

St. Andrews Lutheran Church
4910 Claremont Ave.
Stockton, CA 95207

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NEWDAY PRESCHOOL



Newday wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Newday Preschool provides the best care and learning possible in a safe and nurturing environment where each child has the opportunity to develop a positive self-image as well as grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically and physically. Our staff consists of qualified, dedicated Christians who provide love and understanding to each individual child.

Our preschool programs offer Monday through Friday, Monday-Wednesday-Friday & Tuesday-Thursday schedules for 2-5 year olds; Full (7:30-5:30) and Half Day (9:00-11:45am) classes. Early drop, lunch bunch and extended care are also available for students.

Mark your calendars:

Registration for Church & Alumni is on **Monday, February 6, 2017** from 7-11:30am.

Open Enrollment is on **Monday, February 27, 2017** from 7-11:30am.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

We have 16 youth and 2 adults going to the Nez Perce Indian Reservation in Idaho again this summer, **June 24-July 1, 2017**. Please pray for the youth and leaders as they raise funds and prepare for their trip. People attending include: Michael Centers, Justin Centers, Nicholas Curtright, David Deuel, Natalie Johnson, Shawn Johnson, Beckham Johnson, Brooke Kelly, Calvin Kelly, Ryan Lew, Joshua Lew, Zachary Lew, Dylan Marlowe, Carl Swanson, Jordan Wagner, Luke Weber, Doug Wagner, and Kara Young.

Our next fundraiser will be a Spaghetti Dinner in Faburary 2017. Watch for details to come soon.



The FishHook

December 2016



St. Andrews Lutheran Church

Inspiring Our Community to Live Out the Hope Found in Christ

7th

Preschool Christmas Program @ 10:00am

9th

Youth Movie Night @ 6:00pm

10th

Good Shepherd Play @ 12:00pm



11th

Christmas Concert @ 5:00pm



A Divine (Advent) Conspiracy

Do you know when we went from Christians celebrating the greatest gift ever given to even irreligious people being annoyed at how materialistic and consumeristic Christmas has become? Like many things, it was a creeping yet steady change. The question, for me anyway, is how can we practically push back against the consumerism that has the Christmas season by the throat.

Estimates of how much Americans spend at Christmas range from \$200 billion to \$480 billion or more. I've seen estimates that eradicating dirty water in the world, which ends the life of millions of people each year, would cost \$20-30 billion. Hmmm. So if every American consumer redirected one out of \$10-20 or so we could potentially end one of the greatest scourges on our planet? As much as my kids each "need" that second and third gift on Christmas morning, I'm pretty sure that in the long run they'd rather see our family directly contribute to giving life.

We are going to provide St. Andrews some practical steps this Advent on how to push back against the consumerism that is strangling Jesus' birthday celebration. Each week during worship we'll talk about a practical way to cut back on consumerism and simplify our Christmas celebration, give to those in need, or just sleep in heavenly peace during the holidays. You can google Advent Conspiracy for even more ideas.

Continued Inside...

18th

Sunday School Christmas Program @ 9:45am

Youth Christmas Caroling @ 12:30pm



24th

Christmas Eve Worship
- 5:00pm
- 7:00pm
- 11:00pm

25th

Christmas Day:
- One Combined Worship @ 10:00am

Advent Worship at 7:00pm



Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th

Dec. 26th-30th - Office Closed



ADVENT

Join us for **Midweek** worship during the season of **Advent Wednesdays**, **November 30th**, **December 7th**, and **14th** at 7:00pm.



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
Saturday, December 24th
Services of Lessons and Carols 5:00pm and 7:00pm
11:00pm Candlelight Worship with Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
Sunday, December 25th
A Service of Carols and Light 10:00am Worship with Communion



NEW YEARS DAY WORSHIP
Sunday, January 1st
Celebrate the New Year and the Second Sunday of Christmas!
10:00am Combined Worship Service with Communion

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 11th:
Christmas Concert @ 5:00 PM
Please join us for an evening of wonderful music and delicious desserts. This is an evening to see how richly blessed our congregation is with musical talent. A freewill offering will be taken to go toward other Connection and Celebration events in 2017.



