



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
(916) 421-5039  
[www.stlukesac.org](http://www.stlukesac.org)  
[stlukeschurch@att.net](mailto:stlukeschurch@att.net)  
Pastor Carl Hoppman  
[pr.carl@att.net](mailto:pr.carl@att.net)

# News And Views



# 2014

## Pastoral Perspective



Epiphany is the season of celebrating the light of Christ in the world. It is a Greek word meaning “manifestation”, “display”, or “showing”. The season is made up of the several weeks between Christmas and Lent. It begins on January 6 with the celebration of the coming of the wise men who

had followed the star to the manger in Bethlehem. It concludes with the account of the Transfiguration when Jesus appears in His shining glory before Peter, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. In between, Jesus’ miracles and other displays or showings of His divine nature and authority are recounted. Epiphany is a time set aside to remind us and the world that Christ’s light and authority are very present in the world. It is a time when we remember that Christ has overcome the darkness and shines with the light of love and forgiveness in the midst of every evil power associated with our public and very private lives.

On the Day of Epiphany we hear the account of the coming of the wise men. This account has an almost story book quality that has captured the imagination of generations. There are songs and stories that romanticize the journey of these men. We mustn’t, however, let any of this obscure the fact that there is much darkness in the account. In the background, behind the wondrous star and Babe of

Bethlehem lie evil, terror, hatred and the forces of darkness at their worst.

That darkness gathered around the figure of King Herod. Herod was terrified when he heard the wise men ask, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?” Herod was king of the Jews! He perceived Jesus as a horrible threat to his reign. This is the same darkness that can make someone in the family hate a new addition. I remember when I was twelve and the youngest child, my two nephews came to live with our family for two years. I was livid. I was so hateful. I still don’t like to believe some of the mean things I did to them. I perceived them as a horrible threat to my being the center of attention in the family. I wanted to be rid of them. Herod wanted to be rid of Jesus. So he said to the wise men with surgery hypocrisy, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” When the wise men didn’t report back to him, Herod sent soldiers to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem under two years old to be assured he was rid of Jesus.

This episode is just one of many times the darkness railed against Jesus, the light of the world. Throughout His life, Jesus encountered the dark side of humanity and the world. He always continued to shine and was never overcome by it. He continues to shine in the midst of the darkness and overcomes it.

As Christians, we continually struggle with the darkness of our sin and the dark consequences of the sins of others. But we know that Jesus is with us. In His light we have power to stand strong and not be overcome. There are times, to be sure, when the light of Christ seems very dim, times when the darkness seems to be overwhelming us. But through it all, Jesus is there, shining with His light of love and forgiveness. Continue to celebrate and live in that light long after the Christmas lights are taken down and the nativity scenes put away. Then Epiphany and every season will be filled with the light of Christ—the light no darkness can overcome.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,

*Pastor Carl*



**The Presidents' Corner**

Greetings as we begin a new year. We had a good time of sharing and eating at the annual congregation meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We

elected/re-elected some officers and board chairpersons, passed the budget for the new year, and just had a good time in fellowship.

We really want to thank Larry Dockter, Holly Hoppman and Karen Linfor for their service over the last two or four years. They provided great leadership and dedication to their respective Boards or function. The election results and your returning/continuing council members include:

Treasurer – Carolyn Andrews

Secretary – Karen Linfor

Financial Secretary – Ron Webb

Worship & Music – Janette Payne

Education – Missy Jensen

Evangelism – Pat Webb

Property – Clarence Korhonen

WELA representative – Holly Hoppman

Youth – Kirsten Ireton

Continuing members are:

President - Bob Behr

Vice President - Howard Triebwasser

Community Concerns - Al Moser

Finance - Betty Englund

As we begin the new year we ask that you please consider sharing your talents or learning something new by volunteering to assist us in one way or many ways this next year.

Next month we will have annual reports of the various Boards' activities for 2013 and looking ahead. I look forward to working with you in 2014.

See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

*Bob Behr*



Congratulations to Greg and Amy Behr at the birth of the second child, Dominic Anthony who was born on November 29, 2013. He weighed 8lb 5oz and was 21 inches. He has an excited big sister, Olivia and very proud Grandpa, Bob Behr.



We welcome Aiden Kiser into the family of Christ. Aiden was baptized on December 22nd.

His parents are Eric and Christina Kiser. Sponsors are Elijah Trinidad and Richelle Alagaban. Proud Grandparents Duane and Marlene Kiser and Great Grandparents Erwin Kiser and Betty Olson.



### W-ELCA January Meeting

Don't forget that the first W-ELCA meeting of 2014 will be on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am in Room 5. Bring your favorite potluck dish and sign-up in the church entry so we know how many to set-up for. We are gathering adult scarves, hats, gloves, men's socks & underwear, new & gently used towels & blankets and tarps for the Union Gospel Mission. We will be discussing the 2013 Benevolence so this is a meeting you don't want to miss. See you there!

