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### 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 as long as 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 being punished or 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, especially in Matthew's gospel which we read this year, becomes increasingly grim and despairing at every turn. The "socalled" 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

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 Presidents' Communication is an important part of keeping our church family informed and together as we look for ways to serve

the Lord. At St. Luke's our monthly newsletter, News & Views (N&V), is an important media for reaching out to all members about upcoming events, celebrations, and worship and education opportunities. In order to provide this information in a timely manner, the Council decided to establish a hard date, the 15th of each month, for getting information to the Church Secretary for inclusion in the next edition. This allows time for formatting and printing the N&V so it can be mailed approximately one week before the first of the next month. It is important that all members have the N&V by the first so that they are aware of the events for the next month.

So beginning with the N&V for April, all inputs need to be submitted by March 15. If articles are received after that date, they will need to be held until the next month. So please get your articles in early and avoid missing the

cutoff date.

Thanks to all who attended the special congregational meeting on February 13 to consider the projects and priority for funding from the Blumhardt Memorial. Special thanks again to the committee: Holly Hoppman (chair), Jack Fenske, Don Schell, Bernie Johansen, Ken Lentsch, Rachel Kiser, Jennifer Connell and all who provided ideas and projects for consideration. We are now working on an implementation plan so that we can move forward with the approved list with the appropriate oversight of the funds.

Our Christian Education Board is continuing to function but without a Board chair. It is important that we find someone who is willing to fill this position to provide the leadership and coordination of this vital ministry. If this is an area where you would like to get involved, let me or Pastor Carl know and we can provide the way for sharing your talents and serving the children and adult education programs.

May we continue to serve our Lord to the glory of His name.

Bob Behr



February 15, 2011

### Pastoral Acts:

Funerals: Bruce Guenzler

The Council approved the Property Board request to remove the toilet from the small restroom adjacent to Room 5 of the Educational Wing and construct cabinets in this area for use by W-ELCA and the Evangelism Board.

Jack Fenske is working on a project to procure digital files of the church plans as only one hard copy set currently exists.

The Youth Board reported that the youth group will be serving at the Crab Feed on March 5th. The Youth Board is looking for possible service projects.

In order that the News and Views be mailed and received on a timely basis, the Church Council moved that ALL News and Views articles must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. With the exception of the Church Council highlights, any articles received after the 15th on the month will NOT be included in that month's News and Views. This practice will start in March.

Carol Carney reported that she and Ron Webb are co-chairs for the Easter Breakfast.

Worship and Music reported that they are ordering Lenten Devotionals by C.S. Lewis.

As a reminder, all Lenten services, with the exception of Ash Wednesday, will take place in the multi-purpose room following the soup sup-

W-ELCA provided a list of organizations that were recipients of their benevolence funds for 2010.



Fred & Albena Blumhardt

### St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Special Congregational Meeting February 13, 2011

The Special Congregational Meeting to vote on the recommendations of the Blumhardt Memorial Fund Committee and the Church Council for expenditure of the funds was called to order by Council President Bob Behr following the conclusion the second church service. As part of the background information, Bob Behr noted that the Blumhardt Memorial funds are invested in an account with Thrivent. As of December 2010 the balance in the account was \$104,862.

Betty Englund moved and Kirsten Ireton seconded that the Blumhardt Memorial Committee Project List, as prioritized by the Church Council, be accepted.

Holly Hoppman, chairman of the Blumhardt Memorial Fund Committee, reviewed the project list with the congregational members in attendance.

- Sanctuary Westside Windows (\$8,000), Sanctuary South Wall and Choir Room Windows (\$15,000), Schultz Hall Westside Windows (\$5,000) and Sanctuary North Wall Windows (\$3,000).
- 2. ADA Bathroom in SS wing (\$20,000).
- 3. Kitchen (\$10,000).
- 4. Sanctuary Purple Paraments (\$4,000).
- 5. Benevolence to include, David Bentz, seminarian (\$5,000) and St. John's Shelter (\$5,000).
- 6. Landscaping (\$7,500) and Parking Lot Repair (\$6,000).
- 7. Gutters (\$4,000).
- 8. Schultz Hall Addition (\$20,000).
- 9. Pay down the church mortgage.

