
FISHHOOK

April 2022



We've been thrilled to see the participation of our people in the Forgiving Challenge. You've been reading the devotions, having some great discussions in small groups, and genuinely trying to grow in forgiveness in this amazing season of Lent.

Perhaps you thought this was going to be about you needing to grow in forgiveness toward others. Now I'm sure I don't know anyone who doesn't need to grow in that area in some way. It's interesting (disturbing?) how we can be so gracious in one area or to certain people and just the opposite in other areas or to other people. So, yes, we certainly need to keep praying the Lord's Prayer and seeking to forgive as we've been forgiven.

Yet I hope you were pleasantly surprised to see how much this Forgiving Challenge has reminded you of God's forgiveness for you. How much of a cost He paid, how much debt was forgiven, how much love is offered, how grace upon grace is poured out for you each and every day.

I've loved the emphasis on Peter throughout the devotions. Who can't relate to the enthusiasm, ignorance, struggles, and hopes that Peter demonstrates through the gospels? Who hasn't felt they've fallen short, forsaken their Lord, and felt unworthy of the love and trust that Peter is given by Jesus? And yet, it is clear that God in human flesh is never through with Peter.

Nor is He through with you.

As we move toward pondering the Passion of Christ in Holy Week one more time this month, it is certainly worth remembering the events of that week are for you.

The tears, sweat, and blood of Christ were shed for you.

The pain and burden Jesus bore were for you.

The battle against sin, death, and hell were for you.

The victory over the grave was for you.

The forgiveness of sin, life abundant, and life everlasting are for you.

I'm glad so many of you have taken on this forgiveness challenge. I'm really glad that forgiveness is not a challenge to God. May you rejoice and grow in that forgiveness each day.

Peace in Jesus,

Pastor Dan

Forgiveness is not a challenge to God.

Worship Through Lent and Easter

Wednesday Worship Services

On March 30 and April 6 we have our last Wednesday services of Lent. Please join us at 7:00pm for a time of song, reflection, and preaching on themes of forgiveness, as presented in our all-church Forgiving Challenge.

Holy Week

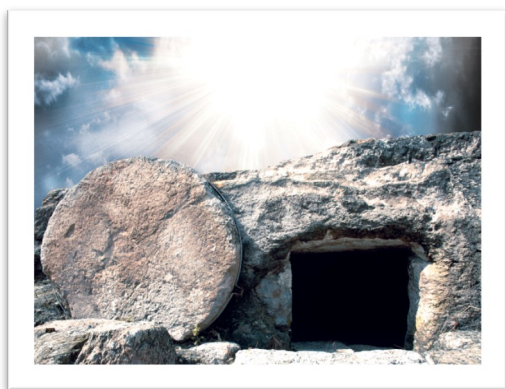


Palm Sunday: April 10, 8:30-9:30am (Traditional) and 10:45-11:45am (Contemporary). The service starts with waving palm branches in joy and then weaves Scripture and song together as we hear the Gospel story of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Maundy Thursday: April 14, 12-1pm and 7-8pm. We remember Jesus' last meal with His disciples and the establishing of Holy Communion. *First Communion at 7pm for kids who have completed our Stone 5 course.*

Good Friday: April 15, 12-1pm and 7-8pm. Walk with us through the account of Jesus' death and burial as we grieve our sin and His suffering. *The 7pm service is a Tenebrae service, in which a candle is extinguished after each reading. The service ends in darkness.*

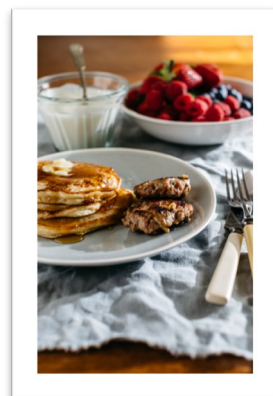
Easter Sunday



Easter Outdoor Sunrise Service: April 17, 6-7am. He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Join us in the courtyard to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the sun rises. Bring a blanket! *Holy Communion will be celebrated.*

Easter Indoor Worship: April 17, 8:30-9:30am (hymns with organ and instruments) and 10:45-11:45am (contemporary songs with band). Rejoice! Our Lord is risen!

Easter Breakfast: April 17, 7am and 9:45am. Why dirty the kitchen on Easter morning? Eat a delicious breakfast and support our youth! Pancakes (including gluten-free), sausage, fresh fruit, coffee, and juice are on the menu. Donations help send our kids to the National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer.



Opportunities for Our 10:45 Service

Behind the Scenes

Have you ever marveled that the candle of the Divine Presence never goes out? Or been surprised that there are no crumpled bulletins in your pew left from the previous service? Ever wondered how all those little communion cups get filled?

