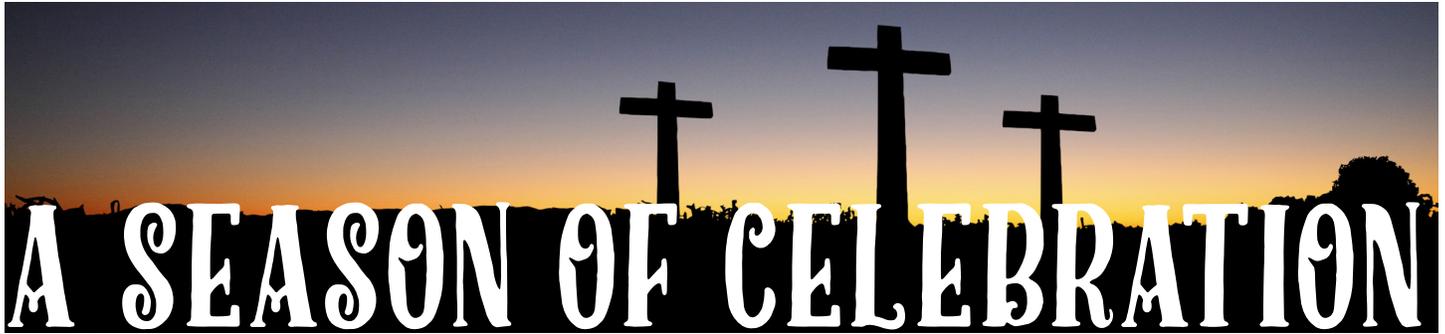


St. John's SPOKESMAN ^{APR.} 2017



Pastor Leslie Welton, Associate Pastor & Director of Discipleship & Outreach



HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

Join us for Holy Week & Easter worship services as we close the Lenten season with the story of Jesus' betrayal, death, and glorious resurrection.

- Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00 pm
- Good Friday, April 14 at 7:00 pm
- Easter Vigil, April 15 at 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunday, April 16
 - Sunrise at 6:30 am (held outside on church steps)
 - Early Morning at 8:00 am
 - Morning at 9:30 am
 - Mid-Morning at 11:30 am

AS I WRITE THESE WORDS, the shelves of department stores are slowly being emptied of plastic eggs and baskets. Stuffed bunnies and other cute critters are awaiting little hugs in closet hiding spots, and jellybeans are being consumed by the handful. It's the Easter season!

While I confess to eating a rather ghastly number of Cadbury crème eggs, I do temper my Easter exclamations until after Holy Week. Unfortunately for Christians, as soon as the Easter sun rises, the world thinks the season is done and moves on to summer barbeques and Memorial Day vacation plans. We have a treasure in the season of Easter, a full six Sundays to proclaim "Christ is risen!" and celebrate the resurrection of the Savior. (You might want to stash a few crème eggs in the cupboard!) Easter, for the church, is not a one-day culmination of a commercially driven season. Quite the opposite, in fact.

Between Easter Sunday and Pentecost, the season of Easter centers us in a pattern of celebration that will continue until Advent. The resurrection of Jesus was an event so earth shattering that it moved the day of gathering from Saturday to Sunday in commemoration of that first morning at the empty tomb. Every

Sunday for Christians is a "little Easter," reminding us that Jesus was raised from the dead and is the reason we gather at the church in this time and place.

The Easter season, that time between Easter and Pentecost, lets us focus in on the witness of the early church, drawing encouragement from the first witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christ's disciples, and calling us to proclaim Christ resurrected in word and deed. "Alleluia" returns to our worship, and we are reminded that our praise is not for our own edification but to glorify the God who sent Jesus into the world.

The commercial season is fun for preparation, but the real season is an opportunity to share with the world the hope that we carry. Have an Easter egg hunt for six Sundays and make the surprises inside get better and better. Refrain from the jellybeans and then let their sweetness remind you about the sweetness of Christ's presence for six weeks. Keep the decorations up until Pentecost and let red replace the pastels of the "season." Find a way to bear witness to what you have seen and heard in the passion narratives and let those around you hear your excitement. The possibilities are endless when you have more than one day to celebrate!