COUNCIL NOTE

Staff Christmas Offering
If you would like to give a special contribution to the St. Andrews staff for Christmas please place your gift in an envelope and label it "Staff Gift". You can place it in the Sunday offering or mail to the office.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children continue working on learning the songs for this year's Christmas program entitled "A Christmas Story." The program this year has been written by Chloe Rill from our congregation. The children are learning the following traditional Christmas Carols: "The First Noel," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," and "Joy to the World." If you would like a copy of the words to help your children learn these songs contact Tracy. The program will take place **Sunday, December 18th at 9:45am**, with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 17th from 9-11AM. Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss this exciting retelling of the Christmas story!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join our Youth for Christmas Caroling on **Sunday, December 18th at 12:45PM**. We will meet in the church parking lot at 12:30pm to head out to several local care homes and then we will end at the Center's home for hot chocolate and treats!

Even though we aren't meeting, please keep sharing the Faith 5 at home with your families!

For more information contact Tracy at tracy@standrewsstockton.org



CHOIR DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Does this time of year have you humming Christmas tunes? Our Outreach Choir will be sharing a caroling sing-along for a few nursing homes and communities for the elderly this month. If you would like to join us, check with Rachel McGehee for places and times. Also, save the date for **January 7th**, when we'll learn some simple songs to take the Gospel into our community.



GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY



Good Shepherd Family Ministry would like to invite friends and family to our Christmas play.

"Christmas Nativity"
December 10, 2016 – 12-1pm
Be seated by 11:50am please

A tamale luncheon will follow
Please R.S.V.P. for the luncheon by December 5th
Barbara (209) 986-3344 | Jennifer (209) 298-5532 | Cathy (915) 479-1060 (Texas area code)



All women of the congregation are invited to attend our annual Christmas Luncheon.

It will be held **Tuesday, December 6th** in the Church Social Hall at 12:00pm.

LWML Members please bring a salad or hot dish. Also, bring 1 or more dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies for a special cookie exchange. You will be able to take home a wonderful sampling of other's favorites.

Come and enjoy good food, Christian fellowship, Christmas music and devotions.

Also, LWML Ladies, please bring your stocking filled with dimes.

Please contact Sheryl Bettencourt for more information (209.368.8991).



2015-2016 Theme:
We Are The Starry Eyed
Moms of children 6 and under are invited to join us at MOPS. Get ready! The sky's your limit! This year we will run wildly toward wonder, hope and kindness because we see the light in the darkness and choose to live courageously. We open our eyes to wonder and choose hope over fear.

Please invite any moms of children 6 and under to join us at any of our meetings. In December, we meet **Tuesday December 13 from 9-11am** in the Parish Hall. We will discuss "Becoming.... Parents Who Say Yes", practical advice for instilling wonder in our children's world, cultivating their gifts, and balancing structure with individual choice, to raise big-picture kids.

Our loving moppets workers take care of the children while the moms meet for encouragement, fun and learning how we can explore wonder, hope and kindness as we draw closer to Jesus in this season of mothering. If you have any questions call Deaconess Ann Marie Rehbein in the church office.

The MOPS steering team will meet **Tuesday, December 6 from 8:45 am – 10:45 am** at Liz Cliburn's home to grow as leaders and finalize December plans.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have had a number of children bring their friends this year to join us for Sunday school. Keep up the great work of inviting others into our faith community!



This year the Sunday school children are raising money for "Crossing Cambodia." We are sponsoring a child in Cambodia named Hua to help provide him with meals and a chance to go to school. It costs about \$100 a month to help children in Cambodia receive an education. So far this year we have raised over \$300. We ask that you would continue to pray for Hua and the other children Crossing Cambodia is working with that they might all receive the sponsors they need. Thank you for your support!

