



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
(916) 421-5039  
[www.slelca.org](http://www.slelca.org)  
stlukeschurch@att.net  
Pastor Carl Hoppman  
carlhoppman@gmail.com

# News And Views



## Pastoral Perspective



It's not surprising that the shepherds didn't need to ask for further directions from the angel about where to find the Christ child that first Christmas night. A manger (a feeding stall for animals) is someplace a mother wouldn't put her new born baby unless absolutely necessary. Animals and people lived closely together in Palestine at the time of Jesus' birth, but the manger was the place to put the hay to feed the animals, not a place to lay a baby. And yet it was exactly to this humble place that the shepherds were directed to go to see the Savior of the world.

This is really amazing. If the story of Jesus were an Horatio Alger story, a story of a poor boy who made it big, we could deal with it easily. It would show the depths from which this poor boy rocketed. It would set up a contrast for later great worldly success. But the poor setting of the manger is really the setting for not only our Savior's birth but also His ministry.

When He emerged as an adult, He came to the synagogue in His home town of Nazareth and announced: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the

year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19). And then He simply proclaimed that this prophecy was fulfilled in Him. He was bringing the power of the kingdom of God right to people in humbled situations.

Many couldn't understand this. Many still can't. After all, isn't religion composed of scrubbing up, dressing well, and trying to clean up your act so that God will approve of you? Isn't the kingdom of God supposed to be the crowning touch for those who are at the top of their game, rather than some moving power for those who are caught in their own sin and the sin of the world?

But Jesus' ministry is on behalf of the humble people in the midst of life's trials and challenges. While folks often wait impatiently for Him to bring His blessing to their exalted situations, He is at work with those who know they can't make it without a Savior. The song of Mary to Elizabeth when Mary wonders at God's way illustrates what Jesus' ministry is all about: "He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away." (Luke 1:52-53) The psalmist proclaims the same message: "He will be the deliverer of the poor, a friend of those who have no one. For humble people he is within reach, he gives hope to those without rights. Their blood is precious in his eyes; he ransoms them from the house of slavery" (Psalm 72:12-14).

I love that verse, "For humble people he is within reach." That's what Jesus is all about from His birth 'til now and forever. He is within your reach as you humble yourself. Confess with me that you can't get it together or make it on your own. You need Him. He will be there with you and for you. He is used to being in humble surroundings. He is right at home there. He will bring you peace, love and hope.

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing with You,  
Pastor Carl

## BY POPULAR DEMAND

A growing number of folks are following along as I read through the Gospel during Sunday sermons. Some find it difficult because I have been using a Bible translation that doesn't match the translation in the pew Bibles. So, by popular demand, beginning January 1, I will read from the same Bible translation that is in the pews—The English Standard Version. We will also print the page numbers of the readings in the bulletins, so it will be even easier for folks to follow along.



Pastor Carl

## EPIPHANY BREAKFAST AND SERVICE

Friday, January 6, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m.

Evangelism hosts our annual Epiphany breakfast in Schultz Hall and provides breakfast casseroles, coffee, and juice. A sign-up sheet will be available so we can be sure to have enough seating and food for everyone.



The sign-up sheet is available at the Oppor-

tunity Table. Those coming are encouraged to bring nut breads, coffee cakes, or fruit to share as well as nativity scenes to decorate the tables.

## DINER'S GROUPS

New groups to be formed for February, March, and April. Sign-ups will be taken in January. The sign-up sheet will be available Sunday, January 1, 2017.

## CRAB FEED

Mark your calendars for the first Saturday in March! Our 16th Annual Crab Feed will be held on Saturday, March 4, 2017. This year's theme is Pirates! Tickets are now available, contact Holly Hoppman to get yours now. If you are interested in helping with this year's crab feed, please let Holly know. Our next crab feed meeting will be following worship on Sunday, January 8, 2017.



## W-ELCA: CHICKS IN CRISIS RANCH VISIT

On November 19th, a group of 10 ladies and 2 men were able to meet with Inez, the chick-in-charge at Chicks in Crisis. It was great to hear about the life changing services and sustainable lessons that Inez and her team are able to provide to so many of the young parents in our community. We toured the facility and got to hear Inez's story and about how Chicks in Crisis came to be what it is today. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us! Chicks in Crisis always is in need of diapers, wipes, and full-size hygiene products to support the youth and children they serve. They



have a 93% success rate of helping teen parents stay in school and maintain their family size while in the program. If you are interested in more information, please check out their website: [www.chicksin crisis.org](http://www.chicksin crisis.org).

## W-ELCA: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MISSION WRAP-UP

This year we were able to support 4 families from Charles Mack Elementary School for our Christmas Holiday Mission opportunity. Thank you to everyone who either purchased a gift or joined us for a wrapping party following the annual meeting on December 11th. It was great to have everyone



there. The gifts were all delivered to the caregivers in the households before Christmas. All in all, we collected 101 gifts for all the families. Special thanks to Peggy Moser and Kelly Boyer for helping coordinate this mission support.

