



June 2026

Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

Worship

Noon-Day Prayer
Every Wednesday
12:00 Noon

Holy Eucharist
Every Sunday
9:30 am

Special Events

Lodi Pride Day
Saturday, June 6
IDOL Beer Works

St. Johns
Feast Day &
Fathers Day
Church Picnic
Sunday, June 21
After Church

Soul Kitchen
Friday, June 26
5:30 pm

Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist Feast Day Celebration and Father's Day

Sunday BBQ & Games



Sunday, June 21 2026

*Following the Eucharist, our Men's BBQ Group will
cook hotdogs and hamburgers.*

Please sign up at the Ministry Table!

Last names:

A-I bring: Side Dishes
J-R bring: Salads
S-Z bring: Desserts

All items must be prepared, plated and ready for the buffet table.
(No Ovens will be Available)

Rectors Reflections

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You! This is the official slogan of the Episcopal Church. It is found on websites, bulletins, and every sign that points the way to the nearest Episcopal Church. It says, 'we welcome you'. It means, 'you belong here'. Just as you are.

This year, we celebrate 50 years of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Episcopal Church when General Convention passed a resolution affirming that LGBTQ+ persons "are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church." Since that time, the Episcopal Church has continued to take a stand and pass resolutions that affirm and protect people regardless of gender identify, sexuality, or expression.

Regardless of our church's stance, our queer siblings still do not feel safe in their communities. Since of the beginning of 2026, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has identified 529 anti-LGBTQ bills currently pending in the United States. Queer folks feel unsafe in many areas of their lives, including their churches. However, this is not true at St. John's. We have become a safe haven for many who have been harmed in the past by systems and churches that do not affirm them as children of God. This is why it is important that we continue to make efforts to demonstrate that we are a place of safety, inclusion, and affirmation. We are a place who will welcome, affirm, and love. We are a place where people can belong, just as they are.

During the month of June, we will celebrate Pride month in the United States and throughout the world to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in New York City. St. John's will participate in that month-long celebration by placing pride flags around our property, including LGBTQ+ affirming images on our social media feeds, and sponsoring Lodi Pride on June 6 at Idol Beer Works. We will boldly claim our calling to affirm the dignity of all people.

While we focus our efforts during the month of June, St. John's lives into its calling to support our queer siblings throughout the year. We have permanent symbols of affirmation located throughout our church, pronoun stickers for our name tags, and a role in the leadership of our Diocesan LGBTQ+ Commission: The Rainbow Covenant. Supporting our queer siblings through these efforts acknowledges that we are a church that not only welcomes people but affirms them as God's beloved children without exception. This is true of us in June and embedded into our culture throughout the year.

Please join us in celebrating 50 years of inclusion in the Episcopal Church. Join us in celebrating people in all their ways of being human. Join us in being a place where all are welcome because all belong.

~Betsy+

From Your Senior Warden



See! I am doing a new thing. Now it springs forth. *Isaiah 43:19*

Spring has unfolded around us in full beauty – blossoming trees, new growth in our gardens, and the vibrant green that signals renewal. With this comes a shift in our daily rhythm, a reminder that God is always doing something new.

We now step into **Ordinary Time**, a season that is “ordinary” only in name. Marked by the color of growth, it invites us into the slow, steady work of spiritual formation. As Ashley Wallace writes, this is the season “where our faith takes root and begins to grow,” shaping the quiet, consistent ways we walk with God. (The Liturgical Home: Ordinary Time, 27)

This is a time to listen more deeply, to notice God’s presence in the everyday, and to consider how we share God’s love in simple, meaningful ways. As a church, it is also a time to imagine boldly who God is calling us to be.

To support this visioning, the vestry will gather for a retreat on **June 12-13** – a time of prayer, reflection, and dreaming about St. John’s future. Deacon Nancy Key reminds us that while our history is a cherished foundation, it does not limit us. Even in seasons of transition, God offers opportunities for faith, hope, and love to flourish. (May 22, 2026 Friday Reflections)

May we honor the seeds planted by those before us and courageously plant new ones, trusting God to bring forth a beautiful harvest. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers as we do this important work together. Remember, **we get to do this!**

Faithfully,

Beth Elwood

June Calendar

Monday, June 1

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



Tuesday, June 2

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office
Soup for the Soul is taking a break for June!