Holly indicated that the projects would be done in order of priority, one at a time. Following a brief question and answer period Bob Behr called for a vote.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Heaton

Ruth Heaton Church Council Secretary



We thank everyone who has helped in any way with <u>After Service Refreshments</u> – it is greatly appreciated. We especially thank Pauline and Walt Arndt, Thelma Williams and John Johnsen for the exceptionally nice refreshments provided and

served on February 13 as a pre-celebration for Valentine's Day! If you did not stop in you really

missed out. We are still looking for some volunteers that would be willing to sign up, in the refreshment room, to serve on the same Sunday every other month – remember you don't have to provide unless you want to. Also, as usual, we are always in need of help to provide so please sign up or just surprise us and set something on the table Sunday morning before service.

Soup Suppers a wonderful time of fellowship, before Wednesday night service will start on Ash Wednesday, March 9 hosted by WELCA, other groups will host the following Wednesday nights but will need others to sign up to help set up, clean up, provide soup, bread or desserts. One Wednesday will be hosted by the Congregation giving more people a chance to show their culinary expertise in soup making! Please look for sign up sheets in the Narthex and plan to join us every Wednesday night – just think ladies you won't have to cook except on the nights you sign -up to provide something.

<u>Easter Breakfast</u> - We are pleased to announce that Ron Webb, will be returning as coordinator of this event with the support of many others. Thanks to Ron, a couple of years ago, the full breakfast returned and we are blessed to have him back this year.

The Shepherding Ministry now has 25 shepherds looking after those who attend the 10:30 service and those who are shut in. As we continue to receive new members, we will be in need of more shepherds. If you would like more information about this ministry, or would like to participate, please contact Merle Zbrog.

A link to the pictorial directory is on the St. Luke's website: http://www.stlukesac.org if you need help identifying your sheep.

Next Meeting will be Monday, March 14 – 7:00pm.

Carol Carney, Evangelism Chair Person



What an exciting year this will be - we thank Holly Hoppman for the outstanding job she and the Blumhardt Memorial Committee did in prioritizing the project list and for the congre-Property Board gational approval.

As you may or may not know many of these projects would have to be done regardless of where the money came from and could very well have increased our debt.

First, we are keeping the ladies of the WELCA happy because they had money first so the much needed multi-purpose room remodel/paint project has been started and should be completed by Ash Wednesday for the first soup supper.

I want to thank Board Members, Clarence Korhonen, Bruce Kiser, Eric Linblade, Jack Fenske and ever faithful Larry Dockter and Erwin Kiser for coming to get this project started on our work day, Saturday, February 13. Erwin it is great to have you come because you keep us moving in a forward direction! If you did not come – the WELCA ladies gave those of us who wanted a wonderful lunch.

Jerry Carney, Property Board Chairman



1 Corinthians 13:4-8a Happy Valentines day ♥

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not

proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, love never fails."

This was very evident as we celebrated at our valentine luncheon on Saturday, February 13 – a wonderful celebration with so much love shown. We were able to feed and thank the Property Board crew that has started the remodel-painting of the multi-purpose room – we heard that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach – think they are wondering just what we are going to ask for next!

We will be hosting the first soup supper on Ash Wednesday, March 9 -please look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

#### Benevolence for the Year 2010

We are so blessed to be able to announce that we were able to donate to Benevolence this vear as follows. I want to thank you ladies for all the support, hard work and generosity to enable us to contribute to all these worthwhile causes.

