

St. Andrews Lutheran Church
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 Stockton, CA 95207

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The FishHook

May 2017



St. Andrews Lutheran Church

Inspiring Our Community to Live Out the Hope Found in Christ



MAY

- | | | |
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| <p>May 2nd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LWML @ 1:00pm - St. Mary's Serving @ 4:45pm | <p>May 11th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plymouth Square @ 1:30pm - Choir @ 6:30pm | <p>May 21st</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sunday School Teacher Thank You Luncheon @ 12:00pm - C&C Wine Tasting @ 1:00pm |
| <p>May 3rd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LWML @ 1:00pm - St. Mary's Serving @ 4:45pm - Mentor Huddle @ 5:00pm - H2H & Youth @ 6:30pm | <p>May 13th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Courage House Quilts @ 9:00am - Good Shepherd @ 12:00pm | <p>May 23rd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOPS @ 9:00 - MOPPETS Thank You Luncheon @ 11:30am - New Life @ 5:30pm |
| <p>May 4th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff Training - Office Closed - Women's Chorale @ 6:30pm | <p>May 17th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FishHook Materials Due - Budget Meeting @ 6:00pm - H2H & Youth @ 6:30pm | <p>May 24th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preschool Picnic @ 9:00am - H2H & Youth @ 6:30pm |
| <p>May 7th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross+Gen @ 9:45am - H2H Family Picnic @ 12:00pm - St. Mary's Serving @ 4:45pm | <p>May 18th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commodities @ 6:30am - Choir @ 6:30pm - Women's Chorale @ 7:30pm | <p>May 25th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preschool Picnic @ 9:00am |
| <p>May 8th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worship @ Rio Las Palmas @ 1:30pm | <p>May 19th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preschool Graduation @ 10:00am - Taize @ 7:00pm | <p>May 28th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prayer Walk @ 9:45am |
| <p>May 9th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOPS @ 9:00am - New Life @ 5:30pm | <p>May 20th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VBS Work Day @ 9:00am - Good Shepherd @ 12:00pm | <p>May 29th - Memorial Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office Closed |
| <p>May 10th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H2H & Youth @ 6:30pm | <p>May 30th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St. Mary's Serving @ 9:30am | <p>May 31st</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mentor Huddle @ 6:30pm |

How did they do it? How did they “turn the world upside down?” How did an eclectic blend of fishermen, tax collectors, ruffians, and other “uneducated” folk transform one of the most powerful empires in history and continues to restore hearts and minds through every culture it touches in the world today?

What was their strategic plan? How did they come up with it? Who was their consultant?

Consultant? How about counselor? As in the promised counselor. The Holy Spirit breathed into them by Jesus in the upper room on Resurrection day, poured down from heaven on Pentecost, and promised to every person who comes to the waters of baptism.

And the plan? Jesus' words: Follow me. First it was “Go to Galilee.” They went and experienced time with Jesus and were given the Commission of the church of Christ. Next it was “stay in [Jerusalem] until you've been clothed with power from on high.” They did and 3,000 were added to their number that day. The book of Acts is not filled with strategic plans of people and their institutions and programs, it's filled with stories of people who responded to the next prompting of God's Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations.

The followers of Jesus. . . followed Jesus. They let His Spirit move them to generously love and serve their families, fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, and more and more those they had always thought would and should be “outsiders.” They crossed geographic, cultural, ethnic, and religious boundaries with the simple message that God has reconciled the world to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. They spoke of a God of love and peace, and a way to be transformed in this life so as to avoid judgment in the next (John 3:16-18). They did this individually through their vocations, and together as the body of Christ. And it changed the world.

Info continued inside...

FAITH TESTIMONIES

Every time God does one thing, He has done one trillion things. Hear how He was working in the lives of two of our members, unbeknownst to them, yet bringing blessing and faithfulness into the same situation.

I refuse to submit! I really like to do things my way. I like to make all the decisions AND have the control. However, I also feel so blessed that God loves me enough to not leave me alone, but instead get involved in my life.

When I moved to California at 23, I thought for sure I was going to be a millionaire by the time I was 30. No doubt in my mind, everything in my life that I set out to do I had accomplished, and I was very "confident" this would occur as well.

Well after becoming a Christian at 25, getting married at 29 then losing 3 jobs over the course of 3 years due to downsizing, my dream turned into just wanting to fill my gas tank up above the ¼ tank level.

