



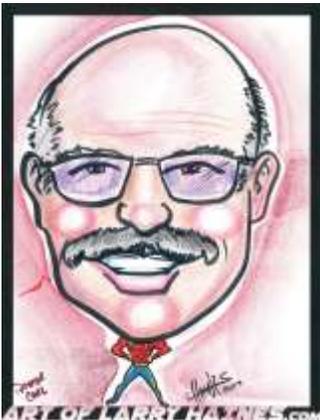
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2018

# News And Views

## Pastoral Perspective



In the book of Job the "Adversary" approaches the Lord with a question he has been considering for some time. Simply stated, the question is, "How bad can I make it?" Scholars believe that the story of Job was written some five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, that its origins were during the time of the Babylonian captivity when it seemed that the dark forces had succeeded in making things very bad indeed.

The figure of Job, the object of the Evil One's cruel musings, became a symbol to God's people of their own plight. The argument that runs through the story, forming the dialogue between Job and his companions, has to do with the meaning of human suffering, and, beyond that, the nature of the relationship between humanity and God. The questions that surface are:

- Do our sufferings tell us that we are abandoned by God?
- Does our frequent inability to discern a reason for much of human suffering mean that there is no reason or purpose?
- And the simplest form of the question: "Why me?"

To all these questions Job's answer is, "I don't know." There are no theological explanations in this story, not the kind that would satisfy someone

looking for cut and dried answers or formulas. There is only the endurance of faith and hope and the resilience of the bond between the creature and Creator. But as for explanations, there were none in the offing when the story was written. It is a story that came out of a time of great sorrow and loss when the very best the people of God could think to do was to simply hang on. And when we think about it, hanging on was all that Job managed to do. However, it was no small thing. It was a triumph. "Hanging on" was exactly what was required. No more, no less.

When the "Adversary" set out to discover how bad he could make it, he tore away every external support a human being might possess...home, family, possessions, health, and even the comfort of conventional wisdom. Job was left alone. In his own mind, he could find no reason, no explanation for what had befallen him. It was in this extremity of isolation and pain that he cursed his own existence: "I loathe my life...Would that I had died before any eye had seen me and were as though I had not been." And it is at this point that the story reaches its heroic stand, for here Job has touched the outer limit, not of suffering, but of what he will allow suffering to make of him. Though he curses his existence he will not go further. He will not curse the source of his existence. He will not curse God. He hangs on! And the "Adversary" can't destroy him or his relationship with God.

The answer to the "Adversary's" question, "How bad can I make it?" is..."You can do everything, but

you cannot unmake a human soul. It is beyond your power to sever the final thread that binds a person to God." When God made the man and woman He made them in His own image. The full extent of evil is not capable of destroying that image.

The worst Satan ever made it was the day Jesus died. And, as was the case in Job's story, once again Satan's rampage was at the sufferance of God. There was no help for the victim. This was the day for evil's full unveiling. The only way it could be undone was for it to be completely uncovered and faced in all its horror. That's just what Jesus did.

The account becomes increasingly grim and despairing at every turn. The "so-called" defenders of the faith, the priests and Pharisees, are determined to eliminate Jesus even though they have admitted to one another that He may very well be a prophet. The main accomplice in their plot is one of Jesus' disciples, a man who shared in the same bowl at the last supper. The rest of His close ones fled during His arrest, save one who followed later and then denied that he had ever known his "Master". So on the day of His crucifixion, there were no friends nearby, only people mocking, torturing and taunting Him.

It was almost His last breath, when Jesus was finally overcome by betrayal and abandonment, that He cried out as Job had centuries earlier "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" But that was as far as Satan could push Him. He could get Jesus to agonize over why God had left Him alone to endure the cross. But he couldn't break the relationship between Jesus and His Father. Jesus didn't curse God, but rather cried out, "My God, My God." In the worst of all situations Jesus hung on to His relationship with His Father. It wasn't broken. He hung on in obedience to His Father's will and love for us.

And so Satan, death and the power of sin were all defeated that day by the sinless obedient One who held on to the end. This means that, even though we can't figure it all out in times of trial and suffering, we have One at the right hand of the Father who understands, who has hung on through what we might suffer and worse. We have One who is also beside us through it all. When we feel like letting go in futility, we can trust in the One who

hung on to the end.

Grab hold of that One when you feel alone or forsaken. Know in your heart that Satan, death and sin are not the final answer, but rather the answer is that Jesus lives and because He lives you can face today and all tomorrows in His steadfast love.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,  
Pastor Carl



The Evangelism Board coordinates the boards and/or groups that host each soup supper. Each board/group sets up the room and provides soups, bread, desserts and cleans up. W-ELCA will host the first Soup Supper. The following are the list of Boards

February 14	W-ELCA
February 21	Council
February 28	Evangelism & Community Concerns
March 7	Worship, Music & Choirs
March 14	Property, Education & Youth
March 21	Congregation

and Dates they will host for the Soup Suppers:  
Sign up sheets for the Soup Suppers will be on the Opportunity Table.

