



Give thanks to the Lord,

for he is good.

FISHHOOK

November 2023



Acrophobia: fear of heights. Arachnophobia: fear of spiders. Cynophobia: fear of dogs (something I suffer from). Hemophobia: fear of blood. There are plenty of things you and I are afraid of. Whatever it may be, deep down we're all afraid of something. And fear can take a lot of forms. There's the "fight or flight" response people often have when faced with terror. Sometimes fear can cause anger and violence to well up inside of us. Fear can paralyze. It can lead to immobility in the face of something that threatens to end our lives.

Today, I feel as if St. Andrews isn't immobilized or paralyzed by fear, but I do feel that anxiety is all around. We have had to say goodbye to a senior pastor whom Jesus worked through in miraculous ways these past 18 years. And that can make us feel like there is a huge hole in our congregation. And this, maybe quite naturally, can lead to feelings of anxiety. Feelings that look to the future

with a sense of dread, and even a sense of fear. And although I am tempted to quote the oft-mentioned verses from Matthew 6:34 and Philippians 4:5-7, what I have been pondering these past few weeks is a portion of God's Word found somewhere else.

As time marches on, Jesus continues to work through you and through me here at St. Andrews. His promises remain for us and for all those we encounter in our daily lives. In that sense, nothing has changed. **(continued next page)**

Let us go boldly, in His name, into the future.

(continued from first page) And so, what I have been praying on is Ephesians 2:19-22:

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

Christ is our Cornerstone. On Him alone do we rest and stand. And He will not be moved! Jesus has promised to never leave us or forsake us, and He has also proclaimed that He is our Lord. After all, we profess this on Sundays when we confess the Apostles’ Creed and when we occasionally quote the Small Catechism. In short, Christ is the Lord of the Church. He is still the Savior and the One True Shepherd of St. Andrews Lutheran Church. And this is why we rest on Him. It is why He is our Cornerstone. For without Christ, we would be truly fearful, anxious, and worried.

But we are in Him, and He is in us. So we have nothing to fear! We rest on Christ and center ourselves on Him. He is who we share with others. He is what we preach. As St. Paul puts it, *“But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men”* (1 Corinthians 1:23-25).

Let us go boldly, in His name, into the future.

In Christ,

Holiday Worship Services



THANKSGIVING
EVE

Worship with
all ages

Bring a pie or
dessert to share

NOVEMBER 22, 7PM

The poster features a yellow background with autumn leaves and pumpkins. At the top center is a circular icon of hands clasped in prayer. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout.



THE
CLOTHING
OF THE
KING

1517

Advent reflections and activities for all ages.
Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20, 7-8pm.

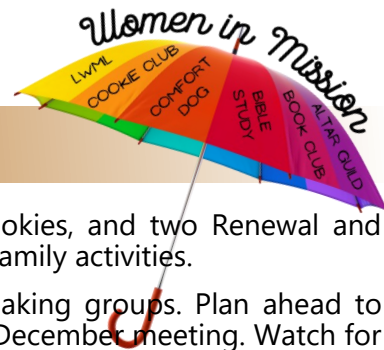
The poster has a light green background with blue decorative elements like yarn balls and stars. The title 'THE CLOTHING OF THE KING' is written in a large, stylized font. A small crown icon is above the word 'KING'.

Save the dates for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Christmas Eve: Morning worship at 10:00am. Carols and the Nativity story at 5pm and 11pm.

Christmas Day: Worship at 10am with more carols and joy!

Women in Mission



Donations and Gift-Giving

St. Andrews Women in Mission donated handmade greeting cards, jewelry, cookies, and two Renewal and Restoration baskets to the recent Oktoberfest fundraiser for our Good Shepherd Family activities.

With gift-giving season around the corner, check out our beading and card-making groups. Plan ahead to participate in the cookie exchange at the December Lutheran Women in Mission December meeting. Watch for details in the December/January Fishhook.

Walking and Crafting

Our walking, beading, and card-making groups are having a ball! Contact these ladies to learn more.

Card Making — **November 15 at 1:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Karen Kleinert: (209) 406-9708; hkleinert05@comcast.net

Beading — On break for November. Call Debbie Wilson for future dates: (209) 298-8451; skydebbill@yahoo.com

Walking — **December 2** for Sutter Creek Christmas. Joan Sykes: (412) 337-2538; jumblefromjoan@inreach.com

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Our Bible verse for November is from 1 Peter 5:10: *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

Join us at St. Andrews on **November 14 at 1:00pm** to assemble the Scripture chains we're including with the Thanksgiving baskets. Here's a photo from last year!



