



FISHHOOK

June/July 2024



I had a friend while at seminary who much later I learned wrote and performed his own music. As the Lord would have it, my friend released his first album around the time Eilís was born. During those late nights staying awake with a crying baby, I played my friend's music, which calmed Eilís down and hushed her weary cries when no other music could.

A few days ago I was listening to one of these songs, which speaks about Christ and John the Baptist, and how Jesus was baptized by His cousin in the wilderness. Now, I know we are entering into the summer, and not Advent, but as we do so, something has been weighing on me as of late. Hopefully come the

end of this year, St. Andrews won't be left quite in the dark about the future that Christ has in store for us here.

But, even if that hope is not fulfilled, that is beside the point. For it is not a mere man who leads us at St. Andrews. It is not a senior pastor in whom we put our hope and ultimate trust. It is not a senior pastor who provides for your true, deep spiritual needs. Yes, a pastor is used by God to do some of these things. **(continued next page)**

God is guiding us in our next chapter here at St. Andrews.

(continued from first page) But it is Christ who leads us. Our trust is placed in Him and in Him alone to provide for our future—and chiefly, to forgive us all our sins. He is the one who provides for all our needs, physical, emotional, and spiritual.

As of late, I feel that we have forgotten this. Both myself individually, and as a congregation. This is something that every Christian deals with, daily. St. James wisely tells us, **“For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it”** (2:10). In short, when we break Commandments 2-10, we are breaking the first as well. What I’m trying to say is that we all struggle with our faith. We all commit idolatry, whether we do so by coveting another person’s possession, looking at others with lust, speaking lies, telling gossip, or despising going to church on Sunday.

The song I mentioned earlier tells us this:

*When a voice cries in the wilderness and no one is there to hear it,
Does the message that it carries to us still need to be feared?
And does the man that brings the message need to be made out of gold
Or can he look like he is a maniac and still have the Good News told?
And if the sick and poor are dying in the streets in which they lie,
Can the man whose sandals John the Baptist was not fit to untie
Really save all of the nations on a road that is smoothed out
By running water down their foreheads and pointing to his side,
Saying, “There comes a man mightier than I”?
Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away your sin.
He came when the world was dark and dim.
God showed His grace through Him.
He shows His grace through Him.**

This is what I have been mulling over during this time of transition, for often we let our own doubts and fears choke out the blessed truth we have in Jesus. He has promised us EVERYTHING: protection, peace, forgiveness, hope, and salvation, all on account of Him. Yes, God’s methods seem unorthodox, and sometimes downright wrong when we compare His works and timeline to the world’s. When God hangs nailed to a cross, we’d rather have a powerful, conquering king. When God grants us forgiveness and life in our baptisms, we want to have something more. Something that is shiny and glorious, something that fills our bodies with good emotions. When Jesus gives Himself to us, His Body and Blood, we look at Him and see only bread and wine. When God gives us everything we need, we look Him in the face and tell Him, “I want something else.”

But thanks be to God! For God continues to provide for us. He continues to forgive. And He continues to lead. Our Lord told His disciples in John 16: **“However, when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. For he will not speak on His own, but he will speak what he hears, and he will declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me by taking from what is mine and disclosing it to you. Everything that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is mine and disclose it to you.”**

Everything the Father has is given to us in Christ, by the Spirit. God is guiding us in our next chapter here at St. Andrews, and He does so through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who died and rose for sinners. He is the One who leads, guides, comforts, and cares for us at St. Andrews. And I am excited to see what He has in store for us during the summer, fall, and winter of 2024. God’s peace to you; and may our eyes always be fixed on Christ, the Author and Perfecter of our faith! Amen.

Pastor Brian

*© Hayden Lucas

Kids of St. Andrews

Newday Preschool

Summer is underway here at Newday! The month of May flew by as we celebrated the mothers in our lives. We showed the teachers how much we appreciated them. Then we finished the month of May with our Pre-Kindergarten graduation.

Summer session has begun and we have so many fun activities planned.

