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News And Views

2014 Annual Report Issue

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Pastoral Perspective



Pastor's 2014 Annual Report

2014 was another awesome year in ministry at St. Luke's. The Lord was at work mightily to accomplish His work through us to His glory.

Bob Behr finished his second term as president of our congregation. His leadership skills gave a tremendous boost to the efficiency and effectiveness of our ministry. He kept everyone working together wonderfully. He kept us focused on our mission, having been instrumental in formulating it at a leadership workshop some years ago. As you might know, our constitution requires those elected to leadership positions in the congregation to take a year off after serving two consecutive two-year terms. Consequently, Bob is not able to continue as our president for 2015. We look forward to announcing very soon who will be serving in this vital position.

The Lord provided a powerful answer to prayer concerning our Confirmation ministry in 2014. For the last several years I had been taking youth through preparation for Confirmation individually or in very small groups. The youth involved did very well in this situation, but I have really missed the fun and excitement of a larger group experience in Confirmation class. I am de-

lighted to report that in 2014 a class of seven sixth through eighth graders started the two-year preparatory class for Confirmation together. We have been having a great time meeting each Sunday after worship and really digging into the Bible. I am writing some new material for the class each week in order to give the youth a strong working understanding and acceptance of the Bible message for their lives and salvation. Thanks to Kirsten Ireton's willing and dedicated service, the youth are also taking part in regular fun and service activities. If you know of any sixth through eighth graders who would like to join us, please let me know and we will get them in the group.

The Lord also blessed our Sunday School ministry in 2014. Several of the children's parents, coordinated by Tracy Etchison and Debi Lentsch, took on the important task of teaching Sunday School for our children. We found some wonderful "One Room School House" material that allows us to teach the children together. The parents have given themselves to this ministry. I am especially proud of them, as this is the first time some of them have led in this way. They are doing a great job. Sunday School for the children is held during 10:30 AM Worship. I dismiss the children to class after my time with them in Worship. If you know of any children not taking part in a Sunday School, we have a top quality program available for them.

Bible study for adults flourished during 2014. It had been my dream for many years to

guide folks through reading the Bible from cover to cover. That dream has now become a reality. About forty people took part in daily readings and weekly discussions of the Bible throughout 2014. We will finish reading the Bible together in June of this year. The longer I am around, the more I realize that if the Bible comes alive to folks, they come alive to the Lord. If there is to be a capstone to my years in ministry, this is it. I'd be happy to lead another group through the Bible if there are folks willing to make this commitment.

Worship, of course, was so exciting under the musical leadership of Brooke Barr and Jane Fannucci. During 2014 we introduced an order for worship using contemporary music. It was very well received. It was a real treat to have Jane play guitar and flute in addition to organ when we used contemporary worship music. Brooke continued to lead our choir with great spirituality and skill. The Choir Christmas Cantata was truly one of the best ever. We even got to hear Brooke sing a beautiful solo in it. Jacob Wilson continues to provide inspiring music on the digital piano at 8:15 AM Worship.

Judy Saxby and Morgan Furry led the children's choir to new heights in 2014. The children rehearsed and sang regularly at Worship during the year. They did an especially great job as part of the Christmas Cantata.

Many other folks helped make 2014 a marvelous year in many areas of ministry at St. Luke's. Enjoy reading through the annual reports in this special issue of the News & Views that will highlight some of what the Lord accomplished through us. Thank you very much for the privilege of serving as your pastor. It is a dream come true to get to share in ministry in such a vibrant setting with so many folks who give their hearts to the Lord.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,

Pastor Carl

President's Annual Report 2014

I have had the opportunity to serve as the congregation's president over the past four years and have seen firsthand the energy and commitment of the church staff and many church members. We are truly blessed to have a gifted pastor, music director, and secretary who are all ready to go the "extra mile" while leading us forth in our mission. Those who have served as Council members over these years have been the heart and soul for keeping us true to our mission and for maintaining our facilities and abilities to reach out to the community. All of our members should take pride in what we have been able to accomplish while maintaining our commitment to try to be even better in "spreading, serving, and sharing."

Highlights over the past years include the successful implementation of the Blumhardt Memorial projects, the encouragement provided during the mentoring program for Taehyun Ahn in his initial journey towards leadership in the Lutheran Church, a focus on future or strategic planning for St. Luke's (see later summary), and the continued growth in community outreach .

In this issue of the News and Views you will read about what each Board accomplished in support of our mission. It is important to note that we all have had the opportunity to be active in sharing our talents and participating in many varied activities. Without the support and participation of everyone, we are unable to truly make a difference in worship experiences, educational opportunities, facility upkeep, and community involvement. I thank all who have offered their time and talents to make St. Luke's a better place for all.

