



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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# News And Views

## Pastoral Perspective



Jesus, in his earthly ministry, was continually showing mercy to others. When criticized for it, he told his critics to be about showing mercy, too, instead of finding fault and hurting others with their harsh judgments and actions. Just what is this mercy that Jesus encouraged? What is its place in the Christian life?

Mercy is compassion and forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to harm. It is acting on true concern for another when that concern is not, in an earthly sense, required. Mercy is not an automatic reflex of the human character. It is often buried and thwarted by such things as a desire for vengeance or a "holier-than-thou" attitude. Mercy is a non-utilitarian action. It is granted without anticipation of a return.

Fake or pseudo mercy, in contrast, is for the purpose of putting someone in debt. A person shows fake mercy so someone will owe them. Real mercy, on the other hand, is an act of selflessness.

If you are looking for an earthly reward, fake mercy is what you want to show. But if you are looking for spiritual growth, for working in the kingdom of God, then true mercy is what you need to show others.

Mercy is hard. It is hard because it requires self-denial. There is irony in Jesus' words to some harsh judgmental people: "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.'" (Matthew 9:13) Mercy, in fact, amounts to the most severe form of sacrifice there is: self-sacrifice.

But why can't you just leave this matter of mercy to the Lord and content yourself with other things? That is because by showing mercy you are doing what God wants you to do. You are doing his will. John 3:16 could be paraphrased: "For God so loved the world that he showed mercy to it." God does show mercy to you. He invites you, in turn, to show mercy to others so they will experience his love through you.

Christian discipleship really makes no sense without mercy. What integrates Jesus' words and deeds and makes them consistent and effective is the perpetual theme of mercy, the great compassion and forgiveness he showed to all. Mercy is the binding glue.

The depth of our Christian life is actually directly proportionate to the depth of our participation in mercy. Mercy is not to be some abstraction. It is rather to be something we show in our daily lives as God has shown it so wonderfully to us.

So, even though there is no earthly requirement to show mercy, from the standpoint of Christian growth, there is nothing more practical. It is so

practical that it must be practiced in order to be understood. So let's learn by practicing Jesus' statement: "I want you to show mercy."

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,  
Pastor Carl

# Let's Have Lunch TOGETHER

## OUTREACH LUNCHEON AUGUST 4, 2018

Please join us for a fun Saturday Luncheon.

Date: August 4, 2018

Location: Yum's Buffet & Grill – 4300 Florin Road,  
Sacramento, CA (Southgate Shopping Center  
formerly Home Town Buffet).

Time: 11:30AM

Cost: Adults \$13.00. Children Pricing upon request.  
We will need to pay in cash. The cost includes tax  
and tip.

We will have a great time of sharing and fellowship.

A sign up sheet will be on the Opportunity Table  
July 15, 2018.



## MEETING FOR KIDS (AND PARENTS) INTERESTED IN CONFIRMATION

Calling all kids in 6th grade or older who haven't gone through confirmation yet! We're having a meeting on August 5th to discuss the materials and set the schedule for this year's confirmation class. We'll meet from 9:15 to 10 a.m., so you don't have to make a separate trip, just come to church a little early. We would love to have you join us, even if

you're not sure about confirmation yet. Pastor Carl will be happy to answer your questions and explain how it works.

Confirmation class is a 2-year-long youth Bible study, led by Pastor Carl, that takes the students through the entire Bible, giving them a solid grounding in biblical knowledge and a strong understanding of our faith. At the end of the class, on a special Confirmation Sunday, the students stand before the congregation and confirm their baptism. It is a chance for them to publicly affirm their faith, relying on God's promise of holy baptism, and pledge lifelong fidelity to Christ. It is a beautiful and wonderful time of celebrating our young members' desire to embrace our faith and become full-fledged members of the church

As Pastor Carl is getting closer to retirement, this may be his last complete confirmation class. If you want your kids to go through confirmation class led by Pastor Carl, now is the time to jump in!

Please let me or Pastor Carl know if you have any questions, or if you can't make the meeting but would like more information.

Lauren Orcutt  
Chair of the Education Board



The Fall Festival is just around the corner and we are going to begin the planning for the event after worship on Sunday, August 12. If you are interested in participating, but unable to attend the planning meeting, please contact Katie Iniguez. We look forward to you joining us and mark your calendars for Saturday, October 6th 8:00am-2:00pm.



