

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

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S Postage
PAID
Stockton, CA
Permit No. 30



The FishHook

March 2017



St. Andrews Lutheran Church

Inspiring Our Community to Live Out the Hope Found in Christ



Lenten Worship 2017

Ash Wednesday
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Worship - 12:00pm and 7:00pm

Midweek Worship
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
March 8th | March 15th
March 22nd | March 29th
April 5th



Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 13, 2017
Worship - 12:00pm
Seder Meal - 5:00pm
Foot Washing - 6:15pm-6:45pm

Worship - 7:00pm
First Communion Blessing



Good Friday
Friday, April 14, 2017
Worship - 12:00pm

Interactive Good Friday
Stations Walk - 5:30pm-6:45pm

Tenebrae Worship - 7:00pm



Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

-James 4:8

Are you looking forward to getting more stressed, irritable, and resentful in Lent? Are you hoping life becomes a little more complicated for the sake of His name? Hoping to add a little more guilt onto your soul before we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter?

If that introduction doesn't sound very inspiring, I'll admit it wasn't meant to be. Yet how many times have we gone down that path in this season? Sacrifice typically comes with some kind of stress, after all. Or maybe the small sacrifices we make have contained other purposes. Have you ever given up Starbucks (or something along those lines) to save a few bucks? Given up dessert or some high calorie item to hopefully drop a few pounds? While hoping to get a little reward out of our Lenten discipline isn't necessarily wrong, it does seem to miss the point of spiritual discipline.

I was challenged in a recent article by Lisa Brown to reconsider how I think of Lent and how I counsel others on approaching it. The purpose of Christian discipline in general, and Lent in particular, is to get closer to God. Period. Christian discipline is a process both of pruning out the things that are unnecessary and detrimental to this chief goal and then a planting and nurturing of those things that do get us closer to God.

So I'm going to suggest you stop asking yourself, "What am I going to give up (or add in) for Lent?" and instead ask, "How am I going to get closer to God this season?"

Info continued inside...

MARCH

March 1st - Ash Wednesday
- Prayers & Squares @ 9:00am
- Worship @ 12:00pm
- St. Mary's Serving @ 4:45pm
- Stone 7: Confirmation @ 5:30pm
- Worship @ 7:00pm

March 2nd
- Caring Partners @ 12:00pm
- Choir @ 6:30pm
- Women's Chorale @ 7:30pm

March 5th
- CNH Missions Conference

March 5th
- Cross+Gen @ 9:45am
- St. Mary's Serving @ 4:45pm

March 7th
- LWML @ 1:00pm
- St. Mary's Serving @ 4:45pm

March 8th
- Stone 7: Confirmation @ 5:30pm

March 9th
- Plymouth Square @ 1:30pm
- Choir @ 6:30pm

March 10th
- Youth Lock-in @ 6:00pm

March 11th
- Courage House Quilts @ 9:00am
- Good Shepherd @ 12:00pm

March 13th
- Worship @ Rio Las Palmas @ 1:30pm

March 14th
- MOPS @ 9:00am
- New Life @ 5:30pm

March 15th
- Prayers & Squares @ 9:00am
- Stone 7: Confirmation @ 5:30pm

March 16th
- Commodities @ 6:30am
- Choir @ 6:30pm
- Women's Chorale @ 7:30pm

March 17th
- FishHook Materials Due
- Taize @ 7:00pm

March 18th
- Good Shepherd @ 12:00pm

March 22nd
- Stone 5: Livin' Forgiveness @ 5:30pm

March 23rd
- Choir @ 6:30pm

March 25th
- Good Shepherd @ 12:00pm

March 28th
- MOPS @ 9:00am
- St. Mary's Serving @ 9:30am
- New Life @ 5:30pm

March 29th
- Stone 5: Livin' Forgiveness @ 5:30pm

March 30th
- Choir @ 6:30pm

FAITH STEPPING STONES



Faith Stepping Stones is faith based parenting education from cradle to high school graduation through eight 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 7: Confirmation

This class is required for eighth graders (who desired to be confirmed) and their parents. Class begins **Wednesday, March 1st at 5:30PM** and runs through Wednesday, March 15th. Confirmation is not an end. It is a beginning. For the past few years we have been working together to prepare our young people to do ministry through Head to the Heart (H2H) Confirmation. Join us for the Faith Stepping Stone: Confirmation as we learn what confirming your faith means. During these sessions, we will review the basics of the Christian faith as well as explore the vows a youth makes when they affirm their faith. The final part of Confirmation will include articulating our teenager's beliefs by asking each Confirmation student to write his or her faith statement. Please RSVP for this class by Monday, February 27th to Tracy at tracy@standrewsstockton.org or 209-957-8750.