None of this is miraculous...it is the loving work of our altar guild! For several years, only members of the 8:30 service have blessed us by setting up and cleaning up our Sanctuary for *both* worship services. Please consider joining the team! With a simple training and only committing to help **four times a year**, you can participate in worship in a deeper way. Call Clive and Judy at (209) 239-9103 or email clivesnedker@comcast.net.

Right Up Front



Do you play an instrument or sing (or do both at the same time)? Do you have a musical gift you'd like to share with St. Andrews? Do you like sleeping in past 8am? Then we are looking for you! Contemporary service is seeking musicians for both special music and new band members. If you're interested please scan the QR code and fill out the linked Google form, or email Erika Kleinert at erika@stalc.org.

Serving Stockton and Beyond

Pulliam Resurrection Eggs Event

Pulliam Elementary has offered St. Andrews the opportunity to host an event during Easter week where we can share the Gospel of Jesus with children and their families. On **Wednesday, April 13, from 4-6pm** we'll set up on their campus and use the Resurrection Eggs to tell what Jesus has done for us.

Please contact Jamie Eisenbeisz if you would like to volunteer for this event (jmeisz@hotmail.com or 916-230-4280). Please arrive at 3:30 to help set up for the event.



Vacation Bible School



Save these important dates!

May 21, 9am-1pm: VBS work day! Hang out with friends and wield a pair of scissors or a glue stick. Lunch included!

June 12, 9:45am: Volunteers' meeting.

June 13-17, 5:30-8pm: VBS for preschool through 8th grade!

Please contact Karen Kelly with any questions: neraknsteve618@gmail.com

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."

Pastor Dan and Rahab were one of the features in the Lutheran Church Charities *Making a Difference* newsletter in February.

Rahab has been in the community bringing comfort and love to many people. On March 1, Pastor Dan with Rahab and Cathy Pauley visited Pulliam Elementary School to bring comfort to students and staff after one of their special education teachers passed away. Rahab visited with the grieving students and then joined younger students in the library as they

were being read to by eighth grade students.

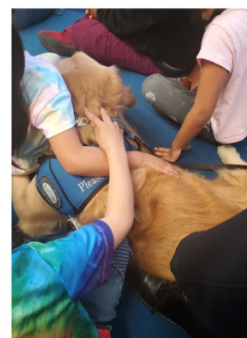
Bobby Moore and Rahab visited Golden West Elementary School 1st grade classrooms—one of which is taught by Laura Moore—and their office staff on February 23.

The 1st graders later wrote letters to Rahab about her visit. One example: "Dear Rahab. Thank you for coming today. I loved petting you. And you the cutiest comfort dog I've ever seen before, because you are so cute and fluffy and fuzzy because you very cute." Golden West students are learning about how people work with animals.



Brianna Solis and Rahab visited Shepherd's Gate in Brentwood on March 10. This Christian program helps women and children overcome the trauma of abuse, addiction, and homelessness. Top Dog Deb Rider and Miriam Deuel brought Rahab to Jackie Addison's memorial service on March 11, where she brought much love and comfort to the family and friends of Jackie.

Team Rahab is excited to be hosting the annual LCC regional meeting in August. We will have all five California dogs, two Las Vegas dogs, and one from Washington State join us for the weekend. What a great opportunity for St. Andrews and Stockton to have these comfort dogs in the community for a weekend.



Good Shepherd

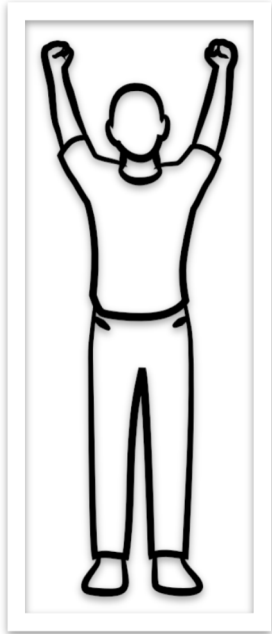
After a 2 year COVID hiatus, Good Shepherd Family Ministry is pleased to bring back the "Good Shepherd Talent Show" on Saturday, April 30 at 1pm. This will be an in-person event only. A small reception will follow. Here are a couple photos from years past!



Gathering in Groups

Forgiving Challenge and Then...?

We currently have 16 small groups with over 100 St. Andrews members participating in the Forgiving Challenge! Such exciting news! We are praying this challenge has blessed you, challenged you, and helped you grow closer to Jesus. True freedom comes when we participate with Jesus in bringing His kingdom to this earth right now. Follow Jesus!



Have you been impacted by the Forgiving Challenge?

In the May edition of our Fishhook, we want to highlight ways we've grown as individuals and as a church community in going through this challenge together. Please consider emailing communication@stalc.org with answers to these questions...or anything else you'd like to share! (Please indicate if you'd like your response to remain anonymous.)