HS YOUTH & H2H

- We will break from our regular Wednesday meetings for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas during the month of December, resuming our meetings on **Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30pm**.

- We will be having a movie night on **Friday, December 9th at 6PM** in the library here at St. Andrews. There will be pizza and popcorn provided. Please RSVP by December 7th to Tracy or Ann Maire.



- Thank You to everyone who had pizza with us at Eric's Pizza. The youth greatly value your support. We are one step closer to having our summer mission trip be fully funded.

- Thank you to everyone who contributed to the thanksgiving baskets this year! We were able to put together and deliver 45 baskets to families in need here in Stockton. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY

The Good Shepherd family would like to thank everyone who shared in an evening of fun and fellowship at our Oktoberfest. Thanks to your generosity, our fundraising efforts exceeded our goals. For those of you who couldn't attend but supported us with your donation, we would like to express our gratitude as well. The donations of silent auction items and gift baskets also contributed to the success of the evening.

As a result of your support our ministry will continue to provide activities and deliver the message of hope of our Lord and Savior. We invite you to participate anytime.



Pastor's Note Continued from Front Page...

On **Christmas Eve** we'll give half of the offering that night to **Crossing Cambodia** (bringing the love of Jesus, providing basic needs and sponsoring education to the street children of Battambang, Cambodia), **Lutheran World Relief** (providing aid during disasters and coordinating development efforts-like clean water projects-throughout the world), and **Lutheran Heritage Foundation** (translating and providing the materials to train church planters and pastors all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ). We're calling it our **Advent Conspiracy Offering**.

Our Sunday messages will focus on the great promises God has given us through the prophet Isaiah (you can join us for discussions each week at the 9:45 discipleship hour) and how they are meant to resonate in our lives today.

In short, we're simply trying to let Jesus be the first, middle, and last thing we think about and are focused on during Advent and Christmas. We'll celebrate what He has saved us from, and become a little more what He has saved us for. Looking forward to growing with you as we celebrate the advent of our Lord and Savior.

~ Pastor Dan



FAITH STEPPING STONES



Faith Stepping Stones is a faith based parenting education from cradle to high school graduation through nine short-courses, which pull parents into the role of primary faith mentors for their own children every night through blessing, prayer, scripture, Highs & Lows, and faith dialogue (Faith 5).

Stone 2: Raising a Healthy Preschooler

You are invited to join us for Stone 2: Raising a Healthy Preschooler. In this class there will be three sessions on physical, emotional and spiritual needs of preschoolers and their parents. Parents are also taught how to do a nightly blessing and prayer as a family faith practice. This class will run **Wednesday, January 4 – Wednesday, January 18 @ 6:30PM**. We will meet in the church library and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP by Monday, January 2nd to the church office at 209-957-8750.

Stone 8: High School Graduation

Our next session will meet in the church library on **Wednesday, January 25th @ 6:30PM**. We will look at where you are currently as a family, as individuals and how you will use the time that you have left together. Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, January 23rd.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Teacher Meeting

We will have a meeting on **Sunday, January 8th at noon** in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided. We will be discussing how things are going so far this year, and you will receive the next set of curriculum. Please contact Tracy if you cannot attend. Thanks!



SAVE the DATE

Saturday, March 4, 2017
@ St. Paul's Lutheran in Tracy, CA
Annual California-Nevada-Hawaii
Mission Conference
Theme: "Missionary People"
More information to come!

H2H



H2H resumes our meetings on **Wednesday, January 4 at 6:30pm**. We will be continuing our lessons on The Lord's Prayer, so make sure you put your journal away in a safe place where you will find it to use in January! We will study lessons 2 Hallowed, 3 Kingdom Come, 4 Will Be Done and 5 Daily Bread in January.

