

# FISHHOOK

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March 2022



*Why I am excited about the Forgiving Challenge? Or maybe, why am I even doing it?*

As a pastor you might think that I know a lot about forgiveness. After all, my job is to tell people about Jesus and the forgiveness that we have in Him. But it was really only after I began studying to be a pastor, all the way back as a freshman in college, that I began to understand the for-

giveness that Jesus has for me. Growing up, my family never said the words, "I forgive you." In fact, those words were foreign to me. They were never spoken, and because of that, even though we went to church and I knew Jesus, moments of forgiveness were few and far between.

And you might ask yourself, "Why? Why was forgiveness so seldom seen in the household of a soon-to-be pastor?" Well, my family never prayed together. We never read the Bible. But as I said, we did go to church. We heard God's Word proclaimed and we received the Sacrament of Jesus' body and blood. And so, we had faith, but it wasn't mature. It wasn't cultivated. It was barely even spoken about. My family didn't focus on the forgiveness of Jesus very much.

My family has come a long way since then, but this is why I'm excited about the Forgiving Challenge. As the intro to the Challenge puts it: *"It may sound surprising, but the primary goal of this book is not to learn how to forgive others...this is primarily a book about receiving God's forgiveness for yourself."*

Forgiveness doesn't start with trying harder to be more forgiving, or trying your hardest to be a better Christian. Forgiving, as Scripture says, starts with Christ. For once God brings us His forgiveness in the waters of baptism, in the preaching of His Word, and afterwards in His body and blood, it is only then that we will have the ability to forgive others. And so, I'm eager to start the Forgiving Challenge because I'm excited to look deeper at Jesus; to hear His forgiveness for my sins; and in turn to go and forgive myself, and then others as well.

Will you join me?

*Pastor Brian*

P.S. Pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter explain more about the 40-day Forgiving Challenge and how you can participate!

***Growing up, my family never said the words, "I forgive you."***

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# Staffing Updates

## DCE Call Process



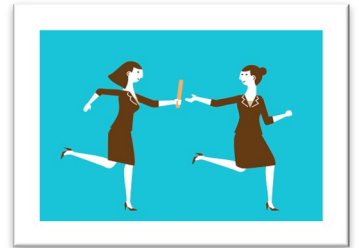
In the month of February our call committee interviewed two candidates we found promising. Our next steps include inviting them to St. Andrews to have further discussions with more leaders, staff, families, and those invested in our ministries to children, youth, and families. When those visits come to fruition, we will be announcing them to the congregation.

We continue to ask for your prayers in this process. 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.

## New Office Administrator

Dina Bryant, our administrative assistant, and her husband have answered the call of God to move to a different part of California. We are so thankful for the organization and joy Dina has brought to St. Andrews operations, and we wish her all God's blessings as she moves.

In His faithfulness, God has provided Pamela Farley to fill our office position. Pamela comes from a background as a dispatch operator, so we're confident she can take on any craziness we throw at her. :- ) Please stop by the office or pick up the phone to introduce yourself!



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# Lent Midweek Worship Services



Ash Wednesday is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We begin our 40 days of Lent with a reminder of our frailty and need for a Savior. *Services at noon and 7:00 p.m.*

On the remaining Wednesdays during Lent, we will have a time of song, reflection, and preaching on themes of forgiveness, as presented in our all-church Forgiving Challenge. *7:00 p.m. on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 6<sup>th</sup>.*






# This Month: All-Church Forgiving Challenge

The last two years have been very challenging. Many of us feel disconnected from friends and family, even at church. **Join us for 40 days of connection and forgiveness, starting March 6<sup>th</sup>.**

The **Forgiving Challenge** is the perfect way to reconnect as a church on Sunday mornings and in small groups during Lent. Being in a group can build our faith in a personal setting and help us deal with any forgiveness we need to give ourselves or others.

We encourage you to participate with us as we learn about the forgiveness only Jesus can give us!