Live God's Love in the World

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 4 - IN THIS ISSUE:

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MEET OUR INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Carl Wilfrid, Interim Senior Pastor

GREETINGS, FRIENDS in Christ at St. John's! I am looking forward to our three months together, April 17 – July 16. As a pastor in nearby communities, I have known for years that St. John's is an effective congregation, generously "living God's love in the world" in a variety of ways, continuing to build on a solid foundation while adapting to changing times and needs. I am honored to have been asked to serve as Interim Senior Pastor and pleased to support St. John's and Pr. Frank in this way.

Here is a quick chronology of my journey as a pastor:

- 1969: Graduated from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. I was a classmate of Pr. Dave Mullen, a previous Interim Pastor here at St. John's.
- 1969 – 1977: served two parishes (5 small congregations) in rural western North Dakota
- 1977 – 1980: Associate Pastor at Prince of Peace, Phoenix, AZ
- 1980 – 2000: Senior Pastor at Faith, Chico, CA
- 2000-2014: Senior Pastor at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Reno, NV
- June 29, 2014: retired on the 45th anniversary of my ordination

Behind that chronology lies a broad experience; I've been a solo pastor, an associate on a three-pastor staff and a lead pastor on a staff with other clergy and non-clergy. Behind that chronology lies much joy; I have been delighted to do the work of a pastor.

My wife Dianne is a North Dakota native and retired R.N. Our daughters, Alissa and Erica, grew up mostly in Chico. Alissa, husband Tom Sykes and son Sam (our only grandchild!) live in Natomas and are members at St. John's. So Dianne and I, though living in Reno, have been a peripheral part of the St. John's family for several years. I look forward to coming out of mothballs, commuting weekly between Reno and Sacramento and working again, albeit about 20 hours per week, as a pastor: supporting an excellent staff, preaching and leading worship, teaching, providing pastoral care and more.

In 1993, after a productive but stressful several years, my congregation gave me the gift of a three-month sabbatical. The rest was wonderful; after only two weeks away from the routine and stress of my work, I became aware that my mind was becoming clearer and sharper. The time to do research, through reading and conversations, into small group ministry and the catechumenate, a process called "Luminaria" at St. John's, was most fruitful for me and the congregation.

The surprise blessings that came to me, my family, the congregation and specific members were significant – as if the Holy Spirit seized this out-of-the-ordinary time to shower out-of-the-ordinary blessings. I pray for Pastor Frank and this congregation that his sabbatical gift of time away from ordinary work, this time for rest and research, will similarly be a source of significant, even surprising, blessings. And I am delighted to do my small part to help that happen!

Pastor Carl Wilfrid will serve half time as Interim Senior Pastor at St. John's while Pastor Frank is on sabbatical.

THANK YOU FROM WELCA

St. Johns congregation, over 4,600 empty medicine bottles were collected and mailed to the Malawi Project so Malawi people can have medication pill bottles for their medication.

PLANNING STRATEGICALLY

Diane White, Director of Resources & Administration

IN THE FALL OF 2016, St. John's began its initial efforts to plan strategically when the Congregational Council and Wonderers developed a variety of strategies, goals and activities. They were designed to provide an overarching framework grounded in the belief that we are called as God's stewards to manage what belongs to God and His holdings according to His desires and purposes.

To continue the development of the Council's strategic planning efforts and further develop a planning culture at St. John's, the pastors and directors held a Leadership Planning Retreat in January. They agreed to focus their energies on developing and selecting three strategic goals for their ministry areas for this year.

This new plan highlights the importance of organizational transformation and change while capturing exciting opportunities for missional growth and development. It challenges St. John's to boldly embrace a new way of thinking and operating, which will allow us to position ourselves strategically to advance our mission, vision and values.

The objectives and actions in our strategy create opportunities for additional plans for St. John's to increase growth, mobilize resources and relationships and manage change through 2020. The outcomes of Pastor Frank's sabbatical, where he will ponder the future of St. John's, is particularly important to plans for 2018-2020.

Since strategic planning is an ongoing process, the leadership and staff will meet in the fall to develop a comprehensive three-year plan, which will help us advance our mission to live God's love in the world.

The full text of The 2017 Strategic Implementation Plan is available on our website under the news tab.

STAFF SERVICES FOR MEMBERS

Diane White, Director of Resources & Administration

AS MANY MEMBERS ARE AWARE, St. John's Lutheran Church is blessed with staff who work tirelessly to ensure the operation of our church on a 24/7 basis. To their credit, many former and current staff members have gone above and beyond their call of duty to provide an array of services to members and help with both small and large projects. In short, we simply could not function without them.