Wednesday, June 4

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel
No Choir Practice



Saturday, June 6

11:00 am to 6:00 pm, 2026 Lodi Pride Festival, IDOL Beer Works!

Sunday, June 7 – Graduation Sunday

9:00 am, Casual Choir Practice, Church
9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church
11:30 am, Summer Book Series, Hospitality Room



Monday, June 8

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

Tuesday, June 9

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



Wednesday, June 10

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel

June 12 & 13: Vestry Retreat at St. John's Lodi

Saturday, June 13

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

June Calendar

Sunday, June 14

9:00 am, Casual Choir Practice, Church
9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church
11:00 am, Children's Program Meeting, Hospitality Room
5:00 pm, Men's BBQ, Church Narthex



Tuesday, June 16

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office



Wednesday, June 17

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel

Friday, June 19

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



Sunday, June 21 St. John's Feast Day – Happy Father's Day

9:00 am, Casual Choir Practice, Church
9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church
11:15 pm, Church BBQ-Potluck-Games, Church Narthex and Patio
(No Pizza Church, join us for the Church BBQ)

Tuesday, June 23

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



Wednesday, June 24

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel

Friday, June 26

5:30 pm, Soul Kitchen Dinner, Church Narthex



June 26 – 28: Rev. Betsy Out Of Town

Sunday, June 28

8:30 am, Casual Choir Practice, Church
9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church



Tuesday, June 30

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office



Creation Care News:

Good news about sustainable practices in Lodi is becoming frequent! Here is a sample.

On Saturday, June 6, Waste Management will accept e-waste at the Lodi Transfer Station located at 1333 E. Turner Rd. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information click: <https://www.lodi.gov/1282/Special-Collection-Events>

In late May, Wes Bowers from the Lodi News Sentinel wrote an article highlighting the regenerative farming practices the Locke family has employed across their many acres of walnut orchards. “To support soil health, the Lockes use cover crops, hedgerows and natural pest control methods such as owl boxes and bat houses.” (LNS, May 14, 2026)

Plastic collection for the Bags to Benches program will take a hiatus during July and August. Bring in you clean stretchy plastics through the month of June.

Plant of the Month



Over the winter rains and cold one of two **Ceanothus Celestial Blues** was lost in our native garden. Plans have been made to replant this fall.

Ceanothus Celestial Blue is a very blue, sometimes purple, California lilac with a light fragrance that smells edible (a grape tart). The myth of Ceanothus being short lived is primarily caused by applying drip irrigation, summer water and soil amendments.

Barbara Krengel

Summer Book Series

Our Summer Book Series is underway and it's not too late to join! Our first selection is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Grab a copy, enjoy this charming story and join us to discuss it after church Sunday, June 7th at 11:30. We're also looking for your book suggestions of what we should read next month, so bring those too.

Parish News



Soul Kitchen Dinner Friday, June 26 at 5:30 pm

It's so good to be back! 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 Corky Kuykendall.

Come celebrate The Feast Day of St. John the Baptist and Father's Day with us! Sunday, June 21st

Join us immediately after service for an all-parish potluck, plus games and activities for all ages led by Joanne Kovac-Roberts and Mike Roberts of ECCO. All are welcome to enjoy this day of fun and fellowship!

Sign-up sheets to attend and to bring a potluck item are available on the ministry table.

The Casual Choir

Casual choir meets Sunday mornings at 8:45am for a 9:00am rehearsal. We will prepare our hymnals and sing through the hymns for that day Sunday. Thank you, Steven Weikle.



Ways To Serve

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

Sound Person, Ushers, Acolytes (Crucifer and Camera Acolyte), Counters, Bread Bakers, Altar Guild members, Designers Guild, bread Bakers (we supply the recipe), Coffee Hour Hosts, Choir Members...

There are no special skills needed for these jobs! We will train. Please contact Penny in the office to sign up!



Salvation Army News

Salvation Army Update

Calling All Golfers! Registration is now open for the **19th Annual Dr. Walter E. Reiss Red Shield Classic**, a special fundraiser supporting the Salvation Army Lodi Corps and Hope Harbor Family Services Center. The tournament will be held on Monday, July 20, 2026, at Woodbridge Golf and Country Club. We invite you to join us for a wonderful day of fellowship and support for the programs and services that bless our local communities.

