



April 2026

Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Committed to living a faith journey that is sacred, intentional, compassionate and inclusive.

Holy Week March 31—April 5

Worship

Holy Eucharist
9:30 am
Every Sunday

Noon-Day Prayer
Every Wednesday
12:00 noon
Historical Chapel

Holy Week
Schedule See



Special Events

Soul Kitchen Dinner
Friday, April 24
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31
11:00 am

Chrim Mass & Renewal of Vows
St. James Cathedral, Fresno

Wednesday, April 1
12:00 Noon

Noon-Day Prayer
Historical Chapel

Thursday, April 2
6:00 pm
7:00 pm to Midnight

Maundy Thursday Foot washing
Eucharist, Stripping of Altar
Garden of Gethsemane Watch

Friday, April 3
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
12 Noon

Good Friday
Self Guided Stations of the Cross.
Contemplative Veneration of the Cross.
Ecumenical Good Friday service at First
United Methodist Church, 200 W Oak St,
Lodi, CA 95240.

4:00 pm

Family Stations of the Cross. We welcome
all ages to join us in a family friendly and
interactive pilgrimage through the Way of
the Cross.

Saturday, April 4
7:00 pm

Easter Vigil
Historic Chapel & Church

Sunday, April 5
9:30 am

Easter Sunday
Holy Eucharist, Potluck Reception
& Children's Egg Hunt

April Calendar

Wednesday, April 1

12 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel
6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room



Thursday, April 2

6:00 pm, Maundy Thursday, Foot washing, Eucharist, Stripping of Altar
7:00 pm to Midnight, Garden of Gethsemane Watch, Church Narthex

Friday, April 3

10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Contemplative Veneration of the Cross
12:00 Noon, Ecumenical Service at First United Methodist
4:00 pm, Way of the Cross – All Age Interactive Service



Saturday, April 4

7:00 pm, Easter Vigil, Historic Chapel & Church

Sunday, April 5

9:30 am, Easter Sunday, Holy Eucharist, Baptism, Potluck Coffee Hour & Children's Egg Hunt, Church

Monday, April 6 – Office Closed

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Tuesday, April 7 – Betsy Out-Of-Office

5:30 pm, Soup for the Soul, Church



Wednesday, April 8

12 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel
6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room



Saturday, April 11 – Vestry Retreat

4:15 pm, Salvation Army dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Sunday, April 12

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Monday, April 13

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Tuesday, April 14

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Office
4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor



Wednesday, April 15

12 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel
6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

April 16 – 18: Rev. Betsy in Fresno for EDSJ Bishop Consecration

Thursday, April 16

6:00 pm, Parkinson's Support Group, Church Narthex

Friday, April 17

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Saturday, April 18 – EDSJ Bishop Consecration

10:00 am, Liturgy of Ordination & Consecration, St. James Episcopal Cathedral

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Sunday, April 19

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

12:15 pm, Vestry Meeting, Hospitality Room

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Bike Church, Parking Lot & Church

5:00 pm, Pizza Church, Church

April 20 – 22: Rev. Betsy's Days off

April 20 – 27: Penny Wilson on vacation

Wednesday, April 22

12 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Church

Friday, April 24

5:30 pm, Soul Kitchen, Narthex

Saturday, April 25

Love Lodi

Sunday, April 26

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

2:00 pm, Piano Recital, Church

Tuesday, April 28

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Office

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Wednesday, April 29

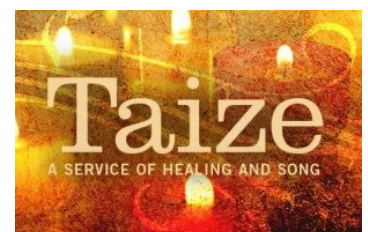
12 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel

6:00 pm, Easter Season Taize Healing Service, Church

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room



BIKE CHURCH



Rector Easter Reflections

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Easter 2026



“So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.”
Matthew 28:8

All four Gospels recount Mary Magdalene’s visit to the tomb to anoint Jesus the day after the Sabbath. Though details vary, including who accompanies her and the exact events that unfold, Mary Magdalene’s presence is constant. There, in fear, she encounters either an Angel or Jesus himself, yet she is filled with joy and excitement as she leaves to share the Good News of Christ’s resurrection.

