

Canterbury Tales

The Newsletter of St. Anselm's Church, Lafayette, California



April/May 2026



From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! The church celebrates Easter for 50 days, from Easter Sunday (April 5th) to Pentecost (May 24th). During this season each week in addition to our gospel lessons sharing stories of the disciples' encounters with risen Christ and flashbacks of Jesus' discussing resurrection with them, we also read stories from Acts of the Apostles.

Acts is a sequel to Luke's gospel and shares the powerful stories of Jesus' followers after his ascension being led by the Holy Spirit to share their possessions, embrace those previously viewed as outsiders, heal the sick, raise the dead, and swell in numbers. In Acts Chapter 17 a group of Jesus people are accused of "turning the world upside down" and "acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus."

Bishop Barbara Harris was famous for saying "We are Easter people moving through a Good Friday world." That statement feels truer than ever. We are daily confronted with the horror of human suffering and wrongdoing, in the global arena and closer to home, yet we are called to be Christ's heart and hands in this world. To follow Jesus in these times is to defiantly and courageously hold on to joy and hope. Fortunately, we are not expected to do that on our own. That's what church is for, and why participating in the life of a parish like St. Anselm's can nourish us for living and loving with boldness and creativity in Jesus' name. Within this issue of Canterbury Tales you'll find all sorts of ways to find connection, nurture hope, and celebrate the joy of the risen Christ.

See you soon!
The Rev. Will Scott

Anselm's Angels

Special thanks to the Christian Formation Commission for planning a very informative Lenten Series: co-chairs **Anne Brown & Marian Mulkey**. And to speakers: **Byrne "Buzz" Sherwood, Nelson Meeks, Kayce Rane, Mary Taylor** and **Marian Mulkey**.

Many thanks to everyone who pitched in at our work parties to clean the campus: **John Powers, Katie Taggart, Peg Matson, Julie Rinkerberger, Jp Zhang, Matt Chayt, Rev. Will Scott, Jeff Boero, Iris Hillman, Sue Crawford, Hank Gatlin, Suzanne Gatlin, Pam Green** and **Bob Eddy**.

A great big thank you to the many people who helped during Holy Week. To the Altar Guild; **Sylvia Williams** chair, **Edee Allison, Dharmini Harichandran, Peg Matson, Marian Mulkey, Joni Pearce, Katie Taggart** and **Mallory Williams**. To the Worship Commission: **Judy Peak** chair, **Rev. Will Scott, Deacon Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Chris Kula, Sylvia Williams** and **Al Eames**. To our Director of Music **Chris Kula**; special guest musicians **Sean Potts, Stacy Pelinka** and **Joshua Mikus-Mahoney**. To the choir: **Al Eames, Sue Crawford, Marty Fischer, Rev. Audrey Miskelley, Keith Pearce, Sarah Vickers-Webb** and **Avon Wilson**. To our tech crew: **Chris Young, David Rowe** and **Henry Rosenberg**. To **Peg Matson** for providing the Easter Eggs for the egg hunt, flower cross and child friendly activities. To **Jon Martin**, our Eric the Easter Bunny. And to photographers **Joni Pearce** and **Peg Matson** for capturing the many Easter festivities, please see page 5.



From The Senior Warden

What a lot of preparation went into making Easter a special day at St. Anselm's! At the risk of leaving someone out, I will attempt to thank all who worked hard to put together the celebration. A work party happened on Saturday to do weeding and clean up of the buildings & grounds. The Altar Guild arrived in force, returning all the items that were carried out of the church on Maundy Thursday during the "Stripping of the Altar" service. They polished the silver, vacuumed the rug and put fresh linens on the altar. They carried some 40 lilies from the parish hall into the church, plus the Easter Candle, and filled the sconces with flowers. I'm told that someone wearing tall bunny ears prepared the outdoor cross for fresh flowers. She also hid 300 hundred eggs and prepared 24 colorful bags containing gifts for the kids which they used to hold their eggs. 14 children took part and were delighted when a big, fully costumed Easter Rabbit appeared in the garden while they were gathering eggs. The church was filled with wonderful music. A cellist, a flutist and a soprano were present to accompany piano, organ and choir. Sean, the music maker for the first Sunday All Ages Services, appeared before the service in the courtyard with his hand drum and began teaching the little ones songs, then led some of the singing during the service. The Coffee Hour hostesses put out a lovely spread of goodies which were enjoyed by all, as we welcomed a number of guests. Last, but not least, thank you to the Clergy and LEMS for their work directing and preparing the special service. Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter.

