



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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# News And Views

2019

## Pastoral Perspective



Perhaps you are considering exchanging or have already exchanged some Christmas gifts. You might appreciate the thought behind some gifts but would really rather have something else.

A statement sometimes spoken by a recipient of a gift to the giver is, "You really shouldn't have." Now, while that is normally considered a compliment, suggesting that the gift is extravagant or that the recipient is not deserving of such great kindness, at times the recipient means, "You really shouldn't have, because this isn't what I want." That this is often the hidden meaning is made obvious by the long lines at special counters set up just to take care of post-Christmas exchanges.

This flurried gift exchange might be no big deal, but there is one gift that is not to be exchanged. That is the real gift of Christmas, Jesus. Of this gift you might say to God, "You really shouldn't have", but it was the only way God could win you back into right relationship with Him. This gift, the gift of His Son, your Savior, is the only gift that can bring true meaning and purpose to your life. It is the only gift that lasts forever. Why would you ever want to exchange this gift of life, this gift of a growing relationship with God through Jesus?

Well, it's sort of like receiving a beautiful plant. Sure, it's great to have around for a few days to look at, but it can seem like too much to have to

take care of. Why not just exchange it for an attractive artificial plant? It's sort of like receiving a baby pet. Sure, it's cute and adorable, sort of like the baby Jesus, but it can be a hassle to live with day in and day out. It can seem restricting and demanding to have around all the time. Why not just exchange it and get a computer screen saver of baby animals?

Get the idea? You can be tempted to exchange the real gift of Christmas, which is right relationship with God through His Son, Jesus, with a convenient and more comfortable relationship with your worldly desires apart from God. You can be tempted to exchange a living relationship with God for what you might think will be more satisfying for your life in this world. You can say in your heart to God, "You really shouldn't have", meaning, "Thanks for the gift of Jesus, but I don't really want to have Him in my life all year long to listen to and follow."

But don't do it! Don't exchange the gift. Sure it can be demanding at times and make you shift your priorities and what is important to you, but the gift of right relationship with God through Jesus is priceless. There is nothing you could exchange it for that would be anywhere near as wonderful. Keep the gift. Thank God for it every day. Hold it close to your heart. You will really be so much more satisfied with it than anything you could exchange it for.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,  
Pastor Carl



**EPIPHANY BREAKFAST AND SERVICE  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019  
AT 9:15 A.M.**

Please join us in Schultz Hall for our Epiphany Breakfast. The Evangelism Board will provide Breakfast Casseroles, Coffee and Juice. Those coming are 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 on the Opportunity Table so we will be sure to have enough food and seating for everyone.

Worship for all will be held in Schultz Hall at 10:30 a.m. that day. There will be no 8:15 a.m. service.



**CHAIRPERSON NEEDED FOR GREETERS:**

*greeters*

Every Sunday Morning we have two Greeters in the Narthex. We need someone to coordinate the Greeters. We have a sign up

sheet on the Opportunity Table and usually we have enough greeters sign up, in case we do not, a few phone calls are needed. If you are interested, please contact me.

Thank you, Carole Vance - (916) 421-9172



As the Evangelism Board reflects on this past year our main concern remained Congregational Care and we would like to thank each and every one who volunteered to help us, in any way, to support our effort. We can't do it without help and encourage others to sign up to be Greeters, hand out the Visitor Gift and Serve Refreshments, all of which are a vital part of our effort to care for our worshipers.

However; there are a number of people that continue to go, above and beyond to serve our Congregation in a loving and caring way and are so greatly appreciated.

Each and every Sunday, when they are available, - Ron Webb makes coffee and sets up for refreshments and anything else that is needed, Ron and Cheryl Franklin prepare for 1st service worship and then before they leave, sets up for 2nd service, Dorothy Haney who greets everyone as they enter the Narthex, takes care of name tags, encourages worshipers to sign-up at the table for various opportunities and answering many questions!