- \$200 per golfer or \$800 per foursome includes green fees, cart, range balls, lunch, dinner, and tee prizes.
- Registration and lunch begin at 10:00 a.m., with a shotgun start at 12:00 p.m.
- Appetizers, a silent auction, and a raffle begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m.
- Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

To register or make a donation, please visit www.salarmy.us/LodiRedShieldClassic or stop by our ministry table for registration forms and more information.

Not a golfer but would still like to be involved? We would love to have volunteers help at 9:30 a.m. with registration and at 12:30 p.m. with setup for dinner, the silent auction, and the raffle.

Raffle baskets and silent auction items are also needed. For more information, please contact Pam Kludt at (209) 481-1829.

Blessings,
Beth Elwood
(209) 483-8736



Noteworthy

St. John's High Tea Recap

The May 2 High Tea, back after a one-year hiatus, was a sold-out success. We served 83 guests, and brought in approximately \$7,200.00. You donated 13 raffle baskets and 14 silent auction items, including use of a modest bungalow in Hawaii (Penny had the winning bid). Others donated sparkling wine for mimosas.

Volunteers contributed so much time and talent: people who muscled tables, chairs and pew seats to their places; servers assigned to tables; cooks who provided savories and sweets; Designer Guild members who donated flowers for tables and elaborate decor for the west patio. Kitchen staff prepped 83 plates of sandwiches and other nibbles, and 12 towers of desserts, and kept the water hot for tea. Still others came after to clean up and count money.

It was a lovely day made possible by so many generous people. We intend to hold this event next year.

Our next event is Happy Hour Bingo set for Friday, July 17. Look for details soon.

Also, watch for Make-It Days starting in June as we look toward our November 14 Holiday Bazaar. Their intent is to kick-start the creation of hand-crafted items for sale at the Bazaar. Looks like a bustling summer.

Fran Bott, Fundraiser Committee Chair

Congratulations Graduates!

On June 7, we will be honoring graduates from this congregation and those related to members of this congregation including:

Kenneth Elliott
Evan McElroy
Jeremiah Olowoyeye
Maxwell Osborn
Kate Pilcher
Andrianna Schmidli
Lydia Swarney
Annika Weber
Dani Wilson
Holly Wilson

Teachers College of San Joaquin
Luther College
Saratoga High School
Sacramento State
Lodi High School
Lodi Middle School
Luther College
Bear Creek High School
Southern New Hampshire University
San Joaquin Delta College



Sunday Worship

We are grateful for these donors whose gifts adorn our worship

- June 7 Mary Ellen Beckman in memory of our beloved parents: Emil & Viola Beckman and Tom & Edith Killelea
Beth & Jim Elwood in memory of her father, Darwin Lindsley, for his birthday June 3
- June 14 Beth & Jim Elwood in celebration of Beth's sister, Sara Ferry's birthday June 8
Vinita Shinn in loving memory of her parents, Eula & John Coulter, for their wedding anniversary June 17.
- June 21 Hannah & Holly Wilson, in loving memory of our dad, Greg Wilson on Father's Day
- June 28 Jan & Amanda, in loving memory of Gina Cariati for her birthday June 30.

If you would like to dedicate flowers in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving, please call the parish office at 209-369-3381.



June 5 Catherine Carlson
June 12 Oliver Kregel
June 13 Jerry Herrmann
June 19 Harry Hakala
June 21 Edyth Ledbetter
June 22 Colleen Walton
June 23 Steve Augusto
Beth Elwood
Sara Olds
Steven Weikle

June 12 Charlene & Peter Martin
June 14 Teresa & Steve Culbertson
Casey & Brandon Stevens
June 20 Sylvia & Steve Augusto
June 21 Charlene & Dr. Edmond Freund
The Rev. Betsy & Steve McElroy
June 29 Hennie VanKonynenburg &
The Rev. Dcn. Tom Hampson

Take Note

Meet Our New Pianist/Organist

Hello! My name is Luke Colbert, and I'm excited to join The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist as their new organist. I recently moved back to the Central Valley after 7 years in Texas where I served as the Director of Music/Organist for Faith Lutheran Church, Flower Mound. In my free time, I love writing and performing music with friends, preparing/eating delicious food, and finding scenic locations to read a good book. I hold a bachelor's degree in saxophone performance from the University of the Pacific and a master's in multiple woodwind performance from the University of North Texas.



Now some fun prompts from Rev. Betsy!

Name a role model who inspired you in your career -

Pat Grimm, my first organ instructor. She taught me everything I know, and has been an invaluable source of wisdom throughout my career.

