



May 2026

# Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

## Worship

Holy Eucharist

9:30 am

Sundays May 3, 10,  
24 & 31

Morning Prayer

9:30 am

Sunday, May 17

Noon-Day Prayer  
Every Wednesday

12:00 noon

Historic Chapel

## Special Events

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25  
Office Closed

Soul Kitchen

Friday, May 29  
5:30 pm

*St. John's*  
**High Tea**  
May 2, 2026  
12 pm to 3 pm

**Due to the support of all,  
we are sold out!**

*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

## *Rector Reflections*

I have this habit that when I am enjoying something immensely, I don't want it to end. This frustrates my husband, Steve, because sometimes we must get back on the road and head home. Like a child, I dawdle. I suggest we take one more "little" hike over here or stop for another view over there. I want to linger. The joy of the moment is just too much to leave behind.

In the secular world, Easter is over. It was last month. The Easter eggs have been found and, hopefully, eaten. The family gatherings are complete. Some décor may remain, but most is put away until next year. We've moved on to the next thing.

The Church, however, wants us to stay in the joy and mystery of this incredible event for as long as we can. So, Easter doesn't end after one day; it lasts 50. The days represent the 40 days on which the resurrected Jesus walked with us once again and 10 days in between his ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

We live into this time by changing our liturgy a bit. We remember our baptism each week by reaffirming our baptismal vows and through asperging (sprinkling of Holy Water). In addition, instead of readings from the Hebrew Bible, we hear from the Book of Acts, which describes the birth and expansion of the early Church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

But, what happens when we leave the doors of the church and go back in the world? Do we forget that we are still in Easter? Or, do we allow these 50 days to seep in and continue to transform us? How do we stay in Easter once we leave church on Sunday?

Let's begin by lingering. Linger when you remember that Jesus shows up for you through all your trials and tribulations – just as he did behind the locked doors of the room where his disciples hid in fear and sadness. Linger in the knowledge that Jesus walks with you, even when you don't recognize him, just as he did on the road to Emmaus. When you notice the wildflowers on your walk, linger. When you feel the rain fall on your skin and see it nourishing the dry ground, linger. Linger in the joy that in Jesus God overcomes death and life blossoms all around you every single day.

Linger . . . and then say again, "Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia. Alleluia."

~ Rev. Betsy+

## *From Your Senior Warden*

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As I write, excitement is building for what promises to be a full and joyful gathering at our **2026 High Tea fundraiser on Saturday, May 2nd** – a day of fellowship and celebration shared by St. John's parishioners, families, and friends, and one we anticipate will be a great success.

Events like this happen only when an entire community comes together. Our heartfelt thanks go to Fran Bott for her leadership and to everyone who organized, prepared, decorated, donated, and served before, during, and after the event. We are truly grateful for the time, talent, and treasure you so generously share.

### **Together we get to do this!**

The Salvation Army is excited to welcome you to an **Open House Community Event** at the Hope Harbor Shelter in Lodi on **Thursday, May 14, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Come discover the incredible impact they're making every day through programs that provide lodging, meals, rehabilitation support, counseling, job assistance, and so much more for neighbors in need.

Enjoy light snacks and refreshments prepared by the talented Lodi Culinary Arts Program. Please RSVP by **May 4** to **Danielle.ford@usw.salvationarmy.org** – we'd love to see you there.

St. John's is proud to stand alongside The Salvation Army all year long. Our partnership includes serving dinner at Hope Harbor six days a month, donating non-perishable food, essential goods, and holiday décor, and supporting key annual events like the Annual Dinner, School Supplies and Backpack Collection, Golf Tournament, and the beloved Red Kettle Bell Ringing. Won't you join us?

Get ready for a fantastic day of celebration! The **Lodi PRIDE Festival** is happening on **Saturday, June 6, 2026**, at **IDOL Beer Works** from **11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** St. John's is thrilled to once again be a proud sponsor – and you're invited to come celebrate and uplift our LGBTQ community, allies, and friends.

There are lots of ways to get involved: • **Event Lead** – help with pre-planning, staffing coordination, and supplies • **Set-Up Team** – help us get the booth ready • **Booth Staff** – greet guests and share the love throughout the day • **Take-Down Team** – help close out the event with ease. Sign-up sheets are available on the ministry table. I hope you'll join Andee Zetterbaum and me for this joyful, love-filled celebration. **Everyone is invited, and everyone is welcome.**

Blessings, Beth Elwood

# May Calendar

## Friday, May 1

All Day, Set up for High Tea



## Saturday, May 2

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm, High Tea, St. John's

## Sunday, May 3

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

## Monday, May 4

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

## Tuesday, May 5

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

5:30 pm, Soup for the Soul, Panera Bread



## Wednesday, May 6

12:00 noon, Noon Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Church



## Saturday, May 9

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

## Sunday, May 10 – Happy Mother's Day

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:00 am, Coffee Hour Olive Wood Artisan/Speaker – See page 8 for details.