The services this year will be dramas about unlikely conversations about Jesus.

Unlikely Conversations About Jesus is a series of five dramas designed to help refresh the memory and experience of folks concerning the suffering and death of Jesus Christ—and the decision about him which he calls for from each of us.

Unlikely Conversations use scriptural witness and Christian tradition to bring the Passion Story to life through imaginary conversations between real persons involved in that story. They are "unlikely" simply because it is not likely that these people ever talked together, and it is less likely that they met and talked in the circumstances described in the dramas.

These five portrayals of the Passion Story are designed to give insight into the character, feelings, and personal experience of those involved with the events that unfolded during Holy Week. They are meant to help each of us consider who Jesus is for us and what that means to us.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES



Palm Sunday is March 25. As in the past, the service begins with the procession of palms where we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As the service progresses, the mood shifts to the consideration of Jesus' Passion. There will be

special music provided by the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir.

We will be decorating for Palm Sunday on Saturday, March 24 at 10:00 am. If you have palms, please bring them to the church at that time. We can use both fan palms and the large fronds. You are welcome to stay a bit and help decorate the sanctuary. We can especially use the help of a few gentlemen as the large branches can be pretty heavy. We will also be cleaning the altar area and polishing the brass and silver and welcome your help with those tasks.



Thursday, March 29 we commemorate the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion at our Maundy Thursday worship at 7:30 p.m. At this special service we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his betrayal and arrest. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar to remind us of Jesus' captivity. We need several people to help with the stripping of the altar. A sign-up sheet will be available beginning March 14.

Friday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. we gather for the Service of Shadows. With several readings from the Bible and special hymns and anthems, we remember Jesus' sacrifice of himself on our behalf. As is our tradition, the congregation is invited to nail their burdens on the cross. The service concludes in silence and darkness.



Saturday, March 31 we will be preparing the chancel area for our Easter celebration. Please bring your greenery for the Living Cross and cut flowers to the church anytime Saturday. You may also bring cut flowers to worship with you on Easter morning and place them on the cross yourself.



It's no joke; Easter is Sunday, April 1. Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. The church will be adorned with Easter Lilies and the beautiful Living Cross. Easter breakfast will be served in Schultz hall from 8:30-10:00 a.m. An Easter egg hunt for children through the sixth grade starts at 10:00 a.m.

## EASTER LILIES

As we have done for the past several years, The Board of Worship and Music is taking orders for Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning. The lilies may be given in honor or memory of someone or simply to the glory of God.



The requested donation is \$10.00. Order sheets will be included in the bulletins in March. A list of the honorees will be included in the bulletin Easter Sunday. The lilies can be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. service Easter morning.



Youth group had a successful first meeting of 2018 on February 11th. We discussed our plan to finally start renovation on the Youth Loft this year, and our upcoming events. The crab is coming up on March 3rd. Our youth will be selling sodas and water as well as desserts during the event, between 5pm and 9pm. We greatly appreciate your dessert donations! We will be having our next meeting on Sunday, March 11th following church. We will be making lunch for the Winter Sanctuary that day as well. We are setting up an online volunteer sign up for the food item donations needed for this event. We will begin accepting donations of candy for the annual Easter egg hunt beginning Sunday, March 11th. Candy can be left in the donation basket in the Narthex or dropped off in the Sunday School wing. Our youth will be filling ALL the eggs Saturday March 31st, TBD.



## JANUARY MEETING

I wanted to thank Holly Hoppman our past President for her 4 years of service leading the Women's Group. You have been a great leader and have lead us in many successful projects. January's meeting was held in the Schultz Hall with lunch being a potluck. Katie provided Devotions, Treasurer Report was provided with the breakdown with the 2017 Benevolence Distribution, Novembers Minutes were deferred until the February Meeting.

A fun activity was provided by Katie that was a BINGO game that involved finding interesting facts

out about those in attendance. Everyone had a fun time learning more about each other. Upcoming advents includes hosting the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and the Winter Sanctuary in March.

## COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Soup-er Bowl Sunday was a great success! Hope you all enjoyed the game! All donations were delivered to the Elk Grove Food Closet.

Coming up on March 11 is Winter Sanctuary when St Luke's hosts the homeless. The Sacramento Youth Jazz Band will provide musical entertainment again, and Michael Duffek will be preparing a pasta dinner for all! Thanks again! A movie will be provided and SLY will be preparing lunch bags for each guest. COOKIES COOKIES COOKIES! We're looking for 40 dozen homemade cookies for dessert!

We will be providing a table of Blessing Bags, hats, socks, gloves, blankets, and books.

We are in need of gloves, paperback books, individual packs of cookies, crackers, chips, fruit, 4 cases of water, potted or canned meat (pop-top), hard candy, cotton swabs, bandaids, safety pins and sewing kits.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex!

Faith Thomas, chair

## 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/>.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

A prayer concerns sheet is 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.



