

St. John's SPOKESMAN MAY 2016

Mother's Day: *Love Not Biology*

Cindy Carroll, Congregational Care Coordinator & Faith Community Nurse

MOTHERING IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART, and we have real warriors in our midst. Being a mother is much more than biology. The Free Dictionary's definition accurately acknowledges the wide continuum of mothering: a woman who gives birth to a child and loves unconditionally; a woman who adopts a child; a woman who raises a child; a woman who puts her child before herself; a title for a woman respected for her wisdom and age.

I learned a lot about being a mother from my own mother. When I was four years old, we moved to my grandparents' farm because my maternal grandmother was ill. My mother helped my grandfather care for her, working hard at caring for her mother, while raising me and my brother and helping with the farm work. My mother loved children and provided day care over the years to over thirty children, always providing a loving, caring and safe place for them while their parents worked.

My mother is full of faith and instilled that in us and those in her Sunday school classes. She taught us the importance of family and being kind and respectful to others. She has always been supportive and encouraging, even when I told her I was leaving Ohio, her home state which she will always love, to move to California. She was always there for me: when I became a mother, suffered a miscarriage, adopted a beautiful baby girl from Korea with my husband Dan, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is a loving grandmother who would do anything for her grandchildren. I can still see her at the kitchen sink with Leah standing on a stool next to her, showing Leah how to wash dishes, even making it fun.

I have tried to be like her in raising Bradley, our biological son, and Leah, our adopted daughter. They were both baptized and confirmed at St. John's. I have tried to teach them about God's



love and how he is always with us in both the joyous and the challenging times. I have tried to be there with them like my mother was for me.

I was blessed to watch Bradley grow from birth to the adult he is today, turning 30 this year, and Leah from the age of four months, turning 21 last December. I was there when they learned to read, took up numerous musical instruments, played in professional jazz bands, graduated high school and

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Live God's Love in the World

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MOTHER'S DAY CONT.

went to college, Bradley graduating law school, getting married at St. John's, and Leah nearing college graduation with a degree in psychology and going on to do graduate work.

When I think of witnessing all that, I can't help but think about Leah's biological mother - who was not able to see Leah do any of these things. I thank God for the decision she made to put her child up for adoption even though that must have been a heart-wrenching choice for her. On Leah's birthday, I think of the quote, "Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever." I pray God gives Leah's biological mother some way of understanding that Leah has grown into an extraordinary, beautiful and talented young woman.

Bradley and Leah are gone from our house now. I have entered into the phase of my life where I must do what my mother did: care for my mother and my aunt who are both in their nineties. I have learned the most important thing in caring for an aging loved one is to be forgiving, of yourself and your loved one. Forgive them for the emotional support they can't give you anymore, for being different from the person you remember, for leaving you even though they are right in front of you. Forgive yourself for anger and impatience, for not being as good as you think you should be in caring for your loved one, for those moments when you wish you didn't have to do it anymore. We do not face this challenge alone. God is with us and gives us guidance, support and hope. We can trust the Lord to provide for all our needs.

Every mother knows being a mother has difficult moments, and that has been so for me. But I have been blessed to learn just how true it is that biology does not make a family - love does.



YOUTH TO CELEBRATE CONFIRMATION

Sierra Ronning, Youth Ministry Coordinator

St. John's confirmands celebrate and affirm their baptism on May 1. Adam Montiel, Aiden Burns, Annika Remme, Lisi Long and Matthew Bradley have worked hard in our confirmation classes.

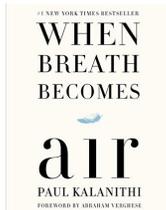
These youth spent two years digging into and learning about the Bible, Lutheranism, and their own personal faith. We laughed and shared stories about classes, camps, and the friendships they made along the way.

As confirmation approached, the students worked on developing their own statement of faith. These are written and shared at the confirmation celebration following the service. Parts of these statements will be featured in a video that will be shared at the beginning of worship on May 1.

Thank you to all the individuals - parents, pastors and teachers - who helped lead these youth in their faith life over the last two years. Please join us as we celebrate faith journeys with these students at the 9:00 am service, and at the celebration reception following.