We are accepting enrollment for summer 2023 and fall 2023 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' Church

June Kids' Church Schedule

♥ Music, Crafts, Bible Stories



♥ Classes 3-yrs thru 5th Grade

♥ June 9 & 16, then off until August 11



Sign-in @ 10:35am. Kids join families in church for prayer & communion after class.

Confirmation Class



We rejoice with our seven confirmands who proclaimed their faith during our worship on May 12! Praise God for the growing faith of Pamela Brown, Terry Diego, Shelby Drouin, Khloe Hernandez, Camdyn Jorgensen, Claire Jorgensen, and Brady Weber.

On **June 2** these young people will be confirmed at the 10:45am service.

We'd like to give a big THANK YOU to the Confirmation Class teachers, Pastor Brian and Michael Rehbein, and to the class mentors: Jaime Marlowe, Tony Solina, Mike Valentin, and Angel Weber.

H2H will break for the summer.

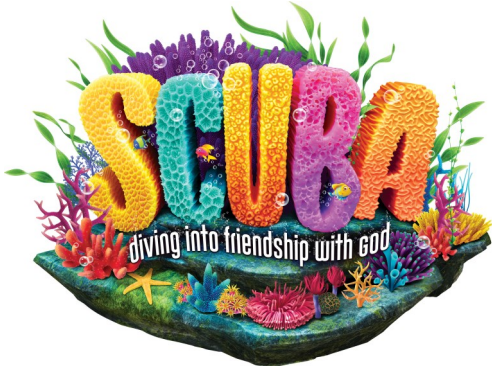
High School Volunteers!

High school Wednesday youth group is on break for the summer. But we can use all hands on deck to help with Vacation Bible School this month! Please text Karen Kelly (209-406-9562) and let her know you're available to help!



Serving Stockton and Beyond

Vacation Bible School



VBS will be here **June 24-28!** We look forward to offering our community a week of free food, fun, and learning about the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Check out these ways you can help.



Register today!

Your kids, grandkids, neighborhood kids, and co-workers' kids are all invited. Follow the QR code, stop by the office, or visit: <https://vbspro.events/p/0f9a89>



75+ Volunteers Needed

You have the skills it takes to help with VBS! Opportunities to help range from sitting in a chair to playing with preschoolers...and everything in between. Overwhelmed by kids? Help with setup or cleanup! Feel crafty? Lead a booth! Enjoy organized chaos? Assist in registration! Contact Karen Kelly to get plugged in (current background check required): (209) 406-9562

June 23 Volunteer Meeting & VBS Setup

ALL VOLUNTEERS! Meet at 9:30am to go over the game plan for VBS week.

HELP NEEDED! Immediately after the 10:45 service, we'll start transforming our campus into an undersea paradise. Please lend a hand if you're able.



Sponsor the Event

VBS is completely free to children. Would you like to help underwrite this ministry? Here are some estimated expenses your donations can help with!

Five days of dinner: \$2,000 (Costco Cash donations welcome)

Paper goods: \$750

Temporary fence for safety: \$1,500

Designate a check, choose "VBS" on our online giving page, or text any amount to the number 84321 with "vbs." Text-to-give example: \$35 vbs

Good Shepherd



In May, our end-of-year Good Shepherd class was extra special with a dove release as we remembered loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord.

Good Shepherd Family members with its 44 campers, four nurses, and about 16 volunteers/counselors are looking forward to their 2024 Tahoe City Retreat. They will receive a blessing at the 8:30am service as they get ready to depart on July 21.

Talk to Cathy or Jennifer about ways you can support this beautiful ministry! (catherine.c.pauley@gmail.com; jenniferdroge@gmail.com)



Rahab Comfort Dog

Rahab was excited to stand with the seven confirmand rock stars who read their faith statements on Mother's Day [see "Confirmation" on page 3]! Rahab looks forward to hanging out with these great teenagers. *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."* John 14:15



Comfort Dog Rahab with Top Dog Bobby Moore and Handlers Amy Lapointe, Laura Moore, and Cathy Pauley joined Comfort Dog Rueben and Top Dog James at the Memorial Day event, "A Grateful Nation Remembers (AGNR)" in Yuba City. Keynote speaker was Dave Roeber, a severely wounded and burned soldier who served during the Vietnam War. *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."* John 15:13

