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# FISHHOOK

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April 2024

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When was the last time you felt challenged by God? Some of us may feel like we haven't been challenged by God or His Word in quite a long while. Others of us may feel challenged by God every day of our lives. Challenged because of our sin. Challenged to live more holy lives. Challenged to go out into the world and do good works for God's glory and for the betterment of our neighbors.

During this Easter season, we at St. Andrews will be challenged in a step of faith, trusting Christ by focusing on generosity.

*Generosity*: that's probably a pastor's least favorite topic to preach on and a congregation's least favorite to hear. Don't be alarmed; this focus isn't because we can't keep the lights on, or because God's people are greedy, or because God's people haven't been generous. As both saints and sinners, sometimes we give to God and sometimes we withhold. But that actually isn't the point.

As we celebrate the truth that Our Lord Jesus is risen (He is risen indeed, alleluia!), a truth about God stands out clearly:

**[continued on next page]**



## God is not cheap with us.

**[continued from first page]** God is not cheap with us. God is lavish. He doles out grace and forgiveness again and again and again—through the proclamation that our sins are forgiven from the mouth of a sinful pastor... from the continual daily remembrance of our baptism...through Christ coming to us, miraculously and mysteriously, in His very Body and Blood at the altar...and through God's people showing us His love. Through all of these things God heaps upon us grace after grace after grace.

He gives us grace even though we are all curved in on ourselves and care only about our own needs. Even though we are saints and sinners, God created the entire universe for us. And there is no limit on His forgiveness! Even though we daily sin much, God still uses us in the daily vocations that He has given. This is the God whom we worship. This is the God who was nailed to cross, and the God who was raised from the tomb.

For the next five weeks almost all the way up to Pentecost, we will celebrate how generous God is to us. We'll look at how God is also calling us to be generous—not just with money, but in every aspect of our lives. How He calls us to use everything we have for His glory. And how He is doing that for you individually, but also for us as a whole. How He is calling St. Andrews to move forward in the future.

Focusing on what Christ is calling us to do is important. For, "the law of God is good and wise," as one of our hymns states. And, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night" (Psalm 1:1-2). God's commands are an important focus, but they aren't **the** focus. Our focus is on Christ crucified. On God's work, not our own. Our focus isn't so much on *our* generosity, but on *His* generosity towards us.

If you haven't picked one up at church yet, get your free book, *My Cup Runneth Over: Giving and Generosity* by Chad Bird. Read a chapter each week and go through the discussion questions on your own, with your family, or with a friend. (You can also join me for Zoom discussions—see the back page of this newsletter.)

And so, a blessed Easter season to you! As we walk out in these steps of faith as a congregation, know that He is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! And know that the risen Christ, Lord and God, is alive in His generosity for you. Amen.

*Pastor Brian*

## What's Next for St. Andrews?

### All-Church Survey—Yes, YOU!

Read Pastor Ron's article on the next page to help understand why it's so important for YOU to take this survey. Then stop what you're doing and go take it! If you are unable to take the survey online, please call Pam in the office and she will help you with a paper copy (209-957-8750).

SENIOR PASTOR  
CALL PROCESS



<https://churchhealthreport.com/survey/?s=>

ENTER CODE 468EKAP  
TO TAKE SURVEY

FOR EVERYONE HIGH SCHOOL-AGED AND UP!  
TAKE SURVEY BY APRIL 10



## Senior Pastor Call Process

"I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people."

Do you remember that song? 1 Corinthians 12:27 states it this way: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." Every person who is part of St. Andrews is part of the church. Often leaders do not get a full picture of the church they serve. We may think we know you and what you are thinking, but we may not have a full picture. **The "Know Your Church" survey helps us know you better and will help you know your church better.**

Sometimes we do not hear everything and we don't know what everyone's thinking. Sometimes people do not feel comfortable sharing their thoughts. Sometimes people assume we are not interested in what they think. Sometimes people are not sure how to make their voice heard. I can say with certainty that your leaders want to know you and want to know what you think about our church. The "Know Your Church" survey provides an opportunity for you to make your thoughts known in an anonymous way. How to take the survey is explained on the opposite page. Thanks in advance for your thoughts!

On **April 28** we will present the report from the survey. Presentations will be held at both 9:45am and 12:00pm. I hope you will attend the one most convenient for you.

The next big event will be on **May 19**. *One worship service will be offered at 10:00am.* At 11:00am we will have a meeting in the fellowship hall for all members. This meeting will provide time for all of us to begin looking at the process of calling a senior pastor. Snacks will be offered during the meeting and childcare will be provided.

It continues to be a pleasure for me to serve the Lord with all of you. I am enjoying my time with the staff and leaders—people whose hearts reveal their love for Jesus. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [pastorron@stalc.org](mailto:pastorron@stalc.org) or (209) 404-4817. To God be the glory!

*Pastor Ron Youngdale*

ST. ANDREWS

**KNOW YOUR  
CHURCH  
PRESENTATION**

Who is St. Andrews? What do we say about ourselves? Learn the results of our all-church survey!