The community concerns committee is continuing the Sock Drive! The bin is getting filled up! Thank you SO much! It is truly amazing what a huge gift a simple pair of socks can be.



Backpacks for Kids is coming up on August 5! A list of items needed is shown here:



- Binders
- Book covers
- Color paper
- Color pencils
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- Dry erase markers
- Erasers
- Glue
- Glue sticks
- Highlighters
- Kleenex
- Markers (washable)
- Notebooks
- Paint sets
- Paper clips
- Pencils (#2)
- Pens
- Pocket folders
- Reams of copy paper
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Sharpeners
- Wide ruled paper

WELCA is providing the backpacks a pencil cases.

All contributions are welcomed! A bin is in the Narthex for supplies. Any questions feel free to call Faith Thomas at 916 205-5032.

We continue gathering gently used coats and sweatshirts for Coats for Kids for fall giveaway at our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat coming up on October 27, 2018. Last year we gave away over 110 coats to keep kids warm in the winter!



Yours in Christ,  
Faith Thomas, chair



Our next W-ELCA gathering will be an off-site luncheon on Saturday September 8th, 2018! We will be meeting at the church at 11:00 am, and then heading over to the restaurant. The restaurant destination has not been determined at this time, but be sure to watch for a sign up sheet on the opportunity table in August with the chosen restaurant.

Yours in Christ,  
Marlene Kiser,  
WELCA President

## THE VOTER EXPERIENCE



In the beginning of June St. Luke's participated in the Gubernatorial Primary Election by allowing the county to use our facilities for the full 11 days to give our community voting opportunities. This opportunity earned us \$1,100.

Our voting center allowed people to cast a ballot in person, register and vote on the same day. We had about 240 people vote at our facility. Voters were very satisfied with their voting experience here and the "great staff." We will be participating again in the midterm elections in November.



Greetings from Mount Cross! 10 SLY members and youth leaders arrived safely on the afternoon of July 15th and are in full camp mode. We are enjoying group bible studies, campfire sing alongs celebrating the love of our Lord and Savior, and meeting others who celebrate our how God's grace has changed our hearts.

- SLY Events**  
August 12- Monthly SLY Meeting  
September 9- Monthly SLY Meeting  
September 28- Congregation Campout





**19TH ANNUAL FIREWORKS SALE  
... AND ON THE 8TH DAY, THEY RESTED ...**

We were blest with an abundance of goodwill and fellowship again this year – and Great Weather – only 1 day above 100 degrees!

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 who spread the word to family and friends to stop on by and visit us. We all had a great time!

On the sales side, we were just over \$23,200 in sales. It was a lot lower than expected unfortunately. After paying for expenses (fireworks, taxes, assorted sundries, and permits), we'll put over \$7,600 in the bank to help the Property Board with the work they do here in keeping the church facilities in tip-top shape! Of that total, 10% will go to the Community Concerns Board to be shared for benevolence.

A loud shout-out goes to all the wonderful folks who brought us food this year. We had great pizza, fried chicken, salads, fruit, brownies, cookies, popcorn, chips, and other snacks.

Also, a special thank you goes to Pastor and Triss Hoppman for supplying us with some great tri-tip sandwiches with all the trimmings and salads for our July 4th celebration. Wonderful!

We always have a great time working at the booth because it's always nice to meet the new faces, welcome our returning customers, and to 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, Peggy, Al, Jerry, Carol, Jack, Micki, Bruce, Karen, Paul, Holly, Ed, Kirsten, Bob, Carolyn, Connie, Kelly, Debi, Stephen, Faith, and many, many, others), who were there to assist in some way or another. Also to Pastor Carl for coming out on July 1st to provide us a special Sunday service with Communion. And finally, an extra shout-out to Phillip and Jennifer Connell who could provide a truck and trailer again to haul our fireworks to and from the warehouse. 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

## MISSION LIFE

*This is the third of several articles about Rev. Stan and Kris Niemi's missionary ministry in Papua New Guinea during the 1980s. The Niemis are new members of St. Luke's. They would be happy to share more with you about this exciting adventure and the importance of world missions. They come Sunday mornings to the 8:15 a.m. service.*

