

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

Nonprofit Organization  
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PAID  
Stockton, CA  
Permit No. 30

Return Service Requested



### Wednesday Worship Services During Lent

We will once again have members giving Lenten worship messages through monologues. Last year our people brought biblical characters and stories to life, and you can plan on them doing so again. The schedule for Lent monologues is:

Date	The Story Theme	Actor/Characters
March 6		Ash Wednesday Worship (noon & 7:00pm)
March 13	Birth of the King	Valerie Andersen as the prophetess Anna
March 20	Jesus' Ministry Begins	Jeff Kramer as the apostle Matthew
March 27	No Ordinary Man	Karen Kelly as the disciple Joanna
April 3	Jesus the Son of God	Ian Martin as the high priest Caiaphas
April 10	Hour of Darkness	Pastor Dan as the unrepentant thief on the cross

You can stay after to discuss the weekly theme from *The Story* as well! Join us Wednesdays at 7:00 PM for worship, witnessing members of *The Story* coming to life, and the chance to grow in faith as we reflect on who *The Story* is all about, our Savior Jesus of Nazareth.

# FISHHOOK

March 2019

It doesn't exactly feel like the changing of seasons as I write this. The wind is blowing, the rain is falling, the water is rising in all the usual spots. But the calendar is about to flip another page and that page speaks to spring coming to the land.

Spring. Luther is famously quoted as saying, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time."

March also brings with it the season of the church called Lent. This has historically been a time for the people of God to *be still, and know that He is God*, by entering into a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, and repentance. This is not meant to just make our lives busier and with more burdens, but to get us to slow down, change/transform our hearts (and minds), and see God at work in gracious and merciful ways in our lives.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (March 6th), continues for 40 days (not counting Sundays), and culminates in Holy Week (which begins with the passion of Palm Sunday, flows through the promise of Maundy Thursday, the sorrow of Good Friday, and concludes with the great celebration of the Resurrection on Easter). As it has for many years, our church adds times of worship and reflection throughout these weeks to help us all draw nearer to a God who is always with us, even though we often allow ourselves to be distracted by what He is trying to do in and through us.

This world is not getting any slower anytime soon. The seasons will keep coming and going. It is up to you and me to intentionally take advantage of seasons like Lent to remember our real meaning and purpose in this world, and how it's all driving us toward our time in eternity.

As you walk around this March look to each leaf that buds and each flower that blooms and remember the power of Resurrection in your life. There is newness and rejuvenation all around you. May you slow down and allow it to enter you as well.

Peace to you,  
Pastor Dan



## THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our youth at Trivia Night. We are also very grateful to everyone who donated through our envelope fundraiser. Through your generous support we have raised over \$15,500, which puts us under \$5,000 from our fundraising goal! Please continue to pray for all of the youth and leaders as we start to make the final preparations for the National Youth Gathering.

## THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the college/military care packages. We were able to send out 11 care packages this year thanks to your generosity!

## EASTER BREAKFAST



Come join us **Sunday, April 21st** between all services (7-8:10am and 9:15-10:40m) for an Easter Breakfast sponsored by the youth attending the National Youth Gathering. The youth will be hosting breakfast including eggs, oatmeal, fruit, donuts, pancakes, coffee and juice. A freewill donation will be collected. Your generosity is appreciated!

## H2H



### H2H - Head to the Heart

In March and most of April we are on break from H2H for Lent and Easter. We will resume meeting Wednesday, April 24 at 6:30pm.

Please continue your Faith 5 talks at home over the break using the materials in the bulletin each Sunday. Remember each youth need to turn in 15 notes from these faith talks to their mentor before the end of May.

Stone 7 -Confirmation will be held for youth who plan to confirm their faith this year and their parents on Wednesdays March 6, 13 and 20 from 5:30-6:45pm in the Library.

**H2H mentor workshop** – H2H and high school youth mentors will meet **Saturday, March 23 from 9am-2pm** to learn more about reaching this new generation of teenagers – Gen Z. How can we help them grow in faith in these formative years? How can we help them develop a firm foundation of faith in Christ? How can we give them the tools they need to deal with life, when life gets hard? Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Ann Marie or Tracy no later than March 20 whether or not you are able to be with us.

## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING



This July our youth will be traveling to Minneapolis, MN for the LCMS National Youth Gathering. We will be sending 14 youth, 1 young adult volunteer and 2 adults to Minneapolis from July 10-15, 2019. Please pray for the youth and their leaders as they continue to raise funds and prepare for their trip. People attending include: Justin Centers, Nick Curtright, Olivia DeSpain, David Deuel, Emily Deuel, Brooke Kelly, Calvin Kelly, Zachary Lew, Dylan Marlowe, Dustin Moore, Jacob Sherman, Justin Sherman, Carl Swanson, Luke Weber, Natalie Johnson, Bobby Moore, and Laura Moore. Thank you for all your prayers and your continued support!

Our next fundraiser will be the Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 21 starting at 6am. Our next training meeting will be on **Sunday, March 17 at 12:15pm**. Don't forget you need to provide your own lunch for the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy at [tracy@stalc.org](mailto:tracy@stalc.org) or 209-957-8750.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH



We are on break throughout Lent, but we encourage you to join us for our Lent Worship services on **Wednesdays at 7pm**.

Join us **Wednesday, April 24th** at Bonnie Centers' home for our Senior Appreciation dinner at 6pm. Let Bonnie know if you plan to attend.

We will be having a lock-in for 8th graders and high school youth on **Friday, March 29th-Saturday, March 30th from 6pm-8am**. Pizza, bagels, and water will be provided. Don't forget to bring your sleeping bag, pillow, snacks, and a nerf gun (if you have one).

Our next service opportunity is at the church work day on **Saturday, April 6th**. Watch for more details to come.

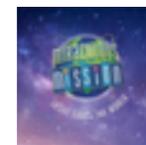
For our next fundraiser: we will be hosting an Easter Breakfast on **Sunday, April 21st from 7-8am and 9:15-10:40am**. If you are willing and able to help work the breakfast please sign up on the list in Tracy's office.

Regular youth meetings will resume on **Wednesday, May 1st at 6:30pm** in the youth room.

For more information contact Tracy at [tracy@stalc.org](mailto:tracy@stalc.org)

### Youth Mentor Training

High school & H2H mentors will meet for a special training session about Generation Z on **Saturday, March 23rd from 9am-2pm**. Lunch will be provided. Please let Tracy or Ann Marie know if you plan to attend.



## VBS 2019

Mark your calendars for this year's VBS: **Monday, July 15-Friday, July 19 from 5:30pm-8:10pm**. This year's theme is Miraculous Mission: Jesus saves the world. Dinner is included and it's all free. Hope you can join us for the fun and don't forget to invite your friends!

### VBS Workday

Calling all volunteers! We will be gathering together starting at **9AM on Saturday, May 18th** to do all the prep work for this year's VBS craft projects. If you can use a scissors, then you are highly qualified for this fun day of work and fellowship! Lunch will be provided. Watch for signups to come. Contact Tracy for more information at [tracy@stalc.org](mailto:tracy@stalc.org) or 209-957-8750.

### 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 and your rewards help us keep VBS free to our community. Contact Tracy Krueger at [tracy@stalc.org](mailto:tracy@stalc.org) or 209-957-8750 for more information or to donate.

## CHILDREN & FAMILY



We encourage all ages to join us **Sundays at 9:45am** for Cross+Gen as we continue are walk through The Story. This is a great chance to engage in faith conversations and build relationships. Come get to know someone from a different worship service, from a different background, and a different age so that we can all see what the body of Christ looks like here at St. Andrews. For more information contact Tracy at 209-957-8750 or [tracy@stalc.org](mailto:tracy@stalc.org).



### Crossing Cambodia

We continue to sponsor a child named Han through Crossing Cambodia. Each week at Cross +Gen we collect an offering and so far we have raised over \$725. It costs about \$1000 a year to provide Han with food, medical care, and schooling. To learn more about Crossing Cambodia check out [crossingcambodia.org](http://crossingcambodia.org) or contact Tracy at [tracy@stalc.org](mailto:tracy@stalc.org) to help us support Han.

