

## PRAYER LIST

Who are the people in your life who need to hear about Jesus?

*Pray for each of these people often. God will provide you with opportunities to talk with them about spiritual things.*


From *The Discipleship Journey* by Terry Tieman. Transforming Churches Network 2019.

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# FISHHOOK

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October 2022

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WHAT  
IS A  
DISCIPLE?

What does the term “discipleship” mean to you? Growing up in church and then even going to college to study theology at an LCMS university, the word “disciple” or “discipleship” always puzzled me. Like I was standing outside of a people group, hearing their lingo but not understanding what it meant. And you might feel the same way. Or...you might not.

There are plenty of us who feel fine when asked about discipleship. After all, being a disciple of Jesus simply means to follow Him. Or to put it in a more Gospel-centered, Jesus-focused way, being a disciple is being forgiven and known by Jesus. But there are still others of us who may feel a bit uneasy when the topic of discipleship comes up. And why is that? Why is disciple-

ship a seemingly touchy topic for some in the Christian world?

Well, I think that it’s because when we hear “discipleship,” sometimes we think about all the things we aren’t doing for God—failed opportunities to tell others about Christ, failing to walk alongside others in the faith. And to be fair, this response is normal. **(continued next page)**

## Christ has promised to work through His people.

**(continued from first page)** But if discipleship means we are a part of the Body of Christ, there's no reason why we shouldn't also focus on our identity when we're feeling called to disciple someone.

Jesus tells the disciples in Mathew 28: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). We all know these verses, and the church even labeled them "The Great Commission." It's from these words of Jesus where we get our dual understanding of what it means to be a disciple. A disciple is one who is claimed by Christ, and a disciple is also one who goes and makes disciples, baptizing and teaching. One aspect of our lives as disciples is activity; the other identity. One is responding to Christ's commands; the other, listening to His words of forgiveness, life, and salvation—and believing in them.

As we enter into a new season here at St. Andrews with our church going through *The Discipleship Journey*, my prayer is that we continue to reflect on our duality as a disciple of Jesus. Yes, we are called to go and make disciples. Called to teach, to love, to care for those in our lives who are outside of the faith. But that call comes from who we are: Beloved children of God, forgiven by Jesus, cared for in every way. I pray that you never felt like I did as a college freshman, wondering what the heck it meant to be a disciple of Jesus. "What's a disciple, and beyond that, what's discipleship even mean!?"

Christ has promised to work through His people, even as He says in John 15: "Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you...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 15:3-5). And because He has promised to work through you, be confident in your role as a disciple. Christ is yours! You are His disciple! He is working through you to accomplish much for His Kingdom.

*Pastor Brian*



**DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY**  
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2022  
**Sign up for a small group!**  
**shorturl.at/mTXZ8**

*Pray*      *Share*      *Guide*

We begin *The Discipleship Journey* October 2 and will continue until Thanksgiving. Here's how to join in!

**Pray.** Who do you want to have spiritual conversations with? Make a list and pray for them throughout the day.

**Get TWO Discipleship booklets.** Pick up one for you to work through and one to later lead someone else through. (Read Pastor Dan's article on page 7 to see how this can multiply God's kingdom exponentially!) Booklets are available at church.

**Join a small group.** Walking through this with others is the fastest way to grow! Visit the link to the left or call the church office to get plugged into a group that fits your schedule.

## Money Matters

Did you catch September's sermon series on generosity and stewardship? We hope it was encouraging to you as we learned from Paul's comparison of the Macedonian and Corinthian churches (2 Corinthians 8 and 9). Here are some resources for you as you ponder how God is calling you to act in faith with what He's given you:

- Visit our YouTube channel (St. Andrews Lutheran Church Stockton) to view livestreams of the series messages.
- Set up a free consultation session with St. Andrews' financial partner, Dave Bennett: dave@expandfg.com
- Read Dave Ramsey's book *Financial Peace* to learn life-long strategies for spending, saving, and investing.

