

Canterbury Tales

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



June/July 2026



From Rev. Will

Dear St. Anselm's.

This summer our nation celebrates 250 years since the Declaration of Independence. One of the ways that our local community is marking this occasion is by gathering together across faith traditions to read and reflect together on some of the historical documents that have significantly shaped our nation's life and identity. This is a nationwide effort and St. Anselm's is one of ten congregations taking part in Lamorinda. I am grateful for those among us who have stepped up to participate in this historic multi-faith effort to consider our shared civic values and hopes for our country. Thank you to Marian Mulkey and Dana Santa Cruz for serving as small group facilitators and to Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and Temple Isaiah for organizing this opportunity and inviting our parish to participate.

On Wednesday, June 3rd we gathered for the first time at Temple Isaiah and discussed the Declaration of Independence, in coming weeks we'll be discussing "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July" by Frederick Douglass, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus, and "America the Beautiful" by Katharine Lee Bates. You can find these texts and learn more at <https://faith250.org>. Whether you can participate or not I hope you'll consider reading these texts and praying for our nation during this uniquely challenging time.

Our neighboring parish, St. Paul's, Walnut Creek is also marking our nation's 250th by premiering a new anthem, based on a poem written by a church member, Iggy Fernandez and composed by Ethan Haman, a Bay Area composer studying in Germany. Consider attending the premiere of "America the Forge (The Patriot Dream)" at St. Paul's on Sunday, June 28th at 3pm.

See you soon!

Peace,
Will

Anselm's Angels

We give thanks for the leadership of St. Anselm's Vestry as they gathered in May for their Annual Vestry Retreat, we especially thank **Kayce Rane** for guiding and facilitating our day long gathering and to **Julie Rinkenburger** and **Katie Taggart** for providing food. Thank you to **Rev. Krista Fregoso** of St. Paul's, Walnut Creek & Trinity Center for sharing space with us for the retreat.

Thank you to the Michael Lane Preschool Board especially outgoing members **Sheila Reidy**, **Melissa Neo**, and **Nicole Abbruzzo**.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our recent Tech-Drive led by **Al Swimmer, Jr.** and especially to **Sue Crawford** for supporting our purchase of a new digital audio board for the sanctuary.

Thank you to our Property Commission, especially **JP Zheng**, **Pamela Green**, **Jeff Boero**, and **Peg Matson** for helping with numerous projects around the campus this past month including fire abatement, a new fridge for the preschool, and electrical work.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Pentecost Sunday so special, including the Altar Guild's **Mallory Williams** for the special floral display and Stewardship Commission's **Katie Taggart**, for coordinating an elaborate coffee hour. Thank you to **John Powers** for his informative presentation on the St. Anselm's Lafayette Endowment.

Thank you to all who donated to our May/June Cause of the Month, St. Dorothy's Rest Summer Camps.

Thank you to **Vicki Pappas** for her ongoing care and coordination of our parish's prayer list.

Thank you to **Peg Matson**, **Maggie McCloskey**, **Kayce Rane**, and **Sarah Vickers-Webb** for all their support of the upcoming 2nd Annual Queer Faith Festival.

From The Senior Warden

Yesterday, while having lunch with a friend in my back yard, a pair of Quail paraded 10 baby chicks down the garden path and hopped up on the deck, where they lingered for several minutes. What a thrill it is to have them living safely in my fenced yard, enjoying the seed I scatter every morning. Earlier in the year I would see 20 Quail at the feeding spot. As they started pairing off, the numbers dwindled. In another couple of months, those baby birds will be grown and on their own. The circle of life is evident, especially in spring, everywhere we look. We need to be alert and able to change with it.

So it is with life in general and specifically at St. Anselm's, where we have joyfully participated in the passages of Infant Baptism, Sunday School, Folk Masses, Confirmation and Youth groups. Our congregation has gradually shifted into a community of older adults. At our vestry retreat we came to grips with the realization that our neighborhoods now consist mostly of residents aged 40 and up. Their kids are in college and are moving on. They are busy with jobs and plans for retirement. Our focus needs to shift from hoping to attract young families with children and appeal to these older adults. Young families will always be welcomed but our hopes and wishes do not always mesh with reality. As we collate information from the Vestry Retreat, we'll be presenting it to the congregation for input. Stay tuned!