Strategic Planning

One of the efforts over the last year or so has been an effort to concentrate on strategic planning for the future of St. Luke's. One of the duties of the Congregation Council, in accordance with the Church Constitution, Chapter 12 (C12.04), is to "do long range planning, to set goals and priorities, and

to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals." As such the Congregation Council met in October 2013 and January 2014 with the following Objective:

The objective of strategic planning is to evaluate where we are in meeting our mission and to determine how we can meet or continue to meet our mission in the future (next 5-10 years). This includes, but is not limited to, determining strengths and weaknesses, identifying known challenges that may or may not allow us to meet the mission, and "thinking outside the box" for alternatives to meet some of these challenges. At the forefront of this effort was our

Mission Statement: *"Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's call to Spread the good news, Serve those in need, and Share the victory of Jesus Christ throughout the world."*

October 2013 Meeting

The initial effort dealt with the question: "How can we keep 'spreading, serving, and sharing' based on our known strengths and weaknesses and the known and unknown challenges that we might face?" The first meeting began with a review of our Mission Statement led by Pastor and how it was developed.

The group then developed a listing of strengths and weaknesses in a free flow process that recorded strengths and weaknesses on large paper boards without specific discussion. Once all of the elements were recorded the group discussed the various strengths and weaknesses as they relate to our mission statement. The following list, not in any priority order, was the result of this exercise:

Strengths		Weaknesses	
Serving shut-ins	Tradition	Youth programs	Confirmation commitment
Caring at points of need	Warm and caring congregation	Youth participation	Developing leadership
Strong core membership	Excellent pastor	Aging membership	Incorporating new members
Strong music program	Community outreach	Connecting with current organization	Advertising
Open door policy for group meetings	Excellent facilities	Outdated Communication	Inconsistent attendance
Commitment of boards	Very good relative diversity	Full-time support - custodial/maintenance	Aging facilities
Excellent Bible studies	Sunday school	Same people doing majority of tasks	Board doers vs. Managers
Growing young families	Diversity of worship	Expectation of Constant giving	Location - member issues differ from community
Incredible volunteers	Faithful financial stewardship	Community outreach	
Location - serve needs	Women's group		

Some elements were listed as both a strength and weakness. Example: Strength - Strong core membership; Weakness - Same people doing majority of tasks; Strength - Excellent facilities; Weakness - Aging facilities.

This was followed by a discussion of potential challenges as we move forward: Examples - inevitable upcoming retirement of Pastor Carl; adapting to changes in communication media; being a "magnet" church with most members residing outside of the church community resulting in low participation at activities during the week; existing property and use; developing leadership; overcoming reality or perception of inadequate support from the Synod for positive planning.

This planning meeting was the first effort to try to quantify or qualify our existing condition and how we may want to move forward in the near future. It was recognized that this was a start and that a follow-on meeting would be held in January 2014 to continue discussion and development of possible directions to head or areas in which to apply emphasis.

As a matter of note, there were a few inquiries since this initial meeting about what was going on and some ideas/suggestions for moving forward. One was to be less formal in worship (music, wearing robes). Another was to outreach to folks

who were active and now don't attend to try to determine what made them leave – is there some common trend that St. Luke's should potentially review if it is "driving folks away?"

January 2014 Meeting

This meeting reviewed the discussions of the first meeting and focused on several challenges that were perceived as being important to address for looking forward to the life of the congregation.

Worship

The discussion centered on worship attendance and looking for answers to questions regarding why folks don't come to church as often or have stopped coming altogether. What do other churches offer that draw people more regularly? How can we better reach out to folks through worship? The group discussed whether it would be beneficial to look into what other churches offer as an alternative to the Lutheran traditional service. St Luke's has a strong traditional service but a more contemporary service seems to appeal to the younger age group and St. Luke's has a new group of young families. After much discussion, it was decided that we couldn't just jump into having an alternative service without getting some feedback from churches that have initiated a more contemporary service. It was felt that it was important to learn from others' experiences and not jump in too fast to change our service schedules, tradition, etc.

A discussion with other churches revealed that each church, over time, changed one scheduled service to a contemporary service with a core group to provide music and leadership. At St. Luke's this may present challenges to designate a specific service for traditional or contemporary at the risk of losing current membership and attendees. As an alternative, a more contemporary liturgy was implemented with the hope of getting feedback on effectiveness without dedicating one service as traditional or liturgical and one contemporary. Review of any comments will assist in this evaluation.

Communication

The various forms for communicating were discussed based on the movement to social media. The church's Facebook and website were seen as potential means to spread the news about who St. Luke's is and what St. Luke's is doing. These media provide an easy access for those potentially browsing the web for a new church. How can we make it more attractive, keep it updated, have the various Boards take ownership of their information, and increase commitment to incorporating the electronic media into the formal communication process? Many in attendance at the meeting were not aware of the site and contents.

To formalize the communications mechanisms, a group was formed and arranged for updating the website to make it more current and more easily accessed for updating. The website update process is near completion with only a few updates to information remaining.

Facility

A review of the strengths and weaknesses showed our facilities appearing in both lists. Discussion centered around whether the facility met the needs of the church, uses of the facility, maintenance issues or upkeep, the potential need for a volunteer facility manager and maintenance person, and the location of the church within the community. Most comments provided positive feedback to include, location and meeting the needs of the church and community. There was a general consensus that the Facility Use Committee needs to be re-assembled to include oversight responsibilities and perhaps a facility manager. Some physical restrictions to the facility and its use were also raised.

Efforts to re-form the facility use committee were challenged by finding volunteers to chair or fulfill the duties. A review of finding a volunteer facility manager was also not accomplished based on the same challenges.