Youth Metnor Huddle

High school & H2H mentors will meet **Wednesday, January 4 at 5pm** for continuing education and going over our January lessons. Dinner will be provided. Please let Tracy or Ann Marie know if you can't make it.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

- Regular youth meetings will resume **Wednesday, January 4th at 6:30PM**

- Join us for bowling on **Sunday, January 15th at 1pm**. We will bowl two games at Pacific Bowl. You will need \$10 for bowling (includes shoe rental) and money for food (if you want). Let Bonnie Centers know if you plan to attend.

- Watch for information to come on a service project to the local homeless shelter. Talk with Dan Baker if you would like to help.



CHOIR DIRECTOR'S NOTE

January through May is an exciting time to sing in choir! Our Sunday services follow Jesus' life from his baptism through his ascension. Our Mixed Choir and Women's Chorale begin learning spring music starting **Thursday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m.** Come and sing with us! Talk to Rachel McGehee for more details.



2015-2016 Theme:

We Are The Starry Eyed

Please invite any moms of children 6 and under to join us at any of our meetings. In January, we meet **Tuesday January 10 and 24 from 9-11am** in the Parish Hall. We will discuss "Becoming.... Story Sharers", listening to a photographer share how he weaves together tales of photography, traveling and family life to help us understand God and ourselves just a little bit better. Tuesday, January 24 we will focus on "Becoming...Friends" as we explore the necessity of having a tribe of friends with whom we can be completely ourselves by listening to Jen Hatmaker a best-selling author and speaker.

Our loving moppets workers take care of the children while the moms meet for encouragement, fun and learning how we can explore wonder, hope and kindness as we draw closer to Jesus in this season of mothering. If you have any questions call Deaconess Ann Marie Rehbein in the church office.

The MOPS steering team will meet Tuesday, January 3 from 8:45 am – 10:45 am at Liz Cliburn's home to grow as leaders and finalize January plans.

OUTREACH CHOIR

Imagine telling people Jesus loves them...and getting a response of smiles, cheers, and applause. This is what our Outreach Choir experiences when we share the Gospel through song! Share love and grow your faith and compassion at the same time by being part of this special opportunity. We are meeting on **January 7th** to learn simple music for presenting to a variety of organizations during the spring. Call or email Rachel McGehee to learn more.



St. Andrews Lutheran Church

Inspiring Our Community to Live Out the Hope Found in Christ

The Door to the Kingdom

What is at the center of the message of the Gospel? When you think about it a little, and listen around some more, you'll hear all kinds of things about the central foundation of Christian life and teaching. These include:

- Jesus came to save us from our sin.
- Jesus came to show us how to live.
- Jesus came to bring the reign of God into the world.
- Jesus came to combat social injustice.

So which is it? Or how many? What did we miss? Is the foundation of Christianity that I'm forgiven and God is going to let me into heaven as long as I confess my sin and believe Jesus is my Savior? Is the foundation of Christianity combating social injustice in the world? And who gets to decide just what is unjust? Is the foundation of Christianity learning to be and live like Christ and bringing his reign into this world? Is Jesus only concerned with whether I go to heaven or not and earthly life change is only gravy? Or is partnering with Him, becoming His friend, and becoming like Him the focus and heaven is the result? Is Pastor Dan even qualified to talk about this?

In January we are going to let Jesus speak for himself as our series of messages on Sunday will focus on some of Jesus' most profound and famous words, the Beatitudes and Sermon on the Mount. These words have been described as the doorway into the kingdom of God. They describe what it looks like to enter, and live in, the kingdom of God, and what we are to become as we live in that kingdom as disciples/apprentices of Jesus.

Discussions during the 9:45 discipleship hour will reinforce and expand on those teaching as well.

We look forward to another year with you of walking with Jesus in life and faith.