During Holy Week, especially during the days of the triduum, we remember by fully immersing ourselves in the experiences of witnessing Jesus’s last moments, his death, the feelings of loss and emptiness, and the mystery of his resurrection. This remembrance is liturgically expressed through our worshiping community during the Easter Season and continues throughout the year as we celebrate the Eucharist. Additionally, we live the reality of Jesus risen and alive in our everyday lives, encountering him in various contexts that evoke all the emotions that we experience during Holy Week and Easter such as fear, sadness, loss, confusion, joy, and excitement.

As Episcopalians, we may be hesitant to share these experiences and lift them up in gratitude, preferring to keep our relationship with Jesus to ourselves. Instead, the joy we experience in encountering Christ, whether in church or in our daily lives, should overflow and burst forth as such encounters are transformative. In those encounters we can feel joy, even amid fear. These are stories worth sharing because they can be transformative to others, too.

As we enter Holy Week and enter the Season of Easter, embrace the emotions that arise and allow them to wash over you. When making your Easter pledge, consider including a note that tells the story of a moment in which you encountered Jesus (please mention if it is okay to share). Then, run to tell others your stories with fear and great joy, “Christ is alive, and this is how I know!”

Easter blessings to you,

Rev. Betsy McElroy †

Thoughts From Your Senior Warden

The Spirit is alive and moving through our community, stirring new life in so many corners of St. John's. Can you feel it?

Energy and joy are bubbling up as our ministries continue to grow. One of the brightest signs of this movement has been **Pizza Church** – our relaxed, come-as-you-are Eucharist followed by a shared pizza meal at 5 p.m. on the third Sunday of every month. It has become a cherished gathering place for families and for anyone who finds meaning in a more informal worship experience. All are invited and welcome!

This month, our Creation Care ministry is adding a beautiful new layer to that rhythm by hosting an **Earth Day Bike Ride on April 19th**, followed by our casual Eucharist and a supper of hot dogs and hamburgers (a fun twist in place of pizza this time). It is a joyful way to honor Earth Day, invite all ages into caring for creation, and extend a warm welcome to our wider community. Truly, the Spirit's renewing work is visible in the ways we gather, celebrate, and care for God's world together. We hope you will join us.

That same Spirit-filled energy is carrying us into one of St. John's most beloved traditions: **Our High Tea on Saturday, May 2nd**. This annual event is one of our major fundraisers, but more than that, it is a shared celebration of fellowship, hospitality, and generosity. **And it is *not* just a "ladies tea"** – it is an opportunity for everyone to offer time, talent, or treasure. You might choose to buy a ticket or a table of seven to enjoy tea, mimosas, savories, and sweets. Or perhaps you feel called to help set up (a day or two ahead), serve during the event, make or donate food or sweets, contribute funds, or join the clean-up team.

We will also host a silent auction and a raffle for gift baskets, and we warmly invite donations for either. Suggestions for auction items and themed baskets can be found on the "Tea Table" at the church entrance. This gathering is a beautiful expression of community – welcoming not only our parish family, but also friends, neighbors, and loved ones. Participation sign-up sheets are located near the ministry table. **Won't you consider how you might take part in this Spirit-filled tradition?**

The Spirit's movement is also evident in our leadership. It is a truly joyful moment for our Vestry as we welcome five wonderful new members to our team of ten. Each person brings unique gifts – fresh ideas, diverse perspectives, rich life experiences, and meaningful spiritual journeys. Together, we are cultivating a vibrant, trusting space where everyone can share, listen, and grow. With this renewed energy and expanded leadership, we look ahead to our Vestry retreat in June with hopeful expectation, trusting that God will continue guiding us into meaningful work and faithful service.

