

Strength, Soul, and Spark:
Celebrating the Gifts of Women
Thankoffering Service
November 23rd, 2025
10:30am



***Created by students and staff of the Office of Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry at Wartburg College for Women of the ELCA.*

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823
(916)421-5039
office@slelca.org

Pastor Rob Williamson
pastorrob@slelca.org

Guest Preacher: Regina Banks

Jane Fanucci, Choir Director/Organist
jef100bicen@yahoo.com

HOLY COMMUNION

Please silence your phones during worship service

PRELUDE

Jane Fanucci

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

We gather in the name of our creator, redeemer +, and sustainer.

Amen.

Joined to Christ and named as God's beloved, we give thanks for the gift of baptism that roots us in life, renews us in strength, and frees us to be bold.

We give you thanks, O God,
For at the beginning of time, your creative spirit moved over the waters, your Word brought new life, and you called it good.

We give you thanks, O God, for waters that sustain and heal.
You revealed a spring of water to Hagar, saving her and her son Ishmael.

You brought your people out of the waters of the Exodus,
leading Miriam to shout out in song.

You held Moses in the River Nile, where Pharaoh's daughter would find him and care for him as her own.

You kept the party going when, at Mary's request, Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding.

You led a Samaritan woman to a well, where she would be met by Jesus' grace and given living water that lasts.

Even today, you shower us with life, and we praise you. With your living water, sustain our souls, show us empathy and welcome, give us strength, and lead us by your divine spark to lives of compassion and mercy.

Amen.

You are invited to stand as able.

GATHERING SONG ELW#835 v. 1-4

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa-ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Glory,

We are gathered today in your presence to celebrate and give thanks for all of the gifts and talents given to women. While we recognize the abundance we have, we also recognize the struggles of women in our own country and around the world. Sometimes these struggles are voiced or are internal conflicts that only You know about. Lord, bring peace and joy to our hearts today. Allow us to fully absorb the presence of you and of the community of strong women surrounding us.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Ruth 1

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 139:1-14

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

Continues...

- ⁸ **If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**
- ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
- ¹⁰ **even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**
- ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
- ¹² **even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**
- ¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Thanksgiving — A Medley of Hymns

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 9:18-25

The Gospel, the Good News made real for you.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

You are invited to stand as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #723

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In solidarity with your people from every nation and knit together with all of creation, we boldly pray for the church, our world, and all those in need.

Inspire your church, like Ruth and Naomi, to extend arms of compassion and empathy in times of challenge. Equip communities to be welcoming, to show mercy, and to lean into relationships so that all people may know your care. God our soul,
Hear our prayer.

Guide leaders to reflect the spark of your divine wisdom. Open eyes to see the goodness of your created world and encourage the tender care of those cast aside. Reveal yourself in unexpected places and in the leadership of those called to help. God our Spark,
Hear our prayer.

Bring healing, like the woman who bled for twelve years, to all who are suffering. Give strength to the weary, uplift the lowly, and amplify the voices of those quieted. Breathe new life into forgotten places, end wars, rejuvenate lands, and uplift spirits. God our Strength,
Hear our prayer.

Trusting in your love for us, we offer these prayers and whatever else weighs heavy upon us to you, in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say "peace be with you," or similar words.

Please be seated.

THANKOFFERING

MUSIC

Give Thanks

OFFERING PRAYER

God of Abundance,

You create goodness in everything we offer. Use these gifts to bless the world. Strengthen ministries, empower leaders, and inspire generosity so that all may know your love. Reveal this love to us once again as we gather at your table that we might embody your compassionate care in all we do. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. Come forward by the center aisle at the usher's invitation. Those not yet communing will receive a blessing. Bread will be placed in your open hands. Grape juice is in the pink glasses in the center of the tray encircled by wine in clear glasses. Individual communion packets are available near the entrance for those who prefer them.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

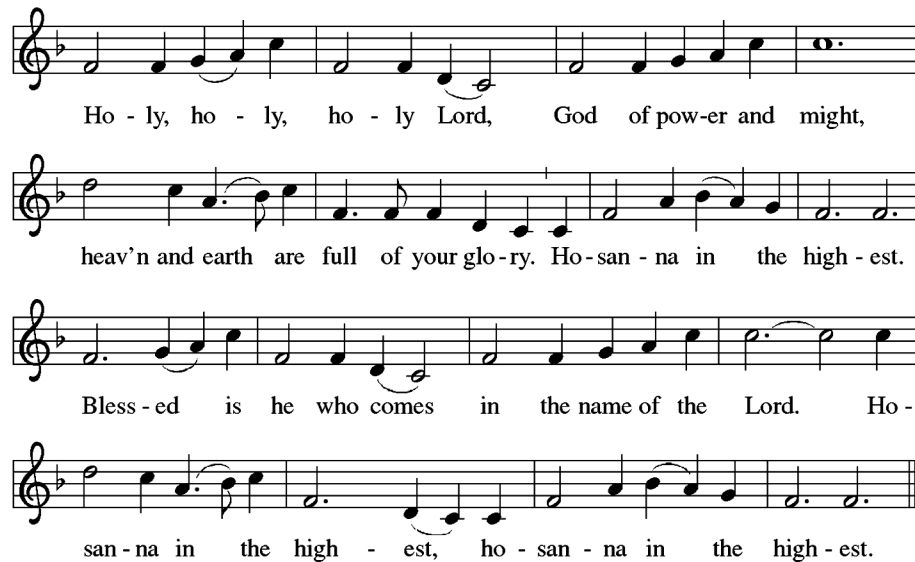
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God..