First Communion Class

Stone 5: Livin' Forgiven

Our first communion class begins in March. This class includes three sessions from Passover to Lord's Supper, with nightly confession and absolution added to the faith practices of Bible reading, Highs & Lows, prayer and blessing. This class is geared for fifth graders (or older) and their parents. Class will start **Wednesday, March 22nd at 5:30pm** and run through Wednesday, April 5th. Please bring your Bible. First Communion will take place at our Maundy Thursday service on **April 13th at 7pm**. Please RSVP to the church office (209-957-8750) by Monday, March 20th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Here are just a couple of things to note about Sunday school:

- This year we are raising money for "Crossing Cambodia." We are sponsoring a child, named Hua, in Cambodia to help provide him meals and a chance to go to school. It costs about \$100 a month to help a child through Crossing Cambodia ministry. We hope to raise \$1200 throughout this Sunday school year and so far we have raised over \$865! Thank you to all of the families that have been helping us support Hua this year.

- Don't forget to join us the first Sunday of each month for Cross+Gen. All ages are welcome to come grow in the faith together! The next Cross+Gen opportunity will be **Sunday, March 5th** when we will be looking at Romans 5:12-19. Hope to see you there!



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the college/military care packages. We were able to send out 22 care packages this year thanks to your generosity!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP



We have 16 youth and 3 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, Luke Weber, Doug Wagner, and Kara Rehbein.

Our next fundraiser will be an Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 16th between all services.

H2H



H2H is on break for Lent. We will resume on **Wednesday April 19 from 6:30-8:15pm**. Keep working on your family faith talks using the faith 5 questions in the bulletin each week and continue the Faith 5 in your family's devotion time during Lent! If you have any questions call Deaconess Ann Marie Rehbein in the church office.

8th Grade youth and their parents should attend Stepping Stone 7: Confirmation on **Wednesdays, March 1, 8 and 15 at 5:30pm** to prepare youth to confirm their faith this spring. The 8th grade confirmation retreat is **Friday April 28- Sunday April 30, 2017** - make sure you save these dates!

Friday, March 31, H2H youth and mentors will meet at the Rehbein home at 7:00pm for a Movie Night. We will be watching Risen. Popcorn will be provided, but you can bring a snack to share if you like.

Thinking ahead: The youth will be helping with the Easter Breakfast, **April 16**. The Easter breakfast is another fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip in June to the New Perce Reservation.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

We are on break through the month of March for Lent. We encourage you to join us for worship during lent on **Wednesdays at 7pm** and stay for ice cream afterwards. We will resume regular youth meetings on **Wednesday, April 19th at 6:30pm**.

Also don't forget to join us for a lock-in **March 10-11 6pm-8am**. Pizza and breakfast will be provided, but please bring snacks/soda to share. Don't forget your Nerf guns, pillows, and sleeping bags!



Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the youth mission trip at the spaghetti dinner. We are one step closer to being fully funded. Thanks to your support!

SAVE the DATE

Please join us on **June 17, 2017, at 1:05 PM** when the New York Yankees will play the Oakland A's. We have a limited amount of tickets available to watch our very own Aaron Judge play before a hometown crowd. The cost of the tickets are \$51 each and will be on a first come basis.

Payment is required at the time you sign up. Confirmation of your ticket will be upon receipt of payment, either cash or checks. Checks are payable to Joanne Fisher.

For additional information or questions, please contact Joanne at 474-3704.



SAVE the DATE

All Church Clean-up Day Saturday, April 1st

It's that time of year again! It's time to clean up our church before Easter. Our all Church Clean-up day will be Saturday, April 1st, at 8:00am. Please call the office and let Brandee know if you will be helping out.

With tasks such as: Touch-up Painting, Power Washing, Deep Cleaning of areas, Weeding, etc. We would be in need of a power washer to complete some tasks listed for the above areas.

Let the front office know if you are up to being a Team Leader and help organize a project on this day.



Continued from Front Page...