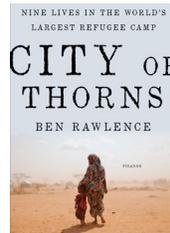
LLL Book Club's SUMMER BOOK SELECTIONS

LLL Book Club meets every 3rd Friday at 11:00 am in the church library. Come any month the selection speaks to you! Questions? Contact Donna Shadle: donna123aqui@hotmail.com.



May 20: WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR
by Paul Kalanithi

A deeply-moving posthumous memoir of a brilliant young neurosurgeon who strives to define his dual role as physician and patient when he is diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer.



July 15: CITY OF THORNS
by Ben Rawlence

How do people make a "life" in the world's largest refugee camp? The author profiles 9 lives of those who must reside in Dadaab--a "city" of 500,000 souls in remote northern Kenya.

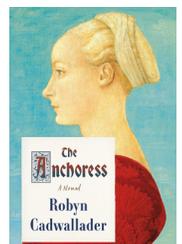
June 17: PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING
by Alan Cheuse (fiction)

Hailed as one of the great novels of Jewish-American experience. A rabbi becomes a titan of industry--he and those around him have to ponder...just what IS the price of human ambition?



August 19: THE ANCHORESS
by Robyn Cadwallader (fiction)

Seventeen year-old Sarah lives a life of prayer in a 7x7 cell. What parallels can be drawn between this 13th century teen and recent British girls who have run away to Syria to join ISIS?



MAY AT ST. JOHN'S

SUN, MAY 1	6th Sunday of Easter Confirmation Family Promise Begins 8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 9:00 am Confirmation 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Sunday School, Luminaria, Bible in 90 Days, Confirmation Celebration 5:00 pm Youth Group, Bible in 90 Days	FRI, MAY 13	7:00 pm Esther Circle PM 9:30 am Bulletin Assembly
MON, MAY 2	Family Promise 9:30 am Library Committee 6:30 pm Stephen Minister Peer Group Supervision, Call Committee	SUN, MAY 15	Day of Pentecost 8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Bible in 90 Days, Luminaria, Sunday School, Pentecost Potluck 5:00 pm Bible in 90 Days, Youth Group
TUE, MAY 3	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Family Promise 7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 pm Celebration Singers Rehearsal 7:00 pm Hospitality Team Meeting	MON, MAY 16	9:30 am Library Committee 6:30 pm Stephen Minister Peer Group Supervision, Call Committee
WED, MAY 4	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Family Promise 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Bible in 90 Days 12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion 5:15 pm Luminaria Meeting 6:30 pm Scholarship Committee 6:45 pm St. John's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Theology on Tap	TUE, MAY 17	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting 5:30 pm Property Committee 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 pm Celebration Singers Rehearsal 7:00 pm Church Council
THU, MAY 5	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Family Promise	WED, MAY 18	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 12:00 pm Bible in 90 Days 12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion 5:15 pm Luminaria Meeting 6:45 pm St. John's Choir Rehearsal
FRI, MAY 6	Family Promise 9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	THU, MAY 19	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 11:00 am Sewing/Quilting Group
SAT, MAY 7	Family Promise	FRI, MAY 20	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly 11:00 am LLL Book Club
SUN, MAY 8	7th Sunday of Easter Healing Ministry in Worship Mother's Day Family Promise Ends 8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Sunday School, Luminaria, Bible in 90 Days 5:00 pm Youth Group, Bible in 90 Days	SAT, MAY 21	8:00 am St. John's Work Day
MON, MAY 9	9:30 am Library Committee 11:00 am Deborah Circle 12:00 pm Executive Committee 4:30 pm Safe Ground 7:00 pm Finance Committee	SUN, MAY 22	The Holy Trinity AMGEN Race 8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 10:15 am Coffee Hour, Last Day of Sunday School, Luminaria, Bible in 90 Days 5:00 pm Youth Group, Bible in 90 Days
TUE, MAY 10	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting 5:30 pm The Wonderers 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:45 pm Celebration Singers Rehearsal	MON, MAY 23	9:30 am Library Committee 5:30 pm The Wonderers
WED, MAY 11	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Bible in 90 Days 12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion 5:15 pm Luminaria Meeting 6:45 pm St. John's Choir Rehearsal	TUE, MAY 24	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting 9:00 am Spokesman Assembly 5:00 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Mutual Ministry Committee 6:45 pm Celebration Singers Rehearsal
THU, MAY 12	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 11:00 am Esther Circle AM 6:30 pm Social Ministry Meeting	WED, MAY 25	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 11:00 am Sewing/Quilting Group 12:00 pm Bible in 90 Days 12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion 5:15 pm Luminaria Meeting 6:45 pm St. John's Choir Rehearsal
		THU, MAY 26	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:30 pm PUB Theology
		FRI, MAY 27	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly
		SUN, MAY 29	2nd Sunday After Pentecost 8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship 10:15 am Coffee Hour 5:00 pm Youth Group
		MON, MAY 30	Memorial Day Office Closed 4:30 pm Safe Ground

