



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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Pastor Carl Hoppman  
carlhoppman@gmail.com

# News And Views



## Pastoral Perspective



*"And peace on earth..."*  
—Luke 2:14

Peace has often been defined as the absence of conflict. But peace has a more positive meaning. It is a state of wholeness in which differences are held in a constructive and cre-

ative tension. This wholeness is called shalom in the Bible. It is the peace we need at this time of new beginnings.

We live in a divided world, and that division runs right through the human heart. Jesus brings the gift of peace to our divided world and hearts.

Wherever there are people, we tend to choose up sides—nation against nation, race against race, religion against religion. Natural and man-made differences become the causes for hostile division. The very differences that could enrich life are used as excuses to justify separating into hostile camps and squaring off against each other.

Jesus brings peace to this divided world. He does not obliterate the differences, but calls us to a wholeness of humanity in which the differences are seen as various gifts for the good and enrichment of all. Jesus was swept to the cross by the same forces that work against peace in the world, the divisive forces. But as he was lifted up on the cross,

he offered to the world a center around which the natural and man-made differences of humanity could become a richness to be celebrated.

Along with bringing peace to a divided world, Jesus brings peace to divided hearts. We are often at war within ourselves; we can be our own worst enemies. We need peace within. Insecurities, anxieties, and uncertainties all seem to plague us and tear us apart inside. I believe it is because of this inner conflict that persons are so quick to choose up sides over differences. The inner conflict is projected outward, and the outward conflict resonates with the inner battle. Choosing up sides over differences is a way of trying to deal with the inner conflict, a way of self-justification. So much persecution and oppression happens because folks do not deal constructively with their inner conflict but rather try to find individuals or groups to blame. The inner conflict is denied and ignored.

Jesus helps us deal with this inner conflict. He gives us peace with God through him. We do not have to engage in the awful charade of self-justification, of trying to deal with conflicts within by projecting them outward. Jesus helps bring the inner civil war to an end. He gives us a center around which to integrate our lives. He himself is peace, and he makes peace possible in our lives.

Do you need this gift of peace as you enter a new year? Do you struggle within yourself and with oth-

ers? Join me in asking Jesus to be your peace. Believe that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace for you and to help you to be at peace with others.

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing with You,  
Pastor Carl



## EPIPHANY BREAKFAST & SERVICE

Wednesday, January  
6, 9:30 a.m.

Please join us in Schultz Hall for our Epiphany Breakfast and Service. Pastor Carl will share the importance of celebrating Epiphany, which means “manifestation” or “revelation”;

on this holiday, we rejoice in God’s revealing of Jesus as our Messiah and Savior.

We also celebrate the day when God led the wise men to Jesus, guiding them by the Star of Bethlehem:

The star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Matthew 2:9-11

Just as God set the bright star in the sky to guide the magi, so he will also shine a light for us to lead us to Christ.

The Evangelism Board will provide breakfast casseroles, coffee, and juice. You’re encouraged to bring fruit, muffins, coffee cake, or nut breads to share, as well as nativity sets to display on the tables. Please sign up at the Opportunity Table so that we will know how many plan to attend.



## PSALM STUDY

The Psalm study starts again on the 10th (for the Sunday group), the 12th (for the Tuesday group), and the 13th (for the Wednesday group).

## W-ELCA

### Thankoffering Report



I want to thank everyone who participated in our annual Thankoffering Service in November. We are so blessed to have such a giving congregation. We received \$1609 in donations. This money will support many organizations in the tremendous work they do. Thank you!

### December Missions

During December, W-ELCA supported our local elementary schools in a couple different ways for the holiday season. For Parkway Elementary, we collected small trinkets and gifts for their Santa’s Gift Shoppe, empowering the children at the school to purchase gifts for their parents for nickels and dimes. For Charles Mack Elementary, we collected



**THANKS  
FOR THE GIFTS!**

gifts for three families—15 kids and 3 adults in total. Thank you to each person who donated trinkets, gifts, or wrapping supplies, or helped wrap all those gifts. It was all greatly appreciated by the schools and the families.

# Welcome 2016!

## Ending the Year and Starting a New One

We had a wonderful time at our December gathering. We ate, decorated cookies, sang songs, raffled off some prizes, and re-elected officers to the W-ELCA board, with the addition of Triss Hoppman to the Missions Board.

As the new program year starts, I'd like to welcome everyone to our first meeting of 2016 on Saturday, January 9th, at 11:30 a.m. in Room 5. At this first general meeting of the year, we will discuss and determine what organizations we would like to support with our 2015 benevolence money. If you have an organization that you'd like considered, please let me know.

Holly Hoppman  
W-ELCA President

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

We didn't have a meeting in December because too many people were sick. Nevertheless, all our planned projects are moving forward, with the help of the ladies' group and the rest of the congregation. We coordinated with W-ELCA to gather Christmas gifts for needy families from Charles Mack Elementary, and we will deliver them once they are all wrapped. The Winter Sanctuary is still on schedule for February 28th, and we'll need help from the whole congregation.

We would like to welcome two new members to the Community Concerns Board, Jennifer Connell and Linda Duffek. Thank you for joining us.

Merry Christmas!