Perhaps you will answer that question by fasting from something, a practice Christ assumed we would use and has been used by centuries to draw us closer to Him. Perhaps you will add in an activity like extra family devotions, times of service, more time in Word and prayer, or simply more time reflecting on God's grace and mercy toward you through Jesus Christ. Hopefully you know yourself well enough by now to know what works for you, but don't hesitate to try disciplines that have blessed others down through the age of the church even if they feel uncomfortable at first go.

We're here to help you during this time. In the Sundays in Lent we'll be focusing on Paul's letter to the Romans. In this Scripture we'll listen in as Paul connects Christ to God's work through human history and how He brings that to you today and brings about transformation in your life.

On Wednesdays, we will be learning how to respond to God's calling and promise through prayer and action as we study various Psalms and ask the question, "How do I live a repentant and faithful life?"

Topics include:

March 1st - Psalm 51 - Repentance

March 8th - Psalm 130 - What does fear have to do with following God?

March 15th - Psalm 1 - Lead us not into temptation. Especially poignant talk for our young people on how to avoid many of life's pitfalls.

March 22nd - Psalm 132 - Connection, Community, and Faithfulness

March 29th - Psalm 129 - A long walk of obedience in the same direction.

April 5th - Psalm 126-127 - Whistling while you work.

May you be blessed this Lenten season as you grow closer to God. I'm looking forward to walking that familiar yet new path with you starting on March 1 with Ash Wednesday.

As the Psalmist writes:

Psalm 37:4 *Delight yourself in the Lord,
and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

This doesn't mean give a little lip service to God and he'll hook you up with what you really want. It means when God is the source of your hope and joy and desire, He'll pour His presence into you along with grace, mercy, and peace all the more. As St. Augustine famously prayed, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."

How are you going to get closer to Christ this season?

In Christ,

Pastor Dan



PILL BOTTLE DONATIONS

LWML is collecting empty pill bottles to donate to the following ministry:

Matthew 25: Ministries accepts donations of empty pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

Acceptable collection items include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
- Large and small pill bottles
- Pill bottles with and without secure caps (child resistant)

Pill bottles that are not appropriate to include with shipments of medical supplies are recycled for cash that goes towards Matthew 25: Ministries' programs. If you wish to prepare bottles for shipment rather than recycling, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Bottles included in shipments of medical supplies must have an all plastic lid
- Sort bottles by color and type
- Remove labels, leaving no glue or residue
- Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap
- Rinse and dry thoroughly
- Replace lids on clean, dried bottles
- Place clean, recapped bottles in large ziplock bags marked "Clean Bottles". These will be blended with medical supplies.

Please bring all ready and un-ready pill bottles to be donated to church on Sundays for Elaine and Harriet to collect for LWML.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Harriet Doyle | 931.5271

Elaine Hicks | 948.9382

HOMELESSNESS SEMINAR

Thank you to everyone who attended our Homelessness and Mental Health Awareness on Sunday, January 22nd. We appreciate your desire to learn more about the housing and mental health difficulties in our community. Thank you for your feedback and additional questions. We are encouraged that you have already used what you have learned in your daily lives. Thank you to those who responded to our follow-up survey. Your input is helpful in directing how we can better share information with the congregation as a whole.

You will find on the back of the Calendar in this Fishhook a copy of Britton Kimball's "Street Sheet". This sheet has information about Shelter, Food, Medical, Mental Health, Law Enforcement, Clothing and other Services in our County.

We encourage that as you reach out in compassion, listen with your hearts, speak words of hope, and seek to understand those living in homelessness, struggling with addiction and living with mental health difficulties. Remember, alone we can do nothing. We cannot fix the housing shortage in our county, eliminate drug use and addiction, or bring new life but by the grace of God and through his restoration we can be his hands and feet, reaching out in compassion, non-judgment, shining the light of the gospel into the lives of those around us. We can be the first point of contact for an individual on their journey to restoration and together, with the organizations and ministries in our community, we can connect that individual with the resources and encouragement to continue moving forward.

Please see Street Sheet on back of the calendar.