Iris Hillman
Senior Warden



Vestry Updates

In February, the Vestry reviewed and approved the Michael Lane Preschool budget, the Parochial Report, and a Letter of Agreement between St. Anselm's and Director of Music Chris Kula. The Vestry discussed the structure of the Commissions and Ministries and received reports from the Property Commission, the Christian Formation Commission, the Worship Commission, and the Outreach Commission. Of note: Both dishwashers need repair, likewise the roofs of the church and the office building; also, a new sound mixing board and wireless cameras are desired to support the online Worship services. Counting and Vestry Person of the Day assignments were discussed.

The Vestry did not meet in March.

In April, the Vestry reviewed and approved a Letter of Agreement between St. Anselm's and guest musician Sean Potts; Potts provides additional music for the First Sunday All Ages services. St. Anselm's is also serving as a Fiscal Sponsor of Potts' youth ministry program in Mexico in July. Fiscal sponsorship enables Potts to raise money for his youth ministry; it does not mean that St. Anselm's is giving Potts money for the youth ministry. The senior warden introduced a discussion of church growth as a focus of the Vestry Retreat on May 16. The Vestry received reports from the Property Commission, the Christian Formation Commission, the Parish Life Commission, and the Outreach Commission. Of note: The roof was repaired, and further repairs are needed. The Columbarium needs to be pressure-washed, and the ditch behind the buildings needs to be cleaned out. A Work Party is scheduled for June 20. Many people participated in the Lenten Series programs. A new discussion series called Faith250 will take place on Wednesday nights in June and is hosted by Temple Isaiah and Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church with ten other churches taking part. Faith250 will focus on shared civic values in the context of 250 years of United States history. The Lunch Bunch will meet on the third Tuesday of the month. The congregation continues to generously support the charities elevated by the Outreach Commission.

The Vestry Retreat took place on May 16 at St. Paul's in Walnut Creek; meeting rooms in Trinity Center were provided for our use. Stay tuned for further updates about the retreat.

Note: Donations were received for the sounding mixing board, and it has been purchased.

The next Vestry meeting is June 21, 2026, in the conference room at 11:30AM. All are welcome to attend Vestry meetings.

Respectfully submitted
Julia Starr, Clerk



All faiths, all identities, all are welcome!

2ND ANNUAL QUEER FAITH FESTIVAL



Sunday June 14, 2026
2PM - 5PM
Our Savior's Lutheran
Church
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

**Performances,
panels, kids'
activities, food, and
more!**



**Rev. Canon Mary
Carter Greene of
Gace Cathedral**



**Rabbi Jill
Perlman,
Temple Isaiah**



**Drag Performer
& Advocate
Mx. Kiki Krunch**



**Lutheran
Bishop Rev.
Jeff Johnson**



**SF Interfaith
Council Executive
Director, Michael
Pappas**



TEMPLE
Isaiah



**OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
TRANSFORMED BY THE PATH WE WALK TOGETHER



**ST. ANSELM'S
EPISCOPAL**



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE
BAY AREA
THE DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA

Learn more:
www.queerfaithfestival.org
queerfaithfestival@gmail.com

Outreach Drive-of-the-Month

June: 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

School's out for summer!

Last week we officially wrapped up our 2025-2026 school year. For our last days the children helped pack up their things - extra clothes, art projects, writing binders, sign in photos, etc. We wrote about our favorite parts of the school year, let each child choose their favorite snack for snack time, and even snuck in a sweet Father's Day project.

We have 4 students moving on to Kindergarten, and 9 headed off to TK (Transitional Kindergarten), and 10 returning students. All families were invited into school on our last day to hear some of our favorite songs, listen to the children's favorite preschool activities, and watch our Graduates walk over the bridge to Kindergarten or TK (Transitional Kindergarten) or the bridge to summer!

I'd like to thank our teachers Trina, Katie, Reshma, and Sofia for a wonderful year at school! I'd also like to thank everyone who served on our Michael Lane Preschool Board this year- Peg Matson, Bob Eddy, Sheila Riedy, Will Scott, Nicola Abruzzo, and Melissa Neo. Thank you so much for your time and care!

I'm off to read!

Warmly,
Holly Higgins



Fall Enrollment

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.