**APRIL 28: 9:45AM & NOON**

SENIOR PASTOR CALL PROCESS

## Council Nominating Committee

One of our Mission and Ministry Council (MMC) members will be terming out soon, so the MMC is instating a nominating committee of several St. Andrews members. The nominating committee serves the important role of developing a slate of candidates interested in serving on the MMC, and then presents those candidates at the next voters assembly meeting. This is a short-term committee whose members would meet approximately three to four times over the next few months.

This is an exciting and pivotal time to be serving in leadership at St. Andrews! If you are interested in being part of the nominating committee, please contact Michael Rehbein at (209) 623-5916 or [mrehbein@me.com](mailto:mrehbein@me.com) **by April 2.**

# Serving Stockton and Beyond

## Rahab Comfort Dog

Rahab Comfort Dog team is looking forward to the spring and nice weather as we just celebrated Resurrection Sunday! *We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life. Romans 6:4*

Rahab Comfort Dog Handlers Laura Moore and Cathy Pauley visited Marshall Elementary School and spent time in the school's calming center. We always enjoy visiting these students and Rahab's friend Tara, one of the counselors in the calming center. *"A day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside." Winnie the Pooh*

Handler Laura Moore and Ministry Partner Brooke Kelly took Rahab for the monthly visit at Novellus Assisted Living Facility. These special people just love having their petting and loving time with Rahab. *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. Numbers 6:24-25*



Rahab with Top Dog Bobby Moore and Handler Laura Moore had double the fun on St. Patrick's Day. Rahab got to hang out with the kids during an Easter egg hunt at church and got to see one of her buddies from the high school youth get baptized! God is so good!!! *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:27*

Rahab, along with several team members, helped with the Good Shepherd Family Easter party the weekend before Easter. Rahab shared lots of love while the team helped serve lunch, hide eggs, and help the Good Shepherd members find the eggs; and Rahab got to watch one of the Good Shepherd members get baptized! *For we are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10*

Handlers Bonnie Centers and Amy Lapointe took Rahab to The Commons in Stockton—an assisted living facility. The residents were so excited to meet Rahab for the first time and look forward to new regular visits. Rahab and her team love meeting new people and getting a chance to spread some happiness and love. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13*

Handler Cathy Pauley and Ministry Partner Barbara Britton brought a surprise to a friend in a care home. Nothing better than putting a smile on someone's face! *This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118: 24*



Rahab wants you to know that our church is such a blessing, and she loves coming to church on Sunday morning! *Blessed are the people to whom such blessings fall! Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord! Psalm 144:15*

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](mailto:comfortcarek9@stalc.org). Cost is \$20 each and for every stuffie purchased, the team can buy another stuffie to give out at ministry events.

## Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd family had a sweet time during their Easter party on March 23 (see photo on opposite page). Come and enjoy a variety of entertainments at our upcoming Talent Show!



**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

# Talent Show

April 6  
12:15pm

*Join us for coffee and cookies after the show!*

**GOOD SHEPHERD FAMILY MINISTRY**

**We will not be livestreaming this event due to licensing issues.**

## It'll Be Here Before You Know It



# VBS

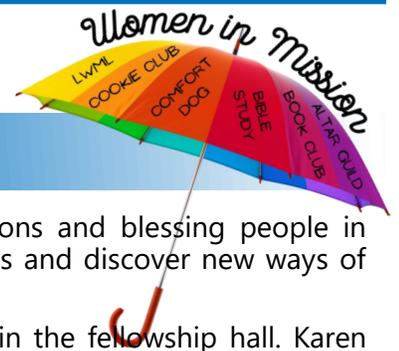
JUNE 24-28, 5:30-  
8:10PM (DINNER INCLUDED)

**SAVE-THE-DATES:**

**Prep Day: May 18, 9am**

**Volunteer Meeting: June 23, 9:30am**

# Women in Mission



## Bless and Be Blessed



Our ladies are crafting some beautiful creations and blessing people in their lives with them. Join one of these classes and discover new ways of showing someone you love them!

**Card Making** — **April 10 & 24, 1:30-3pm** in the fellowship hall. Karen Kleinert: (209) 406-9708; hkleinert05@comcast.net

**Beading** — **April 16, 1:30-4:30pm** in the library. Debbie Wilson: (209) 298-8451; skydebbill@yahoo.com

## Bible Study

Join us on Mondays at 9am for a sweet time of Bible study and fellowship. Contact Jamie Eisenbeisz (916-230-4280) for more information. (No meeting April 1.)

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

*We're having lots of fun at our LWML meetings this spring. Look what we're up to!*

In March we painted river rocks to leave in parks, offices, or other fun places in our community. The creativity pictured below is delightful!



In April we will disperse about \$1500 to charities especially dear to our hearts. On **April 9 at 1pm**, come to our meeting bringing your ideas and lobby for your favorite charity before we vote! Bring men's socks, baby diapers and wipes, and hand towels for Cathy and Joan to take to the District Convention Ingathering.