And then there is Al and Peggy Moser, both of whom can consider St. Luke's their second home, always there caring for it, in so many ways, just as they do their own home. It is easy for all of us to call one of them, and say, "since you are right around the corner do you mind running over to the church for whatever the request might be" and they are always there for us. We thank Al for years of support for replenishing supplies in the bathrooms and so very much more!

We encourage anyone who would like to nominate someone for special recognition, to please contact Carole Vance, Evangelism Chairman, or Pastor Carl.



## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE WITH PASTOR CARL

I'd love to have you join me in reading through the Bible in the New Year! We will be starting with Ezekiel in January and going through the Gospel of Luke by Easter. Discussion groups meet on Sundays in the Sanctuary Study Room at 9:15 a.m. and Tuesdays in the Church Office at 10:15 a.m. Daily Bible Reading Guides are available in the church entryway or I am happy to send you one. The readings will start a bit later than originally planned because of the Epiphany Breakfast. The daily readings will begin on Wednesday, January 9. Discussion groups will start on Sunday, January 13 and Tuesday, January 15.—Pastor Carl



The Annual W-ELCA Christmas Gathering occurred on December 8th, with many folks coming out to celebrate together. A short business meeting took place before the fun began with the election of the offices for the coming year, Marlene Kiser was re-elected for President, Judy Saxby was elected as Vice-President, Triss Hoppman was re-elected as Treasure, and Gabby Cox was elected as Secretary. Fun then began with games being provided by Katie Iniguez, Karen Linfor and Pastor Carol lead our Christmas Carol singing, and the gift exchange took place. It was great seeing everyone have a fun time.

Thanks go out to the W-ELCA Christmas Gathering Team (Connie Reule, Triss Hoppman and Marlene Kiser) for making the meal, the great ladies who help with providing the table decorating this year (everything looked very festive!), and a great thanks to those who helped with doing the clean up after the meeting.

Our mission support collection for this holiday season was for 7 families this year. This was an amazing undertaking by the church. We collected clothes, pajamas, shoes, gift cards, and toys for 5 families from Charles Mack and 2 families from Ellen Feickert Elementary. Many thanks to everyone who provided these special gifts and who also stayed after church on December 23, to help wrap all the gifts. A special thank you to Peggy Moser for contacting the school and families, and those who helped to be sure that the presents were delivered to all families in time for Christmas!

Please mark your calendars for the start of 2019 with our first meeting on January 12, 2019. Mission Support will be for Union Gospel Mission: Adult scarves, hats, gloves, socks & underwear. New/gently used towels and blankets. Lunch will be a potluck.

Yours in Christ,  
Marlene Kiser,  
WELCA President



Gifts piling up for families in need at Christmas. Thank you!



# W-ELCA'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH





**CRAB FEED  
MARCH 2, 2019**

**TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!**

Contact Holly Hoppman or call our church office for tickets! Ticket prices are staying the same at \$45 for adults and \$15 for youth. We will also have special childcare tickets for kids that just want to play (please contact Holly for details).

This year's theme is MARDI GRAS!! So, grab your beads and swing on by! If you are interested in helping with the Crab Feed this year, please let Holly know! We'd love to have you join us for our next planning meeting, Sunday, January 13th.



Greetings All,

This past year our facilities have been very popular! We are the home of many groups like the Sacramento Youth Band, NA groups, Visions School, Girl Scouts and many more. This year we

participated in both Elections and our Multipurpose Room was used the full 11 days each time.

My goal for the upcoming new year is to keep a better inventory and facilities calendar. With that said, I would like your help! If you are planning on hosting anything personal in our facilities please contact the office and fill out a facilities use form.

Thank you!!