## Monday, May 11

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

## Tuesday, May 12

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

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



## Wednesday, May 13

12:00 noon, Noon Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Church

## Thursday, May 14 – Ascension Day

## Friday, May 15

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



May 16 – 25: Rev. Betsy on Vacation

# May Calendar

## Sunday, May 17

9:30 am, Morning Prayer, Church

5:00 pm, Pizza Church, Evening Prayer, Church Narthex



## Monday, May 18

10:00 am, Parkinson's Care Meeting, Church

## Tuesday, May 19

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

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



## Wednesday, May 20

12:00 noon, Noon Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Church

## Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost – Wear Red!

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church, The Rev. Dr. Portia Hopkins Celebrating

## Monday, May 25 – Office Closed – Happy Memorial Day

## Tuesday, May 26

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

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

6:00 pm, Monthly Vestry Meeting, Hospitality Room



## Wednesday, May 27

12:00 noon, Noon Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Church

## Friday, May 29

5:30 pm, Soul Kitchen, Church Narthex



## Sunday, May 31

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

1:00 pm, Arrival

3:00 pm, Concert for Valley Community Orchestra, St. John's Lodi

VALLEY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA PROUDLY PRESENTS

## Music Is Eclectic: Haydn And All That Jazz!

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
at 3 PM

Episcopal Church of  
St. John The Baptist  
1055 S. Lower  
Sacramento Road  
Lodi, CA



Zach Silver  
Mandolin



Robert Stone  
Trumpet

# Parish Life

## Soul Kitchen Dinner – Friday, May 29 at 5:30 pm



Our monthly "Soul Kitchen" dinner takes place the last Friday of each month. This FREE dinner is served from 5:30-7:00 pm. We have regulars from our local community that attend the last Friday of each month. This is a great way to reach out to our community and help others. Please join us. If you have any questions, contact the church office

## Ways To Serve

We have room for **YOU** to join a Sunday service Team:

- Crucifer,
- Camera Acolyte,
- Ushers,
- Counters,
- Bread Bakers,
- Altar Guild members,
- Designers Guild,
- Sound person,
- Coffee Hour Hosts,
- Choir Members,
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Eucharistic Visitors.



Please contact Penny in the office to sign up!



# Parish Life

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## Creation Care News



Earth Day brought great focus to the work of the Creation Care Team this past April. On Sunday, the 19th, some eco-friendly speeders could be spotted circling the perimeter of our lovely church grounds. Bike riders, from the very small to the very brave enjoyed carefree laps encouraged by sun and a gentle breeze. LPD Bike Patrol Officers Dunfee and Beck shared helmet safety information and then joined in, spinning around St. John's to celebrate our planet home. Thirty-one participated. Two rode stroller-style, babes on wheels. A family centered Eucharist was held on the west patio to the sound of birdsong.

Wednesday, April 22 St. John's noonday prayer group joined an Interfaith Earth Day Prayer stream. The Zoom meditation was hosted by California Interfaith Power & Life. CIPL was founded in 2000 with a mission to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to the climate crisis as a moral issue. More information can be found at the following link <https://www.interfaithpower.org/our-work/>

April showers were good for the native plant garden. Several young plants are already sporting blossoms. Sadly, over the winter, plants were lost. They will be replaced this fall.



Plant of the Month: Ceanothus 'Celestial Blue'

*Ceanothus* Celestial Blue has very blue, sometimes even purple, blossom with a light fragrance that smells edible, like a grape tart. The bush explodes in summer, abuzz with color and life.

Let Penny or Reverend Betsy know, if you are interested in joining the Creation Care Team. Or email Barbara at [barbarakrengel@gmail.com](mailto:barbarakrengel@gmail.com)

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## Donations and Giving Through St. John's

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

[www.stjohnsoflodi.org](http://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:



## *Parish Life*



*Have you experienced a loss?  
We meet the 1st Tuesday of each month  
At Panera Bread for a light supper  
(dutch treat) and conversation.  
Please join us. If you have questions,  
Talk to Penny in the office*



**The Day of Pentecost is Sunday, May 24, 2026  
Remember to wear Red!**

### **Meet Ashraf Jaraysa – A Living Witness from Bethlehem Sunday, May 10 at Coffee Hour**

This Mother's Day, May 10th, we invite you to come and meet Ashraf Jaraysa, a Palestinian Christian from Beit Sahour, the shepherds' field just outside Bethlehem.

Over the past several weeks, Ashraf has visited more than 25 churches across California, sharing the story of his community and the enduring faith of Palestinian Christians. His family is part of the historic Christian presence in the Holy Land, traditionally known as descendants of the shepherds who first heard the angels' proclamation: "Peace on earth and goodwill to all people." For generations, his family has carried and lived out this message.

