



He is risen!

FISHHOOK

April 2023



As we inch closer to Easter, the Alleluias will begin to ring out and we will be reminded of Jesus' resurrection once again. Many church theologians don't reserve celebration of the resurrection to just one Sunday a year, though. Worship on Sunday mornings has often been called "little Easters" because we give thanks and praise to God for the sacrifice of His Son on the cross, and for the promise that His resurrection gives us. He promises that our bodies will also be resurrected, and we see that foreshadowed in Jesus' own resurrection (His body still bore the holes where the nails and spear pierced Him) and in the raising of Lazarus.

In John 11:1-44 we read that Jesus' friend Lazarus is dying, but Jesus delays a visit to him. When He finally arrives, Lazarus has already passed away. Our Lord then meets Martha, the grieving sister. Their conversation points us to the *final resurrection* from sin and pain. Jesus tells Martha, "Your brother will rise again. I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall He live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." Martha's response? "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

What then follows is a *temporary resurrection*, with Jesus loudly commanding death to leave Lazarus, and for His friend to "Come out!" of the tomb. **(continued next page)**

May you take heart this Easter that the resurrection is yours.

(continued from first page) God's Word accomplishes what it sets out to do, so Lazarus is raised, and the people rejoice!

But the rejoicing is temporary. The Pharisees respond by seeking to kill both Jesus and Lazarus, because "many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus" on Lazarus' account (John 12:9-11). And Lazarus would eventually die again.

What does this have to do with Easter—and furthermore, with our lives? Not only does the story of Lazarus point us to the resurrection of our Lord and our own final resurrections as well, but it shows us that the Christian life is a difficult one...yet it is founded in the promises of Jesus.

Many see Easter as the spiritual high of the year, which in some sense is correct. But remember what was said earlier? Every Sunday is a "little Easter." In that sense, as we move towards Holy Week and see palm branches being waved, the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, Pilate's judgment seat; as we hear the demands of the mob and see our Lord hanging on a tree; and then finally as we see the empty tomb and our eyes behold the risen Jesus, something else must be said: Monday comes. We suffer difficulties, sin, illness, death.

So in our rejoicing and in our suffering, let us live rooted in Jesus, clinging to His promise of that Great Day when we will be raised from the death of sin and see our Risen Lord face to face. May you take heart this Easter Sunday that the resurrection is yours. And may you continue in that faith the Monday after Easter, and the next day, and the next. Amen.

Pastor Brian

Kids of St. Andrews

Newday Preschool

We can't believe we only have two months left of the school year! It's been a fun and exciting year. The children have grown and learned so much. We are finishing out the year busier than ever. In March we made volcanos, took cap and gown pictures, practiced singing with Ms. Rachel, and the children's all-time favorite: eating green eggs. April will bring tons of spring projects, including planting to make our playground beautiful.



Our students had an amazing time hunting Easter eggs with other St. Andrews families on March 26. Thank you for your generosity in donating over 1,000 eggs and more than enough candy to fill them all!



We're now accepting enrollment for summer 2023 and fall 2023 programs. Space is limited, so contact us soon! (209) 957-4089; newday@stalc.org

Kids' Church



April Kids' Church Schedule

♥ Music, Crafts, Bible Stories

♥ Classes 3-yrs thru 5th Grade

♥ April 2, 16, 23, 30

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



Confirmation Class



Our confirmation students will be resuming their classes on **April 12 at 6:30pm**. They will be finishing up the Lord's Prayer and then ending the year focused on a few cultural "hot topics." We have four confirmands this year: Nicolas and Nathan Brown, Kate Johnson, and Jona Jen. The four confirmands will be reading their faith statements in church on Sunday, May 21, at *both services*, and then will be confirmed the following Sunday, May 28, at the 10:45 service. Pray that their faith is uplifted and that they continue to grow in their focus on Jesus.

Also, the confirmation curriculum is continually being revised and looked over, so next year look and see what changes will be made!

Youth Group

The high school youth group will resume meeting on **April 12 at 6:30pm**. For the remainder of the year, they will be covering Pentecost and outreach to those near us, as well as those far off. A game night will be held on May 24, and with that the youth group will break for summer!