We then had Cameron and Jordan and were able to hang on and make ends meet until 2008. Then the recession hit. Being in the construction industry my income was reduced to 25%. This made things a little stressful to say the least.

About this time my prayer life really got serious. Cam and Jo's grandma, Patricia, had continuous migraines for over a year. So every night we would say our normal prayers and then pray specifically for Grandma. One particular evening, when the bills were overwhelming, I remember just praying silently, "Lord I really need some help. I really need help to feed these kids this month". It was the 10th (we had \$500 in the bank) and the mortgage was due (\$1,800). Well 2 days later, God came through, we received the needed money and we made it one more month.

This happened again 3-4 more times over the next year. This process really solidified my trust in God. He was faithful every time. After this happening so many times I would pray, "Lord, You know what I need and I know you will provide, so thank you."

This same process again happened over these last few years in my business. It would be time to pay the bills and payroll was due. The bank account did not match the bills. "Lord I need help". Time and again he would provide. I can't even tell you how amazing this is. He is a good father. He always provides.

In my mind, I was always justified to not give my first fruits to God. I reasoned I had no first fruits to give. At

least that was my justification.

Ever since Tunde shared last year her amazing story about how God has provided for her family, every time ends didn't meet I have been wrestling with God. How can I tithe a full tithe when I don't have anything left to tithe?

I had Kara explain it this way: If someone invites you over for some brownies and ice cream and they bring out the ¼ full freezer burnt ice cream and the left over two day old brownie tray that has only the edges left. How does that make you feel?

In Malachi 3:10 God says, "Test me in this." I said OK. My budget does not balance, so I will test you. I went from 2% to 10%. Guess what happened.... he provided again! I believe God asks for my obedience in the things he knows that I can make idols. Because when after years of stubbornness I finally submitted, a new freedom came over me that I can not explain. I am the happiest I ever been in my life!

Don't take my word for it. Ask God what He wants from you. Then do it. Test Him. It's worth the journey.

~Doug Wagner

Now that we have just remembered Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by the weight of the price Jesus paid to redeem us. But I want to tell about how giving up what God has given to us is an expression of hope, not guilt, and it gives such freedom and peace. I want to share with you a little bit of the blessing that has been given to me, my wife, and my children by all of you, through the power of God working in this church.

You may remember a few months ago Doug Wagner shared with you how because of something he heard at St Andrews, God placed a desire in him to grow in generosity. He told you how much that scared him and how much more God has provided in answer to his faithfulness than he could ever imagine. But he also told you it wasn't all easy. You might remember he said he didn't always know how he was going to make payroll for his employees.

That story continues with me, because I'm one of those employees that Doug was able to pay by virtue of the blessings God poured out on him. How cool is it, that when God worked to pour blessings into Doug's life, in answer to Doug's faithfulness, he was in the same instant working in my own life, through Doug, to answer my own faith in his care?

Think about that. Doug and I never talked about how tight money was, and believe me, if it was tight for Doug's business, it was even more tight in my household! We didn't coordinate our efforts to pray for the situation. And yet God knew of each of our individual quiet struggle. And God knew each of our hearts, and knew of our faithfulness, and knew the sacrifice it was for each of us to continue to give to his work, to this church. And because of his promises he acted to provide for both of us in ways we could never have hoped for.

Let me give you an example of why I no longer doubt that God will work through the people of this church in my life to provide for me and my family. The first time I gave anything to St Andrews since moving back to Stockton, I gave because things were real bad, and I knew something needed to change if I was going to keep making ends meet. But since I was told again and again by the people here that God will provide if you test him in this, that's the challenge I accepted. I set up my giving through the website and I prayed. And I hoped. And it happened. Literally the very next day, Doug called me aside at the office. He told me "Hey Joel, you are really coming along faster than I expected, you are handling everything I give you and more, I want you to keep up that work so I'm giving you a raise." But not just any raise! The day after I gave almost my last penny to see God's work done in this church, my boss, a follower of that same God, gave me a 20% raise!

A few months later things got really tight again. Until finally, one week in spring we had just enough to make all our bill payments and feed the family. And I knew exactly what was going to happen next. That automatic withdrawal of our giving to St Andrews was going to come out that night and overdraw our account. I knew it was coming, I could have stopped it



2015-2016 Theme: We Are The Starry Eyed

We have had 18 different moms working on wonder, hope and kindness this year! With six of those being brand new to MOPS this year.

