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News And Views



August
2016

Pastoral Perspective



Why would God knit the most profound "spiritual realities" into such earthy stuff like water in Baptism and bread and wine or grape juice in Holy Communion? How can these elements give us Jesus and the salvation He brings? For many Christians down through the years these questions have been a puzzle. Why did Christ institute the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion? Why should they occupy such a central place in the life of the church? Is not His word enough? For some, the sacraments are seen as merely symbols or reminders rather than real life-giving gifts of God.

The truth is that during our years on earth we inhabit bodies that eat and drink, need washing and clothing and shelter, know pleasure and pain. Our bodies are very much with us and are interlocked with our spirits. They flavor our experiences. Our spirits are lifted by good food and comfortable clothes. They glow at a loved one's touch. If my daughter says, "I love you," that is one thing. If she gives me a loving hug that is another. The assurance of her love is reinforced by the physical. Her

word of love reaches my heart, in part, though my body. The experiences of our bodies can reinforce realities beyond our senses.



How would an ascended Lord, among us still but invisible, reinforce His word of love? How would He connect with the physical and wrap His arms around us so that we would know His love in our bodies? He does this through bread and wine or grape juice in Holy Communion and water in Baptism. These elements are not merely symbols or reminders of His love. The arms of my daughter are not merely symbols or reminders of her love—they carry her love; they hug me. The water, bread, and wine or grape juice are not vague symbols or reminders of Jesus' presence and love—they carry His presence and love; they hug me with His love.

The body and soul are both creations of God. Human disobedience separates both from the life of God. When Christ died to reconcile humankind to God and bridge the chasm between us, He died for the whole person, body and soul. When God raises us up, He will raise us whole with glorified, imperishable bodies like our Lord's, bodies that will be in full harmony with our spirits. We are connected bodily with the kingdom of heaven now by the water of Baptism and the bread and wine or grape juice of Holy Communion. When Jesus says, "This is my body given for you," we receive a real taste of that which is to come. When we are put under the Baptismal water, we are given now in our bodies an experience of oneness that we will have for eternity with the Lord. The



Lord gives to us in these physical ways reassurances of His eternal love.

So, as you have experienced Baptism, as you receive the bread and wine or grape juice in Holy Communion throughout your life—realize that the Lord is hugging you with His love now and eternally. That's what the sacraments are all about.

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: SOME ITEMS STILL NEEDED! DONATE BY SUNDAY JULY 31ST

Throughout July, the Community Concerns Board has asked the generous members of our congregation to help our local schools by donating school supplies to children and classrooms that can't afford them. As usual, the response has been wonderful. Thank you to everyone who donated!

The last Sunday in July is our last chance to donate items before the backpacks are packed. We have an adequate amount of most items (although anything will be well used, so if you have not bought supplies yet, feel free to donate any items of your choice).

We are still low on the following items: Scissors, rulers, pencil and desk erasers, highlighters, binders, binder paper, crayons, compasses, filler paper (for notebooks and binders), and copy machine paper. Walmart is a great place to buy supplies for a nominal amount of money.

The backpacks will be filled by members of the Community Concerns Board and WELCA on Sunday, August 7, after the second service. However, everyone is encouraged and welcome to help!



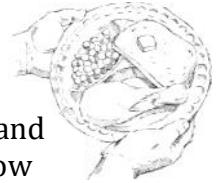
PRAYER CONCERNS?

A prayer concerns sheet is now available in the Narthex on the Opportunity Table. Please feel free to write down any prayer requests you want to share with our congregation. Pastor Carl will include them in the prayers during the service.



DINERS' GROUP

Sign-ups will be taken in July and August for the new groups that will get together in September, October, and November. The sign-up sheets are now available on the Opportunity Table in the Narthex. The last day to sign up for the Diners' Groups will be August 21st.



OUTREACH LUNCHEON

A luncheon is planned for Saturday August 20, at Logan's Restaurant. Time is 11:30 a.m.

Logan's banquet lunch menu costs \$16.00 per person. Each meal includes house chips (for burgers and sandwiches), iced tea or a soft drink, tax, and gratuity.

You'll need to select your meal beforehand. Here's the adult menu:

- Old-fashioned cheeseburger or hamburger
- Grilled chicken sandwich
- French dip sandwich (thinly sliced roast beef on a soft roll with sautéed onions and mushrooms, topped with Swiss cheese, and served with au jus for dipping)
- Mesquite grilled chicken salad, choice of dressing
- Mesquite grilled steak salad, choice of dressing



Children 12 and under can order from a kid's menu at the restaurant. The cost will be \$8.00.