Moreover, St. John's, which has in excess of 900 members, has seen an increase in activities associated with an array of programs that serve our members and our community. We are blessed by these opportunities to honor our mission to live God's love in the world, and we could not do so effectively without the help of St. John's employees.

However, while members' needs for various support services have grown, the size of the staff has grown only modestly. At the same time, St. John's as an organization has not had an effective process for prioritizing and assigning staff work, which has unintentionally impeded the effectiveness of the employees upon whom we all rely to fulfill the essential functions for which they have been hired.

So, in an effort to organize and prioritize members' various requests for assistance with tasks and/or projects, we are initiating a new process for members who are seeking staff help. Starting April 3, 2017, members who need St. John's staff to perform

church-related tasks (e.g., document creation or revision, photocopying, reports, event coordination) can submit a **Request for Services Form** describing the requested services and providing other related information that staff need to process the requested work.

There will be two ways that members can submit these request forms:

1. Request for Services Google form with self-explanatory instructions will be available to members on our website; or,
2. members can simply call Kevin Lamb, our Staff Assistant, at 444-0874, and he will provide personal assistance over the phone and submit the request form for callers.

Completed service request forms will be reviewed daily and tasks assigned to available staff based upon their current workload and the availability of any needed equipment and/or other resources.

We understand that this process is a new one for all of us, but as an organization St. John's is "growing up," and these kinds of operational practices will help us provide an optimal level of services to members by streamlining and more effectively managing work flow and priorities. If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Resources and Administration, Diane White.

NEWS & NOTES

PALM SUNDAY POTLUCK

Join St. John's for brunch during Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 9 and help us send off Pastor Frank for his sabbatical! Sign up to bring a dish: breakfast meat, egg/potato casserole, vegetable, fruit, or salad. Contact Betty Miller at scmbjm46@gmail.com to sign up!

PALM BRANCHES NEEDED

If you have palm trees, large palm branches (8 to 10 feet in length) are needed to decorate the church on Palm Sunday, April 9. Branches can be dropped off on Thursday, April 6 or Friday, April 7 in the courtyard during normal business hours.

HOLY WEEK DAY CAMP

Looking for a Spring Break option for your children? Spend it at church in our first Holy Week day camp for kids ages 8-18. We'll focus on service to others, Easter and getting the church ready for worship. April 10-15, 8am-4pm. Space limited to 20 participants. See Sarah Jessop-Street for more info.

EASTER COMMUNITY MEAL

Volunteers are needed to serve our meal to the community and clean up Midtown. Donations of lasagna, bread and salad, servers, set-up, clean-up and a crew of trash picker-uppers needed. Come serve the community on April 15 as we get ready to celebrate the Resurrection! Sign up online!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Two \$1000 scholarships are available for new and continuing college students for the 2017-2018 school year. One \$1200 scholarship is available to a new or continuing college student earning a degree in the field of education for the 2017-2018 school year. For instructions visit stjohnslc.org/news.

GRADUATE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

Interim Senior Pastor Carl Wilfrid believes that you don't have to leave your brain at the door when you come to church or read the Bible. In fact, cultivating a less fearful, more open attitude

toward difficult questions about the Bible can lead to new depths of understanding and of knowing God and Jesus. Join him for a five-week class during the education hour starting April 30!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY LUNCHEON

Following a luncheon and fellowship, the Reverend Diane Bowers, Ph.D., Pastor at St. James Lutheran Church in San Leandro, will present a lecture titled "To Spite the Devil: The Wedding of Katharina von Bora and Martin Luther" on June 3. To reserve a seat please send \$20 to Mary Jones, WELCA, treasurer.

SOJOURNER'S TRIP

Join the Sojourners April 19 for a trip to "Rosie, the Riveter/WWII Home Front" National Historic Park Visitor Center in Richmond. Lunch, trip to Benicia and dinner at Home Town Buffet included. Cost is \$57.50 per person. Contact Lyla Hanson at 916-917-5187 or lylahanson@aol.com to pay or with questions.

