

# FISHHOOK

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February 2022

Hello 2022 (or as some have jokingly called it, 2020-too)! As we enter into a new year, COVID is still looming large in the minds of some of us, while others may be feeling like it is a thorn in their sides! Still, many, if not most of us, never want to hear the word “pandemic” again. But with a new year, we are one year closer to Jesus’ Second Coming. Three hundred sixty-five days closer to Jesus coming back! And that truth is something that we can rejoice in!

In fact, Jesus coming back isn’t only something that we can rejoice in, it’s the core hope of our Christian faith! That when Christ returns, He will raise us up on the Last Day, and we will be with Him forever. There we will live with our Lord, together with the saints and even the angels, praising God and living in a world without sin. What joy, peace, love, and absolute life we will live!

It is precisely this truth that Saint Paul encourages the church at Thessalonica with. The Christians there believed that their loved ones who had died in the faith had somehow forfeited any hope that was once theirs in the Second Coming of Christ. Saint Paul’s response to this is one word: Resurrection!

Saint Paul writes, **“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).**

As we began the new year this past month, we entered into a new sermon series that focuses on resurrection and the gifts that God gives us through it. Not only has Christ risen from the dead, but we will be risen as well! Christ’s resurrection isn’t only some past event that we remember; it is a future event that we look forward to as well. That phrase “Jesus died and rose again” reveals what will happen to those who belong to Christ. We will rise, we will have hope, we will live forever. And all of this is done “through Jesus,” as Saint Paul continues to emphasize.

And so as we enter into a new year, difficulties—and maybe even death—may be looming large in your life. Or perhaps you are clinging to the joys that you’re currently rejoicing in. Either way, whatever you are feeling, good or bad, one thing is certain: We are one year closer. In fact, every day we are one day closer to Christ’s return. This is our hope! This is our faith! This is our joy! That when Christ returns, our entire world will be changed: Sin, death, and the devil will be no more, and we will live in the glory of God forever.

That is why Saint Paul ends 1 Thessalonians 4 with one simple command: “Therefore, encourage one another with these words.” Encourage one another, lift each other up in the promised hope of the resurrection. Why? Because with each new year come troubles unforeseen. Trials so crushing that they may in fact flatten you. Death could be right around the corner...but what of it? We have Christ and He has us! We are His and He is ours! And in Christ, the promise of the resurrection isn’t wishful thinking—it is the reality that we will all experience soon enough.

Blessed 2022, and may you know that the resurrection is yours, and your sins are forgiven!

In Christ,

*Pastor Brian*



# Nurturing Children and Families

## Newday Preschool

**Priority '22-'23 school year registration open for St. Andrews and Newday alumni families, February 7<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>!**

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 to 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-Friday, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, and Tuesday/Thursday schedules for 2- to 5-year olds. We have options for full day (7:30am-5:30pm), half day (9am-11:45am), early drop-off, lunch bunch, and extended care.

*Classes are filled on a first-come-first-served basis.* Registration fees (\$175/child) are due upon receipt of application and are non-refundable (no exceptions).

If you would like to observe any of our classes or set up a tour of our facility, please make an appointment in advance by calling Marla at (209) 957-4089. Please speak with Marla to learn about tuition rates.



## Staff Call Update

DCE interns that are available for call in June will be able to see our position description beginning the last week in January. This allows us the opportunity to interview and offer a call if we find a candidate who we believe fits our church and its mission going forward. We are also looking at the resume-equivalents of DCEs working in the field at this time, and will begin reaching out to qualified candidates. We hope to begin interviewing interested candidates in February.

Please continue to pray that the mission opportunities of St. Andrews in Stockton will align with the calling of a DCE, whether in their first call or after years of experience. We believe we will carry forth faith development to the next generation here at St. Andrews, and this role is a vital part of that ministry.

Please also keep Pastor Dan, Pastor Brian, and the call committee in your prayers: Bobby Moore, Bonnie Centers, Boni Hamilton, Luke Weber, and M&M President DeAnna Solina.

# Worshipping on Sundays

## In-Person and Livestream Services

In worship each week we have the opportunity to come together with others to confess our brokenness and receive God's forgiveness and grace. Being humbled before the cross in worship, looking toward our Savior, we are renewed and restored so as to continue to daily live out the faith we have received through Christ.