Handlers Bobby Moore and Mike Rehbein took Rahab on a visit with her friends at Oakmont of Lodi. The team had some great conversations with the residents. Oakmont is a favorite place for Rahab to visit every month. *The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.* Proverbs 20:29



Rahab has been enjoying the beautiful weather with her morning walks. Rahab is a beautiful part of St. Andrews ministry, which was noted during the church's roundtable discussions on May 19. *And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.* Genesis 1:31a



Rahab Comfort Dog and Handlers/Caregivers Mike and Ann Marie Rehbein enjoy their monthly visits to Novellus in Stockton. Rahab has helped open up many conversations with the residents and given a chance for Mike and Ann Marie to continue to get to know these beautiful people. *Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* Philippians 4:8

Rahab Comfort Dog Team with Rahab will be on hand at this year's Vacation Bible School from June 24-28. She looks forward to being part of the tribe team photos. *"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And He took [the children] in his arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them.* Mark 10:15-16

If you would like to purchase a Rahab Stuffie (stuffed animal with Rahab bandana), please email Top Dog Bobby Moore (not church staff) at comfortcarek9@stalc.org. Cost is \$20 each and for every stuffie purchased, the team can buy another stuffie to give out at ministry events.

Family Promise

Family Promise Hosting 6/30-7/7



Family Promise
We're All in This Together



Let's be a blessing to the families supported by Family Promise! If you are able to help with any of these needs on that SUNDAY, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, or FRIDAY, please email Lanny or call the office.

- Van Drivers (AM/PM)
- Provide Dinner
- Dinner Assistant
- Evening Activities (6-8pm)
- Overnight Support (8pm-6:30am)
- Setup or Cleanup

lanny.young17@gmail.com

Calling YAVs!

The Lutheran National Youth Gathering of 2025 will start accepting applications for young adult volunteers (YAVs) on **July 15**. These adults, ages 19-25, will serve as role models and servant leaders throughout all corners of the NYG. If you are interested in learning more, visit <https://www.lcmmsgathering.com/volunteer/> or contact Dan Baker: (209) 479-0001

Women in Mission

Getting Creative

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!

Card Making — **June 12 and July 17 from 1:30-3pm** in the fellowship hall. Karen Kleinert: (209) 406-9708; hkleinert05@comcast.net

Beading — **June 18 and July 9 from 1:30-4pm** in the fellowship hall. Debbie Wilson: (209) 298-8451; skydebbill@yahoo.com



Step by Step



St. Andrews Strollers

Walking group for
individuals &
families.

Calaveras Big Trees
June 8

BBQ to follow!

Call Joan for more
info: (412) 337-2538



Grab a hat and a water bottle and marvel at some of the largest trees in the world while conversing with lovely ladies.

Detailed information about the walk, including location starting point, will be sent in a message 3-4 days prior to the event. Please send your email address to Joan (jumblefromjoan@inreach.com) or call her (see above).

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

At the May meeting we elected new officers and helped with VBS prep work. Kim Beecher will be our president with Judy Herum, Donna Sherman, and Sandy Thompson completing the board.

On **June 11**, bring your lunch and join us at **In Season Nursery at NOON** (215 E. Alpine Ave.). This is a time and location change so please note!!!!

Pastor Brian will install the new officers and Carol Sherman will share her experiences as a writer and publisher of four Christian romance novels.

There are many gifts and talents in St. Andrews Women in Mission. Come see how you might fit in!



St. Andrews Updates

From Our Interim Admin Pastor

Hello to all of you in the St. Andrews family! THANK YOU to those who could attend the congregational meeting on May 19. We had about 100 people at 12 round tables. All the discussion items that I received from the table leaders have been recorded and I will compile a report for you in a few weeks. It was amazing to watch and listen to the many conversations at each table during the meeting. You worked hard and provided many good answers and ideas. May the Lord bless your efforts as your congregation moves into the future to make a difference in the lives of people with the Gospel of Jesus.