Iris Hillman
Senior Warden



Vestry Updates

There were no pressing issues to discuss or vote on, so the Vestry meeting was cancelled in March to allow preparation for Holy Week and Easter services. We will meet again April 19th to hear reports from Commission representatives and discuss plans for our Vestry Retreat which will take place on May 16th.

Turning Old Tech into New Sound: Help Us Upgrade Our Worship Experience



St. Anselm's is taking an important step toward improving the quality of our online worship services on Zoom and YouTube. We are raising funds to purchase a new digital audio mixing board that will replace our aging analog mixer—equipment that has served us well over the years but is now showing its age with occasional glitches and limited capabilities.

A modern digital board will significantly enhance the clarity and consistency of our sound, ensuring that those joining us remotely can fully participate in services, music, and special events without distraction.

To help fund this upgrade, we're launching a creative and community-driven effort: we're asking parishioners to donate unused or outdated computers and peripherals—laptops, desktops, monitors, keyboards, and related equipment. These items will be refurbished if needed and sold on eBay, with all proceeds going directly toward the new audio system. If you have old tech collecting dust, this is a wonderful opportunity to give it new purpose in support of our shared ministry. Donations can be dropped off at the church office during the week or left at the AV desk at the back of the church before or after the Sunday service.

Together, we can transform yesterday's technology into tomorrow's clearer, more vibrant worship experience. Thank you for your generosity and support! For questions, please speak to Dave Rowe or Alan Swimmer.

Outreach Drive-of-the-Month



April: Grateful Gatherings

Grateful Gathering's mission is to serve families transitioning from homelessness or crisis into a new home in the Bay Area by providing furnishings. They believe that families can thrive when they have a safe and comfortable home.

We are collecting items for kitchens. Items should be in NEW or LIKE NEW condition:

- ◆ silverware sets
- ◆ coffee makers
- ◆ knife sets
- ◆ drinking glass sets
- ◆ can openers crockpots
- ◆ cooking utensils
- ◆ baking pans,
- ◆ muffin tins

We will collect April 6- May 3. We appreciate your generosity! Thank you for your donations!

May: St. Dorothy's Rest Summer Camp

St. Dorothy's Rest believes every child deserves the chance to experience the magic of camp—regardless of financial circumstances. Relying on the generosity of donors, families, and the Episcopal Diocese of California, they ensure that no camper is ever turned away due to cost.

St. Anselm's is joining in raising awareness, collecting camp items and donations to support this amazing Episcopal Summer Camp.

Needed New Donation Items are:

- ◆ Outdoor Sleeping Bags
- ◆ Backpacking Backpacks
- ◆ Beach Towels
- ◆ Sunscreen



Monetary donations are being accepted to support a Campership (scholarship for a child to attend for one week).

Full Campership \$1,200

Partial Campership \$1,000 or \$800

Please make checks payable to St. Anselm's with "St. Dorothy's Rest" in the memo line

MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL PRESENTS

WHEEL PARADE

FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY APRIL 25TH
9-11am
ST ANSELM'S CHURCH PARKING LOT



Vehicle Decorating, Parade, Light Bites, Raffle, Auction

HOW TO SUPPORT

Sponsor a float

Send your sponsorship amount to @beaudoinsj or via check to St. Anselms Church

Buy Raffle Tickets

\$5 each or 5 for \$20. Payments can be made via Venmo @beaudoinsj. Note your name and number of tickets in the memo

Bid on Auction Items

Silent Auction items will be available for bidding Thursday 4/24 through Saturday morning 4/25

Michael Lane Wheel Parade Fundraiser

It's time for Michael Lane Preschool's Annual Fundraiser! Please join us for our 2nd annual Wheel Parade! We will be closing off the church parking lot on Saturday, April 25th from 9-11 am for children to enjoy decorating their bikes or scooters and riding around. We are selling raffle tickets (see link above to purchase), will have a silent auction, or you can sponsor one of our students "floats." It will be a joyful morning for all of us while raising funds for our school. We hope you can make it!