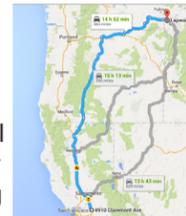
Please continue to invite any moms of children 6 and under to join us for our last meetings of this year. We meet **May 9 and 23 from 9-11am** in the Parish Hall. Tuesday May 9 our topic is "Becoming...Wonderstruck Moms". As we recognize the beauty and pain of motherhood and parenting a child with special needs. Tuesday May 23 is our last meeting, so we will celebrate the year with a brunch together. Our topic will be "Becoming...A Man Whisperer". We will focus on the things the men in our lives need to hear from us, and how sometimes we say one thing but our husbands hear another. We will also meet between these dates on Tuesday, May 16 at 10am at Nelson Park for a fun play date. Bring your own picnic lunch!

Thanks to our loving moppets workers this year for taking care of the children while the moms met for encouragement, fun and learning how they can explore wonder, hope and kindness and 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 leadership team will meet **Tuesday, May 2 from 8:30 am – 10:30 am** at Liz Cliburn's home to grow as leaders and finalize May and summer play date plans.

BUY A MILE

We need about \$2200 more to cover the cost of this trip completely. In the church entryway you will see a map showing how close we are to reaching our destination in Idaho. You can purchase the remaining miles for just \$2.00 a mile! Will you help us by buying a mile? Contact Tracy for more information or to donate at tracy@stan-drewsstockton.org



CONNECTION & CELEBRATION

The following are opportunities for CONNECTION & CELEBRATION. These are being sponsored by the team.

May 20: Connection and Celebration team planning meeting at church at 12:00pm. We are always looking for new members.

May 21: Wine tasting at Klinker Brick Winery from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. The cost of the wine tasting is \$5.00 per person, and signups will be on 5/7 and 5/14. Everyone is being asked to bring an appetizer to share. This will be the third year we have sponsored this event, and the past attendees have enjoyed the fellowship, food, and the wine tasting.



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

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We are currently scheduling for the Pictorial Directory picture days. These dates are scheduled for **May 10th - 14th and June 15th - 18th**. Sign up today either on Sundays in the entryway of the church or call the office. Spots are filling up fast.

You can also check our website for the posted link to view spots available and schedule them yourself. Website is available for viewing and edits Monday afternoons - Thursday afternoons.



Continued from Front Page...

Clearly there was some trust involved. **The first disciples knew Jesus was a man of His word, even the impossible ones.** They had seen Him do so many things that just were not possible as they'd understood life to work. But all things are possible with and through the one who has been given all authority. Even resurrection. So when God prompted them in their prayers and provided opportunity through their every day faithfulness, they trusted He could and would work.

I need to be reminded of this daily. The plan for each disciple hasn't changed much. Jesus still says, "Follow me." He's still doing what we would often call the improbable, if not downright impossible. But it does take some measure of faithfulness on our part. We need a willingness to learn His way in the Word and trust that He's going to act. A humility to love and serve Jesus' way in the face of pressure from inside and out to do it the more normal human way. And when we trust and follow, Jesus continues to bring life, hope, and restoration to the people around us.

So let the followers of Jesus, follow Jesus.

He is Risen!

Pastor Dan



Prayers & Squares

It is our hope that each person who receives a quilt will feel God's love and His presence as they are going through their trial.

Our little group was formed about 6 years ago. As we looked out and saw the needs in our own congregation, we wanted a way to help ease the pain of what they were experiencing. The best way to give someone peace is through **PRAYER**. The very first quilt we made was for Kathy Loschke. Since then, several hundred have been crafted. This ministry has moved far into the community, as numerous quilts are requested for people outside of our church.

It truly warms our hearts to see the loving response of each person who stops by our table, to tie a knot and say a prayer for the individual receiving their special quilt. Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, we have been blessed with lots of material to use for the sewing of the quilts. Our main expense is still the filler and the lining.

We continue to meet the **1st and 3rd Wednesday** of each month from **9:00am - 1:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone wishing to join us is always welcome.