## MEYER MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who made suggestions for using the Meyer memorial donation at the annual congregational meeting. The memorial committee members met in mid-December to review the suggested uses of the generous donation. We will begin getting cost estimates and quotes for the ideas discussed and will be updating council on a priority list in the new year. If you are interested in more information regarding this committee, please contact Holly Hoppman.

## ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

I find this SLY News & Views a bit bittersweet for me to write.

On Friday, December 16th, the SLY group had a sleepover. The girls had a great time of sharing,

playing games, and enjoying each other's company. I came for a couple of hours, but did not stay the night as I have been doing as chaperone for many years; I left that to the newly elected co-chairs Samantha Basquez and Laura Tice, as well as Kelly Boyer, who also offered to stay with the group. It was a changing of the guard, of sorts.

I have watched these girls grow up—starting as their Sunday school teacher, when Amber was just 2 ½ years old, and seeing her turn into a confident young lady; observing Angie come out of her shell; watching Isa, Hannah, Morgan, and Elizabeth all become so independent; and seeing Aiyana triumphantly kick cancer and become a shining light. I know the future is bright for all of them because they each hold God's light so bright within them. It has been my pleasure serving as the Youth Board chair for the last few years and as Sunday school teacher before that. I now look forward to the future, just as these young people do as well.

Be on the lookout for a survey from Sam and Laura about the new year, SLY meetings, and activities.

In Christ, Kirsten Ireton

PS – We still have a few 2017 Wall & Pocket Calendars for sale. \$7 for the wall calendars & \$6 for the pocket calendars... See Sam or Laura!



## **WROUGHT IRON FENCE CONSTRUCTED**

### **Thank You, Jennifer and Phillip Connell**

As you might be aware, in recent years unwelcomed guests have caused a number of problems in the back area of the church facilities, such as unsanitary conditions, unsightly messes, and other troublesome issues. In addition, the area has experienced burglaries and vandalism. And the church's trash bin, which is in this area, is often used by others, especially to dispose of large items, leaving less space for the church's trash (or requiring a costly extra pick up).

Several years ago, we needed to eliminate the long-standing newspaper shed, as it was attracting unwelcomed guests (as many as six on one occasion).

In late 2014, after 10 reported incidents of burglaries and vandalism, the Property Board investigated, for the Council's consideration, many different means to improve the facility security, including fences, security cameras, on-site (live-in) residents, night patrols, and vegetation removal. The Board, in cooperation with the Council, has removed overgrown vegetation and re-landscaped several areas, purchased a large safe for valuables, installed guards on door latches, fastened reminders on all doors to minimize incidents of unlocked doors, and, most recently, with the encouragement and generosity of Jennifer and Phillip Connell, constructed the wrought iron fence and gate across the north driveway and vacant property. In addition, appropriate signs were mounted on the fences.

The Property Board and Council believe that the new fence and gate, together with the other added security measures, will significantly reduce, but not eliminate, the incidents of problems, especially for the back area of the church.

On behalf of St. Luke's congregation and Council,

the Property Board sincerely thanks the Connell Construction Company for their generous gift of the newly-constructed wrought iron fence and gate.

Throughout the years, the Connells have demonstrated their generosity and continuing support for St. Luke's. They initiated and continue to support the Fireworks and Crab Feed fundraisers, expanded the Sanctuary Cry Room, assisted with the Narthex remodeling project, and, as their latest effort, funded the new wrought iron fence and gate.

St. Luke's thanks you, Jennifer and Phillip.

St. Luke's Property Board  
Kelly Boyer, Chairperson

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK**

The Congregational Meeting and Potluck was a success. We had lots of great food and desserts. We want to thank W-ELCA for setting up the tables and the beautiful table decorations. Schultz Hall never looked more beautiful. We had lots of help with the clean up and a special thank you to Micki Fenske for doing all the dishes.

## **HOLY BAPTISM**

**Lucy Marie Orcutt**

*Parents:* John and Lauren Orcutt

*Sponsors:* Christina Hisamoto and Kelly Boyer

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers Lucy from sin and death and raises her to new life in Jesus Christ. Lucy is united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.



## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dax William Moser was born on November 30th to Nick and Alicia Moser and proud grandparents Al and Peggy Moser!



Alanna Olmeda was born on December 1st to happy parents Elizabeth Brasier and Edgar Olmeda!



## DEATHS IN OUR CONGREGATION

We mourn the death of Phyllis Englund, Don Englund's mother, who was taken up into the heavenly kingdom on December 16, 2016. Thoughts and prayers go out to Don and Betty Englund and their family, that the Lord will support and comfort them during their time of grief. Services are pending.