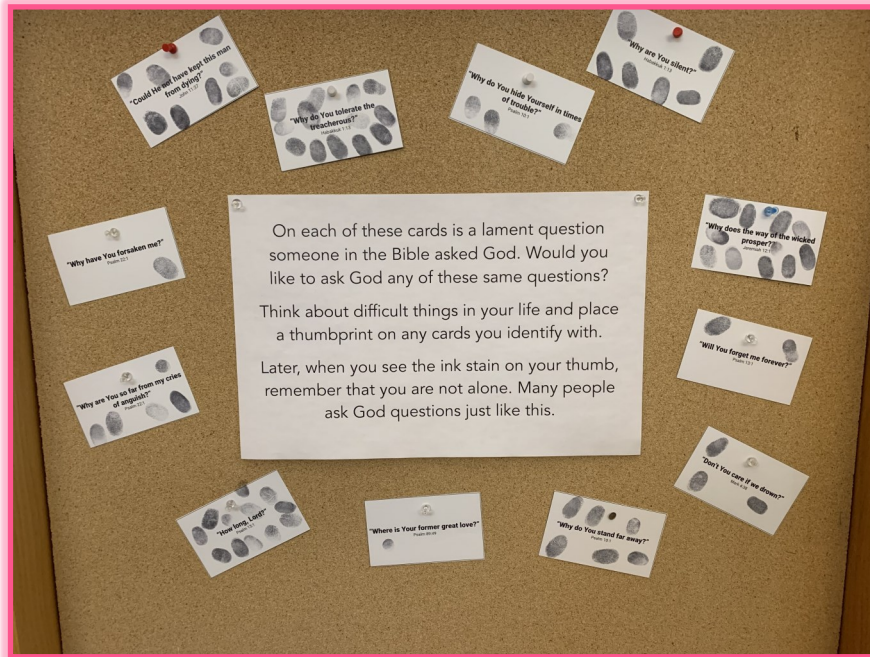
Many of our high school youth are going to be attending our summer mission trip with Idaho Servant Adventures from June 17-June 24. Pastor Dan, Pastor Brian, and Bobby and Laura Moore will be attending as chaperones. Everyone is excited for our first mission trip since before COVID! An informational meeting will be held **April 16 at 12:15pm**. Another "team building" meeting will occur on June 7 at 6:30pm (time subject to change). Pray that the trip goes well, and that preparation is a blessing!





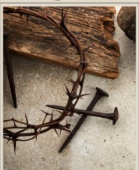

Worship


A Blessed Lent

During our Family Midweek Lent services this year, we took time to interact with the truths brought to us by Pastor Dan and Pastor Brian as we traveled "Thru the Bible." From writing our own lament psalms to planting marigold seeds to making collages about God's character, we had a very special time of connection with God's Word and with each other. Here are a few photos from the Wednesday nights!



Holy Week & Easter

<p><i>Palm Sunday</i> April 2</p>  <p>8:30am, 10:45am</p>	<p><i>Maundy Thursday</i> April 6</p>  <p>Noon, 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>Good Friday</i> April 7</p>  <p>Noon, 7:00pm</p>	<p><i>Easter Sunday</i> April 9</p>  <p>6:00am, 8:30am, 10:45am</p>
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 **Holy Week**
FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD



Easter

Bring flowers from your garden on Easter to fill an empty cross.

Serving Stockton and Beyond

Vacation Bible School

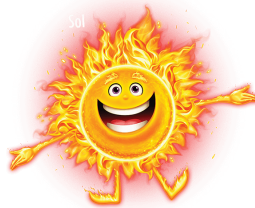


VBS will be here June 12-16! We look forward to offering our community a week of free food, fun, and learning about Jesus, the Light of the World. Check out these ways you can help.



Prepare Crafts, April 23 @ 12pm

Crafts are an amazing way of helping kids connect truths they're learning to tangible items they can take home. Crafts also involve a lot of prep time! If you can sort items into baggies or wield scissors, we need you.



Donate Jars, Time

Clean baby food or jam jars will be used as candle holders (collection box in Narthex).