*Worship Service Schedule: 8:30am Traditional Service; 10:45am Contemporary Service*

Whether because of illness, vacation, work schedule, or being homebound, you can worship with us via our "St. Andrews Lutheran Church Stockton" YouTube channel where one service each week is livestreamed. You can also view past worship services on the channel.

*Typical Livestream Service Schedule: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays—10:45am Contemporary Service; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays—8:30am Traditional Service*

## Sunday Morning Discussions at 9:45am

***Between our two Sunday services each week we offer several options to meet for fellowship and growth in faith. Please join us!***



### **Cross+Gen (in the room next to the kitchen)**

*What is Cross+Gen?* Cross+Gen is a faith development ministry accessible to all ages, using multiple learning styles to engage with scripture. We use conversation and experience to solidify learning, growing, and faith understanding. We desire to build cross-generational relationships where children, teenagers, and adults support and encourage those outside of their home environment to grow in faith. It is an opportunity for adults to learn how to share and verbalize their faith with those younger—and also younger in faith—and for children to share their unique "faith like a child" perspective with those older than they.

Do you have questions? We'd love to chat with you! Feel free to speak with any member of the Cross+Gen team or contact Holly Andersen and she can direct your inquiry. We hope you'll join us!

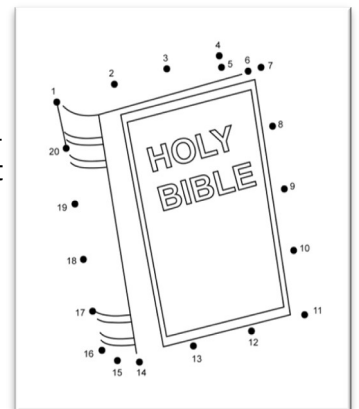
*The Cross+Gen Team*

Katie Young, Kara and Scott Rehbein, Lanny and Dayle Young, and Holly Andersen

### **Connecting the Dots (in the fellowship hall)**

Join Pastors Dan and Brian! From the first to the last page of Scripture God has a purpose. The details all point in the same direction. Every person, place, thing, and event is meant to draw us closer to the Messiah, Jesus.

Learn how the details of the Bible connect to the grand story of God's redeeming love.



### **Minor Prophets (in the library)**

Charlie Johnson is leading a Bible class about the minor prophets of Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Classes are offered in person in the library at 9:40AM and on Zoom Sunday evenings at 6:00PM. Contact the office for the Zoom link.



# Serving Stockton and Beyond

## Team Rahab

***Ephesians 1:3 "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ."***

I think a lot of us enjoy welcoming a new year, with hope and dreams that we have a better year than what we just lived. Years ago, I adopted a different approach which has become more meaningful and impactful. A few days before December 31<sup>st</sup>, I take an evening to be quiet, be still, reflect, be grateful, thankful, comforted, peaceful.

Yes, I give a quick thanks to God for everything that went "right" or I "enjoyed" during the past year—that's easy! However, my true deep-down gratitude, what fills my heart and soul, is when I REALLY think about all the times that were not fun. The times that were hard, sad, trying, crushing, not sure I could ever overcome the despair. The reason? Because of Jesus, His strength, His devotion, His love, He is able to hold me, help me, encourage me. When that happens, I learn more about Jesus and more about myself. Life is not always wonderful—but through Jesus, I am strong, I can overcome, I can be proud of my faith and trust in Him.

It never means it will be easy as I go through it. But that is the beauty of my "end of year reflection."

Team Rahab thanks you for your support, prayers, and love this past year. We look forward to what God has planned for us and the people we serve in 2022. May God bless you and your loved ones.

Let's say my New Year's tradition together: "Thank you, God, for getting us through another year. Thank you in advance for everything you will help us overcome in the new year. Happy New Year!!!"

~Deb Rider, "Top Dog"

P. S. Rahab now has her own pages on our stalc.org website! Visit to learn more about this amazing ministry.



## Good Shepherd Family

In December, Good Shepherd presented their annual nativity play. What a special way to hear the Christmas story! The Good Shepherd mission is to connect disabled adults to Christ and His community in acts of love and service.

