

Northminster Presbyterian Church

“Caring for all with
God’s love and grace.”

315 E. Alvin Drive † Salinas CA 93906
831-449-2717 † northminster.org



MEMORIAL DAY
BBQ &
BOARD GAMES

MONDAY, MAY 26
DETAILS ON BACK PAGE!

Northminster News

Vol. XXIX, No. 5

May 2025

Dear friends,

For my May newsletter article, I want to reflect on the life of a remarkable Christian leader, someone who exemplified what it means to be Christian and to follow the ways and teachings of Christ.

That man died the day after Easter this year. Yes, I’m talking about Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Pope Francis.

He was a Jesuit priest by training. Jesuits have the reputation of being very scholarly, and there are many colleges and universities led by the Jesuits, such as Santa Clara University. Pope Francis has an advanced degrees in philosophy and chemistry.

When he was a parish priest in Argentina, he served the poorest of the poor, and cared for the needy and outcast. When he became Pope in 2023, he continued his humility, choosing to live in a 729 square foot apartment near the people of Rome instead of the ornate papal apartments at the heart of the Vatican. He wore a simple white cassock instead of the elaborate gold-trimmed garments of other popes. When he traveled the streets of Rome, he preferred a simple car to a limousine. “Oh, how I would like a poor Church, and for the poor,” he once remarked. (April 21, 2025, www.bbc.com/news/articles/c98zxx13d3go)

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CALENDAR OF CHURCH EVENTS

Weekly Events

Sundays

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School - Room 11
- 10:00 am Worship Service - Sanctuary/Onlin
- 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship - Ministry Center
- 5:30 pm Youth Connection - Room 24

Mondays

- 12:30 pm Senior Singers Rehearsal - Geneva Rm

Tuesdays

- 7:00 pm Women's Online Bible Study - Zoom

Wednesdays

- 3:30 pm F.L.O.C.K. - Ministry Center
- 4:30 pm Children/Youth Handbells - Bell Rm

Thursdays

- 8:00 am Men's Breakfast - First Awakenings
- 10:00 am Knitting Club - Library

Other Events

May

- 3 8:00-1:00 NEAR Gathering - First Pres Monterey
- 10 3:00 pm Senior Singers Spring Concert
- 11 6:00 pm SHARE Center Meal - 845 E. Laurel Dr.
- 15 Newsletter Deadline
- 17 10:00 am Norton Strand Memorial Service, Reception
- 18 11:00 am Fellowship Potluck
- 18 11:00 am Session Meeting (date change)
- 25 6:00 pm SHARE Center Meal - 845 E. Laurel Dr.
- 26 Office, Daycare, Preschool closed
- 26 11:00 am BBQ & Board Games



Internet: northminster.org
 Facebook: Northminster Presbyterian Church, Salinas
 YouTube: Northminster Presbyterian - Salinas, CA
 Venmo (donations) @northminsterpresbyterian-church

Do we have your email address?
 Contact micki@northminster.org

- 3 Annabelle Gonzalez
- 8 David Baird
- 8 Jannadi Blake
- 8 Andy Rausch
- 12 Jordan Montero
- 15 Lisa Loder
- 16 Rubye Riggs
- 24 Jeff Cuda
- 24 Gerardo Dominguez
- 24 Nancy Palmer
- 30 Joy Lohuis



June Early Birds

- 1 Rick Giffin
- 3 Daniek Blake
- 7 Kristine Abbott
- 7 Aimee Cuda



- 29 Tom & Nanci Crompton. 21st

June Early Birds

No early birds; check full list next month!

* If your name is missing from this list and you would like to add it, please contact the church office.

Our Homebound Friends



- Emma Price - Vista Harden Ranch (Brookdale)
- Ted Selvester - Texas
- Joy Lohuis - Ivy Park (Villa Serra)
- Jean Monarque - Ivy Park
- Dorothy Walker - home

Coming Up:

Come NEAR...