As the Spirit continues to move through our community, may we stay open, joyful, and ready for the new life unfolding among us.

Happy Spring and Abundant Blessings,

Beth Elwood

The Salvation Army—Lodi Corps Update

Open House Highlights

On February 26th, The Salvation Army - Lodi Corps welcomed the community to an Open House at their 525 W. Lockeford St. location. Guests learned about the many programs and services offered to support individuals and families in need, including:

- Emergency shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Food assistance programs, including meal services and food pantries
- Case management to help clients access resources and ongoing support
- Counseling and support groups for mental health and addiction recovery
- Job training and employment services that promote long-term stability
- Youth programs and activities for children and teens
- And much more

Carol Bassett joined my husband, Jim, and me at this informative event. She continues to explore opportunities to support The Salvation Army's mission and has begun joining me at the Program Committee meetings.

A Heartfelt Thank-You

Warm thanks to **Jerry, Christy, and Patty Herrmann** for donating a new microwave in February to the Hope Harbor Family Shelter. Your generosity makes a meaningful difference.

Holiday Dining Hall Decorations

Member churches of the Program Committee have committed to decorating the Hope Harbor dining hall for major holidays as a gesture of love and belonging for those who dine there. St. John's provided decorations for St. Patrick's Day and will also decorate for the 4th of July. **If you'd like to contribute toward the purchase of 4th of July decorations, please contact me at 209-483-8736.**



The Salvation Army—Lodi Corps Continued

Additional Ways to Support the Efforts of The Salvation Army

1) Donate Non-Perishable Food Items

Thank you for keeping The Salvation Army in mind as you shop for your own household. Collection baskets are located under the ministry table, and we appreciate **Carol Bassett** for faithfully delivering our monthly donations.

You may also drop off non-perishable food items directly at: **The Salvation Army** 525 W. Lockeford St., Lodi **Monday–Friday, 8:30am–4:00pm** Please use the large open garage on the north side of the building. Staff will be available to assist you.

2) Hope Harbor Dinner Service - Won't You Join Us?

If you have a heart for service – or if your children or teens need community service hours – we would love to have you join our volunteer team serving dinner at Hope Harbor.

- **Time Commitment:** 4:15pm–5:30pm (just 1 hour and 15 minutes)
- **When:** Six dates each month, two Mondays, two Tuesdays, one Friday, and one Saturday.
- **Location:** 622 N. Sacramento St., Lodi
- **What's Needed:** Closed-toe shoes, a welcoming heart, and your smile
- **Availability:** May and June dates are still available to fill

New and returning volunteers are always welcome. To sign up, contact **Debby Weberski** at 209-483-3768 or debbyweberski1@gmail.com. Thank you for sharing your joy with our community – and thank you, Debby, for coordinating our Hope Harbor volunteers.

We get to do this good work together!

Beth Elwood



Parish Life



Noon-Day Prayer Every Wednesday

Join us at 12:00 Noon Every Wednesday for Noon-Day Prayers in our Historical Chapel. This is a lovely service to add to your weekly routine. It is lead by a Rev. Betsy, or one of our many faithful parishioners. Join us.

Soup for the Soul Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5:30 pm

This is a small group of parishioners that gather the 1st Tuesday of each month. We have all experienced a loss in our lives. We gather to share a simple meal and conversation. If this sounds like it fits you or you have any questions, please contact Penny in the office at 209-369-3381 or email at stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net



Vestry Meeting

The regularly scheduled vestry meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19 at 12:15 pm in the Hospitality Room.