What brings you joy? -

Spending time in nature, making music with friends, going to farmers markets

What is your theme song - The song that would be playing whenever you entered a room? -

"You're Everything" - Chick Corea & Return to Forever

Greg Wilson Men's BBQ



On Sunday, June 14 the Men's BBQ Group will be gathering together once again. Men of St. Johns, please join us! We gather a few times a year to eat, drink and socialize.

If you are interested in attending, please see the sign up sheet on the Ministry Table. If you have any questions regarding this Ministry, please contact Dick Williams or the Church office.

June is Pride Month

**Lodi PRIDE will be Saturday, June 6, 2026,
and once again St. John's will have a booth.**

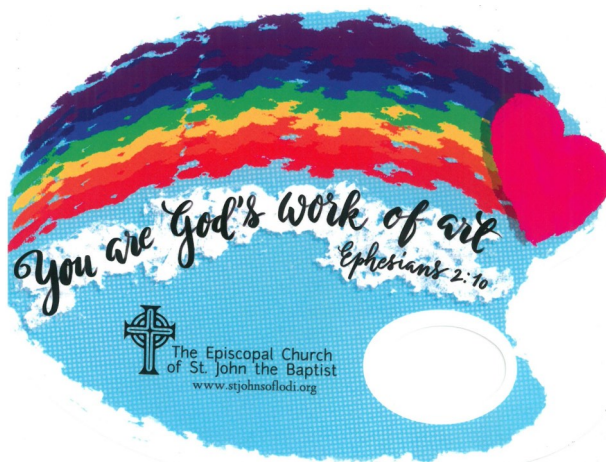
Here are three ways you can help:

1. **Sign up to staff the booth for two hours** (11 am - 1 pm, 1 pm - 3 pm, 3 pm - 5 pm, 5 pm - 6:30). There's a sign-up sheet on the ministry table, or contact me directly if you want to volunteer and won't be at church in the next two weeks. (Note: we already have people lined up to get the booth set up in the morning and packed up and returned to St. John's in the evening.)

We've been the only church supporting Lodi PRIDE in prior years, and our presence there matters. It really matters. You won't know how much it matters until, out of all the happy people enjoying the festival, you listen to one who's near tears as they tell you about how churches have rejected them or people they love.

2. **Come to church a bit early on May 31** to help install our PRIDE signs on the front lawn, visible from Lower Sacramento Road. Meet at the church entrance at 9 a.m.
3. **Drop by the PRIDE Festival itself!** Even if you can't help staff our booth, come and enjoy - the festival this year will be at Idol Beer Works (100 S Sacramento St Suite A, Lodi). Family-friendly activities and entertainment for all ages from 11 am - 6 pm, followed by an adults-only "Unicorn Party" from 6 pm - 9 pm.

Questions? Comments? Want to volunteer for any of these areas? Can't help this year, but want to be on the list to help prepare for 2027? Email me at azetterb@aol.com or phone/text me at 209-923-7932.



A Message From Rev. Betsy

Rev. Betsy Nominated and Invited to the American Leadership Forum – Great Valley Chapter (ALF-GV) Fellowship, Class XV

Earlier in May, I was nominated for the ALF-GV Class 15 Fellowship for 2026-27. ALF-GV is focused on increasing leadership capacity and networks in California's great Central Valley. They are dedicated to joining and strengthening established leaders to serve the public good. The overall goal is to have an engaged, informed and connected citizenry that has the willingness, ability, and tools to work in collaboration to solve complex issues facing our communities.

The fellowship consists of participants who represent the region's diversity – geographically, professionally, socially, ethnically, politically, and across many other spectrums. The cohort meets monthly for twelve months with a week-long Wilderness Experience in September.

It is my hope and goal that the fellowship will strengthen my leadership skills, give me additional leadership tools, and build and strengthen relationships within our Central Valley community. Each of these goals will not only benefit me, but St. John's as well as we further engage with the community that surrounds us.

I am honored to have been nominated for this program and grateful for the support of the diocese to fund a large portion of the tuition. In addition, I will use some of my continuing education budget, my own personal funds, and a scholarship from ALF itself to cover an additional portion.

However, I still need to raise \$2,000 to support the remaining amount of the tuition and I could use your help! If you are interested in supporting me in this opportunity, please submit a check to the Church with "ALF tuition support" in the memo.

