

Benediction Weekly

March 11, 2018

The people of St. Benedict's are called to share God's love as we minister with and to all persons in Los Osos and beyond, providing worship, education, nurture, fellowship and service.



Farewell Party this Friday

There will be an Evensong service on Friday at 6:00 pm, followed by a great party to say goodbye to Donna and Rob Ross, who are moving to Santa Rosa in April. Bishop Mary will be here to officiate at this Celebration of Ministry. All are invited.

Coming up at St. Benedict's

(at the church unless otherwise specified)

TODAY

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service

9:20 am – Bible Study

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist, with music

Tuesday, Mar 13

5:30 pm – Vespers, followed by supper

Wednesday, Mar 14

2:30 pm – Earthcare Meeting

7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Mar 15

7:00 pm – Developing Compassion in Daily Life

7:00 pm – Drop-in Dream Group

Friday, Mar 16

6:00 pm – Evensong and Ross' Farewell Party

Saturday, Mar 17

2:00 pm – Eva Beneke Classical Guitar Concert

Sunday, Mar 18

8:00 am – Contemplative Communion Service

9:20 am – Bible Study

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist, with music

HOLY WEEK BEGINS MARCH 25

Mar 25 – Palm Sunday, 8am and 1030am

Mar 27 – Tuesday in Holy Week Vespers, 530pm

Mar 29 – Stations of the Cross, 6pm;
and Maundy Thursday Eucharist, 7pm

Mar 30 – Good Friday Liturgy, 12pm;
Stations of the Cross, 2:15pm;
and Tenebrae, 7pm at Trinity UMC

Mar 31 – Great Vigil of Easter, 745pm

Apr 1 – Easter Day, 8am and 1030am

*Please use the sign-up board
to volunteer for Holy Week
services and to find
contribution envelopes
for Easter Lily Dedications.*



An addendum page of the March/April Benediction is available near the ushers' table

Prado Donations for March

Our emphasis for donations this month is hot instant cereal, hot chocolate mix, bowls and cutlery, non-perishable beverages like soy and almond milk. Rain ponchos (in good condition) and new socks are also welcomed..

Conflict Management and Mediation Training

Training in Conflict Management and Mediation in the Church is coming up in each deanery for ECR churches. All Clergy and Lay people are encouraged to attend this training: April 28, St. Stephen's, San Luis Obispo. 9:30 am - 3:30 pm (gather at 9 for check-in and refreshments).

This introduction to conflict management is based on a model used in courts and community mediation settings. We will start with the basic skill sets, and for some, this may be a refresher. The objectives are to recognize conflict when it occurs, hone listening skills, and discover the interests that lie behind the positions stakeholders take in any conflict situation. We teach people how to foster a safe environment so that true problem-solving can occur.

Bill Shelby is an educator at CSUMB and a professional mediator. Jackie Pierce is an attorney and runs the Mandell Gisnet Center at the Monterey College of Law and is also a professional mediator.

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

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Caroline Hall; Deacon: The Rev. Sharon Dalrymple; Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Schloss & Michael Lucas; Lectors: Bryson McKelvey & Francis Rivinus; Ushers: Esta Kandarian & Ron Thompson; Greeter: Joan Hayes; Coffee Hour Hosts: Karin Cake & Maureen Titus; Altar Guild: Lisa Gonzalez & Stef Shuman; Tellers: Steve Cake & Mary Ellen Rico; Prayer Team Member: Judy Schloss; Music Director: John Cribb



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

ABUNDANCE SHOP – Thrift shop at 2025 9th St. Tues- Sat 10am-4pm.

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. 2nd Weds 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.

SATURDAY EUCHARIST - Evening Eucharist on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 5:30pm, followed by potluck supper.

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
Pamela Bleisch Strawn, Sr. Warden,
Lisa Gonzalez, Diana Hammerlund,
Esta Kandarian, Alan Kiste,
Michael Lucas, Francis Rivinus,
Barbara Schippers,
Lorienne Schwenk,
Lynn Wise

A Reflection for 4 Lent

“The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people”
Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

The story of the serpents in the wilderness is intriguing. The people of God had been rescued from slavery in Egypt and were making the long circuitous way to the promised land. The initial euphoria of freedom had worn off and they grew impatient. They spoke against God and Moses, trusting more in human sense than God's faithfulness, trusting above all else their construct of reality. This never ends well.

In their panic and pain the people pleaded for deliverance. God rescued Israel, not so much from poisonous serpents, but from Israel's own faithless and poisonous rebellion that had appeared long before the snakes. In that faithlessness, Israel had set itself against God. Israel's rescue was a restored relationship with God, not simply escaping the snakes. The symbol of their salvation was a fiery serpent—a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole. The very image of suffering and death was also the image of life and salvation.

I have read Numbers several times and there is no indication that the serpents ever left. The plague of serpents remained an ongoing threat and the raised bronze serpent an ongoing reminder to turn to God's healing power. This is what intrigues me, the word for fiery serpents is seraphim. Seraphim – the same angels who, with the cherubim, attend God. Could the snake angels be fiery guardian angels who bring us back to the truth that left to our own devices we are helpless and sometimes dangerous?

In the ELCA March 10th is the commemoration of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman. Both women devoted their lives to dismantling the sinful human construct of racism. Harriet Tubman was called Moses. She led her people to freedom. Sojourner Truth spoke with a fiery passion that bit deep into the false world order that propped up slavery. They were seraphim. We need seraphim today.

*Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Prayer:

Ignite your refining fire, O God. Burn away both the lie of one people's supremacy and the lie that leads another people to doubt their worth. Amen

From a series of Lenten Reflections prepared by Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Eclectia Lecture Series, presented by Lenny Erickson
St. Peter's-by-the-Sea, 545 Shasta Ave., Morro Bay
Six Thursdays 1:30 - 3:30 pm. All are welcome!

Topics:

April 5	Who wrote the Bible?
April 12	Translating the Bible
April 19	Who is Lucifer?
April 26	The Virgin Birth
May 3	Jesus' family tree
May 10	Branches of the Abrahamic family of religions, with a special emphasis on Islam

March 24 is



Please Volunteer!

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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