AN OPEN INVITATION TO PUB THEOLOGY

Sue Dwyer-Voss, Co-Organizer of St. John's PUB Theology

Wonder what a pub theology is? Pub Theology has a double meaning - it is short for "public theology" and a word-play on the fact that the gathering is always at a pub. More importantly, it is a fun, interesting, casual, stimulating gathering where folks can meet friends from St. John's, as well as people from other churches and traditions.

Pub Theology began in the summer of 2014. It was started by members looking for a way to chat about faith in a relaxed environment that would be open to all regardless of age, background, tradition, belief and/or level of skepticism. Pastor Leslie agreed to bring conversation-starting questions and facilitate discussion each month. The group determined that LowBrau, a pub and restaurant a few blocks from the church, was the best place to gather...and a new tradition began!

Everyone is always welcome to join Pub Theology on the LowBrau patio the last Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. Some order dinner; some eat before they come. Some come early and stay late; others drop by for a short time between work and other evening obligations. Some maintain Martin Luther's proud practice of discussing theology over beer;



others order wine, cocktails, juice, LowBrau's craft tonic water or small batch root beer.

Regardless of what food and drink is on the table, the discussion is always rich and the laughs are plentiful. During Advent the group has even been known to sing hymns (yep, out loud while people watch and smile) while learning about the history and context of the hymns.

Join us for the next Pub Theology on Thursday, May 26! We'd love to see you there! Look for the Martin and Katherine Luther bobbleheads (not kidding!) and you will also find camaraderie, interesting discussion, laughter, good food and drink, and an open, casual and accepting environment. Questions? - call Sue Dwyer-Voss at 916-203-5407 or email at ronsue@winfirst.com.



LIVING STONES
Building the Future of St. John's

AN UPDATE

CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$2.5 MILLION
TOTAL PLEDGED: \$1,886,472
TOTAL GIVEN (TO DATE): \$1,503,563
CURRENT BALANCE: \$382,909



The AMGEN Tour of California returns to Sacramento on Sunday, May 22. Sacramento will host the last leg of both the men's and women's portion of the race. St. John's is lucky to have a front row seat to this exciting sporting event. All members are invited to take advantage of our location to watch with the community.

As we get closer to the day of the race, the city of Sacramento will announce road closures that will affect your access to the church. This may hinder your ability to get to worship and viewing of the race. Be on the lookout for an e-blast from us about these closures!

SUNDAY SCHOOL THANKS

Jayla Wingard, Children's Ministry Coordinator

It's hard to believe that our Sunday School year is ending on May 22! This has been an amazing Sunday School year from play dough prayers, to Yule log making, to Palm Sunday Bible stories. I want to thank all the wonderful individuals, arts & crafts and Sunday School teachers, who have devoted so much time, energy and talent to teaching the kids all about God's unconditional love. I also want to thank Kate Burns, our volunteer Teacher Coordinator, for helping to bring together the many pieces that help Pastor Jon and I keep Sunday School running smoothly.

We have accomplished so much together, and it has been a blessing to see the kids learn and grow as they experience new ways of praying and understanding what it means to be children of God. Of course, even with an ending, there are always new beginnings. Sunday School will resume with a kick-off party in Goethe Hall on Sunday, September 18 at 10:15am. All families, parents and caregivers are encouraged to attend. Kids are also able to learn more about Jesus over the summer at St. John's Vacation Bible School from August 1 – 5. Online registration is now available at stjohnslc.org/vbs.