...more than meals

MENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR

Facing Challenges of Mental Health
"From Darkness Into Light"
March 25, 2017
8:30am - 3:30pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
(1635 Chester Ave., Tracy, CA)

Devotions:

The Rev. Dr. Carlos Hernandez,
LCMS Staff

Keynote Speaker:

The Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman,
Grace Place Wellness Ministries

Four Breakout Sessions:

- Mental Health: Social Acceptance and Rejection in the Disabled Family
- Mental Health First Aid
- Help in the Childhood Years
- Help in the Aging Years

Presented by:

- California-Nevada-Hawaii District Human Care Ministries Committee
- Lutheran Social Services of Northern California
- California-Nevada-Hawaii District Task Force on Disabilities

Cost: \$25 includes lunch and snacks

For more information: Marilyn Harri,
harri2@comcast.net, 925.426.8628

OUTREACH CHOIR

This month, the Outreach Choir will be visiting the Children's Home of Stockton, which provides residential treatment services to teens from broken backgrounds. (<http://www.chsstk.com/>) We will be taking a tour of the facility and bringing a care package of donations with us. We're collecting items appreciated by 15-year-olds, like hair gel, nail polish, school supplies, books, and clothing. If you would like to join us in the tour or making the care package, please contact Rachel McGehee.



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 March, we meet **Tuesday March 14 and 28 from 9-11am** in the Parish Hall. On March 14, we will discuss "Becoming... Loved", focusing on the radical goodness of God and the lavish, transforming grace of God. Tuesday, March 28 we will discuss "Becoming... Honest About Suffering", as we learn tips for soul care with tools and techniques about how to cope with depression and anxiety and the feelings so many women experience at this stage of parenthood.

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, March 7 from 8:30 am - 10:30 am** at Liz Cliburn's home to grow as leaders and finalize March plans.

NEWDAY PRESCHOOL



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.

Newday offers Half Day (9-11:45am) & Full Day classes (7:30-5:30pm) for children 2 thru 5 years of age.

We have Tues.-Thurs., Mon.-Wed.-Fri. & Mon.- Fri. schedules available.

Registration Dates:

Open Enrollment-February 27th; 7am

Registration fees (\$175 per child) are due upon receipt of your application and are non-refundable. (No Exceptions) If you would like to observe any of our classes or set up a tour, please make an appointment in advance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jen at 209-957-4089 or email me at jen@standrewsstockton.org.

VBS

Mark your calendars for this year's VBS: **Monday, July 17-Friday, July 21 from 5:30pm-8:10pm.** This year's theme is Passport to Peru where we'll discover God's good gifts. Dinner is included and it's all free. Hope you can join us for the fun and don't forget to invite your friends!



Costco Rewards

If you are a Costco member and receive an annual reward gift certificate, please consider donating your reward to VBS. We use the Costco rewards to purchase items for the dinners served at VBS. Your rewards help us keep VBS free to our community! Contact Tracy for more information or to donate.

CONNECTION & CELEBRATION

The following are opportunities for CONNECTION & CELEBRATION, sponsored by various ministries:

March: Lent begins

4: District Mission Conference at St. Paul's Lutheran in Tracy

April:

1: Church Work Day 
13: Maundy Thursday Seder Meal 

May:

Wine Tasting

The next planning meeting is February 25th. If you have any information/suggestions, contact any C & C person:

Tonya DeSpain | 610-0532

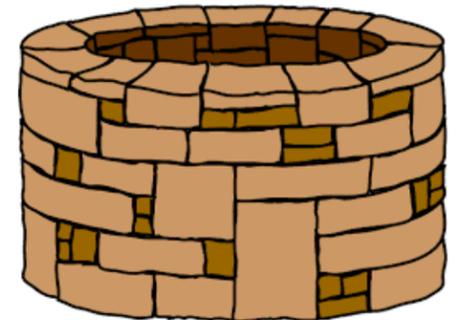
Jamie Marlowe | 662-1884

Jeanne O'Connell | 955-1436

Donna Sherman | 475-8494

BEAR CREEK WATER

Thank you for your continued support and contributions to Bear Creek Water Recycling here at St. Andrews. We have been partnering with Bear Creek Water for six years. They work with Living Water International to build wells for clean running water in various parts of different countries. Their newest well will be located in Honduras. They have dedicated this well to St. Andrews along with other contributing congregations.



Steppin' Up to the Plate

Serving at St. Mary's Dining Room – More Than Meals

Clive Snedker has been serving in the dining room at St. Mary's since around 2009. He sees serving at St. Mary's as a way of living out his faith. "It is our duty as Christians to do good works and serve others and this is just one example of doing that." He realizes how much he has been blessed and has "been humbled by the cheerfulness that some of them display, despite having almost nothing. When someone says, "Thanks and God Bless you" [he] knows that [his] service is having a positive effect on others."

