Finally, don't forget the seemingly ordinary acts of love that a simple event like this makes possible. There are people in our church, for example, who would love to join us at the lake. However, some of them will not be able to join us without a ride. Inviting them and offering a ride is such a simple thing, but it truly is loving. Think of all the people who might need that help. Some do not have a car. Others do not feel safe driving in the evening (although our event will end around sunset). A few are in nursing homes and rarely have the opportunity to leave, but they may be able to come with us if we plan ahead. On

Up-Coming Events

Sept 1— First Friday 6-8 pm @
The Causa's, 610 E
El Portal, 383-1431

Sept 3—Sisters of Prayer

Sept 4—Office Closed for Labor
Day

Sept 9 —Growth Commission
meets @ 10 am in
the Conference Rm

Sept 12 —Men's Night Out
6-8 pm @ Ray
Fitchett's, 119 W.
27th Street, Merced

Sept 21 —Vestry 5:30 pm

Sept 22-25 Fr. Ryan Away

Tote Bags

We have St. Luke's tote
bags in stock. Contact
Nancy Wickstrom. 384-
8034,
nanmausmith@gmail.com



See Cheryl Mayo
to coordinate
bringing food for
coffee hour.

the other hand, what if you need a ride and no one has offered? It can feel vulnerable, even embarrassing to ask for a ride. Will you practice humility and value our time together enough to risk that, even if you have to ask a few different people?

What other simple acts of love can you practice at the lake? Can you make sure that people feel wanted there? Some people attend St. Luke's every week, but they don't come to other events. Can you let them know you would love to see them there? When you are at the lake, will you make sure to talk to that person who seems a little uncomfortable or doesn't have anyone else seeking them out? Can you just tell people at the lake how glad you are that they are there? Of course, you can also arrive early or plan to stay late to help set-up or clean-up. All of these are acts of love, and they too are part of evangelism.

I am looking forward to this event, but I want to be clear that it is just one example of everyday evangelism and love. You can apply most of what I wrote to any Sunday morning or any First Friday event or even inviting people to have dinner at your house on any weeknight. Let us encourage each other to seek simple ways of sharing Our Lord and His way with those who already know Him and those who do not yet know Him.

Blessings,
Fr. Ryan

Annual Holiday Gift Bag Project

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

This is a project sponsored by many churches, agencies and individuals.

Suggested items: sample or travel size-soap, bath gel, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, lotion, greeting cards, picture postcards, pencils, pens (no clickers), scratch pads, full size toothbrushes.

Shirley Vaughn-Hulbert is the St. Luke's facilitator for this project. Call or email her for more information at 209-722-4782 or Luke22936@aol.com. Items can be given to Shirley or dropped off at the church office during office hours. There is a flyer in the Coffee Hour room.

Deadline to receive: December 3rd.

First FRIDAY September 1st

Ada Causa's home from 6—8 pm. Please call and let her know you are coming at 383-1431. Bring an appetizer and your beverage.



The office will be closed on September 4th for Labor Day.

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

Office Business Hours:
M - Th 8 am - 2 pm
Friday 8 am—Noon

Phone: (209) 383-1888

Web site:
www.stlukesmerced.org

E-mail:
office@stlukesmerced.org

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