~ Pastor Dan

The FishHook

January 2017

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1st
- One Combined Worship
@ 10:00am

CONNECTION & CELEBRATION

The following events are just a few opportunities to give you a chance for CONNECTION & CELEBRATION:

January 28:

Trivia Night @ 6:00pm

It is time to get ready for our annual trivia night.

Signups will begin on January 8th. There are six to a team, so have your team leader signup. If you do not have a team, there will be a signup sheet for individuals and we will get you on a team. This is open to H2H age group and above. Each team brings food and drinks for their table. In the past some have had extravagant decorations, and others have none. It's totally up to your team. Please contact any C & C member if you have a category you would like us to consider.

More information will be available as we get closer to the individual events. For any information or suggestions contact any C & C member: Holly Andersen, Tonya DeSpain, Jamie Marlowe, Jeanne O'Connell, Donna Sherman, and Cyndi Temme.



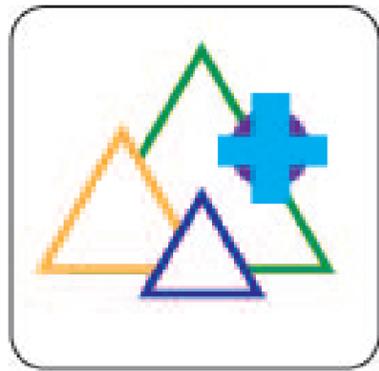
HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

Many of you have seen and asked about the homeless individuals who have been sleeping and staying in and around our facility over the past several months. We have been working on ways to answer your questions and concerns.

Please mark your calendar and save the date for **Sunday, January 22, 2017**. Following worship, from **12:15pm-1:30pm**, over lunch, **four** members of our community will share with us about the realities of our homeless population, allow an opportunity for us to ask questions about how to engage the homeless around our church facility and in our community, and share about how local organizations are working to alleviate and address the issues faced by the homeless population in our county.

Community representatives include: *Dennis Buettner* – Mental Health Outreach Worker to the Homeless, *Mercedes Moreno* – Director of Social Services, St. Mary's Dining Room, *Britton Kimbal* - Chief Operations Officer, Gospel Center Rescue Mission and, *Sue Gruber* – Chief Mental Health Clinician.

What is



Cross+Gen

The church is one of the only regular multigenerational gathering places today and while it's great to all be in the same place, we need to be intentional about building relationships with each other. Research shows that the relationships we build within the faith community help us continue to be involved and grow in the faith **as we grow older**. That is why we have started Cross+Gen.

We all have **gifts** and we all have **needs**, no matter our age. Children need the **wisdom** of elders and elders need the **wonder** of children. Children **gift** elders by gathering them to places they wouldn't go, enlightening them to see the world through fresh eyes, and sanctifying them by helping them clean up their lives (children are constantly watching). Elders **gift** children by teaching/guiding them through new

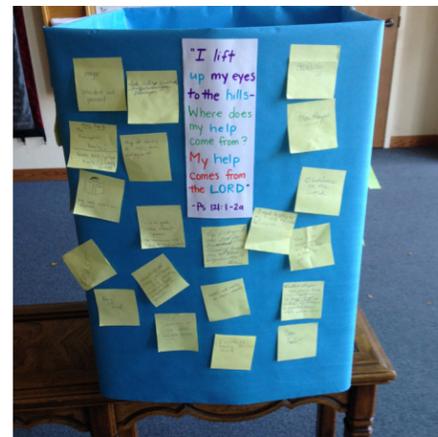
experiences, sharing experiences/stories, and supporting and protecting them.

How can we *really* learn with all ages together? The beauty is, our brains all process information the same way. Once we receive new information our brains look for patterns and tie new information to what we already have stored in our brains. We grow more by working through the information together, sharing our differing experiences, and helping one another grasp and apply what we've learned. This is especially true when it comes to faith as we have different experiences and are at different stages in our faith and those stages may not coincide with an age group. Remember, being a disciple is following Jesus AND helping others to do the same. We often learn best when we are showing and teaching others.