Pastor Jon and I are thankful to the wonderful community at St. John's for always loving and supporting the kids in all that they do. Whether this is in the congregation during the children's sermon, during service as the Children's Choir sings, or even in the little personal interactions after Sunday service, we appreciate your considerate spirit and care as they are not just the future of the church; they are the Church, right along with all of us!

PENTECOST POTLUCK SUNDAY, MAY 15

Celebrate this festival Sunday by sharing a meal with your fellow St. John's members in Goethe Hall during the Sunday School hour on May 15.

Please let us know what food you'd like to share below and send to the office or go to stjohnslc.org/potluck to sign up.

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

DISH I WILL BRING: _____

We look forward to seeing you there!

NEWS & NOTES

ST. JOHN'S WORK DAY

What is so special about May 21? It's National Strawberries and Cream day! It is also the St. John's Spring Work Day. This will be one of two chances for you to help beautify your church building and grounds before the 150th Anniversary in 2017. Starting at 8:00 am, we will meet in the courtyard, have coffee and assign tasks around the property for cleaning, maintenance and fellowship through serving. We will serve a hot dog lunch for the volunteers, and Steve Russell will serve a refreshing Strawberries and Cream dessert as a thank you to all.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee is charged with finding a person who can provide counsel and principal management support to the Senior Pastor, and is responsible for administering all matters relating to finance and operations for St. John's. The Committee has held a series of productive meetings thus far with staff and the Senior Pastor, identifying the essential job functions and qualifications necessary to support the growth of the ministry at St. John's. We anticipate that the position description and the Ministry Site Profile will be finalized and ready for dissemination within the next two to three weeks.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A new Men's Bible Study group is forming and will first meet at 7:00 am on May 4. Join us in the Courtyard. The first five weeks will study 1 John. Contact Steve Russell with any questions. May the fourth be with you.

PRIDE COMMITTEE FORMING

Why does the Church go to Pride festivals? It's a question we are often asked about our involvement in these gatherings. As long as there are those who deny the welcome of God to others, we will put ourselves in those places to welcome in the marginalized, the victimized and those who have ever been made to feel the love of God is not for them. Sacramento Pride is June 4, and we are looking for a group of folks to walk in the parade and be at our booth to chat with passers-by, give information about the church and engage gracefully with opposition on the parade route. Sound like a way you like to live God's love in the world for a Saturday? Contact Pastor Leslie for more details.

RSVP SPRING CONCERT

The RSVP Spring Concert will present inspiring and thought-provoking music sure to stir you and soothe your soul on May 20 & 21 at 7:30 pm at St. John's. Admission is free; donations are accepted. RSVP will provide support and raise awareness for TLCS, Inc.

MY SISTER'S HOUSE GALA

Tickets are available for My Sister's House 15th Anniversary Gala on Monday, May 23 at the Crest. Help raise funds for My Sister's House and its services for domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking victims. Tickets: \$50 general for the show at 7:00 pm, or \$100, includes a reception that begins at 5:00 pm. Purchase tickets by contacting St. John's member Corrine Yee Joe at 916-922-6182 or sandcjoe@sbcglobal.net.

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 30

In recognition of Memorial Day, the church offices will be closed on Monday, May 30. All meetings that occur during the work day are canceled. Normal business hours resume on Tuesday.



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REV. LESLIE WELTON
Pastor and Director of Discipleship & Outreach

REV. JON HAUG
Pastor and Director of Congregational Life

STEVEN JOHNSON
Director of Worship & Music

JAE PARK
Worship & Music Program Coordinator

SIERRA RONNING
Youth Ministry Coordinator

JASON PETTIT
Children's & Youth Choir Coordinator

JAYLA WINGARD
Children's Ministry Coordinator/Admin Assistant for Outreach

CINDY CARROLL
Faith Community Nurse

SUZI CARSON
Faith Community Nurse

WE LOVE THE SPOKESMAN! FORM

LAST CHANCE TO KEEP RECEIVING THE SPOKESMAN!

We are touching base to see if receiving the Spokesman by mail is still one of your top options for St. John's communications. **If you want to continue getting the Spokesman in your mailbox every month, fill out the form below and send it back to our office!**

Deadline to return your form is May 15.

Please print clearly.

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

NOTES/COMMENTS: _____

We also invite you to call the office to let us know you love the Spokesman!