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through the great shepherd of your flock, our Savior Jesus Christ,
who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles
to preach the gospel and teach all nations,
and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age.
And so, with Mary Magdalene, Junia, Phoebe, and the glorious
company of all the apostles,
with the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your
promise.
With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from
bondage.
With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant
love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding
friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth
of Jesus, the Holy One.
With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings
of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come
near.

With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of
Christ's dying and rising.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us.
You are our heart's desire.
You are our priceless treasure.
You are the garden of paradise.

Come down, O Love divine.
Come among us, O passionate Fire.
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts,
which we are about to receive from your bounty.
Bless our table and the feast we share.
Bless us with gladness of heart.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

At this table make us your body.
Form us to be people of justice and peace.
Fill us with gratitude and generosity
that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Praise to you, Author of creation.
Praise to you, O Beloved One.
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.

Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God,

We give thanks!

You've gathered us together across generations and created a place at the table for each of us.

We give thanks!

Strengthen us with this meal of your love poured out, fill us with compassion, and nourish us until we meet again.

We give thanks!

In the name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of God who breathes creativity into every soul and lights up every vision with purpose.

Bless the women of the world with the strength that they need, with empathy that brings us together, and with gratitude that moves us all forward.

May your love be our guide and your justice our song that we sing and live out each day.

Amen.

SENDING SONG ELW#859

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Jane Fanucci

Worship Assistants



Acolytes: *Connie Reule*

Announcements & Welcome: *Punky Dias*

Assistant Minister: *Peggy Moser*

Reader#1: *Karen Linfor*

Reader#2: *Faith Thomas*

Psalm Leader: *Sarah Madison*

Prayers of Intercession: *Sarah Madison*

Communion Assistants: *Connie Reule ,Peggy Moser
& Linda Duffek*

Ushers: *JoAnn Sulli & Brenda Sulzmann*



Flowers for worship today were provided by:

Triss Hoppman
In Honor of November Birthdays
Micki Fenske and Carl Hoppman

**This Week at St. Luke Church
November 23 - 29, 2024**

Today	Holy Communion	10:30am
	Thanksgiving Pie	after worship
Monday	Soul Sisters RM 4	Noon-2pm
Wednesday	Choir rehearsal	6:00pm
Thursday	Happy Thanksgiving	

Office will be closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving.

Join Us! Dec 3rd, 10th & 17th

Advent Soup Suppers on Wednesday evenings
at 6pm in Schultz Hall.

Followed by the Holden Evening Prayer at
6:45pm in the Sanctuary.

ANNUAL MEETING & potluck



Our yearly Congregational Business Meeting and Potluck will be taking place on **December 14th** following worship service in Schultz Hall. The sign-up for the potluck is in the narthex.



W-ELCA Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 13, 11:30am

Christmas Gift Drive

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families has again been selected as the recipient of our annual Christmas gift drive. The organization has been serving youth and families in our community for almost 125 years and serves approximately 6,700 children and families in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Nevada, Yolo, Napa, Solano, and San Joaquin counties annually.

Their services include family advocacy and peer support; behavioral and mental health services; substance use prevention and treatment; juvenile justice intervention; mentoring; foster care, adoption services, and pre- and post- adoption services.

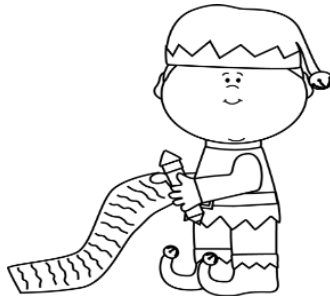
To help the families they serve, the organization offers a “gift shop” to the caregivers where they can, at no cost to them, select appropriate and meaningful gifts for the children in their care. Our contributions will help stock the gift shop and provide special moments of holiday connection for these families. If you would like to participate, please bring your unwrapped gifts, and place them under the tree at the back of the sanctuary by December 7.

Please see the back page for suggestions of gifts by age. Most of the children they serve are ages 10 and up.



Holiday Gift List

Stanford Sierra Youth & Families



7 – 9 Years: Stuffed Toys, Squishmallows, Barbies, Action Figures, Toy Cars, Educational Games, Puzzles, Board Games, Movie Tickets, Scooters, Bikes, Helmets, Fidget/Sensory Toys, Lego Sets, Arts & Craft Kits, Science Kits, Play Pretend Costumes

10 – 12 Years: Wireless Earphones, Gift Cards, Roblox, Minecraft Games, Bath Bombs, Scooters, Bikes, Helmets, Roller Skates, Tablet, Slime Kits, Lego Sets, Gingerbread House Kits

13 – 15 Years: Press on Nails, Nail Polish, Lotion and Body Wash Sets, Fragrance Sets, Makeup Sets, Journal Sets, Books, Wireless Ear Buds, Video Games, Gift Cards, Scooters, Bikes, Roller Skates, Helmets, Skateboards, Tablets, Science Kits, Anime Posters, Clothing, Pajamas, Lego Sets

16 Years and up: Books, Comic Books, Mangas, Wireless Ear Buds, Fragrance Sets, Makeup Sets, Arts & Crafts Sets, Board Games, Gift Cards, Video Games, Xbox/Playstation/Steam Gift Cards, Gaming Accessories (Headsets/Controllers/Steering Wheels), Smart Watches, Skateboards, Roller Skates, Helmets, Nail Sets (Press on Nails and Polish), Graphic Tees, Hoodies, Sweatshirts (Zumiez/Journeys/Pacsun), Clothing, Pajamas