

*Inspiring our community to  
live out the hope found in  
Christ.*

St. Andrews Lutheran Church

# FISHHOOK

August 2022



***As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O  
God. Psalm 42:1***

August is hot and dry. At least in our area. The grass is baked and the trees turn a more morose color of green, several months of California's constant sunshine having taken their toll. Many of the springs and creeks of the lower hills—and some even at the mountain peaks—have dried up, the earth holding on to what little moisture is left. If you love hiking deep into our state's mountains, as I do, and plan to rehydrate, an extra level of preparedness is necessary in August and September.

After years of looking, it's often not hard to find water. There are tell-tale signs. I know how to read maps, which side of a mountain to look on, to search in the cuts and ravines, to watch for certain kinds of

plants, and to read the signs of the other creatures that have made finding water and surviving in the wild both art and science. For just as we humans need constant hydrating, animals are drawn to the same resource in our dry climate.

You can hop onto almost any animal trail and it will take you to water at some point. Trails often converge at water sources. No pun intended, but they stream to sources of water. (***continued next page***)

## ***Are you chronically dehydrated in spirit?***

**(continued from first page)** It's especially obvious in dry environments with few sources of water, with deep trails cut by decades of feet and hooves. So my question is, how obvious is it that your soul pants for God? Is there evidence of trails in your life that run to God's Word, worship, fellowship, and prayer? Are you chronically dehydrated in spirit, or filling yourself on the living water that God has offered to you in Jesus?

This is at the heart of the conversation Jesus has with the Samaritan woman in John 4. It appears she, like so many of us, is searching for something she can't find. There is hurt in her life. Relationships have been torn apart in family and community. Whether the blame is to be mostly placed on her or on others (as if that matters), the result is not that much different. Yet Jesus invites her to drink from a source that will quench the thirst of her soul. She is so dehydrated of spirit she doesn't even know what He is talking about at first, as we often don't know what is truly good for us as we search the world's resources for something to satisfy.

Jesus offers this woman—and offers you—living water. Water that flows with life. Water that quenches the thirst of the driest of hearts and souls. Water that will burst forth from us once it does its work of new life and new hope. Water that drips from us as we carry His promises from our homes into the community. Living water.

Let's take the lesson of the dry days of August and remember to ask for this living water. May you spend time with and rejoice in the Word made flesh. May your family lift its eyes to the hills and receive the blessings that come from the one who has come to us. Make deep trails in your life leading to the sources of healing and hope

## **Staff Updates**

### **Thank You**



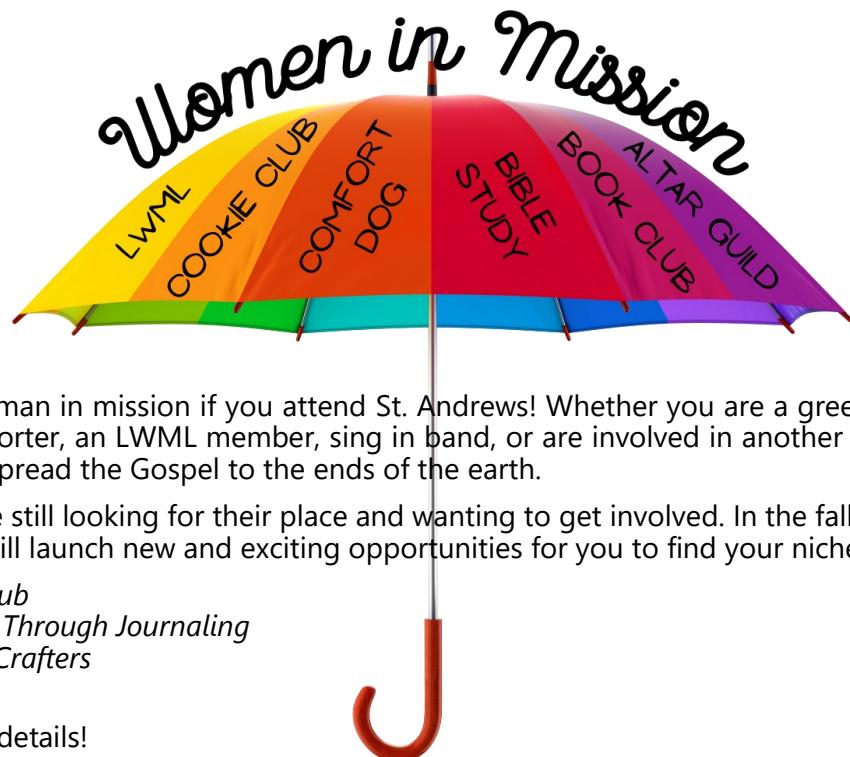
Kristin Winter is stepping down from her role as small group coordinator to begin a new job opportunity the Lord has placed in her life. We are so incredibly thankful for the passion and commitment Kristin has brought St. Andrews over the last several years, including helping us navigate congregational connection and re-connection through the pandemic. Please give Kristin a hug or a high-five next time you see her!