Cross+Gen: AN EPIC EXPERIENCE

The Cross+Gen approach to Faith Formation is **EPIC**: Experiential, Participatory, Image-driven, and Connective. In our Faith Formation planning – which includes *discipleship* and *worship* – we have been looking for ways that the whole congregation – all ages – is able to engage the scripture passage and it's message through different experiences, by participating in exploring the text, by visually representing the text and connecting the text to the greater story of God. Below are some visuals of how we have done so in worship and discipleship over the past year:

During our drama on October 9th, we projected images based on the passages being read. We invited the children in our congregation to create their own version of their favorite image and place their creation in the offering plate. (Top Left)



In worship on October 16th, we discussed being persistent before God. Each person in the congregation had the opportunity to write down what they are persistent about in prayer and offer that up at the end of worship. (Above Right)

At our most recent Cross+Gen discipleship time we had a blast as groups of all ages created and discussed characters and people who inspire us in our lives. We ended with each participant writing down how they would like to be remembered by others after they have gone to be with our Lord in heaven. (Bottom Left)



Join us on first Sundays (2nd Sunday in January) at 9:45am for Cross+Gen. Get to know someone from a different worship service, a different background, and of a different age so that we can all see what the body of Christ looks like. The next Cross+Gen dates are **Sunday, December 4th** and **Sunday, January 8th** at 9:45am.



A Few Questions with Doug Wagner:

Doug Wagner has been working with our Middle and High School Youth for the past five years. We wanted to find out why he chooses to invest in cross+generational relationships and share some of his answers with you!

What have the youth in your small group, both during H2H and now high school, taught you?

They have taught me the Gospel story never gets old, fun is a good thing, everyone loves a hug.

How have they helped you grow in faith?

By being a mentor, I can watch the Holy Spirit work wonders right in front of my eyes. They cause me to raise my integrity bar (actions speak louder than words).

How have you seen the youth in your group grow over your time with them?

They are thankful for the little things in life, like health. They care more for others. They really do enjoy and respect one another, despite their differences.



Why be an example of faith?

– Justin Centers

“Being a good role model through church is important because you set the example of how a good Christian acts to both younger and older ages. It is also important to build relationships with both younger and older members of our church because you will be able to learn from the older and wiser members, so that you then can reach out to younger members and help them grow and build their faith in Christ as well as your own.”

Growing Up in the Church

Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Youth Group; all these were huge parts of our lives growing up in the church. None of these experiences would have been the same without Michael and Ann Marie Rehbein, John and Jennifer Droge, and other adult leaders. One of our main memories from growing up, is confirmation. We remember always looking forward to Wednesday nights and the fun our crazy groups would have together. Through Jeopardy, bible study, prayer, and fellowship; confirmation was an important part of helping us in our spiritual growth and connection to the church family.

We fondly remember youth group nights at different families' homes, playing games, studying God's word, and praying with and for one another. The families who hosted the youth night, were often active participants in the night's activities. Getting to know one another's families through youth group was

a big part of making everyone feel comfortable and at home with one another- just like one big family! The parents who hosted youth nights, took us on mission and fellowship trips, and who spent the time investing in us were one of the main reasons why youth group worked as well as it did. The parents were the driving force behind all the different activities and experiences were able to have throughout confirmation and youth group.

Sunday School, Confirmation, and High School Youth Group had a huge effect on our spiritual, social, and emotional growing up. They all helped us become the people we are today. Many of us still keep in touch and talk often- two of our number even got married! Never underestimate the power of a community of Christ!

Gods Blessings,

Kara Rehbein and Katie Young

If you feel strongly about wanting to get involved in the Cross+Gen conversation please contact us. We are always looking for ways to expand the conversation to include more minds and hearts in the planning and developing of future ideas. Holly (holly@standrewsstockton.org) or Tracy (tracy@standrewsstockton.org)