Leadership

This area was primarily discussed in light of how we grow church leadership, discover people's strengths in this regard, and find ways to get people involved in the church leadership areas. The church has many "doers" but sometimes they are the same people that do many things. How do we spread the word and get more folks to commit their talents to the mission of the church and get them involved without throwing them into tough challenges right away. In other words, getting folks involved and letting them grow into future leadership positions. To incorporate new members the current procedure is for Pastor to have initial contact and then pass along any interest shown by the member to the respective Board for possible follow-up. We need to follow through and invite new participants.

Youth

Efforts are underway to re-energize the youth program through new leadership and several interested youth. This work in progress needs everyone's support to provide a place and program that appeal to the youth so that they can identify with St. Luke's as their church.

Planning Summary

The consensus remained that we need to get on top of a few things to prepare St Luke's for meeting the challenges ahead. It is anticipated that future planning meetings/efforts will continue to address the challenges facing St. Luke's. Additional meetings in 2014 were attempted but due to scheduled activities and personal commitments, no further special meetings were held. This should be a continuing area of emphasis for future Church Councils.

Conclusion

We all continue to experience surprises and challenges in our lives as we go about our usual routines. I maintain there is no better routine than attending church every chance we get to share our successes, get uplifted when we face personal challenges, and pray together for a better world for all.

I trust your year 2015 will be one of enrichment, involvement, and dedication to serving our Lord and Savior.

Bob Behr

Property Board Annual Report—2014

St. Luke's Bylaws specifies that the Property Board is responsible for the "general custodial management of this congregation's property and facilities". These responsibilities include the care, maintenance, and improvement of St. Luke's equipment, furnishings, buildings, and grounds.

The funds to accomplish these activities are received from the General Budget and Property Board (P.B.) Special Funds. The P.B. Special Funds, which are critical for maintaining and improving the facilities, are generated by the net proceeds of the annual Crab Feed and Fireworks Booth. Your support for these fund-raiser activities is greatly appreciated.

In addition to the normal, routine maintenance efforts, the Property Board completed the following efforts in 2014. Unless otherwise noted, the funds were provided by the General Budget.

Management

Participated in the City's Water Conservation Program and submitted incentive rebate claims; received a \$624 rebate payment.

Procured various needed furniture, tools, and supplies.

Hose reel and 100-foot hose; \$140.

Four additional, light-duty folding tables; \$345.

Three heavy-duty extension cords; \$163.

Two floor mats for the Education Wing entrances; \$101

Deposited money into the "Parking Lot Reserve" account for resealing the parking lot on a scheduled basis; \$2,000, P.B. Special Funds. This work is required every five to seven years to maintain the parking lot.

Conducted an "All Members Work Day" on two

Saturday mornings, during which minor tasks were accomplished. Typical Work Day tasks in 2014 were picking up trash and debris, washing windows, spraying Round Up, fastening loose pews, cleaning hard surfaces, cleaning gutters, and other similar tasks.

Prepared and submitted a draft description of the Property Board duties and responsibilities for use in the St. Luke's website update.

Developed and made recommendations regarding the estimated funds required in 2015 for the Property Board General Budget sub-accounts.

Maintenance

Replaced the faucet and repaired the drain for a kitchen sink; \$105.

Replaced the filters for the furnace and ice maker; \$196.

Replaced the 2-inch, main sprinkler valve for the park area east of the parking lot; \$124.

Directed the St. Luke's landscape contractor to mow the tall grass and weeds in the non-irrigated areas, as required by the City; costs for two mowings were \$500. This work is not included in the landscape contract, as the contract only covers work performed on a monthly basis.

Hired an electrician to repair the exterior lighting system, which would not turn off during the day; \$198.

Directed the St. Luke's janitorial contractor to strip and wax the following floors. This work is not included in the day-to-day janitorial contract.

Multi-Purpose Room and Kitchen; \$440, P.B. Special Funds.

Schultz Hall Addition; \$198.

Rooms 3, 4, and 5 and the hallway of the Education Wing; \$458, P.B. Special Funds.

Replaced two sewer clean-out boxes; \$40.

Hired a tile setter to replace about 100 square feet of floor tile in the Schultz Hall Addition restrooms; cost \$476 (tile and labor), P.B. Special Funds. The tile was damaged by a broken water line and resulting flood that occurred late last year.

Through an agreement with the City, repaired the sidewalk along Center Parkway; \$1,502, P.B.

Special Funds. The work was performed by a contractor for the City.

Hired a technician to repair an Education Wing furnace; \$499.

Vandalism/Burglaries

Hired a technician to repair the AC unit for the Schultz Hall Addition; \$287, P.B. Special Funds. The unit was vandalized several years ago, but had not been repaired.

Removed the exterior outlets and installed covers to prevent the homeless people from using the outlets for space heaters, crock posts, charging phones, etc.; \$25.

Purchased an exterior light for the east end of the Multi-Purpose Room and hired an electrician to install; \$348 (fixture and electrician), P.B. Special Funds. The light was relocated to a higher elevation, because it has been broken several times by vandalism.