**Saturday, June 20th
From 9:00 a.m. to noon**

SAVE THE DATE

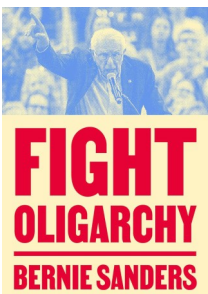


**St. Anselm's 2nd Annual
Summer Parish/Preschool
Picnic**

**Saturday, August 15th
4-6 p.m.**

More Details Coming Soon!

Book Club

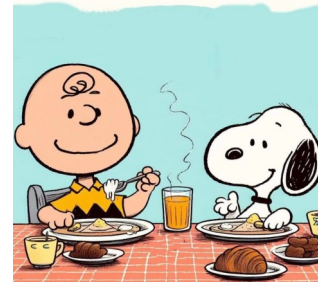


**Wednesday, June 17th
at 2:00 p.m.
in the Library**

For questions, please contact Sharyn Bar-
rington Carlson at 847.337.0875 or Dea-
con Naomi at 925.395.1395.

Please note that Book Club will not meet
in July and August.

You're invited to join The Lunch Bunch



WHEN? June 16th & July 21st at 11:30 am.
Third Tuesday of every month,

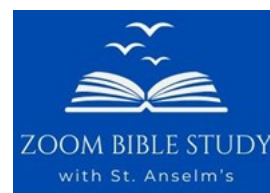
WHERE? The Wences Resturant
1922 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill

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

In order to sit together vs being spread around the restau-
rant, **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 arriv-
ing 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.



Thursday Evening Bible Study

All are welcome to join Deacon Naomi, Rev. Will & St.
Anselm's friends as we explore sacred scripture together.

June - Exploring the Gospel of Matthew
July - Challenge & Hope: Reading Micah
August - Faith in Action: The Epistle of James

Every Thursday at 7 p.m. on Zoom
Member I.D. 815 0705 2148
Passcode 442879

A few photos from May 2026 at St. Anselm's



Celebrating...

June & July Birthdays

John Ruby
Holly Higgins
Kerri DiLorenzo
Al Makely
Lynne Watkins
Diane Brown
Joni Pearce
Gerry Starr
Sara-Anne Nelsen
Tom Frangoulis
Jeremy Martin
Suzanne Gatlin
Alan Swimmer
JP Zhang
Connie Boero
Betty Frangoulis



June & July Anniversaries

Mary & Mark Stewart
Jeff & Connie Boero
Alex & Sophia McDonald
Elizabeth & Tom Henry
Gary & Wynne Bacon
Al & Jeannine Makely
Ann & Jim Burns
Clark & Heather Alexander

CANTERBURY TALES

is the monthly newsletter of
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, CA
Phone: (925) 284-7420
web site: www.stanselmslafayette.org

Editor: Margaret Wolfe
email: margaret.w@stanselms.us
In-Person & Virtual Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Coffee Hour Hosts

Help provide refreshments following the service. To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D45A5AF22A64-58747416-stanselms> or contact Sylvia Williams at 925-586-0730.



Coffee hour on July 19, 2026, will be hosted by the Starr family in memory of Alice-Jean May Starr.

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!

Donate Old Tech



Thank you to all who donated to support our new digital sound board. Al Swimmer has agreed to continue to collect and sell old tech to support St Anselm's. Donations welcome.

Counters Needed

Each week there is a team of two people, one Vestry member and one congregation member who will take responsibility for counting and recording cash and checks and preparing the deposit. Please contact Peg Matson for more information and/or to volunteer 925-381-1074 or plmatson@comcast.net.