- ⇒ *How have you experienced God's forgiveness in new ways?*
- ⇒ *Which of your relationships have seen some restoration?*
- ⇒ *What does freedom from bitterness and shame feel like?*

Let's encourage one another and rejoice that we are FORGIVEN AND FREE!

We would like to encourage each group to continue meeting together after the Forgiving Challenge. Please reach out to Kristin Winter (kristin@stalc.org) or the church office if you would like suggestions for what to study next. Options can range from study of books of the Bible to exploring God's heart on topics such as justice, relationships, and leadership.

Confirmation

Important dates coming up!

April 20, 6:30pm — Confirmation classes will resume in the sanctuary. We will continue covering the New Testament, starting with Peter and the Early Church. Those being confirmed this year are also invited to spend some time with the high schoolers during their small group time one Wednesday night to get oriented with the youth group.

April 29-May 1 — Confirmation Retreat! Confirmands will prepare their faith statements, get ready for confirmation, and have lots of fun!

May 15, 8:30 and 10:45am — Confirmands will share their faith statements with the congregation.

June 5, 10:45am — We rejoice in the fact that our confirmands will be received into the congregation as members when they officially confirm their faith! Glory to Jesus!



Sunday Morning Discussions at 9:45am



The Cross+Gen ministry team invites you to join us as we grow together in faith.

What is Cross+Gen? Cross+Gen is a faith development ministry accessible to all ages that uses multiple learning styles to engage Scripture. We desire to build cross-generational relationships where children, teenagers, and adults in the congregation support and encourage those outside of their home environment to grow in faith.

Stories for April 2022

4/3 - Mary and Martha

4/10 - Jesus' Walk to the Cross

4/17 - Happy Easter! (no Cross+Gen)

4/24 - The Road to Emmaus

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!

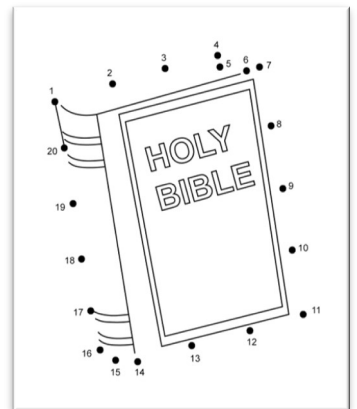
The Cross+Gen Team

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.

Special LWML Event

Our April 5 monthly meeting will begin in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00pm, and then will move to the Sanctuary where we'll be blessed by a presentation of storytelling and music from our own folk harpist Anicia Hibdon! This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and introduce them to our caring community.

The music will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel ("St. Andrews Lutheran Church Stockton") from 1:30-2pm.



Nurturing Children and Families

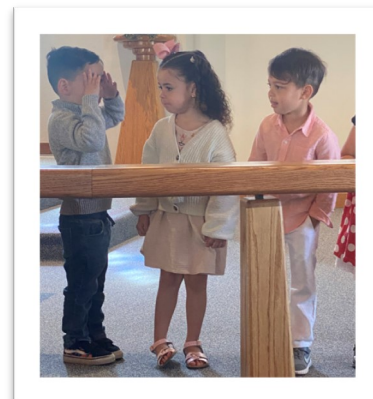
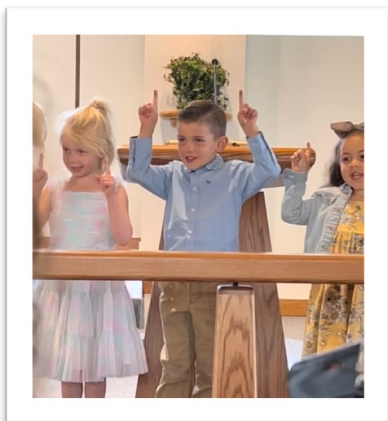
Newday Preschool

"Children are a gift from God." — Psalm 127:3

We have been very busy at Newday. Three of our classes sang at a St. Andrews church service in March and did awesome! We are very proud of the children's hard work and are so happy that we could introduce our Newday families to the families of St. Andrews. A great big thank you to Ms. Rachel for all her help. The kids love her!

We are accepting enrollment for our summer and fall programs. We have lots of fun activities planned for the summer: camp week, space week, science week, and much, much more. 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.



MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)



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 second and fourth Tuesdays.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 12 — "A Radical Invitation to Love"
April 26 — "Let's Talk to Our Kids About Race"

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).

DCE Call Process



In the month of March we had visits with the two candidates we interviewed in February. We are now in the process of determining if we will offer a call to one of these women.

We continue to ask for your prayers for St. Andrews and these candidates. We desire for God to bring us someone who can help us build ministry in our church, preschool, and community. Equipping this generation to disciple our next generation is an integral part of our mission at St. Andrews.