Replaced six broken windows caused by vandalism and burglaries.

Small restroom, Education Wing; \$42.

ADA Restroom, two incidents; \$256.

Office, two incidents; \$171.

Classroom, Education Wing; \$213.

Repaired other damage caused by vandalism and burglaries.

P.B. Shed (damaged vent); \$38.

Old Shed (broken lock); no cost.

Schultz Hall Furnace Room (door guard); \$13.

Replaced two, stolen heavy-duty extension cords; \$117.

Notified the police and St. Luke's insurance company that a parking lot light was knocked over and destroyed by vandalism. Currently, the Board is seeking bids to replace the pole and lighting fixture.

Prepared and filed eight Police Reports, one for each incident of vandalism or burglary; no cost. The eight reports filed do not include two reports prepared by the police.

Improvements

Hired a landscape contractor to remove two

large trees in the Center Parkway lawn; \$2,500, P.B. Special Funds.

Hired an electrician to install six additional outlets in Schultz Hall; \$960, P.B. Special Funds.

Installed a hand railing for the exit door in the sanctuary overflow room; \$10 (installation hardware only). The railing was donated by the Korhonen family. Thank you.

Installed a new exterior light fixture for the exit door in the sanctuary overflow room; \$174.

Procured and installed replacement speakers for Schultz Hall; \$802, P.B. Special Funds. The Board sends a special "thank you" to Craig Eckels, who greatly assisted in this project.

Employed a HVAC firm to improve the cooling in the kitchen; \$1,650, P.B. Special Funds. This project consisted of installing a switch to over-ride the AC thermostat and an exhaust fan.

Hired a firm to furnish and install blinds in Schultz Hall; \$338, P.B. Special Funds.

Managed the procurement and installation of an ornamental iron walkway gate for the garden area adjacent to the sanctuary sliding glass doors. The gate is a memorial to Ruth Heaton and was funded thorough Ruth's memorial funds.

At the request from the Evangelism Board, assembled and anchored four tables for the Courtyard; \$313 (anchoring hardware only). The tables are a memorial to Ruth Heaton and were funded thorough Ruth's memorial funds, including a portion of the installation.

In 2014, the Property Board was very busy, but blessed – much was accomplished. The Board greatly appreciates the continuing support received throughout the year. Thank you.

In closing, I thank the 2014 Board members – Jerry Carney, Jack Fenske, Ed Ireton, and Bruce Kiser – for their dedication and hours of hard work.

Clarence Korhonen
Property Board Chair

SLY (St. Luke's Youth) Year in Review

The SLY 2014 year got started in June with a fun kick-off at Leatherby's followed by a day of fun at Miwok Park. Several youth and adults joined in the fun and played Frisbee and volleyball while enjoying the sun. The summer continued the fun with swimming at the Korhonen's house later in June. While we didn't do any more activities like we had anticipated we still kept in contact by sitting in the back row at church. In September, we kicked off the fall by helping with the God's Work, Our Hands service project. A number of youth sorted backpacks, pens and pencils before the event and then they helped fill the backpacks too. What a fun way to give back to our community. In October a couple youth walked in the annual CROP Walk around downtown Sacramento. While there were more adults than youth we still had a lot of fun for a worthwhile cause. Our annual pumpkin bread fundraiser was a huge success thanks to all the generous donations raising over \$350 for youth activities. As the year came to a close we went to play Laser Tag to celebrate our group's accomplishments. We hope everyone will continue to keep the youth of our church in their prayers in 2015 and appreciate your support this past year.

In Christ,

Kirsten Ireton
Youth Board President

Community Concerns 2014 Annual Report

2014 was a very good year for Community Concerns we accomplished many things.

- First of all was the Winter Sanctuary. It was very well received and all the participants were extremely grateful. They were also asking if we would be doing it next year.

- We had great involvement from the congregation on collecting school supplies for Mack Elementary and Parkway Elementary schools. The schools were overwhelmed by the amount donated. Thank you to all of you who donated school supplies and to Mack Vance and Pastor who helped in delivering the school supplies.
- The clothing exchange was well received and we had several families exchanging clothing over the year and it appears to be growing. The need is great and we hope to do more in 2015.
- We also made several deliveries to St. John's Shelter and The Gospel Mission, where the donations were well received.

For 2015 we hope to do even more, thanks to our congregation for all of your support.

Al Moser
Community Concerns Chair

EVANGELISM BOARD 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

This year we were delighted to welcome three new members, Walt Arndt, Joyce Jensen, and Robin Zoesch, to serve on our board.

We got off to a great start in January with our annual Epiphany breakfast and worship service on January 6, in Schultz Hall. This is always a very special time of fellowship and learning more about the special part that the wise men played when God's son, Jesus, was revealed to the world.

Our Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday on March 5 with our first Lenten soup supper (hosted by W-ELCA) and Holy Communion worship service. Five more soup suppers (hosted by our boards, church council and the congregation) and worship services followed. We enjoyed many delicious soups, breads and desserts each Wednesday. The Lenten dramas each week gave us insight into

how several Biblical people were affected by their relationship with Jesus.