### **DCE Call Process**

Although we issued a call to Alissa Brege in the spring, she declined. So we will be continuing our DCE search this fall. Please pray that God brings His person to guide ministry to the families and children of Stockton and St. Andrews. We also want to give our HUGE appreciation to those who have stepped in to parts of this role in the meantime, especially the Cross+Gen team, Karen Kelly (VBS), and Pastor Brian (youth).

# Women's Ministries

You Belong!



Ladies, you are a woman in mission if you attend St. Andrews! Whether you are a greeter on Sunday morning, a Comfort Dog supporter, an LWML member, sing in band, or are involved in another effort, you are following God's command to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

But some women are still looking for their place and wanting to get involved. In the fall, the ministry "umbrella" Women In Mission will launch new and exciting opportunities for you to find your niche. Some examples are:

- ★ Dayle's Cookie Club
- ★ Leaving a Legacy Through Journaling
- ★ Debbie's Jewelry Crafters
- ★ Carol's Book Club

Stay tuned for more details!

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Beginning in September, LWML meetings will be held the SECOND Tuesday of each month. On September 13 we will vote on the year's community outreach efforts and the meeting activities for 2022/2023. Our get-togethers will begin at 1:00pm with dessert and coffee. Bring your mite boxes and join a post-pandemic LWML!

## Candles and Communication

Have you ever felt out of the loop at church? "I didn't know *that* was happening!" If so, you will appreciate a new effort to make sure all events are communicated to all women in the congregation. The goal is for all women to know what is going on so they can choose to use their gifts to better serve each other and our community.

Join us for the Women in Mission "Evening of Dessert and Romance" this fall (date TBD) to learn more about how we're pursuing this goal...and to treat yourself to food and fellowship! Watch upcoming announcements for all the details.



# Serving Stockton and Beyond

## Rahab Comfort Dog

Rahab's Bible verse is Joshua 2:11: "When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord you God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."

Rahab turned 4 years old on June 4. We are so blessed to have her as a partner in such a wonderful ministry!

Several members of Team Rahab attended the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, in July. Although Rahab was not there, five other LCC Comfort Dogs were on hand to share their love with the Youth Gathering attendees. Handlers Pastor Dan and Miriam Deuel (leaders) and ministry partners Dustin Moore and Brooke Kelly (college young adults) were in attendance along with nine high school youth, one other leader, and five other college young adults from St. Andrews. *"For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."* Colossians 1:16-17

Since the last report, Rahab joined Port City Academy on their last day of school and gave out lots of love as the students enjoyed games and water fun throughout the morning. A week later, she joined eight young men and women on Confirmation Sunday at St. Andrews Lutheran Church. She was so excited to be on hand for the PAWSome group of kids!!

Rahab visited Oakmont of Lodi in June, but she wasn't able to visit the memory care unit as usual, so she stayed in the main area to visit anyone who was there. Rahab had great interaction from the few people that did come and pet and talk to her. *"The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."* Lamentations 3:25-26

Friends and families from the Stockton Police Department and the Stockton Police Chaplaincy had a lot of fun hanging out with Rahab on June 13. Rahab showed her appreciation of National Flag Day and Independence Day by saluting the American Flag in her special way.