## 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 6th at 5:30PM** and runs through **Wednesday, March 20th**. 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, March 4th to Tracy at [tracy@stalc.org](mailto:tracy@stalc.org) or 209-957-8750.

### **Stone 5: Livin' Forgiveness**

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 27th at 5:30pm** and run through **Wednesday, April 10th**. Please bring your Bible. First communion will take place at our Maundy Thursday service on April 18th at 7pm. Please RSVP to the church office (209-957-8750) by Monday, March 25th.

## MOPS



# FIND YOUR FIRE

### **MOPS – 2018-2019 Theme is Find Your Fire**

At MOPS (**M**others **O**f **P**re-**S**choolers) we want to rally women to be more honest, to feel more equipped and to find their identity by journeying alongside one another. We want each mom to know about the love and redemption found in Jesus. Please invite any moms you know of children 6 and under to join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 9-11am in the Parish Hall!

**March 12**, our meeting will focus on the topic "Raising Compassionate Kids", reminding us that everyone is precious and if we want compassionate families, we must start by being compassionate ourselves.

**March 26**, our meeting will focus on the topic "Mothering Right When Our Kids Do Wrong". Our children will make childish mistakes and choices. They will do things that are wrong, but we have the opportunity to do the right thing. Together we will think about what triggers our anger and consider a better way to parent with calm, loving consistency.

Our loving Moppets workers take care of the children while the moms meet together to laugh, cry, and embrace the journey of motherhood. If you have any questions call our MOPS Coordinator, Terra Johnson at 986-7457 or Deaconess Ann Marie Rehbein in the church office.

The MOPS leadership team will meet Wednesday March 5 at 9am at the home of Terra Johnson to finalize plans for our upcoming meetings.

## MISS KIM'S 30 YEARS AT NEWDAY PRESCHOOL



Dear St. Andrews Parishioners;

2019 marks Miss Kim's 30<sup>th</sup> year at Newday Preschool. It is with mixed emotions that I announce her retirement at the end of May. On one hand, the thought of Miss Kim not being here every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning ready to hit the ground running saddens me, yet, on the other hand, I can't wait to hear about her retirement adventures.

Miss Kim's teaching style is one of a kind. It originates from a Christian place of love, nurturing, and a passion for her students to develop a love for learning, school and the Christian faith. Her ability to guide the children and prepare them for Kindergarten is unmistakable. As Newday Preschool has evolved, she too has had to adapt and change and has done so with confidence, pride and grace. Miss Kim has been the heart and soul of Newday Preschool, and her legacy will carry on forever!

On a personal note, I have never met a more loving, kind, caring, and supportive individual as Miss Kim. From the day I began working at Newday, Miss Kim was always there to guide me, lend a hand or kind word, and share her opinions and ideas. Miss Kim has "old school" values, and there has never been a time when she didn't handle any situation in the most respectful way. Miss Kim makes all of us at Newday better teachers, listeners, role models, and individuals. Her dedication to Newday families has made us one of the best preschool programs in the Stockton area.

I wish Miss Kim nothing but joy, happiness, laughter, fun, and adventure in her retirement. She will truly be missed by all of us, but never forgotten!

Sincerely,

Jen Looper, Director

## 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.

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

If you would like to observe any of our classes or set up a tour of our facility, please make an **appointment in advance**.

We are enrolling children for the 2019/2020 school year. Registration fees (\$175 per child) are due upon receipt of your application and are **non-refundable. (No Exceptions)**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jen Looper at 209-957-4089.

## THRIVENT ACTION TEAM



### Thrivent Action Teams

All benefit Thrivent members are eligible to lead up to two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year and associate members may lead one per calendar year. Think about an unmet need in your community and how you could help. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days. Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit, including a \$250 Community Impact Card you can use as seed money to purchase project supplies and create promotional materials. For more information or to apply visit Thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836.

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice® is more than a charitable grant program for eligible members of Thrivent Financial. It's a great way to help the organizations you care about, including St. Andrews. Nearly 32,000 churches, schools, camps and other nonprofit organizations are enrolled in Thrivent Choice. If you are a benefit Thrivent member be sure to direct your Choice Dollars today! Help the organizations you care about strengthen communities and change lives. Direct available Choice Dollars now, following one of these easy steps:

- Go online at [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).
- Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

## BEAR CREEK WATER



St. Andrews is partnering with Bear Creek Water to help provide life saving water through recycling. Bear Creek Water was founded to be a part of the solution for the world's water crisis – 780 million people not having access to clean water. Their goal is to fund the building of wells in communities throughout the world that lack clean water. And thereby saving lives.