# Loving Children in Our Community

## Kids' Church Coming to St. Andrews!

Starting October 2

♥ Music, Crafts, Bible Stories



♥ Classes 3-yrs thru 5th Grade



♥ 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 5th Sundays



♥ Drop-off @ 10:35am / Join Families in Church for Prayer & Holy Communion About 11:30am

Our church has seen the huge need to further involve children in discipleship at St. Andrews. After surveying the congregation, Newday Preschool parents, and families who brought their kids to our VBS this summer, and after prayer and deep discussion among staff and the Mission and Ministry Council, we are launching kids' classes beginning this month!

Jamie Eisenbeisz is graciously coordinating music, curriculum, and volunteers. We're planning on three classes: 3s and 4s, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

Parents will sign their children in with volunteers in the fellowship hall before the start of our 10:45am worship service. After music, activities, and Bible teaching at their age levels, the kids will be brought into the sanctuary to join their families for Holy Communion and corporate worship. (On 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, families will stay together in the worship service the whole time.

If you would like to volunteer once or more per month, contact Jamie at (916) 230-4280.

We're excited to offer a safe, free trunk or treat for the community on Sunday, October 30 from 6-8pm!

Each visiting child will hear that Jesus loves them and their families will receive information about our church and faith. We'll be joined by Comfort Dog Rahab, first responders, and possibly the Marines!

Be part of this fantastic event in any number of ways. If you'd like to host a car, please contact Jamie with your theme **by October 16** (no themes of violence/gore/horror, please). Candy donations can be brought to the Narthex throughout the month.

Come join the fun!

## ST. ANDREWS HOSTING A FREE TRUNK OR TREAT 10/30

Ways to Participate!

Greet families

Decorate and host a trunk

TRUNK or TREAT

Direct parking

Play games with kids

Contact Jamie by 10/16: (916) 230-4280

Donate candy

Host games

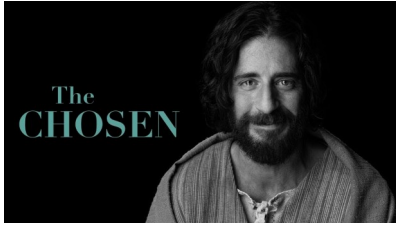
Serve food





# Meeting in Groups

## Sunday Discussion Time



### ***The Chosen***

Charlie and Deb Johnson are facilitating viewing and discussion of this highly-acclaimed video series. Join them in the library at 9:40 each Sunday morning to watch Season Two and dig into the Biblical story of Jesus and His disciples.



### ***Discipleship Journey***

Pastor Dan and Pastor Brian will be leading a group at 9:45am on Sundays to work through *The Discipleship Journey* together. The group will meet starting October 2 and go through November 20.

## Women's Bible Study

Ladies, join us on Mondays at 9am for a fascinating study in the book of Genesis. Contact Jamie Eisenbeisz to order a book at (916) 230-4280.

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

All ladies welcome! Our October meeting is **Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.**

Each meeting will begin with dessert, coffee, and journaling for 20 minutes on a chosen Scripture. In October we'll look at Mark 5:19. *"Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you."*

Bring your journal if you have one, or we'll have one for you. Ideas for journaling might be 1) reflecting on how God is leading you through a difficult time; 2) a Bible verse or sermon that has had particular impact on you recently; 3) a special way God is blessing you at this time. Ponder these thoughts and see where God would lead you to leave a legacy of faith for future generations.



## College-Age Small Group



Young adults, let's get together to work through *The Discipleship Journey* together. What a wonderful opportunity to grow our faith and share with our peers! We'll meet Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the youth room, starting October 4. Text Kristin Winter with any questions: (209) 607-3127

# 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 your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."*

Rahab, Deb Rider, and Jeff Kramer attended a Patriot "Remembering 9/11" Day event in Rocklin commemorating the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of 9/11. Team Rahab, Team Micah, and Team Reuben joined the Rocklin Public Safety Foundation, the Rocklin Police and Fire Departments, and the City of Rocklin in an event thanking our military, fire, police, and first responders. The Comfort Dogs were invited by the FBI and actually had a booth next to them! "It was such an honor to be there to show God's love to those who sacrificed so much for this country!" said Team Rahab.