St. Andrews Vacation Bible School wouldn't be the same without Rahab on hand to offer comfort and love and photo opportunities throughout the week. She especially enjoyed Handler Pastor Dan dancing to "King of Kings."

Rahab, along with her Comfort Dog friends Reuben, Micah, and Aaron had a great day with the junior high youth from the CNH District. St. Matthew Church of Rocklin was a great host, and we were happy to be invited and attend.

Rahab enjoyed the day with Caregiver and Handler Dr. Amy LaPointe at her dental office. Sometimes patients are a little nervous coming to her office, so Rahab helped comfort them. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God."* Philippians 4:6

Team Rahab looks forward to attending the LCC Regional Meeting August 13-14 at Light of the Valley, Elk Grove. Watch for photos in the September Fishhook.

We are so thankful for the congregation and the community for inviting Rahab to bring mercy, compassion, and smiles to those who need to feel the presence of our Lord and Savior.



# Hosting Homeless Families



Family Promise is having our second rotation of families staying overnight at Saint Andrews from July 31-August 7. Presentation Catholic Church will be contributing volunteers, meals, etc. on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Saint Andrews will have the remaining days (Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday). We are hosting two families (six people).

Please continue to be in prayer to see whether or not you feel God calling you to help volunteer in the future with this amazing ministry. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

## Good Shepherd Retreat

Thirty-nine Good Shepherd Family members, 21 volunteers, and several family members all went to Tahoe City for the Good Shepherd semi-annual retreat.

The last retreat was in 2019 and because day programs and care homes were still under COVID-19 restrictions, we had to move it back to 2022.

The exciting part of the week was six baptisms in Lake Tahoe! Karl, Deantone, Melissa, Kuilkea, Ashley, and Jaime were all baptized in the lake. Pastor Nick Droege (brother to John Droege) was our pastoral shepherd and led VBS throughout the week. Jennifer Droege put together the crafts and games and Cathy Pauley put together the music.

A great big thanks to our nurses Robin Clay, Susan Keller, and Cori Kennedy who are so important to our program! We had three medical emergencies that the nurses were alerted to, and we got the help needed. Two of them were back at camp within 6 hours of medical care.

We had new volunteers join us—Aparna Grace, Beth Droege, and Bob and Marie Boehler. (The Boehlers also helped out at St. Andrews VBS this year.) Family members Walter Sowell, Emily Sowell, and their daughters Gracie and Maddy stepped in and helped out with taking photos, organizing daily events, and playing with the camp attendees.

Coming back as long-time volunteers were Cathy Pauley, Lanny Young, John and Jennifer Droege, Ron Hightower, Robert Bowman, Rachelle Aubert, Chris Wenger, Nicky Droege, Darrell Clay, Jordan Kennedy, and Ruth Sowell.

Highlights included the *Dixie Queen* two-hour ride across the lake, visiting Virginia City, holding a carnival with eight games and a scavenger hunt, attending a formal dinner and dance with DJ Anthony Boehler, and an afternoon at Commons Beach where we had the six baptisms.



Thank you for all the prayers over the years and during the week we were in Tahoe. We are so thankful to LWML for the sandwiches and grant monies received, and we are thankful to all who support our Good Shepherd "kids."

STAY TUNED: Our annual Oktoberfest is October 22!



# Newday Preschool



We are excited for our new school year to start on August 2! Students and parents will meet Newday staff at an ice cream social on August 1. We have many fun and exciting activities planned for this year. We will learn and grow with Jesus. We have been very busy cleaning, reorganizing, and painting all the classrooms. It's amazing what a fresh coat of paint will do!

*We are still accepting enrollment for our fall program. Classes are filled on a first-come-first-served basis.* We offer Monday-Friday, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, and Tuesday/Thursday schedules for 2- to 5-year olds. We have full-day (7:30am-5:30pm) and half-day (9:00am-11:45am) options. If you are looking for a school that help children grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically, and physically, call our preschool director Marla Rivas at (209) 957-4089.