Rochelle Jaeger  
Office Administration



Kathryn Felgenhauer	January 02
Darnell Osako	January 02
Esther Battyany	January 03
Craig Eckels	January 03
Jacob Kiser	January 03
Nick Moser	January 05
Pat Hamilton	January 06
Merle Zbrog	January 07
Lauren Orcutt	January 08
Karen Linfor	January 10
Lil' Deanna Dockter	January 13
Walter Arndt	January 16
Kayla King	January 16
Dennis Fischer	January 19
Stella Loveless	January 24
George Dorr	January 26
Jarrold Rowland	January 27
Amy Franklin	January 29
Bernie Johansen	January 30
Kirsten Ireton	January 31



- Jan 6     **Shirley Prouty**  
In memory of my parents,  
Jack & Emma Tate
- Shirley Prouty**  
In memory of Robert Prouty
- Jan 13    **Karen Linfor**  
Happy 75th Birthday!
- Jan 20    *Needed*
- Jan 27    **Karen Linfor**  
In loving memory of Tracy Light

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

November 2018

### Comments:

- November was a four-Sunday month.
- The contributions in November were lackluster. The contributions slightly surpassed last year's contributions but fell short of the monthly budget.
- The good news is that the contributions during the preceding two months were excellent and the next month is December, which is always excellent.
- When making a special contribution, please clearly mark in large, bold letters what the contribution is for. Thank you.
- 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>	\$14,788	\$187,874	
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	-\$2,435	-\$4,620	
	-14.1%	-2.4%	
<b>Compared to 2017</b>	\$101	-\$4,384	
	0.7%	-2.3%	
No. of Contributors			
<b>2018</b> (Current Year)	78	84	avg.
<b>2017</b> (Last Year)	80	88	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$31	
Flowers		\$200	
Special Gifts (Pastoral Assistance)		\$50	
Poinsettias		\$40	

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

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin  
(10:30 a.m.)  
Jan 6 *Needed*  
Jan 13 *Needed*  
Jan 20 *Needed*  
Jan 27 *Needed*

## Communion Servers

Jan 6 Kirsten Ireton, Marlene Kiser,  
Karen Linfor  
Jan 20 Shirley Prouty, Connie Reule,  
Faith Thomas

## Counters

Jan 6 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
Jan 13 John Orcutt, Triss Hoppman  
Jan 20 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig  
Jan 27 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

## Greeters

Jan 6 *Needed*  
Jan 13 *Needed*  
Jan 20 *Needed*  
Jan 27 *Needed*

## Prayer Leaders

Jan 6 Ralph Zbrog  
Jan 13 Tracy Etchison  
Jan 20 Mary Frances Harris  
Jan 27 Holly Hoppman

## Psalm Leaders

Jan 6 Sierra Etchison  
Jan 13 Aiyana Tice  
Jan 20 Lucy Orcutt  
Jan 27 Amber Mansfield

## Head Ushers

8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin  
10:30 a.m. Craig Eckels  
**Readers** (8:15 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.)  
Jan 6 Phil Petersen; Judy Saxby  
Jan 13 Ron Webb; Jan Tanaka  
Jan 20 Christiana Wilson; Laura Tice  
Jan 27 Sarah Madison; Alison Thomas

## Refreshments

Jan 6 Epiphany Breakfast  
Jan 13 **Mark & Alison Thomas**  
Jan 20 Paul Maki and Chona Sison  
Jan 27 Kelly Boyer and Lois Sherrets

## Visitors' Gifts

Jan 6 Gabby Cox  
Jan 13 Carole Vance  
Jan 20 Lois Sherrets  
Jan 27 Gail Weber

## Acolytes

Jan 6 Darnell Osako, LaRayna Osako-Cain  
Jan 13 Noella Sondrini, Anthony Basquez  
Jan 20 Claire Kerian, Elizabeth Wilson  
Jan 27 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi

## Welcome Leaders

Jan 6 Pat Webb  
Jan 13 Gail Weber  
Jan 20 Al Moser  
Jan 27 Chet Madison

## Sunday School Teachers

Jan 6 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto, Peggy Moser  
Jan 13 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez, Peggy Moser  
Jan 20 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews, Peggy Moser  
Jan 27 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice, Peggy Moser



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

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

Return Service Requested

# Service & Breakfast

January 6, 2019  
at 9:15 a.m.

Schultz Hall