There is no charge for the room, but we do need to have a minimum of 20 people. There's an insert in the bulletin or on the Opportunity Table—fill it out and drop it in the designated box on the Opportunity Table. The deadline to sign up is Sunday August 14, 2016.

SLY



Summer is in full swing and SLY members have been vacationing in Hawaii, Guatemala, Sea

Ranch, and LA just to name a few places. As a result we haven't been able to get together to do any activities in June and July but we do have a couple planned in August. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 7th when SLY members will help fill backpacks with all the school supplies that have been collected this summer. You are encouraged to bring school supplies to help fill the back packs too! Also, SLY members, please plan on attending an end of summer BBQ on August 28th at Kirsten's house following church. A sign-up will be sent out closer to the event. Enjoy your summer and be a blessing to everyone you meet!

17TH ANNUAL FIREWORKS SALE

And on the 8th day, they rested...

I wasn't too sure whether we were having a sale this year. Many things tried to conspire against us – first little things like extreme heat, vacation schedules, and injuries, and then a couple of major issues, like the booth had to be relocated at the last minute due to requirements of the land owner and U-Haul canceled all the contracts for truck rentals at the last minute. But we overcame all those obstacles and we worked our tails off (as usual) and ended up having the best sales week ever! All I can say is "yay"!

We were blessed with an abundance of goodwill and fellowship again this year. There was the usual cadre of volunteers who helped out by providing food, water, snacks, drinks, other tangible or monetary donations, selling or buying fireworks, setting up or taking down the booth, or spreading the word to family and friends to stop on by and visit us. I wanted to say "thank you" to Kelly Boyer for spending many hours dressed as "Auntie Sam" (her version of Uncle Sam), standing by the street waving flags and banners at the passing cars. I'm sure she helped make this year the best! Another "yay"!

On the sales side, we were just shy of \$30,000 in sales. After paying for expenses (fireworks, taxes, and permits), we'll put over \$9,700 in the bank to help the Property Board with the work they do here in keeping the church facilities in tip-top shape. Can I get another "yay"!?

A loud shout-out goes to all the wonderful folks who brought us food this year. We had great sandwiches, pizza, salads, brownies, cookies, fruit, chips, and other snacks. And plenty of water too! Also, a special thank you goes to Pastor and Triss Hoppman for supplying us with a full taco bar and all the trimmings for our July 4th celebration. Again, "yay"!

We always have a great time working at the booth because it's always nice to meet new people, welcome our returning customers, and watch the excitement in the kids' faces. That's the best part, the fellowship and fun we share with our neighbors and friends.

And finally, an extra shout-out to my faithful team of volunteers (Dorothy, Ron, Pat, Al, Peggy, Jerry, Carol, Jack, Micki, Bruce, Karen, Paul, Holly, Ed, Kirsten, Bob, Carolyn, Jeff, Connie, Eric, Kelly, Daniel, Mariah, Ken, Debi, Stephen, Pat, Mary, and many, many, others), who were there



to assist in some way or another. And to Pastor Carl for coming out on July 3rd to provide us a special Sunday service with Communion. And finally, an extra shout-out to Phillip and Jennifer Connell, who at the last minute were able to provide a truck and trailer to fill in where U-Haul failed us. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to all and see you next year!

In His Name...

Larry Dockter
Fireworks Committee Chairman



KIWANIS SPECIAL GUEST NIGHT

Are you looking for another way to serve your community and the children of the world? Do you enjoy socializing with like-minded people? Kirsten and Ed Ireton and Lynn Gavia would like to invite you to a Special Guest Night for the Kiwanis Club of Laguna-Elk Grove on Tuesday, August 23th, at 7 p.m. at Mimi's in Elk Grove. Come and hear more about our club, what we are doing, what we have planned, and how you can be a part of it.

We are a new Kiwanis Club in Elk Grove focused on changing the world by serving children, one child and one community at a time. But Kiwanis is cer-

tainly not a new organization, having just celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015.

For more information about Kiwanis please talk to Kirsten or visit www.kiwanis.org or www.lagunaelkgrovekiwanis.org. I couldn't imagine not sharing Kiwanis with my church family.

DONATION FROM LEE MEYER

Levern "Lee" Meyer, who was Ken Meyer's cousin, died last year on April 9, 2015. He left St. Luke's \$131,590.25 to used where needed.