Carol Carney and Ron Webb co-chaired the Easter Sunday breakfast. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast of French toast, scrambled eggs, ham, fruit, sweet rolls, coffee and juice. Special thanks to Carol, Ron and all those who helped with set-up, cooking, serving and clean-up to help make our Easter a great celebration.

Our summer months were highlighted with our annual Father's Day Pie and Ice Cream Social and our very popular annual Root Beer and Orange Soda Float Sunday.

To celebrate the beginning of our Sunday School and adult Bible study classes, we joined with the Community Concerns, Education and Youth Boards for the annual Congregational BBQ picnic and God's Work, Our Hands Project. Ed and Kirsten Ireton did a wonderful job cooking all the hot dogs and hamburgers and there were lots of delicious salads to share.

A special part of the day's events included filling over 100 backpacks with all the school supplies that the congregation donated during the summer. The filled backpacks were donated to the Charles Mack and Parkway Elementary schools.

In October, we celebrated Reformation Sunday with our Annual Heritage Potluck. This potluck is a favorite of many as it is a chance to try so many delicious family favorites and dishes representing one's heritage. Pastor Carl presented a challenging quiz on Martin Luther and the Reformation that helped us to better understand why this day is so important.

In December, we hosted our last potluck of the year as part of the annual meeting. Thank you to W-ELCA for the very special Christmas table decorations and to everyone who brought food, helped set up, serve and clean up.

Outreach activities this year included the continuation of our small dining groups and a Saturday lunch at Black Bear Diner.

Adding to the enjoyment of our after service refreshment time are the beautiful new permanent inner courtyard tables and umbrellas so generously

donated by Paul Heaton in loving memory of his wife, Ruth.

Also new this year are our permanent magnetic name tags and a magnetic name tag board made by Jack Fenske. These have been very well received and many have said they make it so much easier to get to know each other.

We also worked with others in launching a new user-friendly church website, www.slelca.org, that will provide up-to-date information about who we are and our services and activities.

Something new in the N&V this year are the new member interviews submitted by Robin Zoesch and Joyce Jensen.

New members now receive a welcome tote bag at the time they join. Thank you to Dorothy Haney for making the handmade crosses for the bags.

Robin organized Soul Stitchers, a group who gets together the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, to crochet, knit, or work on other craft projects. Several comfort wraps have already been completed and will be given to those who need a special hug.

We continue to join Pastor Carl in his Tuesday visitations of those who are ill, in need of a visit or find it difficult to attend regular worship services. The 3rd Sunday of each month we join Pastor Carl for a worship service at the Commons in Elk Grove. It is a wonderful opportunity to sing, share and worship with these special seniors.

All that was accomplished this year would not be possible if I didn't have such dedicated board members. I am so blessed to have Carolyn Andrews, Pauline and Walt Arndt, Kelly Boyer, Joyce Jensen, Carole Vance and Robin Zoesch working with me. Thank you also to Pat Hamilton, coordinator, for making sure that we have greeters every Sunday to welcome everyone as they come to worship. Special thanks to Pastor Carl for his continuing guidance and support.

In loving service,
Pat Webb

Evangelism Board Chair

Finance Board 2014 Annual Report

This year, we welcomed Carolyn Andrews as Treasurer and Joe Payne as a board member.

Items discussed/actions taken during the year included:

- Church management software was replaced.
- Discussed the disposition of proceeds from fund raisers.
- A checking account was established for money in the Special Funds Account. The money was formerly maintained in a money-market account. Moving it to a regular checking account makes for easier accounting when checks need to be written from Special Funds.
- A Continuing Resolution to define the "Reserve Account".

- The need for Sunday Counters.

The Finance Board made the following recommendations:

- Recommended that Church Council approve the posting of rebates received back to the accounts that the original payment was paid from.
- Recommended that the Church Council approve the transferring of \$735.67 (monthly) from the checking account to the Reserve Fund Account until the Reserve Account attains a balance of \$25,000.
- Recommendation to Church Council pertaining to the 2015 Budget.

Board Chair:
Betty J. Englund

W-ELCA (Women of the ELCA) 2014 Annual Report

W-ELCA was blessed in many ways in 2014. With everyone's support, W-ELCA had a lot of exciting opportunities to share of our time, talents, and resources this past year. At our first meeting of 2014 the Women of the ELCA took a collection of scarves, hats, socks, towels, underwear, and blan-

kets for the Union Gospel Mission, approved \$3700 in 2013 benevolence distribution, and reviewed our 2014 Yearbook.

At our February meeting we celebrated Valentine's Day and took a collection for the Elk Grove Food Bank. In March we had celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a potato bar, supporting Chicks in Crisis with a collection of baby items for young mothers. In April we had a general meeting and hosted the Passover Lamb Dinner on Maundy Thursday. We celebrated Mother's Day in May with a collection for St. John's Program for Real Change. Over the summer we participated in the God's Work Our Hands. collection of schools supplies for the elementary schools in our area.

Our biggest events of the year were Mega Bunco and our Fall Festival. We had just over 100 people come together for a pasta dinner and a fun evening of Mega Bunco in June, where we collected items for our local SPCA. In October we held our annual Fall Festival and Family Fun Day. We hosted many local vendors and community members for a day of yard sales, food, and sharing. At the end of the day the Salvation Army brought a truck and we were able to donate all of the left over white elephant items.