**Begin reading your book on March 1<sup>st</sup>! For the month of March, our daily readings correspond with the dates of the month.**  
**Small groups will start meeting after March 6<sup>th</sup>.**

<p>∅AYS <b>6-12</b></p>  <p>SIN</p>	<p>∅AYS <b>13-19</b></p>  <p>CONFESSION</p>	<p>∅AYS <b>20-26</b></p>  <p>ABSOLUTION</p>
<p>∅AYS <b>27-33</b></p>  <p>RESTORATION</p>	<p>∅AYS <b>34-40</b></p>  <p>SANCTIFICATION</p>	



**Get your free book!** Take a book home from church for daily devotionals and challenges. All ages and stages can participate through Sunday messages, small group study, and daily personal reflection.



*"Everyone has had relationships impacted in the last two years. Forgiveness is at the heart of restoring relationships. Lent draws us in to experience a deeper connection with Christ through His forgiveness and invites us to experience deeper connections with others through our forgiveness."  
~ Pastor Dan*

**Reconnect.** We're forming 40-day small groups that fit your schedule! We'll have groups on several days of the week, both in mornings and evenings, in-person and via Zoom. Encourage your faith by finding a group. Contact Kristin Winter or the church office for all the options: (209) 957-8750; kristin@stalc.org



**Be forgiven by Jesus.** Focused on a personal journey through "5 Phases Leading to Freedom," Forgiving Challenge will help give you freedom from your sin and freedom to a life of meaning and impact.

**Take practical, daily challenges.** Every day, Forgiving Challenge will present you with a new challenge that will stretch and grow you on your journey.



**Experience life change in 40 days.** You'll be joining thousands of individuals and hundreds of churches who have grown closer to God and experienced freedom through this 40-day challenge.

*"The Forgiving Challenge is the perfect way to reconnect with your small group or join a new one. We feel like this is a critical part of our community and our faith here at St. Andrews. We want to encourage a sense of family here after this long struggle with the pandemic...and to feel a strong sense of community and UNITY!"*

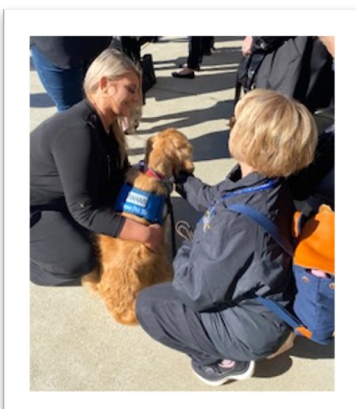
*~ Kristin Winter*

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

Rahab has been in the community bringing comfort and love to many people. In late December, military veterans Mike Rehbein, Cathy Pauley, Bobby Moore, and Jeff Kramer went to the Alameda Coast Guard training facility and visited coast guardsmen who were not going home for Christmas break.



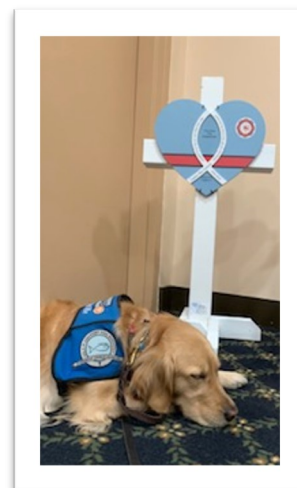
On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Elk Grove Police Officer Ty Lenehan was killed on the way to work by a drunk driver. Top Dog Deb Rider, along with Miriam Deuel and Teams Reuben, Micah, and Gomer, visited the Lenehan family and police force in Elk Grove on January 24<sup>th</sup> to provide peace and comfort. Deb Rider and Sue Gruber took Rahab to Officer Lenehan's memorial service on February 1<sup>st</sup>, accompanied by the other comfort dog teams. "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).



Rahab had fun on January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Stockton Directions Medical Clinic, which hosted a diaper dash, collecting 31,000 diapers! Pastor Dan and Cathy Pauley joined Miriam Deuel at the event greeting donors and volunteers. Rahab was promoted on KYCC from 3-6 p.m. that afternoon.