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, Presbytery of San Jose's NEAR (Nurture, Educate, Advocate, Resource) gathering will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Monterey, featuring the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/sjcnear>

Serving Christ-in the Homeless



Northminster partners with the SHARE (Salinas Housing Advancement Resources Education) Center to meet the needs of the homeless by providing and serving dinner for our brothers and sisters on the **second and fourth Sundays, May 11 and 25.** You can help by providing gifts of food for the meal and/or by helping to serve it. **Please bring items to the church by 5:00 pm or by 6:00 pm if bringing to/serving at the Center, 845 E. Laurel Drive.**

Spring Has Sprung
at the
**Senior Singers'
Spring Concert**

**Saturday,
May 10
3:00 pm**
Northminster Sanctuary

A wonderful program of
inspiring sacred and
toe-tapping tunes!!

Donations
welcome!



Remembering Norton

After a period of declining health, our favorite church administrator, ping pong master, godly husband, father, grandfather and Christian man, Norton Strand entered into glory on April 20th, at the age of 98. Norton Kyle Strand will be

remembered during a service at Northminster on Saturday, May 17 at 10:00 am, followed by a reception.

Our condolences go out to sons Jim and Paul, along with other family members, multiple friends and countless contacts made over 98 glorious years. To view his inspiring obituary, you can visit the link below:

<https://www.thecalifornian.com/obituaries/pyrk1153728>

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(See Matthew 14:24-33)

08-05-2013

**YOU'VE PROVEN YOU WON'T DROWN, JESUS,
BUT YOU STILL NEED TO SUIT UP AND
COMPLETE THE REQUESTED DRILLS BEFORE
I CAN PASS YOU**

Fellowship Potluck

Join us after worship **Sunday, May 18** for our monthly gathering. Bring your favorite potluck dish for great, around-the-table greetin' and eatin', just the way Jesus did! If you can't bring a dish to share, still please join us; we love your cooking, but we love YOU more!!





MEMORIAL DAY BBQ & BOARD GAMES

MONDAY
MAY 26

1 1:00 AM PRE-EVENT GAMING
1 2:00 PM BBQ - COALS READY

Games & Fellowship the rest of the day!
Bring your own meat and a side to share!

Vacation Bible School



June 16-20, 1:00-5:00 pm

Entering 1st-6th Grade -- \$75

Games, snacks, Bible stories, crafts and fun!

Hang 'n' Play available 8:00-1:00 pm, \$50

Church Staff / Participants

Pastor Andy Rausch
Organist/Choir Accompanist Claire Vincent
Parish Associate Bill Lane
Daycare Jerrianna, Sue, Ruby, Ale,
. Emely, Elizabeth, Cecilia, Berenice, Yesenia
Executive Assistant Jackie Gash
Treasurer Sue Brockett
Preschool Amanda Robles
Custodian Jesse Perez
Set Up Techs. Tom Folliard, Bob Hynes
Grounds. Bob Hynes, Terry Heffington
Church Secretary. Micki Brown

From the Pastor

continued

In a recent article in the Washington Post, the author wrote that he “eschewed the idea that he was somehow better, wiser and more deserving than his fellow man. His willingness to kneel before the least of us is a lesson in what it means to be great. Francis offered unqualified respect to these individuals, not because they had earned it by words or actions, but because they were human. That’s all that was required.” (Robin Givhan, The Washington Post, April 23, 2025)

It has been a long tradition for the pope to wash the feet of other priests and cardinals as a symbolic representation of Jesus’ washing his disciples’ feet on Maundy Thursday. But not Francis; instead, he knelt at the feet of prisoner, immigrants and even Muslims, gently cleansing and kissing their feet. And he sent representatives from the Vatican into the streets of Rome to minister to the homeless there. He said, “If I had to choose between a wounded Church that goes out on to the streets and a sick, withdrawn Church, I would choose the first.”

(April 21, 2025, www.bbc.com/news/articles/c98zxx13d3go)

Why am I, a Presbyterian minister, reflecting on the life and ministry of the leader of the Roman Catholic Church? Because, I think, we can learn a lot from him.

- To be welcoming;
- To be humble;
- To care for the poor;
- To care for the outcast;
- To eschew ostentation for simplicity.

We are, after all, followers of Christ. We have different ways of approaching the throne of God, and governing our church, but in the end, being a Christian is all about loving God’s creation and the children of God. So I hope a little Pope Francis can rub off on you as we continue following the path of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Your pastor,
Andy