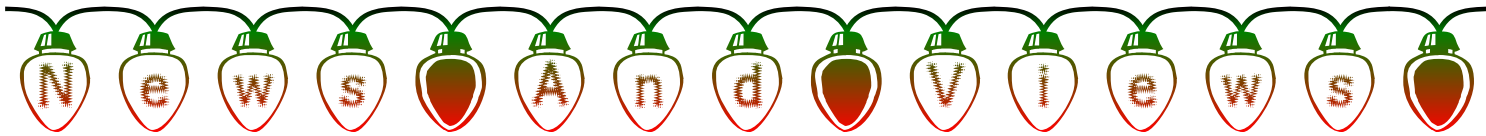




St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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[www.slelca.org](http://www.slelca.org)  
[office@slelca.org](mailto:office@slelca.org)  
Pastor Carl Hoppman  
[carlhoppman@gmail.com](mailto:carlhoppman@gmail.com)



## Pastoral Perspective



How hard we work to try and get Christmas gifts that will be meaningful and useful to those on our Christmas list. The way they respond to these gifts is important to us. You know, God has worked very hard to get just the right Christmas gifts for you. The way you respond to them is also very important to Him.

First, God gives you the gift of forgiveness of your past sins. Jesus came into the world to make it plain that God has not given up on you. You are not off His Christmas list. Rather, new life is yours. That new life starts at the point of forgiveness of your past sins. Jesus paid the penalty for them. The appropriate way to respond to this gift is to cherish the gift of forgiveness and believe it is really yours. Jesus has come into the world to take your sins upon Himself so you can have this gift of forgiveness.

Second, God gives you the gift of help for present challenges. Suffering or sickness might hit you. Disappointment or frustration might come. Loneliness or doubt might afflict you. But take heart, God is with you. The coming of Jesus into the world gives you assurance of that. This wonderful gift enables you to go on in faith. This gift moves in mysterious ways. It may be help when you need it, spoken or acted through a friend or stranger. It

may be a sense of peace that envelopes you in the midst of your challenge. It may be the courage you find to stand up and go forward. God does not forsake you in your life challenges but helps you. The proper way to respond to this gift is to thank God that He is always with you and believe that He loves you and will always help you with life's challenges.

Third, God gives you the gift of hope for the future. A light has come into the world that will never go out. That light is Jesus. He has come to dwell with you and guide you through this world to heaven. God has not forgotten the world. He is still in charge and will bring His plan of salvation to completion. The gift of hope lets you know that nothing in the world can stop God from fulfilling His plan. The proper way to respond to this gift is to thank God for having you and the whole world in His hands and to believe that nothing can undo God's plan of salvation for you and for His creation.

God gives these awesome Christmas gifts to you this Christmas. Your response to these gifts makes all the difference to Him. It would mean so much to Him if you would receive them with thanksgiving and use them often. He would be delighted if you would share them with others.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing With You,

Pastor Carl



## W-ELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

W-ELCA will be having their Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 14th at 11:30AM this year in the Schultz Hall. The luncheon will be provided by the W-ELCA Board so please sign up on the W-ELCA Christmas Luncheon Sign Up Sheet on the Opportunity Table. Our luncheon will include a short W-ELCA meeting, singing Christmas songs and a small gift exchange for those who would like to participate. (If you would like to participate please bring a wrapped gift under \$15.00 so you can join the fun). If you would like to bring Christmas cookies to share as part of the Christmas Luncheon it would be greatly appreciated. Our Mission Support for December is the Christmas Families.



November W-ELCA Meeting report:  
We started the November meeting with a special quest speaker, Jasmine Kairam, from "My Sister House". Jasmine provided information on the mission of "My Sister House" as "A safe haven for Asian Pacific Islander Women and Children". Their goal is to eliminate intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking in their community. Following our guest speaker we had a great meeting with review of the 2019 Fall Festival, plans for the ThankOffering Service and plan for the Christmas Luncheon. Our Mission Support was for Valley Hi Resource Center.

Yours In Christ,  
Marlene Kiser  
W-ELCA President



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK, DECEMBER 15, 2019

The Evangelism Board hosts this potluck. Schultz Hall will be set up from the Christmas Luncheon on December 14th. We will add dishes, etc after the Luncheon.



In the Christmas Spirit, we would like to provide Christmas Cookies at our December 22nd after Service Refreshments. The Evangelism Board would need your help in providing the Cookies. Whatever Christmas Cookies you can provide would be wonderful.

## ADVENT

God Bless Us Everyone! Advent home devotionals based on Charles Dickens Christmas Carol are now available. The adult devotional booklet features a Bible reading and an excerpt from A Christmas Carol. There is also family sticker booklet for children. Please take one per family.



## SIGN UP FOR ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & READINGS

Each Sunday in Advent, we have a family or group of friends light that week's Advent candle and read a special Advent passage at the beginning of the service. Sign up on the opportunity table!

