

# Benediction Weekly

## November 12, 2017

*St. Benedict's Church is an inclusive Christian community that celebrates the divine in all beings, and inspires spiritual growth through joyful sacramental worship, loving service, creative expression, thoughtful inquiry and commitment to social justice.*



Today we celebrate our common heritage with other denominations who trace their roots to the Reformation. The Rev. Brian Stein-Weber (celebrant) is from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); Eucharistic Minister, Alan Kiste, is from the Presbyterian Church (USA); and our preacher the Rev. Mike Eggleston is from the United Methodist Church (UMC).

**This week at St. Benedict's**  
(at the church unless otherwise specified)

### **TODAY REFORMATION SUNDAY OBSERVED**

- 8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Svc
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist - ECUMENICAL SVC

### **Tuesday, Nov 14**

- 5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by potluck

### **Wednesday, Nov 15**

- 10:00 am – Intercessory Prayer Circle
- 2:30 pm – EarthCare Meeting
- 7:00 pm – Choir Practice

### **Thursday, Nov 16**

- 10:00 am – Hollister: Coming of the Cosmic Christ
- 7:00 pm – Drop-in Dream Group

### **Saturday, Nov 18**

- 9:30 am – Quiet Day w/Stations of the Cosmic Christ

### **Sunday, Nov 19**

- 8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Svc
- 9:20 am – Bible Study
- 10:30 am – Holy Eucharist w/ music
- 12:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

## **Time to Purchase Tickets for Matthew Fox Dec 1 & 2 at St. Benedict's**

**Friday Lecture**, Dec. 1, 7 pm:  
*“Creation Spirituality and the Future of  
the Planet”* [admission \$25]

**Saturday Workshop**, Dec. 2, 9:30am-12:30 pm:  
*“Mystics, Prophets and the Making of  
Spiritual Warriors”* [admission \$40]  
(or \$60 for both Friday & Saturday)

Purchase tickets online at  
[www.stbenslososos.org/cosmic/](http://www.stbenslososos.org/cosmic/)  
or call: 805-528-0654

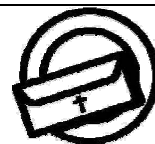
**Sunday Sermon**, Dec. 3; Matthew Fox will  
also be preaching at our 10:30 am service on  
the First Sunday of Advent.

## **Hollister Institute: “The Coming of the Cosmic Christ” continues on Thursdays at 10am.**

The class, based on Matthew Fox's book *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, will be led alternately by Caro+ and Barry+. This week's session topic **Nov. 16, 10am - Cosmic Christ in Science:** We have a new Cosmic Creation Story. We will look at the parallels between the new cosmology and the tradition of the Cosmic Christ. We will offer a showing of the *Journey of the Universe* video at a time convenient for those interested.

## **November 19 is Pledge Ingathering Sunday**

Please bring your completed Pledge Card for 2018 and put it in the offering plate next week. Cards are being mailed to you, and will also be available at the church.



### **Serving God and the People of St. Benedict's this Week:**

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Preacher: The Rev. Mike Eggleston; Eucharistic Minister: Alan Kiste;  
Chalice Bearer: Diana Hammerlund; Lectors: Francis Rivinus & Lorienne Schwenk;  
Ushers: Connie Weldon & Steve Hirahara; Greeter: Michelle Frazier; Altar Guild: Sarah Chesebro;  
Flowers: Brian Spolarich; Coffee Hour Hosts: Suzan Vaughn & Pat Henry;  
Tellers: Alice Welchert & Diana Hammerlund; Intercessor: Lisa Gonzalez; Music Director: John Cribb

***Thank you all for your service!***



**On-Going  
Activities  
at St. Ben's**

**BIBLE STUDY** – Sundays at 9:20 am

**DREAMS & SPIRITUALITY GROUP**  
First and third Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm.

**EARTHCARE** – A discussion/action group to formulate local solutions to environmental concerns.  
Second Wednesdays at 2:30 pm.

**HEALING SERVICE** – a time for prayers for healing at the 10:30 service on 5th Sundays.

**HOLLISTER INSTITUTE** – Opportunities for stimulating discussion and thoughtful exploration for everyone, whether or not they are members of a church. See website.

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER CIRCLE** – Prayers for the community and the world. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 10am.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** – morning social gathering, 2nd Saturdays 9am at Celia's Garden Café.