Maintaining Our Campus



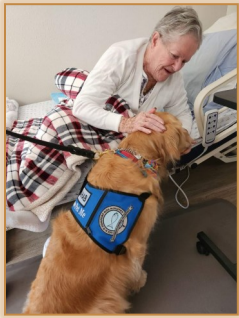
CALLING Handy Helpers

Are you handy around the house? Join a rotating pool of volunteers to make simple fixes around the church buildings.

Call Pam to learn more:
(209) 957-8750

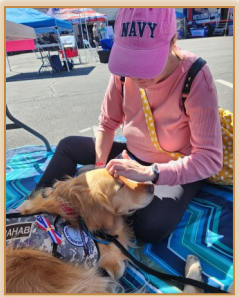
Serving Stockton and Beyond

Rahab Comfort Dog



Rahab Comfort Dog continues visits to a memory care unit and to CAMLU Assisted Living Community. One woman Rahab visited is a Golden Retriever lover who really felt the love when she was given a Rahab stuffy...there were tears of joy! *"Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* John 14:27

Handler Miriam Deuel and Ministry Partner Sue Gruber took Rahab on a flight and attended the Pacific Southwest District pastors conference in Palm Springs. Rueben and Lois Comfort Dog teams were also in attendance. It was a wonderful conference and one of the last events that Miriam attended as Top Dog. Team Rahab is transitioning to our newest Top Dog, Bobby Moore, who was commissioned during a St. Andrews worship service on October 29. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5



Rahab Comfort Dog military handler Mike Rehbein and military ministry partner Cathy Pauley had a paw-some day at the El Dorado Veterans Stand Down in Placerville. Sharing God's love with the men and women who have served our country was very inspirational. The team heard many stories—some sad and all very inspiring—from veterans who have faced many challenges. A camouflage stuffy and a challenge coin were given out and were much appreciated. *Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.* Psalm 33:20-21

Rahab Comfort Dog was invited to the "Out of the Darkness" walk, sponsored by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in Modesto. Handlers Mike and Ann Marie Rehbein took Rahab to the event, and Micah and Genesis Comfort Dog Teams attended as well. *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* Isaiah 41:10

The first day of fall is always wonderful as the season changes. Rahab exercised at a friend's dog park and had a chance to spend time with another doggie friend. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.* Ecclesiastes 3:1

Rahab Comfort Dog team members attended the annual Stockton Police Chaplaincy Friend-Raiser dinner. Team Rahab provided a basketful of doggy goodies for the raffle and made a lot of new friends, including the Stockton chief of police. *"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."* Deuteronomy 31:6

Rahab loves her human pastors. Pastor Appreciation Day in October was bittersweet for Rahab and the team. Rahab has served with Pastor Dan and Pastor Brian the past 3 years, but this day the team and church also said goodbye to Pastor Dan (senior pastor), Miriam, and their family. They are moving to Idaho to serve in another church and the team will miss all of them so much! *Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!* Psalm 126:5

Rahab Comfort Dog Team will continue to bring the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. 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 Bobby Moore and invite Rahab and the team.



Good Shepherd Family



The Good Shepherd family would like to thank everyone who shared in an evening of fun and fellowship at our Oktoberfest. Our fundraising efforts exceeded our goals thanks to your generosity. For those of you who couldn't attend but supported us with your monetary donations, we would also like to express our gratitude. The donations of silent auction items and gift baskets also contributed to the success of the evening.

As a result of your support, our ministry will continue to provide activities and deliver the message of hope of our Lord and Savior to adults with special needs in our region. We invite you to participate on a Saturday gathering any time! God's blessings,

The Good Shepherd Ministry

Pastor Dan stopped by Good Shepherd on October 7 and said goodbye to his "Sheep-ple" at Saturday School. Many of the class have only known Pastor Dan because they started attending the program after 2006. The entire Deuel family has been very involved with this special program and will greatly miss them! These special "kids" will pray for the family in the coming weeks, months and years!



Please mark your calendar for the annual Christmas Play on **December 9 at noon**. We will have a larger cast this year as the Hanot home is back with us. All the choir will be Good Shepherd Family members. A tamale lunch will follow. (Look at these cuties from our 2021 program!)