All hands on deck! Kids will be present each night from 5:30-8:15pm and we'll need help before and after, as well.

VBS 2023



Register today!

Your kids, grandkids, neighborhood kids, and co-workers' kids are all invited. Follow the QR code, stop by the office, or visit our website at: www.standrewsstockton.org/2023-vbs-registration/



Sponsor the Event

VBS is completely free to children. Would you like to help underwrite this ministry? Here are some estimated expenses your donations can help with!

Five days of dinner for 250 people: \$2,000 (Costco Cash donations welcome)

Paper goods: \$750

Temporary fence for safety: \$2,500

Designate a check, choose "VBS" on our online giving page, or text any amount to the number 84321 with "vbs." Text-to-give example: \$35 vbs



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."

As we approach Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, we look for the new life and promise on Easter Sunday. During the Lenten season, Team Rahab has been in the community bringing mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13 (NIV) **(continued next page)**

("Rahab," continued from page 4) Team Rahab with other Comfort Dog teams visited San Joaquin Sheriff's Department after K9 Duke was stabbed to death while in the line of duty. The Comfort Dog teams attended the public memorial service for K9 Duke, as well. *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. Ephesians 5:11 (ESV)*

Since the last *Fishhook*, some students and staff at University of the Pacific needed comforting as they were sad about fellow students who were involved in an accident. Rahab brought comfort and love to the athletic department. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV)*



Rahab has been continuing to visit the St. Peter Lutheran School preschool students. The students have really enjoyed having her visit twice a month and are ready to give her lots of hugs. After visiting the little ones, Team Rahab goes to CAMLU Senior Living Center and visits her "older" friends. The seniors have found peace and comfort when loving on Rahab. *...And to bring light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things. Ephesians 3:9 (ESV)*

We continue to visit classrooms, students, and staff at Madison Elementary School. The students are really connecting with Rahab and her handler and ministry partners. The elementary-age students do not hesitate to run up to her, pet her, and offers lots of hugs. The middle school students are a little more reserved, but once they realize it's "cool" to pet her, they will be eager to see her as well. *But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16 (ESV)*

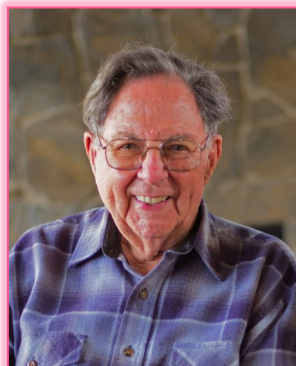
Team Rahab handler Brianna Solis and her husband, Joel, just celebrated the baptism of their son, Lucas, on March 19. Rahab has missed her "favorite" handler since Brianna started maternity and mom leave last October. Rahab welcomed Lucas into her fold for a photo opportunity. *Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Psalm 127:3 (ESV)*

Rahab had her vet checkup in March and is healthy and good to go! She looks forward to seeing everyone on Easter and maybe even at an Easter egg hunt. Jesus is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! *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 (ESV)*



Church Family Updates

Called to Glory



Elmore Urban Ernst went to be with Jesus on March 2 at the age of 95. Urban was the last surviving founding member of St. Andrews Lutheran Church and he was dedicated to the congregation for his whole life. A very generous man, Urban served St. Andrews with both his time and his finances, supporting many campus beautification projects and getting his hands dirty during church work "parties." He served on several boards and as an elder over the years, and even when he could no longer live independently, he came to our traditional worship service almost every Sunday. (His daughters, especially, were very faithful in bringing him!)

Urban will be honored at a celebration of life on **Saturday, April 1 at 1:00pm** at St. Andrews. We're including his obituary so you can learn more about this special man!