*Pizza Church The 3rd Sunday of Each Month at 5:00 pm

This is a simple, family-friendly, hands-on service. We start with a "Casual Eucharist" at 5:00 pm followed by a "Pizza Dinner" at 5:30 pm. All are welcome. This Month, Pizza Church is a little different. See the



BIKE CHURCH



flyer on Page 9. Instead of Pizza, we will be service *Hot Dogs stating at 5:30 pm. Join us. If you have question, please call the office at 209-369-3381 or email at stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net

Soul Kitchen Friday, April 24

We will gather on Friday, April 24 at 5:30 for our monthly meal. Dinner is from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. This is a great way to reach out to our community. Please join us!



Creation Care News

All are Welcome!



Bring your Friends!

BIKE CHURCH



19th April 2026 — 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM



**Episcopal Church of
St John the Baptist**
1055 S. Lower Sacramento Rd
Lodi CA 95242

Happy Earth Day Bike Ride

- Fun Ride & Activities 4 - 5
- Church Service - Outside 5-5:30
- Food - Hot Dogs and extras 5:30
 - All forms of human-powered transportation are encouraged.
 - Spectators and support crews are welcome to come and enjoy the day.

www.stjohnsoflodi.org

April Adornments & Celebrations

We are grateful for these donors whose gifts provide the Altar Flowers for April.

April 5 Easter Sunday – See Easter Bulletin

April 12 None

April 19 Diane Burkett, in loving remembrance of Peter and our wedding anniversary, April 21.

April 26 Joey & Christina Soria in celebration of Christina's birthday, April 30.

If you would like to dedicate flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving of a special event, please call the parish office at 369-3381.



9: Robert Davis
Janie Williams

16: Melanie Geist
Matthew Kafton
Elisabeth Weikle

17: Robert Hoffman

18: Suzanne Collins

21: Miles San Juan Silva

27: Mandi Sager

29: James Ledbetter

30: Christina Mullikin Soria

3: Ejae & Michael Perry

9: Jeannie & Kevin Canwell

23: Jan and Steve Manildi

25: Aleathea and Dennis Langone

You can also give through GIVELIFY app. If you go to our website:

www.stjohnsoflodi.org On the right side of the page you can click on GIVELIFY.

Put in Episcopal church of St. John the Baptist and indicate the amount of your gift and what is for, i.e. pledge, rector/deacon discretionary, other, etc.). Givelify App is available at:

the "App Store" or "Google Play" Or scan this code:



Coming in May



St. John's
High Tea

May 2, 2026
— 12 pm to 3 pm —

*All ages are welcome.
Invite your friends and family.*

*Attire inspired by Downton Abbey,
Bridgerton, or garden party encouraged.*

*Tickets: \$45 per person
\$20 for youth ages 10-17
\$300 for tables of 7*

Purchase tickets from Penny in the office or via Givelify.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 Lodi Pride Festival

Saturday, June 6 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at IDOL Beer Works!

Now that we know the date and time, it is time to get a team together to make our presence there a success! We need:

- Organized people – who can make sure all the details get taken care of (exhibit booth reserved, supplies checked and more ordered if necessary, scheduling volunteers to staff the booth, etc.)
- Creative people – to plan an exciting display and handouts that will catch the interest and stir up a spark of curiosity even among LGBTQ persons and allies who have good reason to fear churches.
- People strong enough to get the table, tent, and other materials from/to St. John's on that day and set up and take down our display.
- Enthusiastic, outgoing, caring people – to spend a few hours that day staffing our booth, greeting each person as if they are Christ himself.

An aside – so far, St. John's has been the only church participating in the Lodi Pride Festival. If you want the world to be safe for LGBTQ persons, their families, friends and allies, and you want Lodi to know that St. John's is a place where the God who loves everyone is proclaimed – in what way would you like to be part of this effort? Call me,



Save the date!

☆ The annual St. John's
☆ **Holiday Bazaar** is set for
☆ **November 14, 2026**

*This festive event will include vendors,
more harvest/Thanksgiving items,
expanded food selections,
plants and other
holiday gifts.*