If you haven't been a regular attender, come give us a try! We meet the second Tuesday of each month.

## THANK YOU, DEBRA!

Over the last two years, Debra Johnson has prayed and planned for the vision God gave her of equipping women at St. Andrews to live into their gifts and minister to others in everything they do. She organized large socials, brought new ideas to LWML meetings, and inspired the development of our card-making, beading, and walking groups.

God is calling Debra and her husband Charlie into a new season of ministry, and they will be moving to Colorado later this spring. Please join us in thanking the Lord for Debra's loving and passionate leadership!

# Kids of St. Andrews

## Kids' Church

March was a special month for children in Kids' Church! Not only did they get to do an egg hunt, but they got to hear the beautiful story of Jesus' death and resurrection told through "Resurrection Eggs," which are plastic eggs filled with symbols of the Passion. Kids each got to take home their own set to help them remember how much Jesus loves them.

In April, Kids' Church will be held each week except April 28. Sign-in starts at 10:35 and then children join their parents in the contemporary service after the sermon.



## Youth



**H2H** be will resuming classes on April 3, focusing on the life of Martin Luther.

**Friday Fun** for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades is on April 19 from 5:30-7pm. Plan on dinner, games, and lots of laughter!

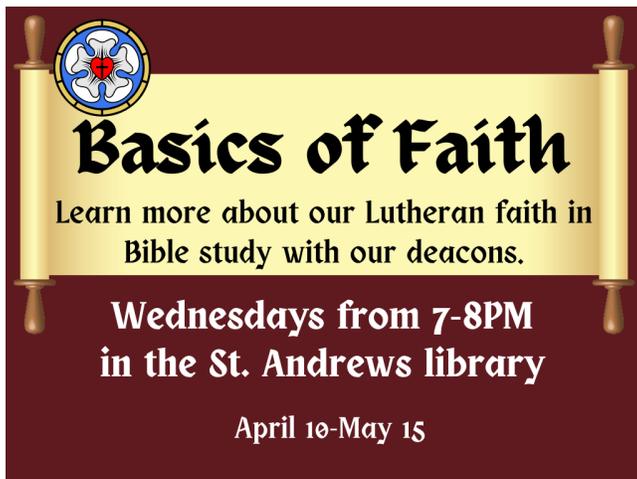


The **Confirmation youth retreat** will be held at Lake Tahoe on April 19-21. We will leave St. Andrews by 4:45 on that Friday and will return on Sunday around 1:30. *The retreat is only for those being confirmed this year.* If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brian at [pastorbrian@stalc.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stalc.org). Those being confirmed will share their faith statements with the congregation on Mother's Day, May 12, at both services (Confirmation is being held on June 2).

**High School Youth** will also resume meeting on April 3. There is a **high school lock-in** on April 5-6 which includes pizza, a movie, and as is tradition, a Nerf war in the fellowship hall!

This summer the high schoolers will have a weekend retreat on June 21-23 in lieu of a mission trip. The retreat will be held after the youth have had the option to serve in various ways around our community (more info on that to come). The retreat will be held at a cabin in Arnold and include fellowship, devotions, hiking/picnic at Calaveras Big Trees, games, and a pizza/movie night. And no need to be concerned: all involved will be back by 12:30 on Sunday to assist with VBS set up after church! Contact Pastor Brian or Bobby Moore ([bobbymoore209@gmail.com](mailto:bobbymoore209@gmail.com)) for more retreat details.

# Growing Together



**Basics of Faith**  
Learn more about our Lutheran faith in Bible study with our deacons.  
**Wednesdays from 7-8PM  
in the St. Andrews library**  
April 10-May 15

New to faith or to St. Andrews? Curious what this whole Lutheran thing is all about? This group is for you!

Our deacons will be leading six weeks of discussions covering the following topics: Living with expectations, living with Jesus as Savior, living as God's child, living the Christian life, living forever with Jesus, explaining the Lutheran church.

You are welcome to attend any or all of these weeks! Talk to Duane Lach for more information: (209) 715-0270



**MY CUP  
runneth  
over**  
zoom bible study  
with pastor brian  
Bring your insights  
and questions.  
11:30am  
April 18  
May 2  
May 9  
email office@stalc.org for zoom link

You've picked up your free book. You've read the first few pages. You've looked at the questions. Now what?

If you'd like to talk through the questions presented in our generosity series with a group, Pastor Brian is leading three Zoom meetings and would love to have you join. You can hop in during your lunch hour or settle on the couch with your cat on your lap.

Contact the church office for login instructions and mark your calendars for April 18, May 2, and May 9!

# Serving Together



**APRIL FOOD DRIVE**  
We have lots of canned goods! This month we are focusing on cracker packs, trail mix, nut packs and granola bars for our homeless community.  
  
Box is located in the church entry.



**"Noisy"  
Offering  
April 7**  
BRING SPARE  
CHANGE FOR  
MISSION GRANTS