Operation Christmas Child

November 19 is the last day to turn in your shoeboxes! For packing suggestions, check out the materials in the sanctuary or visit this page on the Samaritan's Purse website: <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/> (Please plan on also donating \$10 per box to cover shipping costs.) **Want to shop but don't want to pack?** The junior highers will do it for you! Call Jamie for details: (916) 230-4280 **Want to give but don't want to shop?** There is a money donation box in the sanctuary entryway. Please give Jennifer Droge a call with any other questions: (209) 298-5532



Kids of St. Andrews

Sunday Mornings

Families loved carving pumpkins together after Newday's preschoolers blessed us with their cuteness during church on October 15. Save the dates of **December 3 and 10** for Christmas pageant practice during Kids' Church, and on **December 17** we'll present the Nativity story during the 10:45 service!



November Kids' Church Schedule

♥ Music, Crafts, Bible Stories



♥ Classes 3-yrs thru 5th Grade

♥ November 5, 12, 19



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

Newday Preschool

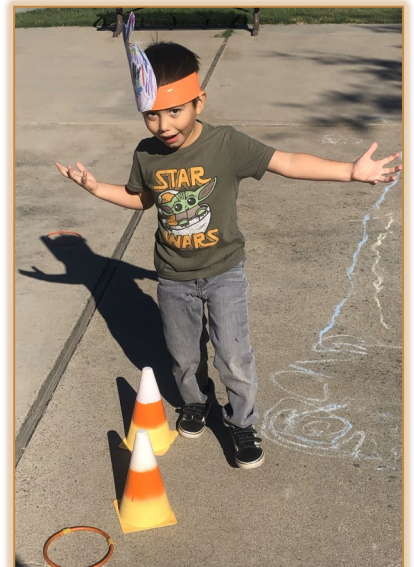


Newday students had a wonderful time performing in front of the congregation and their families last month! Not only were they excited to sing, but they were also excited to carve pumpkins afterwards. Lots of thanks to the Eisenbeisz family for setting that up for everyone.

During the month of November, Newday students will be focusing on being thankful for the Lord, for their families, and for their friends. We will be celebrating being grateful for all that we have at our Thanksgiving parties in the middle of the month. Newday Preschool will be closed the week of Thanksgiving so the staff and students can enjoy their families and loved ones.

We are so thankful for all of the St. Andrews staff that continuously help us and bless us!

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.



Youth

H2H and high school will meet this month on **November 1, 8, and 15**. Come with your whole family for Thanksgiving Eve worship and pie sharing at 7pm on November 22, and plan for Midweek Family Advent Services on Wednesdays in December.

This month's Middle School Friday Fun Night on **November 10** will include packing up donations people have given for Operation Christmas Child. It feels so good to serve others! *This is a great time to invite your friends!*

And November wouldn't be complete without putting together Thanksgiving baskets for people in need in our city. Stay tuned for date and time. Contact Tonya DeSpain with any questions: (209) 610-0532

ST. ANDREWS
students
HEAD2HEART
6TH-8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION
High School
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
pastorbrian@stalc.org
WEDNESDAYS
6:30PM

FRIDAY
FUN
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Game Night
6TH-8TH GRADES
NOVEMBER 10, 5:30-7PM
Free dinner will be served! And we'll pack Christmas shoeboxes! (Parents, drop off and pick up kids in the fellowship hall.)

We're collecting...

- dinner rolls
- tubs of butter spread
- frozen pies
- stuffing mix
- canned vegetables
- boxed mashed potatoes
- canned gravy
- aluminum cooking pans
- canned cranberry sauce
- frozen turkeys

**Or donate by texting 84321
code: thanks**

Turkey Basket Time!
Bring items now thru 11/12

Trunk or Treat



We'll share more photos in the next *Fishhook* edition, but here's a teaser for you. On October 29, we shared thousands of pieces of candy with about 900 people from Stockton. Each family was given information about becoming part of God's family and the children were invited to Kids' Church. Everyone was greeted with a smile and a welcome as they entered the gates, and many people asked Pastor Brian questions about St. Andrews and our kids' programs. What a unique opportunity for ministry! Thank you to the many volunteers and everyone who donated candy. You make a difference in our city.



Connecting Generations

NEW! Grandbuddies

Families and older folks! Get matched up to become special "grandbuddies" who pray for each other, send cards at special events, and support each other's lives.

**Fill out interest packet (in the entry) by
November 12.**

Questions? Jamie: (916) 230-4280