I would also like to request your prayers for me and my cohort as we endeavor to grow as leaders in the Central Valley. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about ALF, the fellowship, or any aspect of the program.



A Message From Deacon Tom

Deacon Tom's Camino Request

Greetings friends! In October of this year, I will be embarking on a long-desired journey – walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain. I'll be making the 60+ mile trek with several friends and former colleagues of Church World Service (www.cwsglobal.org). We are making this journey to raise funds for CWS and its lifesaving work assisting hungry, impoverished, and displaced peoples around the world. As many of you know, I worked for CWS for over 30 years. It's a cause dear to my heart.

I hope to raise \$10,000 before the Camino begins – I'm halfway there. I'd very much appreciate your support in reaching that goal. All funds donated will go directly to Church World Service. I am covering all my own travel expenses. If you wish to contribute, any amount is most welcome; please scan this QR code with your phone or go online to <https://church-world-service.grassrootz.com/cws-camino-2026/tom-hampson>



Thanks so much for considering my request!

Dcn Tom



St. John's Stockton Announcement

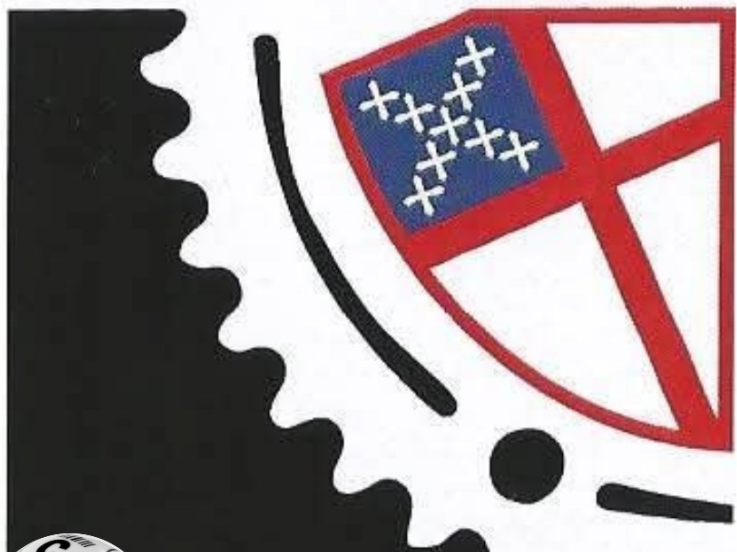
Celebrating 10 years of ministry:



FRIED CHICKEN & BINGO

Saturday, June 13, 4:30 pm - 8 pm

HUB



Join us at St. John's for an evening of fun and yummy food!

Doors open at 4:30, Food served 5 pm, pickup/drive thru available from 5-6 pm. Join us in-person for Bingo, Cake Walk and Raffle Prizes, including a new bike!

\$10 Ticket includes:

Deacon Steve's Fried Chicken,
Cole Slaw, Mac & Cheese,
Soda, Water, Lemonade or Tea
Beer and wine available for purchase.

Tickets available by contacting
stjohnsstockton@gmail.com
316 N. El Dorado, Stockton, CA 95204



ECCO FAMILY CAMP

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

REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 29TH

559-683-8162

ECCO Family Camp

Family Camp begins with dinner on Thursday evening, July 9th and ends after breakfast on Sunday, July 12th.

All prices include lodging, meals from Thursday dinner through Sunday breakfast, and all programming.

Archery, Arts & Crafts, Worship, Hikes in the Woods, 75 foot slip-n-slide, water games, Field Trip to Bass Lake, Campfires, and spending time with old and new friends are all part of the camp, and all activities are optional.

*Some financial support is available; contact Joanne at ecco1@sti.net, or 559-683-8162 to inquire.

Tentative Schedule

Thursday:

5PM Check in
6PM Dinner
7PM Welcome & Games
8PM Compline

Friday:

8AM Breakfast
9-10AM Christian Formation
10-11:45AM Activities
Noon Lunch
1:30-4:30PM Bass Lake
6PM Dinner
7PM Group Games
8PM Compline
9 PM Good Night

Saturday:

7:15AM Yoga
8AM Breakfast
9AM - 11:45AM Activities
Noon Lunch
1:00-3PM Activities
3-4:45PM Water Games
6PM Dinner
7PM Compline/Reflections/
Campfire
9PM Good Night

Sunday:

8AM Breakfast
9AM Check Out
9:30AM Worship