He was born in 1923 to George and Martha Meyer, and he joined St. Luke's by adult confirmation in 1958 while living in Carmichael. He married Pauline née Graff, who died in 1981. In 1992, he married Betty née vanMatre. After their marriage, he joined Betty's church, Fair Oaks Presbyterian.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Drafts of the minutes from the Council Meetings are available in the office, posted on the bulletin board. They will be updated every month after the council meets. They are also available on the church website at <http://slelca.org/resources/>.

DIRECTORY UPDATES



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Lois Sherrets	August 1
Jerry Carney	August 3
Lydia Toloy	August 3
Elsbeth Whitehurst	August 4
Kennard Ferguson	August 7
Alexander Iniguez	August 7
Irene Boschee	August 8
Don Schell	August 8
Linda Duffek	August 10
Stephanie Espinoza	August 11
Aiden Kiser	August 12
Amber Mansfield	August 16
Kay Yakabe	August 16
Kristen Encinas	August 18
Angelo Osako	August 21
Aiyana Tice	August 22
Zoe Franklin	August 23
Mack Vance	August 23
Carolyn Andrews	August 27



ALTAR FLOWERS

Given by:

August 7	Carolyn & Lajuan Andrews For Kennard's 25th birthday
August 14	Ron & Pat Webb In memory of her mom's birthday
	Howard Triebwasser In memory of his wife Pearl's birthday

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

April 2016

Comments:

- June is a four-Sunday month and provides a mid-year statement of offerings.
- At mid-year, the year-to-date offerings are slightly above the budget and 2015 offerings; i.e., on target.
- If you need numbered envelopes, either see me or drop a note in the offering.
- When using pew envelopes, please write your name and amount, legibly, on the envelope.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jack Fenske
St. Luke's Financial Secretary

Offerings (General Fund Only)		
	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$18,565	\$112,286
Compared to Budget	\$1,152	\$4,929
	6.6%	4.6%
Compared to 2015	\$2,281	\$3,991
	14.0%	3.7%
Contributors		
2016 (Current Year)	83	90 avg.
2015 (Last Year)	101	91 avg.
Other Contributions		
Sunday School		\$19
Memorials		\$625
Flowers		\$140
Fireworks Booth		\$100

Note: Plus values are good; minus values are not.



Finance Update

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.)	Cheryl Franklin	August 7
(10:30 a.m.)		August 14
August 7	Triss Hoppman, Karen Linfor	August 21
August 14	Linda Duffek	August 28
August 21	Triss Hoppman, Mary F. Harris	
August 28	Peggy Moser	

Communion Servers

August 7	Karen Linfor, Connie Reule, Pat Hamilton	August 7
August 21	Mary F. Harris, Bob Behr, Ken Lentsch	August 14

Counters

August 7	Nancy Minning, Connie Reule	August 7
August 14	Don Schell, Bob Behr	August 14
August 21	Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig	August 21
August 28	Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser	August 28

Greeters

August 7	Paul and Sande Heaton	August 7
August 14	(Needed)	August 14
August 21	Pat and Ron Webb	August 21
August 28	Steven Lee	August 28

Head Ushers

8:15 a.m.	Ron Franklin	August 7
10:30 a.m.	Kelly Boyer	August 14

Prayer Leaders

August 7	TBD	August 7
August 14	Ken Lentsch	August 14
August 21	TBD	August 21
August 28	TBD	August 28

Psalm Leaders

August 7	Aiyana Tice	August 7
August 14	Hannah Encinas	August 14
August 21	Sierra Etchison	August 21
August 28	Amber Mansfield	August 28

Readers (8:15 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.)

Phil Petersen; Kirsten Ireton
Ron Webb; Marlene Kiser
Christiana Wilson; Sylvia Kohler
Kelly Boyer; Ken Lentsch

Refreshments

Sande & Paul Heaton
Ofelia Ojeda & Carol Carney
Mack & Carole Vance
Linda Olsen & Kelly Boyer

Visitors' Gifts

Walt Arndt
Steven Lee
Pat Webb
Carole Vance

Welcome Leaders

Chet Madison
Carolyn Andrews
Pauline Arndt
Mary F. Harris

Sunday School Teachers

Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto
Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez
Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews
Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice





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

Return Service Requested

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 739
Sacramento, CA**

«Label Name 1»
«Address Line 1», «Address Line 2»
«City», «State» «Zip Code (5-digit)»

Sunday August 7th, after the 10:30 service

Help us stuff backpacks with donated school supplies!

The backpacks will be donated
to students in need at Charles Mack Elementary
and Parkway Elementary