Lifelong Stockton resident Elmore Urban Ernst passed away peacefully, with family and caregivers by his side, in his home on March 2nd at age 95. Born March 5th, 1927 to parents Bertha and Elmore Ernst, Urban grew up in Stockton along with his older sister Margaret. Upon graduation from UC Berkeley in 1950, he took over his father's architecture business, which became Ernst & Lloyd Architects. Over a 60 year long career, he developed a thriving practice, and became best known for designing schools. His work can be found all throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

He met the love of his life, Margaret "Margo" Gerke, at a UC Berkeley Lutheran alumni event. They wed in 1959 and raised three daughters in their Stockton home that he designed. Urban's dedication to his family, faith, and community shone daily. He was a regular attendee and supporter of St. Andrews Lutheran Church, a longtime member of Kiwanis and the Haggin Museum, sponsor of several guest artists for the Stockton Symphony, and a quiet supporter of many local charities. Urban loved good food, good wine, skiing, fishing, riverboat cruises, and PBS. His family fondly remembers learning to ski on the Tahoe slopes under his kind supervision, his delightful chuckle upon catching salmon or trout on fishing trips, his gifts of hand-cracked walnuts, and the boxes of fresh tangerines and oranges he shared from his garden every winter.

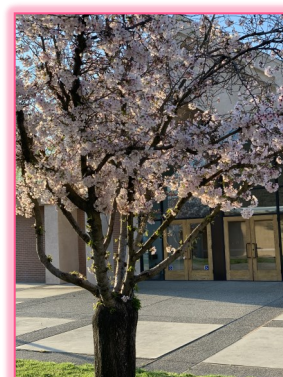
He is survived by his sister Margaret Ford, daughters Hilary, Carla, and Kristina, son-in-law Steven, grandchildren Sara and Max, two great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Urban's name to the Stockton Symphony, Haggin Museum or St. Andrews Lutheran Church.

Campus Construction

Rejoice! April 17 is the start date for the St. Andrews courtyard project! After waiting what seems like ages, construction of shade structures and fencing will finally break ground this month. We have already funded this project and are hopeful the courtyard will be done by the summer. Thank you for your generosity and patience as we've weathered delays of COVID, inflation, and permitting.

Mounting of solar panels on the fellowship hall will also begin soon, although a specific date has yet to be set.

The Mission and Ministry Council has been hard at work focusing on these two building projects. Say a prayer, thanking God for their leadership and for what the Lord is doing through them for St. Andrews!



Small Groups

Do you desire to grow in Christ with a group of Christians? Do you feel God nudging you to take a step of faith in leadership? Pastor Brian would love to talk with you about opportunities to join or lead a small group. Please give him a call at the office or email him at pastorbrian@stalc.org.

Anniversary Planning

St. Andrews is *how* old? We are seeking a few members that can help plan an 80th (!) anniversary celebration for St. Andrews this fall. Please let Pam in the office know if you are interested in being a part of this team: (209) 957-8750; office@stalc.org

Women in Mission

Cookies & Cards & Beads—Oh My!

God has gifted each one of us with skills and passions to use for His glory, and some of our ladies are sharing their gifts to equip others with more tools for living generous and creative lives. If you would like to join in or learn more, please contact these folks!

Card Making — **April 12 & 26 at 1:30pm** in the fellowship hall. Karen Kleinert: (209) 406-9708; hkleinert05@comcast.net

Beading — **April 18 at 2:30pm** in the library. Debbie Wilson: (209) 298-8451; skydebbill@yahoo.com

Cookie Baking — Dayle Young: (209) 915-5659; yngfmly4@comcast.net

Walking — Joan Sykes: (209) 931-0577; jumblefromjoan@inreach.com



Bible Study

Ladies, join us on Mondays at 9am for a fascinating walk through the book of Genesis. Bring your Bible (or borrow one from us) and discover God's incredible plan for our world!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

We meet at St. Andrews on **April 11 at 1:00pm**. Olga Rodriguez, director of Haven of Peace in French Camp, will share with us how her shelter provides a safe place for at-risk and battered women. Please come and show your support for this important organization.

Our journaling verse is Hebrews 10:25: "Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing. But let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Journal about how the organizations or groups you belong to have been helpful and encouraging to you as you walk through this time called Life. How have you been enabled to encourage others?

"Emerging Faith" was the theme for the March 18th Spring Rally. Sixty women came from as far as Salinas and Chowchilla on a beautiful sunny day to hear Jamie Eisenbeiz share experiences from more than 50 short term mission trips. Good Shepherd kids sang and everyone enjoyed a day of fellowship.