All our worldly goods had been shipped encased in 50 gallon drums and one plywood crate (many books a sauna stove built by my father: Gene, and Some kitchen utensils) I had built in my parent's garage on North Road, Duluth, MN we meet our worldly goods on a truck and headed for Alkena with Hans Dieter Klem as our guide since he had been the first missionary to Alkena around 1954 or 55 and was now teaching at Ogelbeng seminary in Mt Hagen . About an hour into the trip after driving

over a 9000 foot pass the moving truck had its second flat tire no spare available so we waited beside the road or path for one of the drivers to get a newer tire while there a small Suzuki pickup



came along with Gerry Gimby driving and a few local guys in the back bed Kris jumped in the back with the local guys to proceed ahead while Stan and Klem waited and Klem talked to the passerby's in Kaugel (local language for some 20,000 people) about an hour or two later the tire change was back and we proceeded on to Alkena Kris had arrived earlier in tip top shape the unloading began with plenty of helpers rolling the drums and carrying the crate into the mission house; people wanted to see the white missionaries and all their stuff we met Uruepe (pastor and Circuit president) and family who lived next door and Kewa, the circuit secretary, and Wangel the past caretaker of Alkena mission property he and family also lived on mission site opposite side from Uruepe's family, it was getting late so we dismissed all gawkers to prep our new home for the next three years. We felt isolated but in faith we knew God was with us



Alkena Station Stan's Church



Alkena, at 7,400 feet in elevation had an abandoned landing strip, a missionary house, Uruepe's house, Wangel's house, a primary school of about buildings, a good sized church building a circuit office a laundry and storage building (in the back room were some kerosene Coleman type mantle lanterns a coffee roaster and a few other items such as in the laundry area there was a big copper boiler

the station buildings. there were about twenty plus congregations (one in each village) that I and the Christian headmen would visit at least once each year for baptisms, weddings and trouble-shooting typically I'd be gone for a number of days leaving Kris alone for those dark evenings the mission house was sited on about a one acre piece of land with lots of trees and a couple of birds of paradise who were left alone because they were the alarm clock for the area



Once there was a severe frost in the valley and we awoke to wailing because so many of the sweet potato plants died the Lutheran world relief shipped and trucked in rice, tinned fish and other food stuff so I was entrusted with holding and distributing the food I locked it up in the mesh covered area and invited the headmen from the villages to help me work out a plan for equal distribution of the food which we did Lutheran world relief uses in place organizations to save costs and fairly distribute items needed as I learned first hand

for heating wash water (the Germans would boil their clothes) next to the mission house and a power house on the landing strip with a Southern Cross diesel Later I put in a jack-shaft to power the saw to cut firewood (it was a powerful saw at times

... to be continued ...



throwing big slabs of wood against the wire mesh (I was very careful to stand on the correct side of the saw for fear of death or severe bodily harm) surrounding building the wood was for the slow combustion oven generator 7.5 Kva that powered

St. Luke's Board of Worship and Music  
invites you to attend our 8th Annual

# LUAU



## September 22nd, 2018

**Doors open at 5pm**

*for fellowship and activities*

**Dinner at 6:15pm**

**Dessert Auction to follow**

*Dinner will include:*

*Kalua Pork*

*Hawaiian BBQ Chicken*

*Hawaiian Salads*

*Sweet Potatoes, Rice*

*And more!*



**Tickets: \$15.00**

**Youth (4-12yrs): \$5**

Children 3 & under are free

*Activities include:*

*Carnival Games*

*Hula Hoop Contest*

*Hawaiian Apparel Contest*

*Musical Entertainment by  
the St. Luke's Adult Choir  
and Handbell Choir*



Proceeds of this "Fun"raiser will be used  
to support music ministry at St. Luke's.





## THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and rides after my recent car accident. I was truly overwhelmed with so many loving offers.

All your love and thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.  
Peggy Moser



Dear Church Family,

Thinking about how much your kindness, prayers, cards and caring meant to me during my recent illness, I want to say THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart, and thank God for the blessing of each of you.