Michael Lane is Enrolling for Fall

We are busy touring families and getting ready to welcome new preschoolers to our program this August! If you know anyone looking for a preschool please send them our way. There is more information about our school and an application on our [WEBSITE](#). Scheduling a tour is a great first step for families to learn about our program and see if we are a good fit. Thanks!

Michael Lane Preschool



Hello From Michael Lane Preschool!

This month, we enjoyed reading many versions of the book "The Three Little Pigs" and acted out the story. Our school tree was just adorned with buds made of tissue paper and a few nests and birds, as we welcome in Spring! We have started our class jobs of "The Problem Solver" and "The Bookworm Bag" which the children love - gaining more responsibility and sharing a piece of their world from home. This month we also enjoyed celebrating St. Patrick's Day and Eid.

Acceptance letters for the 2026-2027 school year have been sent out, and we are enjoying our last few months of preschool while also looking ahead towards an exciting new year of learning.

Spring Break comes this first week of April and then we'll be back for our final stretch of the school year. Time is flying by!

Happy Spring!

Warmly,

Holly Higgins

Director, Michael Lane Preschool



Welcome Sean Potts

St. Anselm's is excited to welcome Sean Potts as lead music leader for our monthly First Sunday All Ages service. Sean joined us for the first time in

March, and folks enjoyed his approach so much they stepped up to support his coming on board as a team member for the remainder of 2026.

Sean has created music that invites full participation—whether leading bilingual songs at his home church of Santiago/ Saint James Episcopal in Oakland, helping kids make a joyful noise at Vacation Bible School, or guiding music during a retreat. He previously served as Youth and Family Minister at St Paul's, Walnut Creek and helped found and lead the God Squad, including beloved members of St. Anselm's.



Soli Deo Gloria Concert

Artistic director Derek Tam brings Soli Deo Gloria's 50th anniversary season to a close with Johannes Brahms's Requiem. Written as a prayer for all people, this Requiem is beloved as a profound meditation on hope and solace in times of loss and grief. In the Requiem—a work that established the 33-year-old Brahms as a major composer—the chorus is entrusted with some of the most exquisite music ever written for the human voice. Don't miss this opportunity to hear this life-affirming work live with a full orchestra!

Saturday, May 16th
3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

General admission tickets:
 \$30 adults; \$25 students/seniors
 Grades K-8 are free

Order by phone (510) 522-1702
 Order Online: www.sdgloria.org



2nd Annual Queer Faith Festival

An Interfaith Celebration of Spirit & Identity: Mark your calendars! The Queer Faith Festival returns — a joyful, welcoming gathering where LGBTQ+ people, diverse faith communities, and allies come together to celebrate the many beautiful ways spirituality and queer identity intertwine.

Sunday, June 14th, from 2–5 p.m.
at Our Savior Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Ln, Lafayette, CA 94549

Whether you're curious, committed, or just looking for community, all are welcome. Interested in volunteering, sponsoring, or learning more? Reach out to Sarah at queerfaithfestival@gmail.com — we'd love to have you involved!

Karaoke Fundraiser for the Queer Faith Festival

Sing for Something Beautiful. Help us make this year's festival a reality — and have a blast doing it! Join the community for an evening of singing, laughter, and community. Bring your friends and family- all are welcome.

Saturday, April 25th, from 6–8 p.m.
at St. Anselm's



**MY LILEIGH PAD IS HOSTING
 SUMMER CAMP
 JUNE & JULY 2026 AT
 MICHAEL LANE PRESCHOOL!**

- ✓ Art, Sensory, and Play-Based
- ✓ Music & Movement
- ✓ Potty training NOT required
- ✓ Student : Teacher Ratio = 5 : 1
- ✓ Ages: 3 - 6
- ✓ \$350 Per Week
- ✓ \$300 For Siblings

CAMP DATES
MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:30AM - 1:00PM

JUNE	JULY
6/1 - 6/6	7/6 - 7/10
6/8 - 6/12	7/13 - 7/17
6/15 - 6/19	7/20 - 7/24
6/22 - 6/26	7/27 - 7/31
6/29 - 7/3	

Celebrating...