*Come be a bright part of someone's day!* Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month from 12-3pm for crafts, snacks, and worship.



# Family Promise



## **What is this?**

*"Families come to us in crisis; we help them rebuild their lives with new skills and ongoing support."* Family Promise (FP) is a ministry that helps local families address the root causes of family homelessness.

## **How does it work?**

Families who have recently become homeless can apply to FP and go through a vetting process. Families accepted into the program receive holistic assistance in trying to regain stability through emergency shelter and meals, job and finance training, and transportation.

## **Why is St. Andrews partnering with Family Promise?**

Our mission statement is "Inspiring our community to live out the hope found in Christ." We are called to act in faith, knowing we're loved and forgiven, and share God's compassion with others. This is a fantastic opportunity to do just that.

## **What exactly is St. Andrews doing?**

At the beginning of 2019, we committed to being one of San Joaquin County's "host congregations" for Family Promise's ministry. Now, after a slow organizational start-up—made even slower by the pandemic—FP is finally looking at beginning to host families starting in late March of 2022.

*Here at St. Andrews, we will house and feed about four families for one week, four times a year.* Our duties will include providing dinner and breakfast, socializing in the evening with the families, and having two people stay overnight each night.

At 7:00am each day, the families will be transported to the Family Promise day facility where they'll shower and have classes. They'll return to St. Andrews around 5:30pm, and the cycle repeats for one week (Sunday evening to Sunday morning of the following week).

## **How can I help during hosting week?**

- ◆ Bring one or more meals!
- ◆ Plan some crafts or games and play with the kids for a couple hours one evening!
- ◆ Eat dinner with the families and share God's love!
- ◆ Spend a night at St. Andrews!

*Please pray about helping with this ministry. Contact Pastor Brian ([pastorbrian@stalc.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stalc.org)) if you would like to get involved, as he is not only our Family Promise contact, but he wants to help develop leaders at St. Andrews who are interested in spreading the Gospel and loving people in a very specific way!*

To learn more about Family Promise, visit their website at [familypromisesjc.org](http://familypromisesjc.org).



# Connecting & Growing During the Week

## Small Groups



*In Lent (March-April) we'll be kicking off the "Forgiving Challenge," a church-wide study. This will be a wonderful opportunity to focus on bringing us closer to each other and to Christ. More details coming soon.*

In the meantime: Please keep meeting in your small groups! If you need help joining, starting, or restarting a small group we are here for you!

**We have many small groups** ranging from traditional Bible studies to RightNow Media studies; quilting, prayer groups, college-age group, early

morning men's group; and much more. Please find a group that meets your needs. It will truly be a gift to yourself and those around you.

Please contact Kristin Winter at [kristin@stalc.org](mailto:kristin@stalc.org) or the church office for any small group needs or questions.

### College-Age

**Includes dinner!** This small group is aimed to reach any college student or young adult (approximately 19-24 yrs). We are excited to introduce a short but powerful study this month by Pastor Craig Groeschel, "High-Impact Habits for Successful Leaders."

*February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrews from 6:30-8:00pm.*

Email [kristin@stalc.org](mailto:kristin@stalc.org) for more info.

### Nutrition & the Bible

Dr. Mike Rehbein is following up with anyone interested in continuing or learning more about a plant-based diet. He discusses the health benefits of eating more in line with how God intended in the Garden of Eden, while giving plenty of practical skills and support.

*February 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Andrews from 6:30-8:30pm.*

Email [mrehbein@me.com](mailto:mrehbein@me.com) for more info.

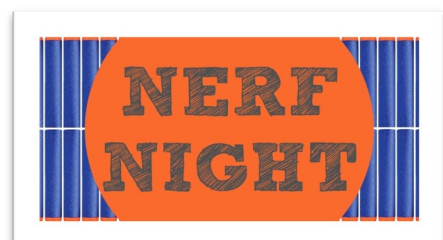
## H2H (Confirmation) and High School

**Grow in faith with friends! Meetings weekly on Wednesdays at St. Andrews from 6:30-8:00pm.**



### February 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:45am

Come stuff care packages for the college students and military personnel of St. Andrews! **Give any names/donations to Pastor Brian by Wednesday, 2/2.** Pens/pencils, granola bars, microwaveable popcorn, candy bars, hot chocolate packets, and small bags of chips/cookies are great options. May the Lord continue to bless you as you bless His people!