## Gathering in Groups

### Small Groups

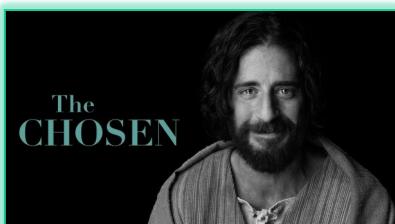
*From Kristin Winter...*

How is it almost the end of the summer? Praying each of you had some relaxing downtime over the summer that included family and friends and maybe even some faith sharing.

As we head into the fall we will once again be ramping up our small group ministry and encouraging all St. Andrews members to join a small group or re-start their groups.

In related news, I am starting a new, unexpected job opportunity that will not allow me to continue as small group coordinator. Rest assured I will still be attending St. Andrews and will be available during the transition period. In the interim, please reach out to Pastor Dan or Pam in the office for small group questions or assistance.

## Sunday Discussion Time



### *The Chosen*

Starting Sunday, August 21, this highly-acclaimed video series will be viewed in the library during the Sunday school hour. Join us for the second season episodes and discussion at 9:40am each Sunday.

# Youth

## Confirmation (H2H)

**August 21, 12pm — H2H/Confirmation Registration!** This year we will be covering the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and a few hot topics that our kids will be dealing with in our world today. In addition to these three topics, the confirmands will be required to fill out 15 sermon notes and/or complete 15 worship talks with their families at home using the Faith5 questions found in the Sunday bulletin. Weekly gatherings will resume starting Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30pm.

## Pool Party



**August 28, 12:30-4:00pm —** High schoolers, junior highers, and your parents! Join us for a barbecue and pool fun at the home of Steve and Karen Kelly (10001 Lena Court in Stockton). Let's get to know each other better and enjoy great food. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served at 1:00. Please bring a dish to share based on the first letter of your last name:

*A-E: dessert  
F-L: side dish  
M-Z: appetizers/snacks*

An RSVP text to Karen would be appreciated! (209) 406-9562

## 2023 Mission Trip

Be on the lookout for a possible mission trip next summer! We'd love to get a team together, so please be in prayer about ministry opportunities and whether the Lord might be calling you to join in.

## VBS 2022

*From Karen Kelly...*

Thank you, St. Andrews, for all your prayers and support for our vacation Bible school this year. We couldn't have shared the gospel with 100 kids every day without the help of all our fabulous volunteers (over 80 youth and adults!). We may have had some setbacks due to the fellowship hall fire, but God proved He is in control. We had to do some things differently—and found they worked better! Praise God, and thank you for answering the call to help this year. I can't wait to see what God has planned for VBS next year!



# Changes at St. Andrews

## Fellowship Hall Repairs



Permitting and repair/renovation continues in our fellowship hall following the arson fire in June. Our Fellowship Hall should be renewed within the next two-three months. The craft room has been gutted to concrete and studs; after replacing the ducting, rebuilding can begin. The main room has been cleaned and will be repainted. We are hopeful for use of the rooms starting in September!

Most of the tables and chairs have been cleaned and are available in the storage containers in our parking lot. If you need something that was stored in the Fellowship Hall, please call the office to find out if it's accessible.

The man believed to be responsible for setting the fire—as well as several others in the area—has been arrested by Stockton PD as they continue the investigation.

## MOPS Era at an End



After over 20 years of MOPS ministry at St. Andrews, it is time to serve the moms of our community in other ways. A special thank you to Ann Marie Rehbein for starting this ministry almost 25 years ago. We are confident that impact has been far-reaching to many moms in our community. Also, thank you to Kara Rehbein for stepping into this ministry and keeping it going last year. Please keep the national organization of MOPS and all the moms of preschoolers in our church and our community in your prayers. We are thankful for this ministry and looking forward to seeing where God leads us next.

## Congratulations!



Ellis Rose  
Muldowney  
July 15, 2022



Justin &  
Emily Centers  
July 30,  
2022