Prayer Chain

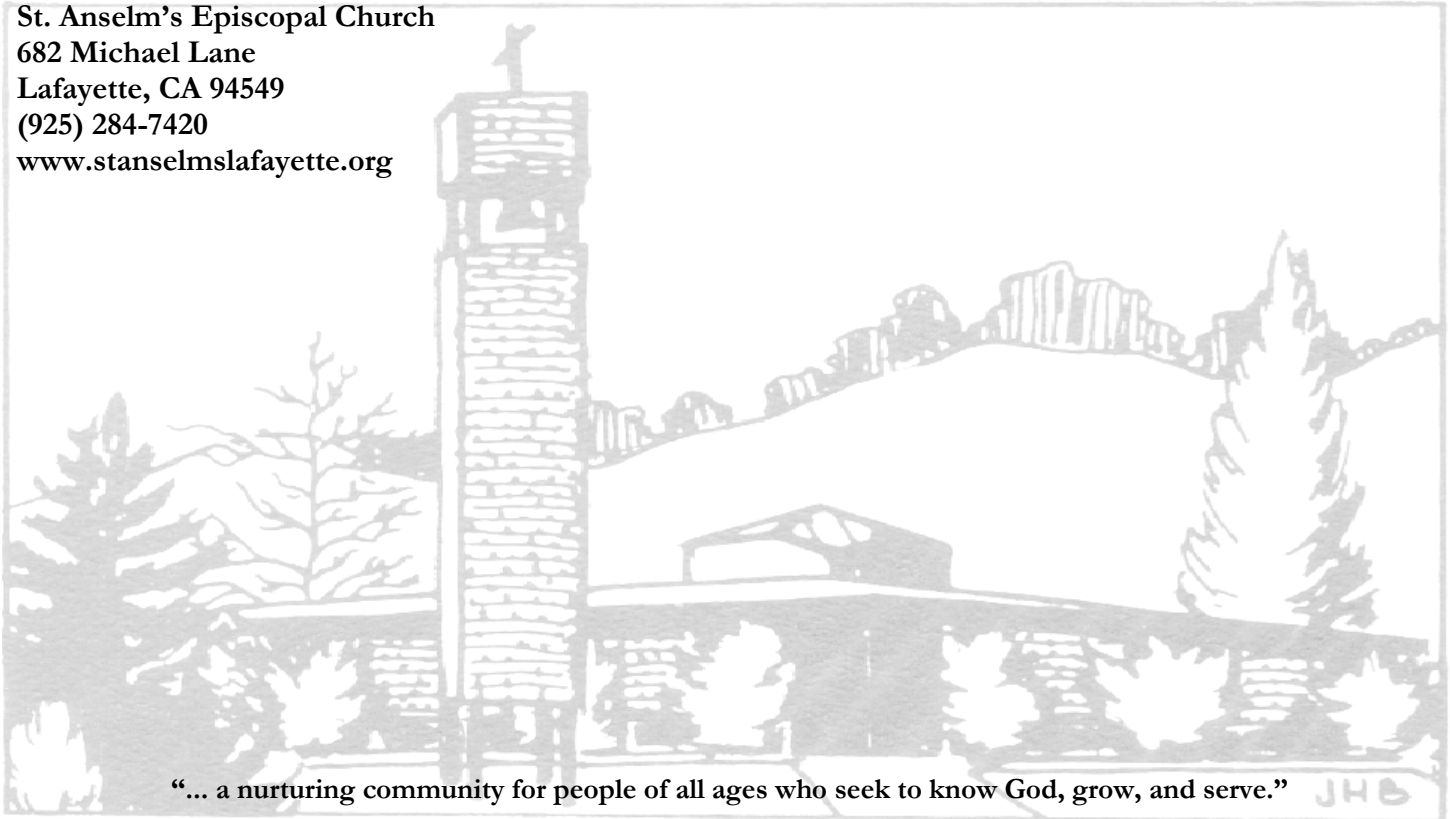
St. Anselm's Prayer Chain is a list of our parishioners and loved ones for whom prayers have been requested. Prayer is voluntary and on your own whenever you wish to pray. If you would like to receive the Prayer Chain or if there is someone you would like to add to the Prayer Chain, please email Vicki Pappas: vrpappas@gmail.com.

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
682 Michael Lane
Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 284-7420
www.stanselmslafayette.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ministry of the Month — June: [Property Commission](#), July: [Christian Formation Commission](#)

Tuesday, June 2nd & July 7th — Grief Support Group will meet via Zoom at 12:00 noon.

Thursday, June 4th/11th/18th/25th July 2nd/9th/16th/23rd/30th — Evening Bible Study will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 5th/12th/19th/26th July 3rd/10th/17th/24th/31st — Lamorinda Village Strength & Balance class from 11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. in Parish Hall

Sunday, June 7th & July 5th — First Sunday All Ages Service at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, June 9th & July 7th — Property Commission will meet via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday June 16th & July 21st — Lunch Bunch will meet at The Wences Restaurant at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 14th & July 12th — Cancer Support Group will meet in the conference room and via Zoom at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 17th — Book Club in the Library at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 20th — Work Party from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Sunday, June 21st & July 19th — The Vestry will meet in the conference room at 11:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, June 28th & July 26th — Stephen Ministers will meet at 7:00 p.m.