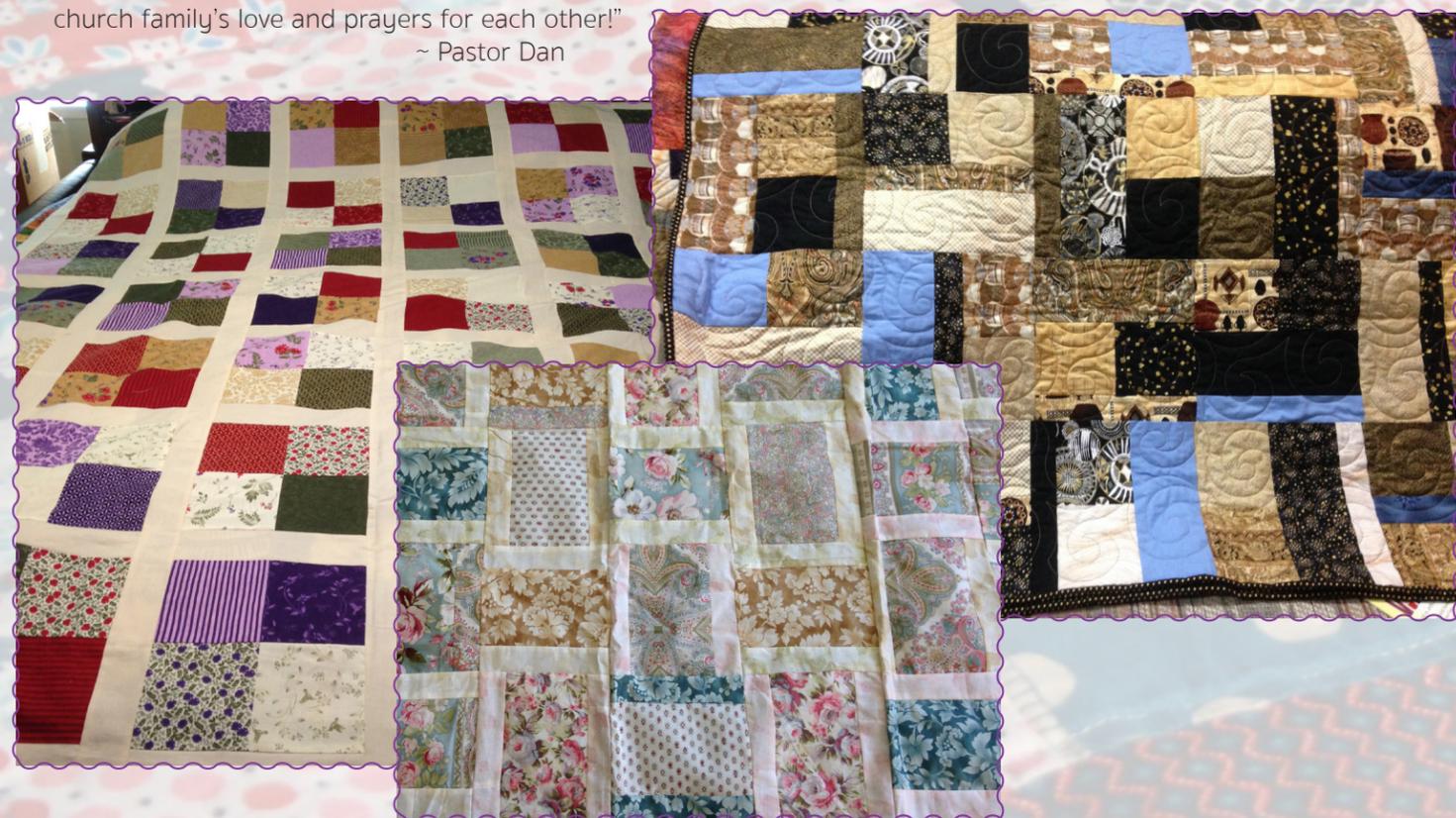
A special thank you to Flo Smith, who is unable to meet with us at church, but who continues to provide us with many quilt tops. Flo has been such a blessing to our group.



Courage House Quilts

"I have visited so many in our congregation who have had these quilts draped over them or right next to them. They are a tangible reminder of our church family's love and prayers for each other!"

~ Pastor Dan



Courage House Quilters started several years ago in order to make quilts for the girls at Courage House in Rocklin who have been rescued from human trafficking. Since we were told that that need had been fulfilled, we decided to continue meeting and donate our quilts to various local organizations. Some of our quilts have gone to organizations that help abused women, some have been donated to the children's home here in Stockton, and some have been given to friends who are ill.

We were originally meeting in the fellowship hall at church but recently were invited to meet at the local quilt store. We meet the second Saturday of the month at Quilter's Hollow and would love to have new quilters join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Diane Dolphin at 479-1945.