Pastor Dan, Pastor Brian, and Rahab participated in a prayer walk on January 26<sup>th</sup> at Delta College in conjunction with the University of the Pacific InterVarsity team.

Tragically, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, Stockton Fire Captain Max Fortuna (Station #2) was shot and killed while responding to a dumpster fire. February 5<sup>th</sup>, Team Rahab provided an LCC Crosses for Losses (a cross and heart on a stand) for Fire Station #2 and a heart for Captain Fortuna's family. Deb Rider, Sue Gruber, Nancy Harrison-Werner, Janis Sheen, and Cathy Pauley delivered Crosses for Losses to the funeral home where a two-person firefighter detail stood vigil at Captain Fortuna's casket. Rahab also brought comfort to the firefighters who were taking shifts as honor guards. February 6<sup>th</sup>, Deb Rider, Amy Lapointe, and Rahab delivered dinner to Station #9, in honor of Captain Fortuna. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).



Team Rahab continues to visit nursing homes and memory loss facilities to share the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those in need.

Comfort Dog Rahab and team never go anywhere unless invited. There is never a financial charge to those we serve.

If you would like to follow Rahab on social media: Facebook - @RahabComfortDog; Instagram - @lcck9rahab; Twitter - @LCCK9Rahab.

Thank you for the prayers support you have given this amazing ministry and look for updates in each Fishhook newsletter.



## Hosting Homeless Families Through Family Promise



### **What is this?**

"Families come to us in crisis; we help them rebuild their lives with new skills and ongoing support." Family Promise (FP) is a ministry that helps local families address the root causes of family homelessness.

### **How does it work?**

Families who have recently become homeless can apply to FP and go through a vetting process. Families accepted into the program receive holistic assistance in trying to regain stability through emergency shelter and meals, job and finance training, and transportation.

### **Why is St. Andrews partnering with Family Promise?**

Our mission statement is "Inspiring our community to live out the hope found in Christ." We are called to act in faith, knowing we're loved and forgiven, and share God's compassion with others. This is a fantastic opportunity to do just that.

### **What exactly is St. Andrews doing?**

At the beginning of 2019, we committed to being one of San Joaquin County's "host congregations" for Family Promise's ministry. Now, after a slow organizational start-up—made even slower by the pandemic—FP is finally looking at beginning to host families starting in late March of 2022.

Here at St. Andrews, we will house and feed about four families for during the weeks of **May 22-28, July 31-August 6, and September 11-17**. Our duties will include providing dinner and breakfast, socializing in the evening with the families, and having two people stay overnight each night.

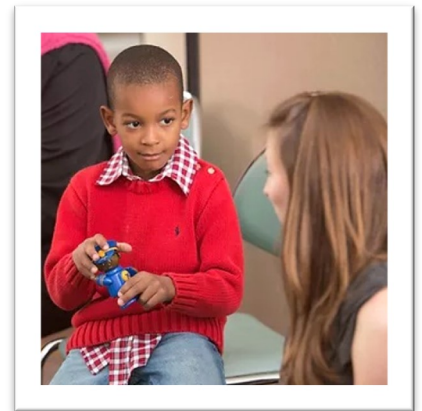
At 7:00am each day, the families will be transported to the Family Promise day facility where they'll shower and have classes. They'll return to St. Andrews around 5:30pm, and the cycle repeats for one week (Sunday evening to Sunday morning of the following week).

### **How can I help during hosting week?**

- ◆ Bring one or more meals!
- ◆ Plan some crafts or games and play with the kids for a couple hours one evening!
- ◆ Eat dinner with the families and share God's love!
- ◆ Spend a night at St. Andrews!

*Please pray about helping with this ministry. Contact Pastor Brian ([pastorbrian@stalc.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stalc.org)) if you would like to get involved!*

To learn more about Family Promise, visit their website at [familypromisesjc.org](http://familypromisesjc.org).