Al Moser  
Community Concerns  
Board Chair



## THANK YOU

From the Valley Hi Family Resource Center

"The Valley Hi Family Resource Center would like to thank St. Luke's for opening your doors to our Winter Festival Celebration. It was a huge success. We had a total of 250 attendees enjoying their time with their families in activities, food, and entertainment. Almost every child who attended received a gift. Thank you for allowing us to utilize the space, it was the key to the success of the event.

Happy Holidays!  
Valley Hi Family Resource Center"

## ADDRESS CHANGE

Genie Sommer has a new address:

3585 Round Barn Blvd #217  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

(Only the room number has changed.)



# CHRISTMAS CANTATA





*Brooke Barr, our Music Director and pianist, and her new baby Justin*

# Altar Flowers

January 3 Joe & Janette Payne  
in honor of all military troops who  
are serving our country

Joe & Janette Payne  
in honor of the seamen of the USS  
Gonzalez and their families

January 10 Karen Linfor  
for her birthday





- January 2 Shirley Clark
- January 2 Kathryn Felgenhauer
- January 2 Darnell Osako
- January 3 Jacob Kiser
- January 3 Dru Roberts
- January 5 Nick Moser
- January 6 Pat Hamilton
- January 8 Lauren Orcutt
- January 10 Karen Linfor
- January 11 Melissa Jensen
- January 13 Deanna Dockter Jr.
- January 16 Walter Arndt
- January 19 Dennis Fischer
- January 24 Stella Loveless
- January 29 Amy Franklin
- January 30 Bernie Johansen
- January 30 Joe Payne
- January 31 Kirsten Ireton

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

November 2015

Offerings (General Fund Only)			
	This Month	Year to Date	
<b>Total Offering</b>	\$19,362	\$194,483	
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	\$1,232	\$3,790	
	7.0%	2.0%	
<b>Compared to 2014</b>	-\$319	\$4,120	
	-2.0%	2.00%	
Contributors			
<b>2015</b> (Current Year)	88	89	avg.
<b>2014</b> (Last Year)	88	85	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$27.46	
Flowers		\$310	

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

Ron Webb

Financial Secretary



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**Head Ushers**  
 8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin  
 10:30 a.m. Jerry Carney

**Counters**  
 Jan. 3 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
 Jan. 10 Don Schell, Bob Behr  
 Jan. 17 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig  
 Jan. 24 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser  
 Jan. 31 Jack and Micke Fenske,  
 Carolyn Andrews

**Prayer Leaders**  
 Jan. 3 Larry Dockter  
 Jan. 10 Bob Behr  
 Jan. 17 Pat Webb  
 Jan. 24 Ron Webb  
 Jan. 31 Alison Thomas

**Psalm Leaders**  
 Jan. 3 Lucy Orcutt  
 Jan. 10 Aiyana Tice  
 Jan. 17 Hannah Encinas  
 Jan. 24 Sierra Etchison  
 Jan. 31 Amber Mansfield

**Readers 8:15 a.m.**  
 Jan. 3 Kathryn Felgenhauer  
 Jan. 10 Eric Linblade  
 Jan. 17 Sarah Madison  
 Jan. 24 Phil Petersen  
 Jan. 31 Ron Webb

**Readers 10:30 a.m.**  
 Jan. 3 Joe Payne  
 Jan. 10 David Saxby  
 Jan. 17 Faith Thomas  
 Jan. 24 Alison Thomas  
 Jan. 31 Laura Weaver

**Refreshments**  
 Jan. 3 Ed and Kirsten Ireton  
 Jan. 10 Dorothy Haney  
 Jan. 17 Paul Maki and Chona Sison  
 Jan. 24 Kelly Boyer and Lois Sherrets  
 Jan. 31 Jacob and Christiana Wilson

**Visitors' Gifts**  
 Jan. 3 Pat Hamilton  
 Jan. 10 Joyce Jensen  
 Jan. 17 Carole Vance  
 Jan. 24 Pat Webb  
 Jan. 31 Kelly Boyer

**Sunday School Teachers**  
 Jan. 3 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto  
 Jan. 10 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez  
 Jan. 17 Alison Thomas, Debi Lentsch  
 Jan. 24 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice  
 Jan. 31 Alison Thomas, Debi Lentsch

**New Ministry Groups**  
 The leaders of the ministry groups for altar care, acolytes, communion servers, greeters, ushers, and welcome leaders are hard at work arranging schedules for the new year. If you're in one of the groups, your group leader will contact you with your schedule soon.

## ACOLYTES



greeters



USHERS



Holy Communion

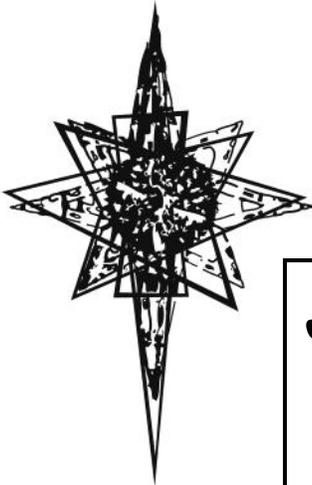


St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
7595 Center Parkway  
Sacramento, CA 95823

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**January 6,**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
*Schultz Hall*



# **EPIPHANY**

## **Service & Breakfast**