## POINSETTIAS

We are once again taking orders for Poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. The cost is \$10 each. We are hoping for 50 or more orders so we can fill the sanctuary with Christmas beauty. Please place your order in the offering plate or turn it in to the office. A list of the honorees will be printed in the bulletin December 15, 22 and 24. You may pick up your plants after the 7:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve.



## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Our traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. This is a family oriented service featuring carols, readings and special music and highlights the light Christ brings to the world with the symbolic lighting of candles. Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 8:15 and 10:30 services on Sunday, December 22. Please note there will be no 11:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve.

## TREE DECORATING

We will be decking the halls and setting up the congregational Christmas tree on Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to join in the fun and partake in Christmas cheer.



The choir's annual Christmas cantata under the direction of Jane Fanucci will be presented Sunday, December 15 at 10:30. This year's presentation is a collection of some of our favorite Christmas anthems and related Bible readings. We are looking for several readers to help us. If you would like to participate in the cantata as a reader, please sign up in the narthex. Invite your friends and family for this inspirational and up-beat musical presentation. Please note there will be no 8:15 service on December 15.



## CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

If you would like to exchange Christmas cards with other members and friends of St. Luke's please put them in the Christmas card box located in the church entry.





This year's trunk or treat was fantastic! We had over 400 people attend, the kids had a great time, and we All had fun! We had a dozen trunks on display and our costume parade was fantastic. Our Christmas Families have a arrived! Each year



we collect gifts for families from Charles Mack Elementary School.

The tags are on the bell tables in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take the items and purchase only the items that are on the tags. If you would like to purchase additional items, please take additional tags.

We will be wrapping the gifts on December 22nd in Schultz hall. Come join us in the fun! And help out those that are in need. Thank you to everyone who participates and merry Christmas!

Faith Thomas, community concerns chairperson



## CRAB FEED PLANNING

It's that time of year to start talking about the Crab Feed. If you are interested in helping with the Crab Feed, we'd love to have you join us for our first planning meeting after worship on Sunday, December 1st in Room 4 of the Sunday school wing. Pick up your refreshments, then join us as we discuss themes and pick a date for our 2020 Crab Feed!



## WORK DAY, NOVEMBER 9

A small, but ambitious crew participated in the “All Members Work Day” on Saturday morning, November 9. Despite the small crew, a lot was accomplished and the critical tasks were completed. The roofs and gutters were cleaned of debris for proper drainage; the excess leaves and tree debris (created by the recent strong winds) were raked up from the lawns and used as mulch (two pickups loads, plus several full wheelbarrows); the recently installed Narthex window trim pieces were painted; the trees in front of the Good Shephard window were trimmed to improve visibility of the window; trash and garbage were removed from the lawns and shrubbery; and other tasks were completed to prepare the facilities for the winter season. The bulk (five out of seven) of the Work Day participants were Property Board members, which was somewhat discouraging. On behalf of the congregation, I thank the members who participated in the November 9 Work Day – Paul Maki, Carol Carney, and Board members Kelly Boyer, Ben Briel, Jack Fenske, Bruce Kiser, and Clarence Korhonen. Their dedication made the Work Day a success. Kelly furnished donuts, which was much appreciated. Thank you, Kelly. The next Work Day will be held in the spring of 2020. All are encouraged to assist, if able.

Jack Fenske for St. Luke’s Property Board



# Youth Mount Cross Retreat



# TRUNK OR TREAT











Holy  
Baptism

Grayson Olmeda

Parents: Elizabeth Brasier and  
Edgar Olmeda

Sponsors: Al & Peggy Moser





# December Birthdays

Alanna Olmeda	December 01
Faith Harper	December 03
Carole Vance	December 03
Kim Fenske	December 04
Benjamin Iniguez	December 05
Jared Kiser	December 05
Lauren Richey	December 09
Elizabeth Korhonen	December 12
Betty Englund	December 14
Chet Madison	December 16
Kristine Felgenhauer	December 17
Marilyn Dorr	December 18
Sylvia Kohler	December 21
Triss Hoppman	December 25
Robert Harrison	December 26
Deanna Dockter	December 27
Adalyn Kiser	December 31

## Community Events at St. Luke's

Key	SH=Schultz Hall MP=Multipurpose
December 5	Valley Hi Resource Center Family Christmas Extravaganza (SH & MP)
December 7	Tree Decorating (Sanctuary)
December 14	WELCA Luncheon (SH)
December 15	Cantata (Sanctuary) Congregational Luncheon Meeting (SH)
Sundays	4 pm Sacramento Youth Band (SH) 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous (MP)
Mondays	7 pm New Path AA (RM 4)
2nd & 4th Mondays	7 pm Girl Scouts (MP)
Wednesdays	6 pm Girls Scouts (MP) 7 pm New Path AA (RM 4)
Fridays	7 pm New Path AA (RM 4)
3rd Fridays	7 pm Girl Scouts (MP)
Saturdays	12 pm Narcotics Anonymous (MP) 2 pm Break Free Worship (MP)



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec 1	<b>Bernie Johansen</b> For the Glory of God
Dec 8	<i>Needed</i>
Dec 15	<b>Debi Lentsch</b> Thankful for God's blessings
Dec 22	<b>Karen Linfor</b> Thankful to God for Jesus
Dec 29	<i>Needed</i>

# FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

October 2019

## Comments:

- a. October's offerings were poor, maybe because September's offerings were excellent.
- b. However, the YTD figures remain positive – compared to the Budget, the offerings are even and compared to last year, the offerings are slightly ahead.
- c. A continuing concern is the number of contributors, which has decreased about 12 percent from 2018.
- d. Several members are giving their contribution "online". If you wish to give "online", access your bank's website and select "Pay Bills". You will need the address of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, which is 7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento, CA, 95823.
- e. To assist the Sunday Counters and the Financial Secretary, please –
  - For a special contribution, clearly mark how the contribution is to be used.
  - Use numbered envelopes, when feasible.
  - If you need numbered envelopes, either see me or drop a note in the offering.
  - When using pew envelopes, please write legibly.
    - f. 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>	\$11,719	\$177,175	
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	-\$7,581	-\$65	
	-39.3%	0.0%	
<b>Compared to 2018</b>	-\$6,990	\$4,089	
	-37.4%	2.4%	
No. of Contributors			
<b>2019</b> (Current Year)	60	75	avg.
<b>2018</b> (Last Year)	77	85	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$9	
Flowers		\$120	

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





# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin  
 (10:30 a.m.)  
 Dec 1 Marlene Kiser, Faith Harper  
 Dec 8 Shirley Prouty  
 Dec 15 Connie Reule  
 Dec 22 Kelly Boyer  
 Dec 24 Marlene Kiser  
 Dec 29 Brenda Sulzmann, Carole Johnson

## Communion Servers

Dec 1 Ralph Zbrog, Bob Behr, Kelly Boyer  
 Dec 22 Linda Duffek, Betty Englund,  
 Mary Frances Harris

## Counters

Dec 1 Debi Lentsch, Connie Reule  
 Dec 8 John Orcutt, Triss Hoppman  
 Dec 15 Kelly Boyer, Barbara Manlapig  
 Dec 22 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser  
 Dec 29 Debi Lentsch, Connie Reule

## Greeters

Dec 1 Carole Johnson, Brenda Sulzmann  
 Dec 8 Steven Lee, Gabby Cox  
 Dec 15 Ofelia Ojeda  
 Dec 22 Ed, Kirsten & Julie Ireton  
 Dec 29 *Needed*

## Prayer Leaders

Dec 1 Mary Frances Harris  
 Dec 8 Holly Hoppman  
 Dec 15 Triss Hoppman  
 Dec 22 Marlene Kiser  
 Dec 24 Phil Petersen  
 Dec 29 Kirsten Ireton

## Psalm Leaders

Dec 1 Sierra Etchison  
 Dec 8 Aiyana Tice  
 Dec 15 Lucy Orcutt  
 Dec 22 Lauren Richey  
 Dec 24 Amber Mansfield  
 Dec 29

## Head Ushers

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

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

Dec 1 Sarah Madison; David Saxby  
 Dec 8 Ron Webb; Michele Sondrini  
 Dec 15 Christiana Wilson; Faith Thomas  
 Dec 22 Sarah Madison; Laura Tice  
 Dec 24 Kelly Boyer  
 Dec 29 Chrisiana Wilson; Pat Webb

## Refreshments

Dec 1 Carol Carney & Ofelia Ojeda  
 Dec 8 **Congregational Meeting and Potluck**  
 Dec 15 Mack and Carole Vance  
 Dec 22 Christmas Cookies  
 Dec 29 Jacob & Christianna Wilson

## Acolytes

Dec 1 Lauren Richey  
 Dec 8 Noella Sondrini, Anthony Basquez  
 Dec 15 Claire Kerian, Elizabeth Wilson  
 Dec 22 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi  
 Dec 24 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez  
 Dec 29 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez

## Welcome Leaders

Dec 1 Betty Englund  
 Dec 8 Pat Webb  
 Dec 15 Al Moser  
 Dec 22 Chet Madison  
 Dec 29 Lois Sherrets

## Sunday School Teachers

Dec 1 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto, Peggy Moser  
 Dec 8 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez, Peggy Moser  
 Dec 15 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews, Peggy Moser  
 Dec 22 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice, Peggy Moser  
 Dec 29 Alison Thomas, Laura Tice, Peggy Moser



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

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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE WONDERFUL EVENTS!**



**CANTATA**  
DECEMBER 15TH  
10:30 AM



**Christmas Eve**  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE  
DECEMBER 24TH  
7:00 PM

DECEMBER 14TH  
W-ELCA CHRISTMAS  
GATHERING  
11:30 AM



TREE DECORATING  
DECEMBER 7TH  
1:30 PM