We finished up 2014 with a general meeting in November, we were took a collection of non-perishable food items for the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership. Our Thankoffering Service was a great success along with the Pie Social following the Thanksgiving Eve service. In December we got together to celebrate Christmas with singing and lunch and had the opportunity to collect gifts for 3 families in need of support this past holiday season; two families through Christmas Promise and one family identified within our own church family.

Many thanks go to everyone who made 2014 so successful for the Women of the ELCA. Because of the generous support of so many and our successful events this past year we are able to donate over \$4500 in benevolence opportunities to organizations both locally and internationally. I am continuously impressed by the generosity of our

congregation. The volunteers for our various events, the donors who give either monetarily or in kind gifts, and those of you who were able to support us by attending any of our events made a meaningful difference and we thank you!

I would be remiss if I did not thank our WELCA Board: Katie Iniguez, Alison Thomas, Connie Ruele, Peggy Moser, Pat Webb, Linda Duffek, and Karen Linfor. I am blessed to have such a strong support system. I would also like to thank Ofelia Ojeda for being such a diligent Sunshine Lady, making sure birthday cards go out on time all year long. Finally, my gratitude also is extended to the Comfort Committee led by Pauline Arndt for the caring support they are able to provide to families grieving from the loss of a loved one.

If you are interested in getting involved in 2015 our next gathering we will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Valentine's Day with lunch, games, and prizes! Bring a quiche or salad to share. This meeting our mission support collection will go to support a service project we'll be doing at our March meeting to support the Winter Sanctuary. So please bring any of the following items and we'll see you on Valentine's Day!

Items to collect for Winter Sanctuary:

- Band aids
- cotton balls
- Q-tips
- tooth brushes
- floss picks

- trial size containers of:
 - body wash
 - mouth wash
 - shampoo
 - lotion
 - soap
 - toothpaste
 - hand wipes
- bottles of water
- hard wrapped candies
- packets of nuts
- instant coffee
- cheese and crackers

- peanut butter and crackers
- raisins
- or any single packet snacks

Thank you to everyone who supported W-ELCA in 2014, and we look forward to seeing you in 2015!

Respectfully submitted,
Holly Hoppman
 W-ELCA President

**Annual Report 2014
 St. Luke's Lutheran Church
 Board of Worship and Music**

The 2014 Worship and Music Board was chaired by Janette Payne. Mary Harris, Karen Linfor, Peggy Moser and Triss Hoppman continued as members with Pastor Carl and Brooke Barr as ex-officio members.

At the beginning of the year, worship attendance at the 8:15 service was increasing. Attendance at 10:30, however, was slightly below normal so it was decided to have the choir sit out with the congregation. The result was positive. Having the musical support of the choir members helped the rest of the congregation be more confident with the sung portions of the service and the choir members enjoyed being able to sit with their families. After Easter the choir voted to continue this practice permanently.

A Children's Choir was formed at the request of some of the children. Judy Saxby agreed to lead it. They performed several times during the year and were always a delight. Stoles were purchased from Luau funds for the children to wear for their performances. Thank you to Judy and her grand-daughter, Morgan Furry, for their enthusiastic leadership of the choir. The Children's Choir practices twice a month after the 10:30 service.

Lenten services began with Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and continued to be held immediately after the Lenten Soup Suppers in Schultz Hall. A contemporary liturgy to be used after Easter was introduced at these services. Dramas were

presented featuring Pastor Carl and others. The services and suppers were well attended and the liturgy well received.

Lenten Devotionals and Coin Folders were made available and "sold out" the first week. The Coin Folders were new to St. Luke's. They were suggested by Janette who had used them in other churches. They provide for a daily offering of 25 cents during Lent. The proceeds went to the Pastoral Assistance fund. \$1,600.00 was collected for that fund for assistance to community members in need.

Holy week featured the usual activities with a cleaning day the Saturday before Palm Sunday, decorating with palms and Easter lilies and the beautiful living cross. As always, thank you to Bruce Kiser for providing the palms. Thank you also to Holly Hoppman and Rachel Kiser for getting up at 5:00 a.m. on Easter morning to decorate the cross and to everyone who purchased Easter lilies for our Easter celebration.

After Easter the contemporary liturgy was introduced for Sunday worship. It was well received by the congregation and used through the end of the Pentecost season.

The Bell Choir determined that the bells, now seven years old, were in need of servicing. They are supposed to receive maintenance every five years. The cost for routine maintenance is \$1,600 and for major repair \$3,900. If sent during the "off season" (January through April) the cost is discounted. Funds were identified from memorials and donations and it was decided to send the bells in January of 2015 for routine maintenance. In the future, money from the distribution of Crab Feed and Luau funds will be set aside to save up the amount needed for this maintenance.

The choir performed a new piece, America the Beautiful for Memorial Day and then took summer break. Throughout the summer, special music was provided by soloists, duets, small groups, the Bell Choir and Children's Choir. Julie Ireton left for college. She had been coordinating the Acolytes on Sunday morning. It was decided that these duties would now be the responsibility of the Altar Care

workers. An Altar Guild training will be scheduled to include these duties. Daniel Encinas led a training for the Acolytes.