Hope you didn't miss our December potluck. It was a wonderful time of sharing with each other as well as enjoying some great food. The Evangelism Board appreciated everyone who helped in any way. Special thanks to Kristen Ireton for all her extra help in the kitchen and to Peggy Moser for taking charge of the dishwasher.



### Annual Crab Feed March 1, 2014

The Crab Feed tickets are available now! Please, see me following church or other events or contact me to make arrangements. If you want, you can check out tickets to sell to your family and friends. If you check out tickets please return unsold tickets, payments and stubs me as soon as possible, but no later than February 16.

Ken Lentsch  
427-9188  
kalentsch@att.net



### Monday, January 6

Please join us at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Room (Sunday School wing) for our Epiphany Breakfast and Service. The Evangelism Board will provide breakfast casseroles and beverages. Following the breakfast, Pastor Carl will share a special message about Epiphany.

Please sign up in the entry way so that we will know how many plan to attend. If you would like to bring fruit, muffins, coffee cake or nut breads, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet. We welcome any nativity scenes that you would like to bring and share.



### Thank You Ofelia!

The St. Luke's W-ELCA Board wishes to give a heartfelt thank you to Ofelia Ojeda for being our Sunshine Lady. Ofelia sends out birthday cards to all the ladies of St. Luke's and does so with such a warm and loving heart. She is also always willing to make her wonderful cookies whenever called upon. Thank you Ofelia for bringing such joy to everyone!



## Diner's Groups Sign Up Now for New Groups

If you missed out being a part of our small diner's groups last year, you have another opportunity. These groups are a great way to enjoy good food and get to know others in our church family. Please sign up in the entry way this month to join in the fun. New groups will be formed and will get together for meals or activities in February, March and April. Meals in homes may be potluck or the host(s) might provide them. If a meal is in a restaurant, it is understood that the group will split the check. If you have any questions, please call Triss or Carl Hoppman (714-3011) or Pat or Ron Webb (685-6345).

In loving service,  
*Pat Webb*, Evangelism Chair



Our prayers are with Pat Webb and family at the death of her Aunt Tina Kerschman, who is now at rest with her Heavenly Father.

Our sympathy goes out to Jean Siegel, sister of Elizabeth Korhonen, whose husband Tom was welcomed home by his Heavenly Father. Services were held at East Lawn Mortuary Folsom Blvd. on December 12.

Thoughts and prayers go out to the Jon, Laura (Weaver) and Paul Linfor. Laura's Father, Gary Weaver, is now in his Heavenly Home at peace.

Prayers and condolences to the family of Betty Hansen who has gone to be with her Heavenly Father.

Our prayers are with the family of Astrid Lynn who has gone home to be with her Heavenly Father.



## Bad News About Someone Else

Found among papers left by Caroline Kiser:

The church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our church's members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years. Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers to the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person—sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else.

Now, Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but WHO is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help, REMEMBER—we can't depend on Someone Else.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S  
REPORT  
NOVEMBER  
2013**

**OFFERINGS (General  
Fund Only):**

	<b>This Month</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Total Offering</b>	\$18,008	\$180,361
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	\$364	-\$5,426
	2.1%	-3.1%
<b>Compared to 2012</b>	\$1,734	\$6,924
	10.7%	4.00%
<b>Projected Year-End Balance</b> (Compared to budget)		
<b>Contributors:</b>		
<b>2013</b> (Current Year)	100	92 <sup>Aver</sup>
<b>2012</b> (Last Year)	87	88 <sup>Aver</sup>

Note: Positive values (no +/- sign) means **above**; negative values means **below**.

**Other Special**

**Gifts:**

a) Sunday School

\$20.00

b) Flowers \$180.00

*Ron Webb*

Financial Secretary



- The 2014 Budget was approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, December 8th.

- A new slate of Officers and Board chairs were elected at the Annual Congregational meeting as well.

- o Carolyn Andrews as Treasurer
  - o Karen Linfor as Secretary
  - o Ron Webb as Financial Secretary
  - o Clarence Korhonen as Property Board Chair
  - o Pat Webb as Evangelism Board Chair
  - o Janette Payne as Worship and Music Board Chair
  - o Kirsten Ireton as Youth Board Chair
  - o Missy Jensen as Education Board Chair
  - o Epiphany Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 6th, 2014 in the Fellowship Room (Room 5).
  - o Sign ups for the next Diner's Groups are available.
  - o Council approved two motions for the Property Board to move forward with two projects:
    1. To procure and install weather-sensing devices into the sprinkler system. The cost to be approximately \$440, then offset by potential rebates, and to come from the Property Board's general budget.
    2. To restore water to the church facilities, with the cost not exceeding \$10,000 coming from the Reserve Funds.
    3. Christmas Promise was a great success. We collected 87 gifts, plus \$410 in cash and gift cards.
- The next Strategic Planning meeting is set for Saturday, January 18th.