April & May Birthdays

Shanda Young
 Julie Rinkenberger
 Chris Kula
 Matt Chayt
 Clark Alexander
 Sheila Riedy
 Eva Woo Slavitt
 Keith Pearce
 Anne Brown
 Naomi Chamberlain-Harris
 Steve Zimmerman
 Sally Fischer
 Hank Gatlin
 Andrew Orear
 Nathan Pearce

Maggie McCloskey
 Sheila Gorsuch
 Sara Swimmer
 Avon Wilson



April & May Anniversaries

William & Pamela Drysdale
 Andrew & Amy Orear

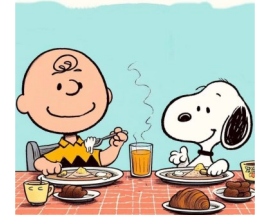
CANTERBURY TALES

is the monthly newsletter of
 St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
 Phone: (925) 284-7420
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In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

You're invited to join the Lunch Bunch



WHEN? Third Tuesday of every month,
 beginning April 21, 11:30 am.
WHERE? The Buttercup Restaurant
 660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Walnut Creek

Lots of parking. Wide variety of food choices Separate checks offered. Bring a spouse, relative, and/or friend.

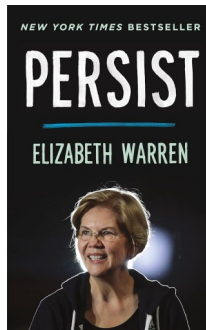
In order to sit together vs being spread around the restaurant, **please call or send an email to Katie Taggart the day before**, to let her know you will be attending. She will alert the restaurant staff about the number of people arriving so they can accommodate us as a group. Katie: email: katietaggart@att.net Cell: 415-686-5790.

To view menu: buttercupdiner.com

If anyone needs help covering the cost of lunch, please let Rev. Will know and it will be taken care of.

Book Club

Wednesday, May 13
 at 2:00 p.m.
 in the Library



For questions, please contact Sharyn Barrington Carlson at 847.337.0875 or Deacon Naomi at 925.395.1395.

Altar Flowers

Each week the altar is graced with a beautiful flower arrangement that is donated by our generous parishioners.

Altar flower donations can be dedicated to the memory of a loved one, in honor of a family member or simply to the glory of God. The requested donation is \$50 per date. Please sign-up for your selected date and complete a green dedication card. The flower chart and dedication cards can be found next to the east entrance to the church.

Please make your check payable to "St. Anselm's" and indicate "Altar Guild" on the memo line. You can submit the check and dedication card to the church office or put them in the collection plate. Thank you for your support!



Thursday Evening Bible Study

Exploring the Gospel of Matthew

Thursdays
 at 7:00 p.m.