Ashraf is also an olive wood artisan. The carvings he brings are handcrafted in Bethlehem and Beit Sahour and directly support dozens of local Christian families. In a time when many are being forced to leave, this work helps sustain a living Christian presence in the land where Jesus was born.

But more than anything, Ashraf comes with a message – one rooted in the teachings of Jesus: a call to love, to peace, and to goodwill toward all people.

Join us this Mother's Day to hear his story, encounter his witness, and be part of a connection that stretches across centuries and continents.



# May Celebrations

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## We are grateful for these donors whose gifts adorn our worship

May 3 Penny, Hannah & Holly Wilson in loving memory of Greg Wilson for his birthday, May 6. GP♥HH

Jacki Lauchland Shaw and sisters in loving memory of their parents, Jack and Charlyn Lauchland on their wedding anniversary, May 5.

May 10 Blessings of all mother's today.

May 17 Anne & Jim Reeve in memory of our son, John and Jims father, Roger.

Mary Ellen Beckman in memory of our beloved parents:  
Emil & Viola Beckman and Tom & Edith Killelea

May 24 Roxy and Steve Woodard in honor of their wedding anniversary, May 27.

May 31 Dick and Janie Williams in loving memory of her mother, Maxine Christesen for her birthday on May 28.

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

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2 Diana Christy  
4 Sharon Farnsworth  
5 Perry George  
Moses Martinez  
7 Kim Nelson  
9 David Lujan, Jr.  
13 Marilyn Cook  
Maddie Langone  
15 Richard Lundgren  
17 John Nieman  
Kara Franklin  
18 Barbara Warburton  
Elke Krengel  
22 Davis Jackson  
23 Sylvia Augusto  
24 Kelly Olds  
27 Dany Wilson  
Marilyn Elms  
30 Priscilla Brownfield



May 8 Melanie & Clifford Geist  
May 26 Roxy & Steve Woodard  
May 28 Jennifer & Taylor Franklin  
May 30 Melanie & Moses Martinez



## Coming In June

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### Graduation Sunday, June 7, 2026

On June 7, we will be offering prayers of thanksgiving for all members of St. John the Baptist (and their relatives) who will be graduating this spring from Junior High, High School, College and Graduate Programs. As per parish tradition a roster of graduates from our extended families will also appear in the June edition of the newsletter. A sign-up sheet is at the

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### Summer Choir Update

The Choir will go on its summer break after May 31st. Our "Casual Choir" will begin on Sunday, June 7th. If you would like to try casual choir, please join us for rehearsal every Sunday, starting June 7th, at 9:00 am in the Hospitality Room. This is a good opportunity for you to sing and practice with us and possible join us for the next Season!



### St. John's Feast Day and Father's Day Sunday, June 21, 2026

Mark you calendars to Join us after the 9:30 am service for a fun day to celebrate St. John's Feast Day and Father's Day. We are planning a picnic and potluck! More information and sign-ups will be available as we get closer the date.



*All-Church Potluck*



We will be joined by Joanne Kovac-Roberts and Mike Roberts from ECCO to lead us in games and activities.

## Coming In June

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### The 2026 Lodi Pride Festival

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



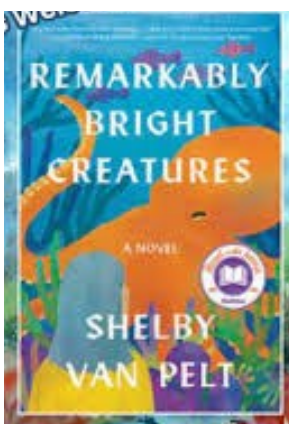
Now that we know the date and time, it is time to get a team together to make our presence there a success! We need:

- 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, Andee Zetterbaum, at 209-923-7932 or email me at [azetterb@aol.com](mailto:azetterb@aol.com) and let's talk.

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### Announcing St. John's Summer Book Series



Our first selection is Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. This 2022 novel explores themes of grief, friendship and finding purpose. Enjoy reading this book during the month of May and we will meet for discussion on Sunday, June 7th at 11:30 am (after church).

A Netflix film adaptation debuts May 8. Bring Ideas for July's book on June 7th and we will choose our next book together. Questions? Please ask Charlene Martin or Candice Gale.

**ECCO**

**FAMILY**

**CAMP**

**JULY 9-12, 2026**

**CHECK IN AT 5 PM**

**AT ECCO**

**43803 Hwy 41  
Oakhurst, CA 93644**

**ECCO's Family Camp program offers a loving, accepting,  
and supportive community for all.**

**GAMES . ART & CRAFTS . OUTDOOR ACTIVITY**

**Questions? Call 559-683-8162**

**Register at [eccoyosemite.org](http://eccoyosemite.org)**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 29TH**

**559-683-8162**