The dates for the next two Crab Feed planning meetings are Sunday, January 19th and Sunday,



## BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

January 1	Johnathan Dockery
January 2	Shirley Clark
January 2	Kathryn Felgenhauer
January 3	Jacob Kiser
January 3	Andrew Roberts
January 5	Nick Moser
January 6	Pat Hamilton
January 9	Betty Litz
January 10	Karen Linfor
January 11	Melissa Jensen
January 12	Shirley Martsch
January 13	Deanna Kay Dockter
January 16	Walter Arndt
January 18	Wesley Lester
January 19	Dennis Fischer
January 24	Stella Loveless
January 26	Susan Landaker
January 29	Amy Franklin
January 30	Bernie Johansen
January 30	Joe Payne
January 31	Kirsten Ireton



**The 2014 Flower Chart is up and available for sign-ups.** If you have a special event or remembrance you would like to acknowledge with flowers this is your opportunity to do so. The cost is \$20.00 and there are envelopes next to the Flower Chart Board. You can then place the envelope in the offering plate.



I can think of no better New Year's resolution than to read the Bible. I am leading three groups through the Bible during 2014 with daily readings and weekly discussions. Daily Bible Readings starting January 5, 2014 with Psalm 79 are available in the church entryway. Groups meet starting January 5 on Sundays at 9:15 AM in Room 3, Tuesdays at 10:15 AM in the church office and Thursdays at 7:00 PM at the Hoppman Home (8953 Royal Gate Way, Elk Grove, CA 95624). Put Bible reading on your 2014 calendar and look forward to growing in relationship with God and others in your reading group.

*Pastor Carl*



Our Choir is open to all who enjoy praising the Lord through song. Rehearsals are Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the choir loft. We are very blessed to have Brooke Barr as our director. She is a great teacher and an inspiring leader. She is very encouraging and affirming to those in the choir. We will start the winter/spring choir season on Wednesday, January 8. We'd love to have you join us.

# **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

## **Acolytes**

Jan. 5 Daniel Encinas  
 Jan. 12 Ryan Johansen  
 Jan. 19 Amber Mansfield  
 Jan. 26 Joshua Bell

## **Altar Care**

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin  
 10:30 AM Barbara Manlapig, Deanna Dockter

## **Communion Server**

Ken Lentsch, Debi Lentsch, Connie Reule

## **Counters**

Jan. 5 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
 Jan. 12 Don Schell, Bob Behr  
 Jan. 19 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
 Jan. 26 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

## **Greeters**

Jan. 5 Justin, Laura, Aiyana and Amelia Tice  
 Jan. 12  
 Jan. 19  
 Jan. 26

## **Head Ushers**

8:15 AM Ron Franklin  
 10:30 AM Craig Eckels

## **Prayer Leaders**

Jan. 5 Ken Lentsch  
 Jan. 12 Alison Thomas  
 Jan. 19 Mary Harris  
 Jan. 26 Holly Hoppman

## **Psalm Leaders**

Jan. 5 Elizabeth Wilson  
 Jan. 12 Sierra Etchison  
 Jan. 19 Aiyana Tice  
 Jan. 26 Amber Mansfield

## **Readers 8:15 AM**

Jan. 5 Eric Linblade  
 Jan. 12 Phil Petersen  
 Jan. 19 Christiana Wilson  
 Jan. 26 Kelly Boyer

## **Readers 10:30 AM**

Jan. 5 David Saxby  
 Jan. 12 Marlene Kiser  
 Jan. 19 Tracy Etchison  
 Jan. 26 Triss Hoppman

## **Refreshments**

Jan. 5 Ed and Kirsten Ireton, Lynn Gavia  
 Jan. 12 Mack and Carole Vance  
 Jan. 19 Paul Maki and Chona Sison  
 Jan. 26 Jerry and Carol Carney

## **Visitors Gifts**

Jan. 5 Pauline Arndt  
 Jan. 12 Pat Webb  
 Jan. 19 Carole Vance  
 Jan. 26 Walt Arndt

## **Welcome Leaders**

Jan. 5 Peggy Moser  
 Jan. 12 Pat Webb  
 Jan. 19 Chet Madison  
 Jan. 26 Carolyn Andrews





**St. Luke's Lutheran Church**  
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Sacramento, CA 95823

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 **EPIPHANY**  
Breakfast and Service  
**Monday, January 6**