Luella Tice passed away on December 18, 2016, and was taken by her Good Shepherd, Jesus, to the heavenly kingdom. Pray for her grandchildren, Justin Tice and Samantha Basquez, and their families as they grieve during this difficult time. Services are pending.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Given by:

**January 1**

Shirley Prouty

In memory of her husband, mother, and father

**January 8, 15, 22, 29**

*Needed*



Shirley Clark January 2  
 Kathryn Felgenhauer January 2  
 Darnell Osako January 2  
 Esther Battyany January 3  
 Craig Eckels January 3  
 Jacob Kiser January 3  
 Dru Roberts January 3  
 Nick Moser January 5  
 Pat Hamilton January 6  
 Lauren Orcutt January 8  
 Karen Linfor January 10  
 Deanna Dockter Jr. January 13  
 Walter Arndt January 16  
 Kayla King January 16  
 Dennis Fischer January 19  
 Stella Loveless January 24  
 George Dorr January 26  
 Amy Franklin January 29  
 Bernie Johansen January 30  
 Joe Payne January 30  
 Kirsten Ireton January 31

- When using pew envelopes, please write legibly. Thanks.
- If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jack Fenske  
 St. Luke's Financial Secretary  
 916-714-3626



## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

November 2016

- November was a four-Sunday month.
- Offerings for November were slightly above budget, but slightly below 2015 offerings.
- The year-to-date totals remain on track – slightly above budget.
- Annual statements for 2016 will be distributed in January 2017.
- Please use numbered envelopes, when feasible. Thank you.
- If you need numbered envelopes, either see me or drop a note in the offering.

General Fund (Only) Contributions			
Data	This Month	Year to Date	
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$19,149	\$200,556	
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	+\$517	+\$4,695	
	+2.8%	+2.4%	
<b>Compared to 2015</b>	-\$213	+\$6,073	
	-1.1%	+3.1%	
No. of Contributors			
<b>2016</b> (Current Year)	89	88	avg.
<b>2015</b> (Last Year)	88	89	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$26	
Flowers		\$140	
Poinsettias		\$180	
Special Gift		\$2,946	
W-ELCA Thank Offering		\$1,591	

*Note: Plus values are above budget/last year; minus values are below.*

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin  
(10:30 a.m.)  
January 1 Triss Hoppman  
January 8 *TBD*  
January 15 *TBD*  
January 22 *TBD*  
January 29 *TBD*

## Counters

January 1 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
January 8 Don Schell, Bob Behr  
January 15 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig  
January 22 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser  
January 29 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule

## Greeters

January 1 *Needed*  
January 8 Jan Tanaka  
January 15 Sande Heaton, Linda Olsen  
January 22 Steven Lee, Gail Weber  
January 29 Linda Olsen

## Prayer Leaders

January 1 Marlene Kiser  
January 8 Sylvia Kohler  
January 15 Betty Englund  
January 22 Vivian Blazic  
January 29 Larry Dockter

## Psalm Leaders

January 1 Angie Martinez  
January 8 Lucy Orcutt  
January 15 Aiyana Tice  
January 22 Sierra Etchison  
January 29 Amber Mansfield

## Welcome Leaders

January 1 Pat Webb  
January 8 Carolyn Andrews  
January 15 Lydia Toloy  
January 22 Carol Carney  
January 29 Chet Madison

## Communion Servers

January 1 *TBD*  
January 15 *TBD*  
January 29 *TBD*

## Head Ushers

8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin  
10:30 a.m. Larry Dockter

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

January 1 Lydia Toloy; Bob Behr  
January 8 Ron Webb; Alison Thomas  
January 15 Christiana Wilson; Pat Webb  
January 22 Eric Linblade; Tracy Etchison  
January 29 Sarah Madison; Triss Hoppman

## Refreshments

January 1 Ed and Kirsten Ireton  
January 8 Alison and Marc Thomas  
January 15 Paul Maki and Chona Sison  
January 22 Kelly Boyer and Lois Sherrets  
January 29 Jacob & Christiana Wilson

## Visitors' Gifts

January 1 Pat Webb  
January 8 Walt Arndt  
January 15 Linda Olsen  
January 22 Pauline Arndt  
January 29 Carolyn Andrews

## Sunday School Teachers

January 1 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto  
January 8 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez  
January 15 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews  
January 22 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez  
January 29 Alison Thomas, Debi Lentsch

## Acolytes

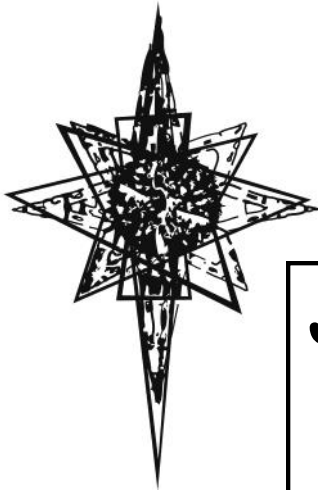
January 1 Darnell Osako, LaRayna Osako-Cain  
January 8 Lily Neidich, Aiyana Tice  
January 15 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez  
January 22 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi  
January 29 Isabella Basquez, Aiyana Tice



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



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



# EPIPHANY

## Service & Breakfast