Pastor Dan and Miriam, Bobby Moore, and Rahab, along with James and Comfort Dog Reuben from Yuba City, attended a U.S. Army parachute "Golden Knights" tandem camp in Davis. Pastor Dan was chosen to be the Comfort Dog Handler to tandem jump with this elite parachute team. (Did Pastor Dan scream? Only his parachute buddy knows!) During the day, Rahab enjoyed the attention from the other 13 people preparing to jump and their families who were there to watch. Team Rahab and Team Reuben were able to share with the soldiers, veterans, and law enforcement how the Comfort Dog ministry has special handlers and ministry partners to support the military and law enforcement. *"The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down."* (Psalm 145:14)

Amy Lapointe, Brianna Solis, and Rahab attended the Cosumnes River College's Mental Health/Suicide Prevention Awareness event. The Northern California Comfort Dogs were invited to greet everyone and make new friends. *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God."* (1 John 4:7)

During back-to-school week at the University of the Pacific, Team Rahab spent time with Conservatory of Music students on the quad behind Faye Spanos Concert Hall, and later joined the InterVarsity chapter during their ice cream social. (Team Micah and Team Reuben were there a couple of days, too). *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."* (John 15:11)

Madison Elementary continues to enjoy Rahab's weekly visits. She has become a member of the school body and even had her school picture taken! Team Reuben joined Rahab at Madison as well to bring comfort and love to the staff and students as they were mourning the loss of a student. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."* (2 Corinthians 1:3)

Rahab had her annual veterinarian exam and thanks to the great caregivers, Rahab is in perfect health! Thank you to the congregation for your generosity and support which has made it possible for Rahab to have great care. We look forward to the coming years as Team Rahab serves our church and community by sharing the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those in need. *"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul."* (3 John 1:2)



## Oktoberfest: The Greatest Beer Festival at St. Andrews!



We are looking forward to the annual Good Shepherd Family Oktoberfest on October 22 in the newly-refurbished fellowship hall. Stop by the courtyard for strudel, pretzel, or brat samples on the first three Sundays of October!

Funds raised at this event sponsor Good Shepherd's annual trip to Tahoe City, where special-needs adults are treated to a week of fun in the mountains, including a carnival, boat ride, and formal dinner-dance. This July, 39 Good Shepherd members and 21 volunteers enjoyed this amazing time!

Thank you for your support of this unique ministry.



We need your help! We are looking for donations to make baskets that will be raffled or auctioned off at Oktoberfest.

No need to assemble the baskets! We will assemble, wrap, and decorate the baskets for you. (Cash and gift certificates are greatly appreciated to purchase accessories for completing the basket.)

If you need donation ideas, give Jennifer Droge a call. We appreciate you!



## Operation Christmas Child

Time to start filling those shoeboxes! St. Andrews is once again participating in Operation Christmas Child, which has been delivering gifts and the hope of the Gospel to millions of children around the world since 1993. You can pick up your shoebox at church starting October 16 (last day to turn boxes in is November 13).

For packing suggestions, check out the materials in the narthex or visit this page on the Samaritan's Purse website: [shorturl.at/grz12](http://shorturl.at/grz12) (Please plan on also donating \$10 per box to cover shipping costs.)

We at St. Andrews would like to give a huge THANK YOU to Clive and Judy Snedker who coordinated this effort for our church for many years. Jennifer Droge has taken the baton this year, so please give her a call with any questions: (209) 298-5532





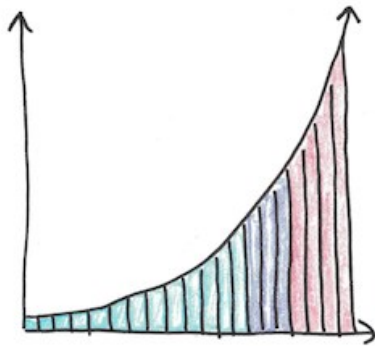
# Multiplying Our Mission

by Pastor Dan Deuel

**2; 4; 8; 16; 32; 64; 128; 256; 512; 1,024; 2,048; 4,096; 8,192;  
16,384; 32,768; 65,536; 131,072; 262,144; 524,288; 1,048,576**

What do the above numbers represent? Well, let's say you helped someone come to faith in Jesus and taught them how to help someone else do the same this year. Then next year, you both did that again, so now there are four followers of Jesus. The third year, everyone does the same. The fourth year, you'll have eight people guiding eight more people into a walk with Jesus.

