



FISHHOOK

October 2023



2006



2023

It has been an honor to be your pastor. You took a chance, at God's leading, on an inexperienced young man and demonstrated the patience and endurance to let me grow. You were forgiving when I failed you, encouraging when we did some wonderful work together, and grateful when I helped you. I hope I have helped you learn a fraction of what I have learned from you.

I did some quick math and figure I've preached about 1,000 different sermons between Sundays, holidays, funerals, weddings, and other occasions. Since many of those were done more than once, I think I've preached for about 600 hours while I've been here (it's probably felt like a lot longer for you). When I consider my prep time, I spent the equivalent of more than two years of work weeks preparing for those messages. The manuscripts (if I had them all) would fill at least ten 300-page books.

Why so much time and effort doing that? Because I hoped to convey God's Word to you. The Word that convicts, the Word that transforms, the Word that works faith and brings about forgiveness, life, and salvation. The Word that IS truth.

There are many phrases related to God's Word in Scripture; some of my favorites that I keep in mind are:
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Thank you for calling me to be your pastor. It has been a gift from God.

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- Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. — **Psalm 119:105**
- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. — **Hebrews 4:12**
- For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." — **Romans 1:16-17**
- "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." — **John 17:17**
- Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. — **Ephesians 5:24-26**
- ...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. — **2 Timothy 2:2**
- "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." — **Isaiah 55:11**
- And so many more.

I hope you didn't just accept what I said any given week at face value. Like the Bereans in Acts 17, I hope you tested everything, examining the Word for yourself, allowing it to guide, convict, train, equip, and transform you. My prayer is that word shared by me and by your past and future pastors and teachers will not return to God empty, but will accomplish wonderful works He has prepared in advance for you to do.

Thank you for calling me to be your pastor. It has been a gift from God.

Pastor Dan



DEUEL FAMILY
SEND-OFF

OCTOBER 8, 2023
WORSHIP AT 8:30 & 10:45AM
CELEBRATION POTLUCK AT 12:15PM



Please bring a main dish or salad. RSVP for lunch appreciated.
(209) 957-8750



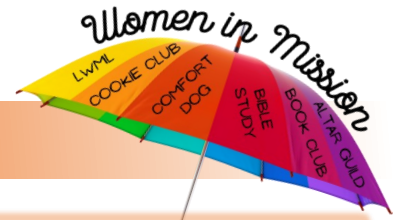
SHHHH...

SURPRISE GIFT
FOR PASTOR DAN!

Ways to contribute:
Cash in envelope or check to St. Andrews:
mark "Pastor Dan gift"

Online giving:
select "Other" and email karen@stalc.org

Women in Mission



Thank You!

More than 100 baby items were collected for Directions Medical Clinic at our Tea Party Baby Shower last month. Gifts included blankets and booties, stuffed animals, onesies and sleepers, diapers and wipes, bath towels, lotions and shampoos. Ladies enjoyed tips on making the perfect cup of tea from Sue Erickson, our guest speaker. Homemade scones, poppy seed bread, lemon bars, and baklava complimented the tea. A delightful morning!



Bible Study

Ladies, join us on Mondays at 9am for a convicting walk through the book of Exodus. Bring your Bible (or borrow one from us) and discover God's plan of salvation through the journey of the Israelites.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

October is a busy month for LWML, the heart of Women in Mission.

We'll be collecting a *noisy offering* on **Sunday, October 1**. Remind your friends to bring spare change!

Our *LWML meeting* will be on **Tuesday, October 10 at 1:00pm**. Bring an item to add to our "Renewal and Restoration" basket for the Oktoberfest auction.

Finally, plan on enjoying *coffee cake between our worship services* on **Sunday, October 15**. Meet families of Newday Preschool kids who are attending the second service to hear their children praise the Lord in song!



Walking and Crafting

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

Card Making — **October 11 & 25 at 1:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Karen Kleinert: (209) 406-9708; hkleinert05@comcast.net

Beading — **October 17 at 2:00pm** in the library. Debbie Wilson: (209) 298-8451; skydebbill@yahoo.com

Walking — **October 28** Spooky Winery Walk. Joan Sykes: (412) 337-2538; jumblefromjoan@inreach.com

Serving Stockton and Beyond

Rahab Comfort Dog

Rahab Comfort Dog Ministry Partner Dustin Moore has enlisted in the U.S. Army and is currently at his Army Basic Training in Georgia. The military veterans in the congregation prayed and blessed him in church on our 80th anniversary. His fiancée, Alondra, and Rahab were also on hand. *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9

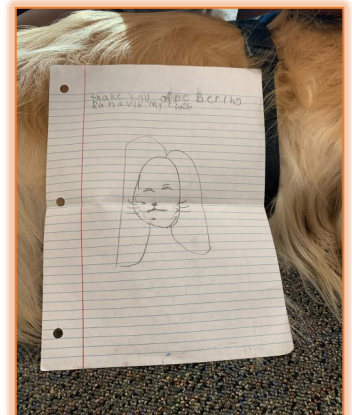


Handlers Bobby and Laura Moore attended the Yuba-Sutter Veteran's Stand Down along with Comfort Dog Rueben, Comfort Dog Micah, and Comfort Dog Aaron. It's always an honor to serve those who served our country! *If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me.* Psalm 139:9-10

Doors to schools in San Joaquin opened when the team attended the San Joaquin County Office of Education Admin Conference in August. Because of the networking, we were invited to visit Wicklund Elementary School in Mountain House. Rahab Comfort Dog and her handlers love meeting new friends and we hope to return to that

school again in the future. *Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.* Proverbs 27:9

Rahab Comfort Dog continues to visit Madison Elementary twice a month. The school has made a schedule, so every classroom gets a visit during the school year. The new building is very modern and nice. During one of the September visits, a 7th grader drew a picture of Rahab and thanked us for bringing her! The student did a paw-some job! *But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.* Isaiah 64:8



Rahab visited St. Peter Preschool in Lodi. The preschool kids are always so great to visit and they share God's love with us! *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.* 1 John 3:18

Rahab celebrated a quiet day on "National Dog Day." She is an inspiration to the community as the team shares the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need. *"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."* Joshua 2:11

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.