APRIL AT ST. JOHN'S

Sat, Apr 1	Family Promise	Fri, Apr 14	Good Friday
Sun, Apr 2	5th Sunday of Lent		Holy Week Day Camp
	Family Promise		7:00 pm Good Friday Worship
	8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship	Sat, Apr 15	Holy Saturday
	8:30 am Spring Boutique		8:00 am Day Before Easter Meal
	9:00 am First Communion		7:00 pm Easter Vigil
	10:15 am Coffee Hour, Luminaria, Sunday School, Resurrection in the Garden	Sun, Apr 16	Easter
	1:00 pm Confirmation Class		6:30 am Sunrise Worship
	3:00 pm Jane Okubo Memorial Service		8, 9:30 & 11:30 am Worship
	4:00 pm Youth Group		8:45 am Art Festival
Mon, Apr 3	9:30 am Library Committee		10:15 am Coffee Hour, Sunday School, Adult Education
	3:00 pm The Pilgrimage	Mon, Apr 17	Easter Monday - Office Closed
	6:30 pm Stephen Minister Peer Group Supervision		6:00 pm Stephen Minister Peer Group Supervision
Tue, Apr 4	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Tue, Apr 18	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
	7:00 am Assisting Ministers Meeting		7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting
	5:30 pm Handbells Practice		5:30 pm Property Committee, Handbells Practice
	6:45 pm Celebration Singers Rehearsals		7:00 pm Church Council
	7:00 pm Hospitality Committee	Wed, Apr 19	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wed, Apr 5	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm		12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion
	7:00 am Men's Bible Study		6:45 pm St. John's Choir Rehearsal
	12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion	Thu, Apr 20	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
	2:00 pm Men's Bible Study		9:00 am Central Downtown Food Basket
	6:45 pm St. John's Choir Rehearsal		11:00 am Sewing/Quilting Group
Thu, Apr 6	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm		6:00 pm Craft Night
Fri, Apr 7	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly	Fri, Apr 21	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly
Sun, Apr 9	Palm Sunday		11:00 am LLL Book Club
	Healing Ministry in Worship	Sun, Apr 23	2nd Sunday of Easter
	Name Tag Sunday		8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship
	8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship		10:15 am Coffee Hour, Luminaria, Sunday School, VBS Training, Earth Day Forum
	8:45 am Art Festival		1:00 pm Confirmation Class
	10:15 am Coffee Hour, Luminaria, Sunday School, Adult Education, Palm Sunday Potluck		4:00 pm Youth Group
	1:30 pm Sactown Strummin and Singin	Mon, Apr 24	9:30 am Library Committee
Mon, Apr 10	Holy Week Day Camp		3:00 pm The Pilgrimage
	9:30 am Library Committee	Tue, Apr 25	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
	11:00 am Deborah Circle		7:00 am Assisting Minister Meeting
Tue, Apr 11	Holy Week Day Camp		8:30 am Spokesman Assembly
	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm		5:00 pm Stewardship Committee
	7:00 am Assisting Ministers Meeting		5:30 pm Handbells Practice
	9:00 am Holy Week Bulletin Assembly		6:30 pm Mutual Ministry Committee
	5:30 pm Handbells Practice	Wed, Apr 26	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
	6:45 pm Celebration Singers Practice		11:00 am Sewing/Quilting Group
Wed, Apr 12	Holy Week Day Camp		12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion
	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm		6:45 pm St. John's Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 am Men's Bible Study	Thu, Apr 27	Parish Nurse in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
	12:15 pm Healing Prayer & Communion		9:00 am Central Downtown Food Basket
	2:00 pm Men's Bible Study		6:00 pm PUB Theology
	6:45 pm St. John's Choir Rehearsal	Fri, Apr 28	9:30 am Bulletin Assembly
Thu, Apr 13	Maundy Thursday	Sun, Apr 30	3rd Sunday of Easter
	Holy Week Day Camp		8, 9 & 11:30 am Worship
	Parish Nurses in Office 9:00 am - 2:00 pm		10:15 am Coffee Hour, Luminaria, Sunday School, Adult Education
	9:00 am Central Downtown Food Basket		12:30 pm End of the year Confirmation Party
	11:00 am Esther Circle AM		4:00 pm Youth Group
	6:30 pm Social Ministry Committee		
	7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship, Esther Circle PM, Finance Committee		

MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Sarah Jessop Street, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, I attended St John's and made it my church home. I began attending the Wednesday services and quickly felt the love and care that St. John's has to offer. Participating in Celebration Singers gave me an opportunity to connect and find a community of my own within the St. John's congregation. Continuing to grow in service and listen to God's call, I am thrilled to step into my role as Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator and working with our families.