I hope you will take time to complete the Senior Pastor Survey (see info below). If you need a printed copy, ask the church office, and then someone will input your printed answers in our online form, so that the total responses are compiled accurately. A report of the answers will be provided in a few weeks. Assuming a vote is passed on June 9 to form a call committee, that report will be helpful as the committee prepares a job description for a call.

I write this article on Memorial Day! I am grateful for the women and men who have given their lives in serving our country. We would not be "the land of the free and the home of the brave" without the many sacrifices given by people. St. Andrews would not be in existence without the sacrifice given by Jesus on the cross of Calvary. The Bible states, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free" (Gal. 5:1). We have been freed from sin, death, and the devil in order to live as people of God as we await the return of Jesus. *You, people of God at St. Andrews, have been set free to help others discover the freedom of forgiveness.* Soon you will have a senior pastor to help lead you in sharing God's grace with people in the congregation and in the community. Today—and every day—is like a Memorial Day as we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. WOW! To God be the glory, great things He has done.

Pastor Ron Youngdale

Senior Pastor Survey

A graphic for the Senior Pastor Survey. On the left, it says "ST. ANDREWS SENIOR PASTOR SURVEY" with a QR code. Below that, it asks "What do YOU think are the strengths and qualities our senior pastor should have?" and says "FOR EVERYONE HIGH SCHOOL-AGED AND UP! TAKE SURVEY BY JUNE 9." and "Visit the office for a paper copy." On the right, it says "SENIOR PASTOR CALL PROCESS" above a photo of a church building at sunset.

ST. ANDREWS
SENIOR PASTOR SURVEY

What do **YOU** think are the strengths and qualities our senior pastor should have?

FOR EVERYONE HIGH SCHOOL-AGED AND UP!
TAKE SURVEY BY JUNE 9.

Visit the office for a paper copy.

SENIOR PASTOR CALL PROCESS

Upcoming Vote

The Mission and Ministry Council has been working hard to discern God's leading as we all work together during this time of transition. All are invited to meet at **12pm on June 9** to hear proposals for how to move forward with calling a senior pastor. Members will be asked to vote on crucial decisions for St. Andrews, so please plan on attending.

A graphic for the Voter Assembly Meeting. It features a red banner that says "Save the Date" and text that says "Voter Assembly Meeting June 9, after 10:45 service" and "Approve budget and revised bylaws; updates on senior pastor call process." At the bottom, there is an illustration of several hands raised.

Save the Date



Voter Assembly Meeting
June 9, after 10:45 service

**Approve budget and revised bylaws;
updates on senior pastor call process.**


Passing the Baton

As we prepare to say goodbye to our office administrator Pamela Farley, we welcome St. Andrews member Boni Hamilton who will be filling the position for the next six months. We look forward to seeing Boni serve Christ's Church in this way! Pam's last day in the office is June 3, so please stop by if you'd like to wish her well.

Help-a-Member



Can you cook? Drive? Pet sit? Tutor?
Members sometimes call the church office looking for help. Let us know what your skills are by completing the linked checklist! Or call the office and we'll collect your info.



Ways to Give at St. Andrews

St. Andrews has a wonderful history of being generous in its giving and responding to each other's needs when the time arises. We are grateful to all of you who give to St. Andrews and pray with St. Paul that we would "excel all the more in this act of grace."

Here are a variety of ways to give to St. Andrews:

1. By check or cash during worship on Sundays. Some prefer this as it helps incorporate giving into their act of worship.
2. Recurring or one-time gifts through our website (stalc.churchcenter.com/giving), app, or text-to-give (instructions at standrewsstockton.org/text-to-give). Some prefer the convenience of this option and are grateful they don't have to worry about forgetting to give after they sign up for recurring gifts. It is also often possible to set up donations directly through your personal bank account.
3. Required Minimum Distribution giving. You can give your RMDs straight to St. Andrews. Many of our retired people appreciate the tax benefits they get from this process.
4. You could also do this kind of giving with other investment accounts, stock investments, charitable trusts, etc. Talk with your financial advisor about how to set this up.

Thank you again for making ministry and mission happen here at St. Andrews by growing in your generosity!