**PEOPLE'S KITCHEN** – Providing and serving food at Prado Day Center, 1st Saturday of even-numbered months.

**POTLUCK AND PRADO** on the 1st Sunday of each month donations to Prado Day Center are collected, and potluck lunch follows 10:30 service.

**VESPERS AND CONVERSATION**  
5:30 pm Tuesdays. Vespers service using varying liturgies, followed by potluck supper.

**VESTRY / PARISH COUNCIL**  
3rd Sundays at 12:30pm  
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, *Rector*  
Anne Kanter, *Sr. Warden*,  
Pamela Bleisch, Lisa Gonzalez,  
Esta Kandarian, Barbara Schippers,  
Francis Rivinus, Kathie West

**Prado Day Center  
November donations:  
Warm breakfast  
beverages!**



## Protestant Reformation

It seems that once every 500 years, society and the church goes through a big transition. We're probably in the middle of one right now. The last one was known as the Protestant Reformation. In the 16th century, reformers like Martin Luther, John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli criticized the Catholic Church – which was the only church in Europe – for its divergence from the Bible. Since many clergy were not literate, and the Bible was only available in Latin which hardly anyone could understand, there were no checks and balances. What the Church taught was believed to be the truth.

The big crunch for Luther came when the Vatican was selling indulgences in order to raise funds. Indulgences functioned like "confession insurance" against eternal damnation because, if you purchased an indulgence, then you wouldn't go to hell if you died suddenly or forgot to confess something. Also, when Luther got to teach a class on Paul's Letter to the Romans he realized that it was in opposition to many of the Church's teachings.

The reformers developed different ideas and different emphases, but all of them agreed that Scripture set the standard for the Christian life. From their ideas grew the Lutheran churches with their focus on being saved by grace through faith; the Reformed churches such as the Presbyterian Church; and the Anglican churches.

Henry VIII, like many European kings and rulers, did not like the power of the Pope when it got in his way and so, in 1530, he declared the Church in England to be independent. However, Henry did not agree with the reformers. He maintained the importance of the sacraments and that the bread and wine are literally turned into Jesus' Body and Blood (transubstantiation.) In fact, Pope Leo X proclaimed Henry "Defender of the Faith" for a book that he wrote opposing Luther.

There was considerable intellectual interchange between theologians on the continent and the English, so leaders in England like Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, were influenced by Reformation ideas. After Henry died, the guardians of his young son, Edward, were reformers and so England became Protestant. In 1549, the Book of Common Prayer was first established as the sole legal form of worship in England. However, Edward didn't live long and when his sister (Bloody) Mary came to the throne she re-established Catholicism as the religious tradition of the realm. Many Protestant leaders were burned at the stake.

But Mary didn't live long either, and in 1558 Elizabeth 1 came to the English throne. She devised a Religious Settlement whereby the warring factions of Protestant and Catholic were expected to worship together but not necessarily to agree on doctrine. This led to the development of a new tradition – the Anglicans – who, among other things, liked the Book of Common Prayer and the governance of Bishops. It didn't take long for the enmity between them and Puritans to lead to the Civil War (and also the emigration of Puritans to New England). Political and religious foment continued until 1660 when Charles II came to the throne.

The Episcopal Church developed out of the Church of England after the American Revolution. The Methodist church originated as a revival movement within the Church of England in the 18th century but split away at much the same time as The Episcopal Church.

**Fr. John Dear to Speak on Nonviolence.** International lecturer, activist, author, and co-founder of *Pace e Bene*, Fr. John Dear will be speaking on peace, justice, and nonviolence at St Timothy's in Morro Bay on November 16 at 7pm and again at St Stephen's Episcopal Church in San Luis Obispo at noon on Friday November 17, at a brown bag lunch presented by People of Faith for Justice. Both events are free and open to the public. Visit [paceebene.org](http://paceebene.org) to learn more.

**Keeping in Touch during the Week.** For counsel & spiritual care, please contact any of the clergy:  
The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall, 704-5826; The Rev. Donna Ross, 235-5117; The Rev. Barry Turner, 784-0670;  
or The Rev. Faye Hogan, 541-4595. Call Celeste Pennington with pastoral care & prayer chain requests, 771-8974.

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