Thank you! I have received such wonderful support, welcome and care from the families of St John's as I entered into work here. Receiving the blessing from our children on March 12 was a moment of pure grace for me. The joy of having tons of tiny hands pray for and bless me is what I imagine heaven feels like and is quickly becoming my touchstone for "peak happiness."

I have my masters degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and worked in mental health for the past several years. Most recently, I worked with parents and youth at an eating disorder clinic here in Sacramento. Joining the team at St John's has been an intentional shift in my career, one that I entered into with a great deal of prayer and counsel. I am hopeful that God will use all the parts of me, including my background and training, for His glory as we go forth to "live God's love in the world!"

ADMINISTRATIVE ADDITIONS

WITHIN THE PAST COUPLE MONTHS the Resources and Administration Department has added two more staff members. One is a familiar face that has worked at our front desk and acted as receptionist in a temporary position since November. The other comes to us from an extensive background in accounting and finances.

KEVIN LAMB, STAFF ASSISTANT

At the end of February, Kevin Lamb joined St. John's as a permanent employee after coming from a temp agency in November to fulfill our need for a receptionist. When Kevin joined us in February, he took on the position of Staff Assistant. He continues to work at the front desk, greeting guests and answering phones. In addition, he schedules meetings, manages our church calendars and helps with churchwide projects.

Prior to joining St. John's, Kevin worked as the Clerical Supervisor for El Hogar's Regional Support Team. El Hogar helps consumers work through addiction and/or mental health challenges that get in the way of daily living. He is excited to join the St. John's staff and is looking forward to getting to know more of our members.

When Kevin isn't at St. John's, he is actively working towards finishing his degree. He also spends his free time with his two children, helping his son condition for the upcoming football season and assisting his daughter with ballet and gymnastics.

Kevin can be reached at kevin.lamb@stjohnslc.org or 916-444-0874. He also wants to note that he is easily bribed by cookies!

KATHERINE LATURNEAU, BOOKKEEPER

Katherine LaTurneau joined the staff in the middle of March as our new Bookkeeper. She previously worked at California Fair Services Authority for over 26 years. When she started, she was an account clerk and worked her way up to accountant.

Preferring to go by Kat, our new Bookkeeper has a creative side. She got her degree in painting and spends her free time making jewelry, painting, and decorating her house. She also has two daughters with whom she enjoys spending her time.

The history of St. John's is a draw for Kat. She loves old buildings and their history so she is looking forward to exploring our storied history. She is also looking forward to exploring our midtown community.

The best time to contact Kat is before 2:00 pm during the work week. Kat is with us part-time and has Mondays off. Members are welcome to call her through the church office, but she is also available for all through email. She can be reached at katherine.laturneau@stjohnslc.org.

Return Service Requested

POSTMASTER: Dated Material

Mailed on: March 28, 2017

Contact Us

PHONE: 916.444.0874

FAX: 916.444.1205

EMAIL: staff@stjohnslc.org

WEB: www.stjohnslc.org

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Send a request to publications@stjohnslc.org

MINISTRY STAFF

REV. FRANK ESPEGREN
Senior Pastor and Director of Missional Strategy

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

SARAH JESSOP STREET
Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

JASON PETTIT
Children's & Youth Choir Coordinator

CINDY CARROLL
Faith Community Nurse

SUZI CARSON
Faith Community Nurse

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Help beautify our sanctuary for Easter Sunday with the purchase of an Easter Lily for \$10 per plant or azaleas/hydrangeas for \$15 per plant. Fill out this form and return it to the church office no later than April 9 in order for your dedication to be included in the Easter bulletin.

Please print clearly.

YOUR NAME: _____

FLOWER: ___ LILY (\$10) ___ AZALEA/HYDRANGEA (\$15)

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

OR TO THE GLORY OF GOD (CHECK HERE): _____

I WILL PAY BY: ___ CHECK ___ CASH ___ ONLINE

Checks payable to "St. John's." Plants may be taken home after the 11:30am Easter service.