# Birthdays



Corey Anderson	March 01	Manny Menezes	March 21
Selena Connell	March 05	Jan Tanaka	March 22
Monica Willoughby	March 05	Emma Kiser	March 23
Jennifer Connell	March 06	Irma Lowe	March 23
Renee Roberts	March 06	David Saxby	March 23
Laura Tice	March 07	Kimiya Ricciardi	March 24
Kevin Kiser	March 09	Norene Schell	March 24
Ruth Jones	March 10	Katie Light	March 25
Ben Bates	March 13	Bob Harrison	March 26
Donna Ben-lesau	March 13	Al Moser	March 26
Ron Petsch	March 13	Elizabeth Ward	March 27
Sarah Thomas	March 13	Karen Kiser	March 28
Sarah Madison	March 16	John Johnsen	March 29
Mackenzie Harrison	March 17	Patricia Lehman	March 29
Inge Marchuk	March 18	Bob Behr	March 30
Addison Jaeger	March 19	Kelly Sobkowsky	March 30



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

March 04	<b>Brenda Sulzmann</b> For her Stepdad Jack's Birthday
	<b>Carole Johnson</b> For Jack's Birthday
March 11	<b>Howard Triebwasser</b> In Memory of his Wife, Pearl
	<b>Shirley Prouty</b> In Memory of her Father, Jack Tate
March 18	<i>Needed</i>
March 25	<i>Needed</i>

# FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

## January 2018

### Comments:

- A slow beginning for the new year, regarding offerings.
- Last year had a five-Sunday month in January.
- Please use numbered envelopes, when feasible. Thank you.
- If you need numbered envelopes, either see me or drop a note in the offering.
- 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  
[LRFenske@comcast.net](mailto:LRFenske@comcast.net)



**March 10, 2018**  
**8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

Please join us to beautify our church on Saturday, March 10th for the Spring season. Afterwards, join us at the Potato Bar Lunch provided by W-ELCA.

General Fund (Only) Contributions			
Data	This Month	Year to Date	
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$15,814	\$15,814	
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	-\$537	-\$537	
	-3.3%	-3.3%	
<b>Compared to 2017</b>	-\$1,690	-\$1,690	
	-9.7%	-9.7%	
No. of Contributors			
<b>2018</b> (Current Year)	83	83	avg.
<b>2017</b> (Last Year)	84	84	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$27	
Flowers		\$146	
Memorials		\$150	
Crab Feed Donations		\$600	

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



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin  
(10:30 a.m.)  
March 04 Carol Carney, Faith Thomas  
March 11 Mary Harris  
March 18 Peggy Moser, Karen Linfor  
March 25 Brenda Sulzmann  
March 29 Peggy Moser, Marlene Kiser

## Communion Servers

March 4 Bob Behr, Kelly Boyer, Linda Duffek  
March 18 Betty Englund, Pat Hamilton, Mary F. Harris  
March 29 Kirsten Ireton, Marlene Kiser, Karen Linfor

## Counters

March 04 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
March 11 John Orcutt, Triss Hoppman  
March 18 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig  
March 25 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser  
March 29 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule

## Greeters

March 04 Ralph & Merle Zbrog  
March 11 Stan and Kris Niemi  
March 18 Nancy Minning & Connie Reule  
March 25 Joyce Jensen & Carole Vance

## Prayer Leaders

March 04 John Orcutt  
March 11 Maria Schell  
March 18 Max Schell  
March 25 David Saxby  
March 29 Judy Saxby

## Psalm Leaders

March 04 Amber Mansfield  
March 11 Angie Martinez  
March 18 Lucy Orcutt  
March 25 Aiyana Tice  
March 29 Sierra Etchison

## Head Ushers

8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin  
10:30 a.m. Craig Eckels

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

March 04 Kristine Felgenhauer; Gail Weber  
March 11 Eric Linblade; Merle Zbrog  
March 18 Sarah Madison; Samantha Basquez  
March 25 Phil Petersen; Bob Behr  
March 29 Faith Thomas

## Refreshments

March 04 Kirsten Ireton & Pat Lehman  
March 11 *Marc & Allison Thomas*  
March 18 Paul Maki & Chona Sison  
March 25 Kelly Boyer & Lois Sherrets

## Visitors' Gifts

March 04 Carole Vance  
March 11 Pat Webb  
March 18 Joyce Jensen  
March 25 Carolyn Andrews

## Acolytes

March 04 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez  
March 11 Aiyana Tice, Ernestine Roberts  
March 18 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez  
March 25 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi

## Welcome Leaders

March 04 Pat Webb  
March 11 Gail Weber  
March 18 Al Moser  
March 25 Chet Madison

## Sunday School Teachers

March 04 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto  
March 11 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez  
March 18 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews  
March 25 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice  
March 29 Alison Thomas, Laura Tice



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

—7595 Center Parkway  
Sacramento, CA 95823

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Return Service Requested

# Celebrate Easter with us!

Easter Sunday, April 1

Worship Service

8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

will be served *from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.*

*in Schultz Hall*

Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m.