Your sister in Christ,  
Carolyn Andrews



Lois Sherrets	August 01
Jerry Carney	August 03
Lydia Toloy	August 03
Ralph Zbrog	August 03
Alexander Iniguez	August 07
Irene Boschee	August 08
Linda Duffek	August 10
Stephanie Espinoza	August 11
Amber Mansfield	August 16
Kay Yakabe	August 16
Kristen Encinas	August 18
Angie Martinez	August 21
Angelo Osako	August 21
Aiyana Tice	August 22
Zoe Franklin	August 23
Mack Vance	August 23
Carolyn Andrews	August 27
Jack Orcutt IV	August 29
Faith Thomas	August 31



- Aug 05 **Katie Iniguez**  
For Alexander's 4th Birthday
- Maria & Michael Schell**  
For Don Schell's 84th Birthday
- Aug 12 **Howard Triebwasser**  
In Memory of his wife,  
Pearl's Birthday
- Aug 19 **Ralph & Merle Zbrog**  
For Gloria Dei
- Aug 26 **Pat Hamilton**  
For Aug 30th  
55th Wedding Anniversary

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

June 2018

### Comments:

- This month is a four-Sunday month.
- June's offerings were 10 percent above last year's offerings. Fantastic. However, the Year-to-Date figure still lags last year's YTD figure.
- The offerings in June exceeded the Budget for the month, which has happened only once before this year.
- In July, a mid-year statement of contributions will be distributed to each contributing member. If you do not receive a statement, contact me.
- 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)

General Fund (Only) Contributions			
Data	This Month	Year to Date	
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$18,451	\$100,528	
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	\$793	-\$4,548	
	4.5%	-4.3%	
<b>Compared to 2017</b>	\$1,728	-\$7,080	
	10.3%	-6.6%	
No. of Contributors			
<b>2018</b> (Current Year)	89	86	avg.
<b>2017</b> (Last Year)	85	87	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$27	
Flowers		\$140	
Memorials		\$25	

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

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin

(10:30 a.m.)

Aug 05 Faith Thomas, Ben Briel  
Aug 12 Dave Saxby  
Aug 19 Peggy Moser, Marlene Kiser  
Aug 26 Brenda Sulzmann

## Communion Servers

Aug 05 Peggy Moser, Connie Reule, Faith Thomas  
Aug 19 Gail Weber, Carolyn Andrews, Bob Behr

## Counters

Aug 05 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
Aug 12 John Orcutt, Triss Hoppman  
Aug 19 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig  
Aug 26 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

## Greeters

Aug 05 Gail Weber, Joyce Jensen  
Aug 12 Jack & Micki Fenske  
Aug 19 Stan & Kris Niemi  
Aug 26 Connie Reule & Nancy Minning

## Prayer Leaders

Aug 05 John Orcutt  
Aug 12 Maria Schell  
Aug 19 Max Schell  
Aug 26 David Saxby

## Psalms Leaders

Aug 05 Amber Mansfield  
Aug 12 Angie Martinez  
Aug 19 Lucy Orcutt  
Aug 26 Aiyana Tice

## Head Ushers

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

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

Aug 05 Eric Linblade; Jan Tanaka  
Aug 12 Sarah Madison; Alison Thomas  
Aug 19 Phil Petersen; Faith Thomas  
Aug 26 Lydia Toloy; Laura Tice

## Refreshments

Aug 05 Carol Carney and Ofelia Ojeda  
Aug 12 Walt & Pauline Arndt and Joyce Jensen  
Aug 19 Mack and Carole Vance  
Aug 26 Pat Webb and Carole Vance

## Visitors' Gifts

Aug 05 Carole Vance  
Aug 12 Joyce Jensen  
Aug 19 Pat Webb  
Aug 26 Pauline Arndt

## Acolytes

Aug 05 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez  
Aug 12 Aiyana Tice, Ernestine Roberts  
Aug 19 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez  
Aug 26 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi

## Welcome Leaders

Aug 05 Mary Francis Harris  
Aug 12 Betty Englund  
Aug 19 Carolyn Andrews  
Aug 26 Pat Webb

## Sunday School Teachers

Aug 05 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto  
Aug 12 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez  
Aug 19 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews  
Aug 26 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
7595 Center Parkway  
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Return Service Requested



Join us on  
**August 5th**  
help us stuff!

We will be stuffing backpacks full of the school supplies that everyone has graciously donated after worship in Schultz Hall. Hope to see you there!