What if that kept going for 20 years, uninterrupted? *There would be more than a million people following Jesus* because you started praying for and helping *one* person each year come to know, love, and follow Jesus...and helped them do the same. Now maybe my pessimistic side says that 100% success is simply not possible, realistic, or something to plan on. What about 90%? 80%? 50% 10%? Let's say that if after 20 years you have a 99% "fail" rate, how many would be following Jesus?



**1% of 1,000,000 = 10,000**

How about a 99.9% "fail" rate?

**.1% of 1,000,000 = 1,000**

How about a 99.99% "fail" rate?

**.01% of 1,000,000 = 100**

I'm not sure about you, but for most American Christians I know, helping 100 people come to faith and following Jesus in the next twenty years is probably considerably more than occurred during the last twenty years. It's an odd way of putting it, but I'd be thrilled if most Christians I know had a 99.99% fail rate at helping people come to know and follow Jesus—in fact, I wouldn't call that failure at all! I'm tempted to even begin praying that that is the case, as it would

create far more kingdom growth than I have observed over the last twenty years. So a .01% success rate at helping people come to know and follow Jesus is all it takes to see greater kingdom growth than most of us have seen in our lifetimes.

Perhaps my math isn't perfect, but I believe you might begin to see that the growth of God's kingdom may not seem as remarkable as we often think. And even if you did things perfectly in the scenario above, you personally would have only needed to help twenty people (one a year) come to know and follow Jesus.

***I'd be thrilled if most Christians I know had a 99.99% fail rate.***

This paradigm is not church as we know it, which spends great deals of time, money, and energy trying to get people to come to worship, programs, projects, etc. It's based more on Jesus' command to "go and make disciples," a far freer and more adaptive paradigm than we have made it to be. (See Pastor Brian's cover article for more about this passage.)

This fall, St. Andrews is taking a step in the direction of "go and make disciples." We'll still have plenty of things happening in the "come and see" paradigm, but we'll begin orienting ourselves more and more to the "go and make" side. The first step is going through *The Discipleship Journey* together, getting acquainted with how to share the basics of the faith with someone else.

So join us in praying that God does something amazing among us. That some of our patterns change, that some of our habits change, that some of our perspectives shift according to His plans and purpose for our lives, our church, and our community. Get into a group that walks through *The Discipleship Journey* (the easiest might be between services on Sunday mornings), and join with us in praying for the fullness of God's kingdom to come throughout these coming eight weeks.

# Newday Preschool

September was a fun and exciting month at our preschool! We had a visit from the Library Bus. The children had story time on the bus and got to take a free book home with them. The teachers were also each gifted a book for their classrooms.

The children have been learning new Bible stories and really enjoy going to chapel and telling Pastor Dan and Pastor Brian what they are learning. The children's favorite has been learning about the Ten Commandments. Of course, the children's all time favorite is when we get to hang out with Rahab!

**Three of our classes will be singing in church at the 10:45am service on October 23. We are practicing hard with Ms. Rachel! After the service everyone is invited to carve pumpkins with us and get to know our kids and their families.**

Our fall popcorn fundraiser was a huge success, and we have some extra popcorn for sale at the preschool. If you would like some yummy popcorn, see Ms. Marla!

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](mailto:newday@stalc.org).



## Youth

### Confirmation (H2H)

This month Confirmation will be covering Commandments 5-8, walking our confirmands through the commandments' meanings as found in the *Small Catechism*. The kids will also have the opportunity to help out at Trunk of Treat on Sunday, October 30! If you have any question or want to know more, ask Pastor Brian for more details.

### Carving Pumpkins at GCRM



Junior- and high-schoolers! We have an incredible, fun opportunity to minister to kids whose parents are in recovery programs at the Gospel Center Rescue Mission. Meet at church at 12pm on October 23 to carpool over to the Mission, where we'll be helping kids carve pumpkins and doing other crafts for them. We'll head back to church when we're done around 1:30. Let Pastor Brian know if you can come...the more the merrier!