The Greatest Beer Festival at St. Andrews!



We are looking forward to the annual Good Shepherd Family Oktoberfest on October 21. Stop by the courtyard for strudel, pretzel, or brat samples on the first three Sundays of October! In addition to great food and music, the event will include a silent auction and a wine-pull.

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. 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 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 this month (last day to turn boxes in is November 19).

For packing suggestions, check out the materials in the narthex or visit this page on the Samaritan's Purse website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.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 will be 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



October Kids' Church!

♥ Music, Crafts, Bible Stories

♥ Classes 3-yrs thru 5th Grade

♥ October 1, 15, 22

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

The poster features illustrations of a Noah's Ark boat, a warrior, and a group of children reading a book.



OCTOBER 15

Newday classes will be singing during our 10:45am service. After the service, everyone is invited to carve pumpkins and get to know our preschool kids and their families.

The poster features illustrations of children singing on a stage and two pumpkins, one of which is carved as a jack-o'-lantern.

Newday Preschool



This school year is already flying by! The children are excited for October. We have a lot of fun activities planned. Our Harvest Parties and Book Character Days are sure to be a hit with the children.

The children of Newday learned about Pastor Dan's calling to Idaho and they had many questions for him, which he answered graciously. The consensus is that he will be missed by all here at Newday. The children will miss singing worship songs with him as he played guitar and will miss learning about the love of Jesus from him.

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.



Middle School

H2H continues in its second month of the 2023-2024 year! We are covering the second and third articles of the Apostles' Creed, focusing on Jesus as Lord, the Holy Spirit, and what it means to be a saint in God's kingdom.

Last month's Friday Fun Night led by Jamie Eisenbeisz went amazing! All who attended had fun with eating, playing games, and learning a bit about Jesus. **This is a great time to invite your friends!**



High School

High school youth continue to meet and are reviewing the book of Philippians. Midway through the month they will start a new series focused on what the Bible says about our world, and what it means to have a Biblical worldview. Please keep praying for all of our youth as they grow in their faith, loving God and serving each other daily!



Thank you for 20 years of contributing to our youth mission trips as you contribute to your morning coffee habit! The cart remains open between services. We're looking forward to serving coffee in the courtyard once the shade structure is finished.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve coffee, contact Karen Kleinert: (209) 406-9708; hkleinert05@comcast.net

Trunk or Treat

This is our opportunity to serve HUNDREDS of people in our community! Last year, we had almost 1,500 people come through our Trunk or Treat, seeing the love of Jesus in action. Children are invited to come to Sunday Kids' Church and families are given information about St. Andrews and baptism.

We need your help to make this year just as amazing! **Please scan the QR code below or call the office to sign up** for various ways of participating. And if you can't make it to the event, please consider bringing a big bag of candy (or two or three!) to church.

ST. ANDREWS HOSTING A FREE TRUNK OR TREAT 10/29



CANDY NEEDED

Bless our community with candy donations for the October 29 Trunk or Treat! Look for the bin in the Narthex.



Small Groups

Looking for a weekly place to grow in faith with brothers and sisters in Christ? Here are a number of current and upcoming options to choose from! Don't see a group that meets at a convenient time for you? Pastor Brian would love to talk with you about how you can coordinate a group that fits your needs!

Sundays: Sunday school at 9:45am in the library with Charlie and Debra Johnson. Currently studying Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

Mondays: Women's Bible study at 9am in the fellowship hall with Jamie Eisenbeisz. Studying through the book of Exodus. **Women's group from 6:30-8pm** (rotating dinners), studying the book of James. Contact Boni: (209) 481-9691

Wednesdays: NEW! Lutheranism 101 at 6:30pm (starting October 18) in the fellowship hall. Deacons Craig Santos and Duane Lach will dive into the basics of the faith. Whether you are new to the faith or have been a Lutheran your entire life, this class covers what it means to be a follower of Christ and what God's Word means for our lives. Topics that will be covered include: *Our Relationship with God*, *God's Gifts*, *The Means of Grace* (how God continues to forgive us), *What It Means to Worship*, *What It Means to be a Lutheran*, and *What It Looks like to Live the Christian Life*. Talk with Pastor Brian to learn more.

Thursdays: Zoom Bible study at 11am with Pastor Brian, going over the Sunday Scriptures. Call the office for the Zoom link. **Caring Partners twice per month at 12pm**, giving support to caregivers and the grieving (includes lunch). Call Pat and Harriet to learn more: (209) 931-5271. **Women's Chorale, Mixed Choir, and Handbell Choirs, 6:30/7:30pm** on rotating weeks. Praise God through music and share prayer needs with each other! Call Rachel at (209) 351-5803. **Young adult small group at 6:30pm**. Kristin Winter leads a college and career group through the book of James in the St. Andrews youth room (in the preschool yard). (209) 607-3127