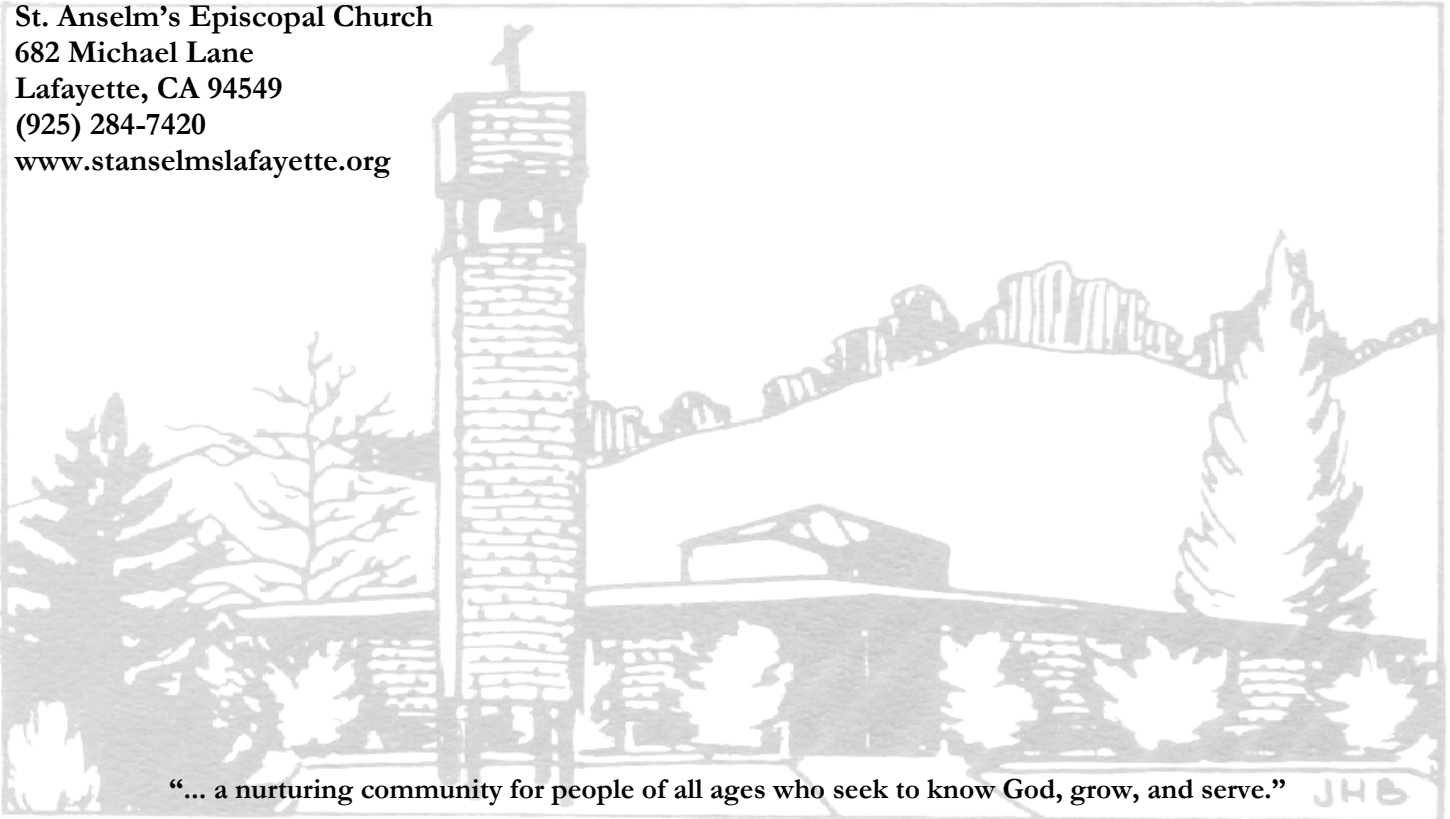
Meeting I.D. 815 0705 2148
 Passcode 442879

ST. ANSELM'S STAFF

The Rev. Will Scott, Rector
 The Rev. Naomi Chamberlain-Harris, Deacon
 Chris Kula, Director of Music
 Margaret Wolfe, Office Manager
 Steve Zimmerman, Bookkeeper
 Holly Higgins, Michael Lane Preschool Director

To schedule an in person conversation with Rev. Will,
 email: rector@stanselmslafayette.org

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
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 Lafayette, CA 94549
 (925) 284-7420
www.stanselmslafayette.org



“... a nurturing community for people of all ages who seek to know God, grow, and serve.” JHB

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ministry of the Month — April: [Music Ministry](#) May: [Altar Guild](#)

Thursday, April 2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th May 7th/14th/21st/28th — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 3rd/10th/17th/24th/31st May 8th/15th/22nd/29th — Lamorinda Village Strength & Balance class from 11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Tuesday, April 7th & May 5th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon.

Tuesday, April 14th & May 5th — Property Commission will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 12th & May 10th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 15th & May 20th — Book Club in the Library at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 19th & May 17th — Vestry will meet in the conference room at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, April 26th & May 24th — Stephen Ministers will meet at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 5th & May 3rd — First Sunday All Ages Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 3rd — Altar Guild at 11:30 a.m.