Clive has served as one of St. Andrews connections to St. Mary's and is always willing to bring along new servants. For many years St. Mary's served a hot breakfast and lunch along with a sack meal handed out in the late afternoon. In 2016 they began regular dinner service and several new regular groups of servants from St. Andrews began helping. Donna Sherman says, "You do not have to travel miles to serve others. We have the opportunity right here in our own neighborhood to feed the hungry. St. Mary's serves three meals a day 365 days a year. You can be part of that by volunteering to serve or help prepare meals." Her husband Doug who serves on the line with her added, "Serving in this way allows us to somewhat interact with the folks coming in to receive meals and allows us to be the hands of Jesus for a brief time. There is a wide variety of people who utilize the facility, elderly and middle age all the way down to young children. It is remarkable to see the positive attitude of the guests in spite of the particular situation each one is in."

When asked why she began serving meals, Barbara MacDougall said, "For me I felt the need to do something but didn't know or really search out what I could do. So when I saw the notice in the church bulletin I felt like I was being offered my chance to help." Cathy Pauley also began serving about six or seven months ago. "The reason I wanted to serve at St. Mary's was twofold. First, I like exposing Jackie [Addison] to different "events" that she has not been a part of because of her disability... The second reason is giving back to the community. The church family and community have been so supportive of Good Shepherd Family Ministry that it is important to me that those of us involved with GSFM give back to the church or community. It is good for these people to see a smiling face and have someone serve them -- the least of these -- in our community. Jesus came to serve not be served and He expects His followers to do the same."

Barbara says, "I really enjoy serving there; it is such a simple task. The people are all friendly- both the staff and the diners. It's hard to express but I truly feel I get more out of it than I give."

"It is all relatively easy," Clive says. "On the first Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each month we help serve dinner, but on the last Tuesday of every month (which is when I serve), we also help to prepare the food and then serve it." When asked about one of his greatest memories from serving, Clive responded, "The smiles of the hungry young children as they pick up a tray full of food."

Don't delay! You can begin serving today. Bring a smile to the faces of those who are hungry in our community, from the youngest to the eldest. Contact Cathy Pauley, Doug and Donna Sherman, Clive Snedker or Steve and Barbara MacDougall for more information about serving.



"What a reminder to me that we can always count our blessings."
– Barbara MacDougall



*"St. Mary's offers a tour of their facility twice a month. You can see the dining hall, dental clinic, and their social service clinic. Find out how you can be the hands and feet of Jesus."
– Donna Sherman*



*"The hardest thing I have done, so far, is to wash (in cold running water) and remove the innards of around 60 frozen turkeys - that was freezing cold work."
– Clive Snedker*

"It is pretty easy to dish out the food, however, it is difficult to see the young children who come in...volunteering at St. Mary's is an excellent way to minister to those in need right in our own community." – Doug Sherman

Serving Meals at St. Mary's with St. Andrews

1st Sundays – Dinner @ 4:45pm
Contact: Cathy Pauley

1st Tuesdays – Dinner @ 4:45pm
Contact: Steve MacDougall

1st Wednesdays – Dinner @ 4:45pm
Contact: Doug and Donna Sherman

Last Tuesdays – Lunch Prep and Serving @ 9:30am
Contact: Clive Snedker

Breakfast, lunch, and Dinner are served 365 days a year. You can serve at any meal on any day. Contact Clive for more information about getting involved.



"I wanted to serve at St. Mary's because I like helping the homeless. I love Mike, the person in charge of serving and cooking the food." – Jackie Addison

(Jackie bought a Hello Kitty apron just for St. Mary's!)

Would you like to find out more about the services at St. Mary's Dining Room? Looking for an opportunity to strap on an apron, pair of gloves and a smile? Visit www.stmarysdiningroom.org. Contact America Zuniga-Monroe at 209-467-0703 or azuniga@stmarysdiningroom.org for information on touring the facility. Upcoming tours are: Saturday, March 4th 8:30am -9:30am (special day and time), Thursday, March 9th 11:30am -12:30 pm, and Thursday, March 23rd 11:30 am -12:30 pm