### February 26<sup>th</sup>, 4-8:00pm

High schoolers, get ready for some fun because "It's Nerf or nothing!" We are hosting a Nerf war/movie night at St. Andrews with pizza, pop, snacks, and candy. Invite a friend to join the fun!

## Women's Ministries

### MOPS



Open to ALL mothers of preschoolers in our community! Please invite moms of preschoolers that you know and love. We meet in the St. Andrews fellowship hall.

Our loving volunteers watch the children while the moms enjoy a break, have great conversations, learn more about mothering, and grow closer to God. We also have coffee, tea, and treats. Most months' meetings will be the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

**February 8 — "Marriage: On the Same Team"**

**February 22 — "Own Your Story: Tell It Like It Is"**

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the church office, Kristin Winter (kristin@stalc.org), or Kara Rehbein (209-598-3882).

### LWML

*Serving the Lord with gladness.* Join us for our meeting at **1pm on February 1<sup>st</sup>!**

Your small change makes a big difference for the ministry grants we help fund. Plan on bringing spare coins for our "noisy offering" on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

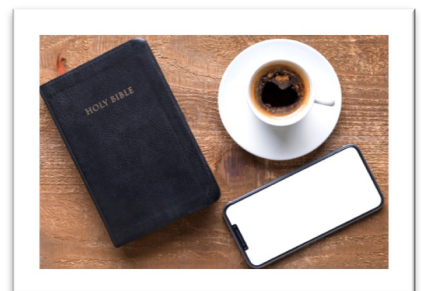
### Women's Bible Study

Study the book of Judges each **Monday morning at 9:00** in the Fellowship Hall with Sheryl Bettencourt.

Pastor Dan and Pastor Brian are providing daily written devotions. They include Scriptures based on the theme of joy and hope in the resurrection, as well as prayer suggestions.

*A few printed copies are available in the Narthex. Here are ways to receive these electronically:*

- ♦ Download our app (search for "Saint Andrews Stockton" in the App Store or "St Andrews Lutheran Church" in Google Play) and go to the Devotionals screen.
- ♦ Check your email from St. Andrews, where you'll find a link to subscribe to Daily Devotions emails.



## We're So Thankful for You!



Your incredible generosity has enabled us to move forward with our courtyard renovation DEBT-FREE! We are continuing the permitting process and look forward to beginning spring construction as soon the city gives the last green light. Thank you for your faithfulness!

*With grateful and humble hearts, the staff of St. Andrews wants to thank you for the generosity you showed us through your contributions to 2021 year-end bonuses. It is a joy and a privilege to serve you, and we are encouraged through your gifts!*





# Our Mission and Ministry

***At St. Andrews, we want to inspire our community to live out the hope found in Christ. We strive to do this through abiding in Christ, acting in faith, and developing authentic relationships.***

*What Does Abide in Christ Mean?* To Abide in Christ is to have a deep, personal connection to Him through the Holy Spirit. Our friendship with God grows through worship, prayer, time in His Word, and experiencing His grace and guidance every day as we Act in Faith. Connection with Jesus also deepens when we Develop Authentic Relationships with other believers.

*Why Develop Authentic Relationships?* When we Develop Authentic Relationships with other believers, we experience the trust, compassion, and forgiveness that comes from knowing Jesus. With deep friendships, we can “come as we are” and accept others for who they are, while encouraging and challenging each other to Abide in Christ and Act in Faith.

*How Do We Act in Faith?* Acting in faith is learning how to let the Spirit guide and empower us to do the works “God has prepared in advance for us to do.” Our faith grows through Abiding in Christ, Developing Authentic Relationships, and learning through experience that when we follow God’s leading, we can fully trust Him to provide everything we need.

*Your ideas, needs, concerns, and questions are all very important to us. Please don't hesitate to contact anyone on this list. Phone numbers can be found in our church directory or by calling the church office.*

DeAnna Solina	President
Clive Snedker	Vice President
Doug Wagner	Treasurer/Secretary
Tonya DeSpain	Council Member
Michael Rehbein	Council Member
Craig Santos	Council Member

***Next meeting: February 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm***