



FISHHOOK

September 2023



In Psalm 90, Moses laments how quickly life flies away, and how our sin grants us only one thing: death. Yet he begins this dirge with words of praise: “Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God” (vv. 1-2). As we prepare to celebrate 80 years at St. Andrews, it is right to give God thanks and praise for everything that He has done in us, through us, and for us as His people.

A little bit later on in Psalm 90, Moses continues, “The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away” (v. 10). There is truth in Moses’ statement: our lives are but grass. The grass withers and

the flower fades. We will not live forever, unless Christ comes before He calls us home. **(continued next page)**

Let us be bold in trusting the Lord for the future.

(continued from first page) Nevertheless, in spite of this very true reality, we need not lament the way Moses did as we celebrate 80 years of the Lord working through St. Andrews. And that's because even though most, if not all, who helped found St. Andrews are now with our Lord, and even though we will also be with Him in blessed death at some point, the Word of the Lord and His promises endure forever.

And that is precisely why St. Andrews is still here. Not because of our hard work, or because we've done everything right. I hope that we can all agree on that. We are still here at 4910 Claremont Ave. because of the grace and mercy of God. In fact, it is solely because of Him that we remain a community centered on the love and forgiveness He has for each and every one of us.

At St. Andrews we preach, teach, work through, and center our lives in Christ crucified for sinners. God promises life everlasting through the death and resurrection of His Son. And this is what gives us identity, purpose, and hope.

So even as we give God thanks and praise for the "glory days" and the "golden years" of St. Andrews, let us be bold in trusting the Lord for the future. Let us listen to His words of Law and Gospel, Rebuke and Promise, so that we might know and believe in Christ our Lord. As St. Paul proclaims in his letter to the Philippians:

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (3:12-14)

Let us find ourselves in Jesus—as He comes quickly—so that we might know, in deeper ways, the loving mysteries of God.

In Christ,

Pastor Brian



Children of St. Andrews

Newday Preschool

We have had a great start to our new school year, and we have hit the ground running! We had so much fun making apple pies and painting aprons for "A" week. (Big thanks to Karen Kelly for the donation of the aprons.) The children and staff were so happy to attend chapel again! The children love learning about the Lord from Pastor Dan and Pastor Brian. The children have been hard at work learning our Bible verse of the month: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). **(continued next page)**

(Newday, continued) Starting this month, we will be featuring one of our amazing Newday teachers in each Fishhook. This month it's Ms. Alexis, our three year-olds' teacher. Ms. Alexis is a mom to two boys, Logan and Jackson. She has over 20 years of experience in early childhood education. Her classroom is always bursting with fun, and the children are learning so much. Ms. Alexis's hobbies include going to the beach, crocheting, and taking her boys to special events. If you see Ms. Alexis around the campus, please say "hi" to her and tell her how much she is appreciated for all her hard work teaching the children of Newday.



Did you know that Newday Preschool is on Facebook? Give us a follow and you can see all the fun we have here at school. facebook.com/newdaystandrews

We still have a few openings left for our half-and full-day programs. If you are looking for a school that helps children grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically, and physically, call our preschool director Marla Rivas at (209) 957-4089 or email newday@stalc.org.

Kids and Youth

September Kids' Church Schedule

♥ Music, Crafts, Bible Stories





♥ Classes 3-yrs thru 5th Grade

♥ September 17, 24



Drop-off @ 10:35am. Kids join families in church for prayer & communion after sermon.

FRIDAY FUN

MIDDLE SCHOOL



6TH-8TH GRADES
SEPTEMBER 15, 5:30-7PM

Free dinner will be served! Parents must drop off and pick up kids in the fellowship hall.



ST. ANDREWS

students

WEDNESDAYS
6-8:30PM

HEAD2HEART

6TH-8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION

High School

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

pastorbrian@stalc.org

We've got a great year planned for our *middle schoolers*! Meet in the fellowship hall on **Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm** as we dive into our faith by learning about baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Apostles' Creed, and the life of Martin Luther. Our leaders and mentors this year include Pastor Brian, Dr. Mike Rehbein, Mike Valentine, Angel Weber, Tony Solina, and Jaime Marlowe.

High schoolers, come on out for Bible study, prayer, and friendship on **Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:15** in the youth room. Invite a friend and learn more about God's love for you and the world! Seen pictures or heard stories about the National Youth Gathering? In 2025 it'll be your turn! Come to an informational meeting on **Sunday, 9/24 at 9:30am** to learn how we're preparing for this epic triennial event.

Celebrating Eighty Years of Service: St. Andrews Lutheran Church

Please use the zoom tool on your screen to view these photos. This was formatted for our print version, which uses a landscape layout.



Rahab Comfort Dog



Six Rahab Comfort Dog team members attended the annual LCC Convention in Chicago. Two of the speakers spoke on mental illness, suicide, and comforting those who grieve. The convention was a great reminder of the purpose of the LCC Comfort Dog ministry. God is reigning over all of creation but is here working in our midst by leading and directing our ministry. One of the final messages of the conference was that, as fellow human beings, we don't cure; but just like dogs, we can always care. The Rahab team is all first responders...our job just begins when the emergency is over and the healing must begin. *Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Psalm 43:3*

Top Dog Miriam Deuel and Handler Pastor Dan visited the Stockton Police Department dispatch team on the first evening after they handled the call of the police officer shot in the line of duty (he thankfully survived). The dispatchers have a very stressful job in itself, but when one of their own officers are shot, they can

really use the comfort that Rahab Comfort Dog offers. *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 6:11*

Rahab Comfort Dog continues to visit the residents at CAMLU Assisted Living in Lodi. Recently, Handler Laura Moore and Ministry Partner Sue Gruber visited these special seniors. They give the best "pets" and Team Rahab loves to hear their great stories. *Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. 2 Thessalonians 3:16*

Handlers Bobby and Laura Moore attended the Sacramento Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) picnic along with Reuben Comfort Dog and Micah Comfort Dog. The three teams were able to visit with CASA staff and volunteers, along with high school-aged foster youth, as they shared God's love to this community. Jesus said, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me" (Mark 9:37).



Top Dog Miriam Deuel and Ministry Partner Barbara Britton attended "Coast Guard Days" in celebration of the U.S. Coast Guard's 233rd birthday. The Petaluma event was a great reminder to thank those who currently serve and those who have served in the past. *If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me. Psalm 139:9-10*

Rahab Comfort Dog was at Madison Elementary as the school year started. Rahab missed the kids while they were on summer vacation. The team is glad to be back visiting all our Madison students and staff. One person even made a pretty bow for Rahab's hair! *Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:17*

We want to continue to build these community relationships and it starts in our own church. If you have an event through your work or through your personal network, please reach out to the church office or Top Dog Miriam Deuel and invite Rahab and the team.



Women in Mission

LWML



"Renewal & Restoration"
LWML
Tuesday, September 12,
1:00pm

Learn about the new
"Grand-buddy"
program from Jamie!

Ladies' Tea



Baby Shower Tea Party
Saturday, September 16
10:00am

Guest Speaker: Sue Erickson, author of
Tea with the King

Bring new layette or baby items
to support

Directions Medical Clinic



Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, Sept. 10

Creation and Creations

God has gifted each one of us with skills and passions to use for His glory, and some of our ladies are sharing their gifts to equip others with more tools for living generous and creative lives. If you would like to join in or learn more, please contact these folks!

Walking — **September 9** (Modesto). Joan Sykes: (209) 931-0577; jumblefromjoan@inreach.com

Card Making — **September 13 & 27 at 1:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Karen Kleinert: (209) 406-9708; hkleinert05@comcast.net

Beading — **September 18 at 2pm** in the library. Debbie Wilson: (209) 298-8451; skydebbill@yahoo.com



Women's Small Group



Women's Bible Study

**STUDYING THE
BOOK OF EXODUS**

MONDAYS, 9AM

Letter from Pastor Dan

August 23, 2023

To the saints of St. Andrews:

On Sunday afternoon, August 20, I was informed by members of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, that their congregation had voted to call me as their senior pastor. This is the first time this has occurred in my over-seventeen years serving as your pastor (and only the second time it's occurred in the last fifty-plus years at St. Andrews).

What does this mean? It means that I now have two calls as a senior pastor and must prayerfully discern which one to keep and which one to let go. It means my family and I must pray and determine whether to stay with you here in Stockton or begin a new chapter of our life and ministry in Coeur d'Alene. This is not easy for us. Why would we leave our beloved church, our amazing friends, and almost all of our family? Only if we believe God is calling us to do so. I realize it is hard to understand that you can be happy in one place and yet be open to leaving. It comes from the belief, formed in pastors, to be open to the calling of God.

This may come as a surprise to you. If you react like we have, you will have a lot of mixed emotions. We will be praying about this, and invite you to pray about this with us, and intend to inform St. Andrews and Christ the King of our decision on September 17.

Please pray for both churches. For God's will to be done. For God to guide my family faithfully in this. For God's kingdom to grow both in Stockton and in Coeur d'Alene.

You are welcome to reach out with questions, prayers, or encouragement. Please direct your questions about this process to me, and encouragement and prayers to Miriam and our kids.

Peace in Jesus,

Pastor Dan

Reaching Out to Mission & Ministry Council

The Mission and Ministry Council is praying for Pastor Dan and his family, and praying that God's will is clear to all of us. If anyone has questions about what Pastor Dan's call to Idaho means for St. Andrews, you are welcome to reach out to anyone on the council. There are also information sheets available to explain more about how the LCMS call process works. Please contact the office if you'd like a copy.

DeAnna Solina (president): (209) 981-2401 • Tonya DeSpain: (209) 610-0532 • Jennifer Droge: (209) 298-5532 • Nathan Haley: (209) 607-4954 • Mike Rehbein: (209) 474-7828 • Craig Santos: (209) 470-1459 • Clive Snekder: (209) 239-9103

DAS GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY FUNDRAISER

OKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 21, 6-8PM

Craft Beer ★ Brats & Sauerkraut
Apple Strudel ★ Pretzels
German Music ★ Silent Auction
Contests

Tickets \$55/person
RSVP by October 15