The Luau was held September 20. The musical theme was Disney songs. There were performances from the Bell Choir and the Adult and Children's choirs. There were several games with prizes before dinner as well as a couple of contests during dinner. The menu was the same as in prior years with Kalua Pork and Hawaiian barbecued chicken. Over 90 people attended and a great time was had by all.

Sign-ups for Readers and Prayer Leaders went out in the fall. Barbara Manlapig agreed to be the coordinator and set the schedule for these worship assistants sending reminders each week. Howard Triebwasser continued as the coordinator for the Communion Servers. Larry Dockter continued as coordinator for the ushers. Jeff Kiser faithfully filled the candles with oil each week. Sign-ups for Altar Care are on-going.

Choir resumed in September with practice of Sunday anthems. A new piece featuring When the Saints Go Marching In was presented on All Saints Day. Another new piece, To Those Who Serve, was performed on Veterans Day. The women of the ELCA lead worship for the annual Thank Offering service the Sunday before Thanksgiving that focused on the generations of women who have served the church.

The opportunity for the congregation to purchase poinsettias in memory or honor of someone continued. Dave Saxby once again purchased a beautiful tree and the Board hosted a decorating party. Several new garlands were purchased to decorate the sanctuary. The Choir presented its annual Christmas cantata on December 21, The First Noel. The Bell Choir performed the Sunday after Christmas then sent the bells for maintenance. The bells are expected back in about 6 weeks so the choir can perform again for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Average Sunday worship attendance during 2014 was up by 2 over 2013 from 114 to 116.

Respectfully submitted,
Triss Hoppman for the Board of Worship and Music

Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship Services



Our Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, with a soup supper hosted by W-ELCA at 6pm in Schultz Hall. Following the soup supper, you are invited to go into the sanctuary to share in the Holy Communion service with the Imposition of Ashes. Each week through March 25, soup suppers and services will be in Schultz Hall at 6pm. The remainder of the soup suppers will be hosted (includes set up, providing soups, breads and desserts, and clean up) by the following boards or church groups:

Wednesday, February 25 – Council

Wednesday, March 4 – Worship & Music and Choir

Wednesday, March 11– Property and Youth

Wednesday, March 18 – Evangelism and Community Concerns

Wednesday, March 25 – Congregation

Please mark your calendar now so that you can share in these very special services.

In loving service,

Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair



Relay For Life Vendor Fair

On Saturday, February 28th from noon until 4pm come and shop at St. Luke's in Shultz Hall for some great vendors and support the St. Luke's Relay For Life team "Friends in Faith". We will have such vendors as Pampered Chef, Avon, Cookie Lee jewelry, Scentsy, Origami Owl, and Thirty One bags just to name a few. Our very own St. Luke's crafters will also have a table set-up with their items. The proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the American Cancer Society and the Relay For Life of Elk Grove. If you are interested in joining the St. Luke's team you can talk to Kirsten Ireton, Peggy Moser or Katie Iniguez. The Relay this year is May 16-17th, 2015.



90th Anniversary 2015 Pictorial Directory

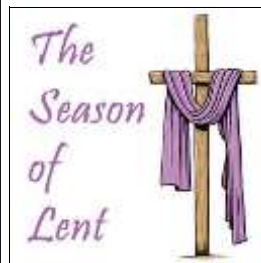
Don't miss out on being included in our 90th Anniversary 2015 Pictorial Directory! This is a great opportunity to get that special family photo taken. Any church member who has their photo taken will receive a free natural color 8x10 photo and a church directory. Having a current church directory is a wonderful resource and a great way for you to get to know your church family.

If you have not yet scheduled your appointment, please call Pauline Arndt so she can give you an available day and time. Portrait dates are Monday (Feb. 2), Tuesday (Feb. 3), and Friday (Feb. 20) from 1:30 pm to 9:00 pm, and Saturday (Feb. 21) from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If you bring any of the following donation items to be used for the gift bags for our Winter

Sanctuary guests, you will receive a \$5 gift coupon to use towards your photo purchases: trial sizes of body wash, mouthwash, shampoo, lotion and toothpaste; or toothbrushes, bars of soap, small packages of hand wipes, band aids, cotton balls, Q-tips, floss picks, bottles of water, hard candy, packages of nuts, instant coffee, cheese and cracker packages, peanut butter and cracker packages, raisins, or any other single serving snack packages.

Encourage your friends and family members, who are not church members, to have photos taken too as they will receive a free natural 8x10 color photo.



Lent Begins....

Wednesday, February 18 with a soup supper hosted by W-ELCA at 6:00p.m. in Schultz Hall. All are invited to attend and enjoy delicious soup and warm fellowship. Ash Wednesday Holy Communion follows at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. In this special service we experience our mortality with the Imposition of Ashes and the hope of new life in the Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

Weekly Lenten services will be held in Schultz Hall beginning February 25. They begin at 6:00 p.m. with a soup supper hosted by various congregational groups. A brief service begins at 6:30 p.m. Dramas featuring interrogation of participants in the events of Holy Week in order to get evidence concerning their involvement with Jesus will be performed. Clean up and Choir practice follow at 7:00 p.m.