## Worshipping on Sundays

### In-Person and Livestream Services

In worship each week we have the opportunity to come together with others to confess our brokenness and receive God's forgiveness and grace. Being humbled before the cross in worship, looking toward our Savior, we are renewed and restored so as to continue to daily live out the faith we have received through Christ.

*Worship Service Schedule: 8:30am Traditional Service; 10:45am Contemporary Service*

Whether because of illness, vacation, work schedule, or being homebound, you can worship with us via our "St. Andrews Lutheran Church Stockton" YouTube channel where one service each week is livestreamed. You can also view past worship services on the channel.

*Typical Livestream Service Schedule: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays—10:45am Contemporary Service; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays—8:30am Traditional Service*

## Sunday Morning Discussions at 9:45am

**Between our two Sunday services each week we offer several options to meet for fellowship and growth in faith. Please join us!**

### Cross+Gen (in the room next to the kitchen)



Cross+Gen

*What is Cross+Gen?* Cross+Gen is a faith development ministry accessible to all ages, using multiple learning styles to engage with scripture. We use conversation and experience to solidify learning, growing, and faith understanding. We desire to build cross-generational relationships where children, teenagers, and adults support and encourage those outside of their home environment to grow in faith. It is an opportunity for adults to learn how to share and verbalize their faith with those younger—and also younger in faith—and for children to share their unique “faith like a child” perspective with those older than they.

#### Stories for March 2022

3/6 - The Greatest Commandment - Matthew 22:34-40

3/13 - Jesus Blesses the Children - Luke 18:15-17

3/20 - The Ten Lepers - Luke 17:11-19

3/27 - Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man - Luke 5:17-26

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!

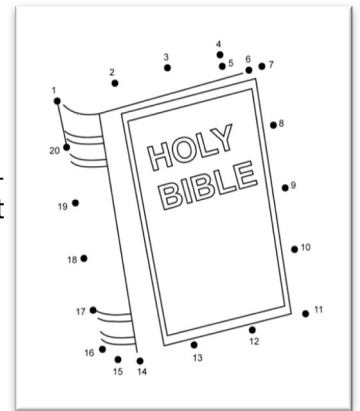
#### The Cross+Gen Team

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.

## Nurturing Children and Families

### Newday Preschool Joining in Worship



The 3s, 4s, and 5s Newday classes are learning songs with Ms. Rachel to sing in church! They and their families will be joining the 10:45 service on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We'll be having a slightly-shorter service that day (no Communion) and will share some treats afterward. It'll be a great time to connect!

## 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:*

*March 8 — "Transformative Health"*

*March 22 — "Feel the Feelings: Coping with Loss"*

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the church office, Kristin Winter ([kristin@stalc.org](mailto:kristin@stalc.org)), or Kara Rehbein (209-598-3882).

## First Communion, Confirmation, and High School

**First Communion Classes** (Stone 5): 5:30 p.m. on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup>, and April 6<sup>th</sup>. First Communion celebration at the 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service on April 14<sup>th</sup>. [pastordan@stalc.org](mailto:pastordan@stalc.org)

**Confirmation Classes (Stone 7):** 5:30 p.m. on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 9<sup>th</sup>, and March 16<sup>th</sup>. [pastorbrian@stalc.org](mailto:pastorbrian@stalc.org)

**High School:** You're invited to the St. Andrews Wednesday Lenten services held at 7:00 p.m. on March 2<sup>nd</sup>-April 6<sup>th</sup>. High School youth group will resume April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## VBS

Save the date for VBS. This year it's JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> (setup and volunteers' meeting on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>). Come one and come all! Karen Kelly will need all the help she can get this year, since she's filling Tracy's shoes until we hire a new director of Christian education. Please contact Karen with any questions: [neraknsteve618@gmail.com](mailto:neraknsteve618@gmail.com)