The objective is simple:

1. Collect your plastic bottles and aluminum cans that have a cash redemption value.
2. Bring them in to St. Andrews during the weekend services or during the week and drop them at the blue collection barrel near the kitchen.
3. The Bear Creek Water team will redeem the recyclables and 100% of the proceeds go to SAVING LIVES, by providing the funds to drill clean water wells.

Since the beginning of Bear Creek Water in 2009, they have raised more than \$465,000 and funded, thus far, 91 clean water wells.

## TRANSITION UPDATE

Please keep our current staff and leaders in prayer as we navigate the staffing transitions going on in both our church and preschool. We have heard that we will not be receiving a DCE/DCO intern for this coming year, so we are currently going down the paths of:

- DCE/DCO graduates
- Seminary graduates
- Calling a current church worker from the field

We have received several names from these different areas and will soon begin conducting interviews in this process. We will keep you up to date as to the kind and manner of person(s) that we consider calling/hiring. We have also found someone in our congregation who will be going through the Licensed Lay Deacon training in order to be well equipped to serve our shut-ins and other care ministry situations. So keep Kirk Hamilton and others in prayer as they begin the LLD process. FYI, deacons become licensed in our church body in order to serve alongside the pastoral office to provide Word and Sacrament ministry, in addition to other ministry and service, to our congregations and communities. This office of ministry dates back to the New Testament church (Acts 6), and has held a vital role in the discipleship and ministry of the church through the centuries.

## COMFORT DOG MINISTRIES



In early December, my son, David, lost a former baseball teammate and dear friend, Angel, to a drunk-driving accident. As if that wasn't devastating enough, two other young brothers were in the car, Kurtis and Sean Acosta, also former students from my son's high school, and they too were killed. Kurtis and Sean's brother, Joseph, is still a student and baseball player at our school. This news rocked our tiny school community to its core. These recent graduates were highly regarded in our community. They were attending college, working, and rising above difficult circumstances. They were commended and loved for their high character and hard work ethic. They were brothers to many in every sense of the word. But that night they made a huge mistake, and now everyone who loved them was left behind to pick up the pieces.

Within a few days, a car meet-up was planned at the parking lot of Lowes off Trinity Parkway. This meet-up was for gathering to remember these young men, comfort each other in loss, and raise money for funeral costs. If this seems an odd way to accomplish such a thing, remember that loud revving cars and hydraulics are a cultural foundation for many in Stockton and used to celebrate and mourn life by many of our community. As soon as I found out about the car meet-up, I thought, 'What a perfect place for an LCC Comfort Dog.' So after offering to come, the organizers extended an invitation, and both Team Aaron and Team Reuben arrived that night, along with ministry partners from our church as well.

Normally, a group of people that looked like us wouldn't have been a particularly comforting presence to a group of primarily hispanic and black teenagers and young adults, and it certainly wasn't a place we would have normally chosen to hang out. But throw in two golden retrievers and that, my friends, was magic. It gave us the freedom to approach a group of young people and say something like, "Would you like to pet Aaron? He's a trained comfort dog and he loves people. Were you friends with the boys? I'm so sorry for your loss." And while fingers and faces were being dug into golden fur, some of them shared for minutes, some only got out a few words, some took selfies with the dogs, some left to find friends to drag back to the new furry friend. Almost all of them looked us in the eye and said, "Thanks so much for being here." They weren't talking to the dog. They were talking to us.

Presence. It's what the LCC Comfort Dog ministry is all about. The dog is a tool, but this ministry is fueled by people who desire to love others and be the presence of Jesus to those who are in need of a comfort only He can provide. We encourage you to pray about whether this is something to which God may be leading you. The need in our community is huge. Our small team cannot sustain this need ourselves. We need people like you! They will know we are Christians by our love. Join us.

"We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love."

2 Corinthians 6:6

-Miriam Deuel