Lenten devotionals on the Parables of Jesus will be available beginning February 7. Lenten coin envelopes will also be available that day. These contributions are used for the Pastoral assistance fund to help community members in need.



On Tuesday, January 6, 2015 the Evangelism Board hosted the Epiphany breakfast and service. It was a wonderful time of sharing, enjoying delicious casseroles, prepared by our board members, and an array of yummy muffins, breads, pastries and Betty Englund's baked apples. We learned more about who the wise men were and where they probably came from as well as the part they played in God's revealing of his Son. Several people brought beautiful nativities to share. Thanks to everyone who helped set up, brought food, and stayed to clean up.



2014 and 2015 Crab Feed

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2014 Crab and Shrimp Feed. We were able to raise just over \$8400 to support Evangelism and Property Board ministries. Evangelism was able to use a portion of the money to revamp our website. If you haven't yet I would highly recommend you check it out at www.slelca.org. The Property Board was able to use the remainder of the monies raised to complete some much needed facility projects. We hope you join us for the 14th Annual Crab Feed on Saturday, March 7th, 2015. If you need tickets please contact Ken Lentsch! If you are interested in being involved in any way, please contact Holly Hoppman, Committee Chair.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT DECEMBER 2014

OFFERINGS (General Fund Only):

	This Month	Year to Date
Total Offering	\$21,137	\$211,500
Compared to Budget	-\$4,679	-\$7,264
	-18.0%	-3.0%
Compared to 2013	\$3,222	\$6,454
	15.0%	3.00%
Contributors:		
2014 (Current Year)	93	89 Average
2013 (Last Year)	90	89 Average

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

Other Special Gifts:

- a) Sunday School \$8.40
- b) Flowers \$500.00

Ron Webb
Financial Secretary



- February 1 Diane McDonald
- February 3 Daniel Connell
- February 3 LaRayna Osako-Cain
- February 5 Jesse Barr
- February 7 John Mansfield
- February 8 Steven Mihanovich
- February 10 Holly Hoppman
- February 11 Joyce Finnegan
- February 11 Debbie Silverberg
- February 12 Kim Osako
- February 13 Robin Zoesch
- February 15 Ed Ireton
- February 17 Eric Linblade
- February 19 Katy Etchison
- February 21 Eli Korhonen
- February 22 Ron Webb
- February 24 Lajuan Andrews
- February 27 Megan Thomas
- February 28 Cheryl Franklin
- January 3 Esther Battyany

If your birthday is this month and you are not on our list please notify the church office, so we can update our files.



Monthly flower sign-up charts are available on the opportunity table at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to provide flowers for a special occasion or to the glory of God please sign up. Requested donation is \$20.



- February 1
- February 8
- February 15
- February 22 *Bob Behr for Mother's 98th birthday and Megan's 6th birthday and in memory of Karen's birthday*



Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Cheryl Franklin and family upon the death of her mom, Barbara Wormington. A graveyard service was held at East Lawn Elk Grove on January 12.



"Welcome", that is what we at St. Luke's do best, whether we see someone new or our friends. We need more volunteers to sign up as greeters, so we can continue to be a welcoming place. You can find our sign-up sheet in the church entryway. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Hamilton at 682-3818.

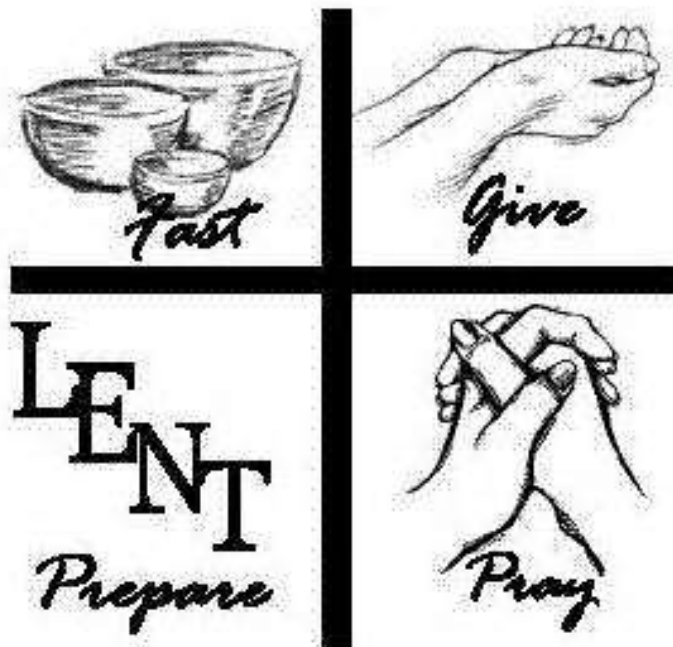


St. Luke's Lutheran Church
7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 739

«Head of House» «Last Name» «Spouse»
«Address»
«City» «Zip»



Ash Wednesday February 18

Soup Supper 6:00pm
This Supper will be hosted by
St. Luke's Women of the ELCA

Holy Communion
7:00 PM
With Imposition of Ashes