Adopt a Chaplain (Cornerstone Life) Bentz Family	\$360.00 \$300.00
Elk Grove Food Bank Evangelism - Elk Grove Citizen Ad	\$250.00 \$494.00
Meals on Wheels Moral Values	\$300.00 \$250.00
Pastor's Assistance	\$350.00
Courageous Connection	\$250.00
Lutheran Social Services of Nor Cal	\$250.00
South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership	\$250.00
St. Luke's Office Supplies	\$101.00
Weave Inc.	\$145.00

#### \$3,300.00 **Total Benevolence - 2010**

It is Stone Soup Time - Saturday, March 12 Ladies wear green, bring 1 cup (cut/cubed) ingredients for making the stone soup and be sure and come at 10:30 am (be sure and note different time) so we have time to cook the soup while we are having our meeting. This is a wonderful fun time – an incredible story is told about Stone Soup by Karen Behr. If you want you may also bring new or gently used: towels, wash cloths, blankets, sox, and packaged new men's underwear to be donated to the Union Gospel Mission.

> Linda Duffek, President



## Worship Assistants

ACOLYTES					PRAYER LEADERS
6-Mar Daniel Encinas,	Joshua Bell			6-Mar	Rachel Kiser
13-Mar Katy Etchison, k	Katie Light			13-Mar	David Saxby
Selena Connell,	, Elise			20-Mar	Bertha Dahl
20-Mar Mihanovich				27-Mar	Marlene Kiser
27-Mar Wesley Lester					
	3				PSALM READERS
ALTAR CARE 8:1	- X 200			6-Mar	Selena Connell
Cheryl Franklin	40			13-Mar	Megan Lester
	V	Vednesdav	Lent Service	20-Mar	Isabella Basquez
ALTAR CARE 10:3	30 AM	-	stants	27-Mar	Micayla Shower
Connie Reule			aders		
		1100	14013		READER 8:15 AM
COMMUNION SE	9-10	1ar i	Nick Manlapig	6-Mar	Sarah Madison
Al Boschee, Kat	tio Indones		Holly Hoppman	13-Mar	Maribel Herrera
6-Mar Peggy Moser	23-		Betty Englund	20-Mar	Eric Linblade
13-Mar	20		Walter Arndt	27-Mar	Ron Webb
Al Boschee, Kat	tie Iniguez,	iviai	Walter Arriut		
20-Mar Peggy Moser		Dravor	Leaders		READER 10:30 AM
27-Mar	9-№		Katie Ramsey	6-Mar	Merle Zbrog
7	14		ludy Saxby	13-Mar	Pat Webb
COUN	IIFR)		arry Dockter	20-Mar	Kirsten Ireton
The second second	20		Katrina Falwell	27-Mar	Pauline Arndt
6-Mar Walter Arndt &	7011113011118E11 —	iviai i	katı iria i aivveii		Readers
Don Schell, Del					e unable to read on your assigned date
Howard Triebw	/asser			piease no	otify Nick Manlapig at 383-9376.
13-Mar					
20-Mar Nancy Minning	Connia Paula				REFRESHMENTS
Holly Hoppmar				6-Mar	Ireton Family
27-Mar Kiser	i, ividitiono			13-Mar	Merle & Ralph Zbrog
27 10101 10301					March 20 & 27 to be assigned.
GREETERS					
6-Mar Ken & Debi Ler					
13-Mar Mike & Linda D					WELCOME LEADERS
20-Mar Fred & Genie So				6-Mar	Pauline Arndt
27-Mar The Ireton Fam		M/s and later	N ! - # # -	13-Mar	Carolyn Andrews
27 War Thomatorram		Worship A	ASSISTANTS	20-Mar	Peggy Moser
HEAD USHER	RS If you are	e ill, coughing	or unable to serve or	27-Mar	Pat Webb
	perform		our assigned date,		
Ron Franklin, La	all VIIOCKIAL .		rch office @ 421-		VISITOR GREETERS
	5039 or I		@ 606-7880. Also,	6-Mar	Carolyn Andrews
			he Hand Sanitizer Defore serving com-	13-Mar	Merle Zbrog

available at the Lectern, before serving com-

munion.

March 20 & 27 to be assigned



Anderson, Corey	1-Mar
Lester, Megan	2-Mar
Tears, Barbara	2-Mar
Jones, Sue	4-Mar
Connell, Selena	5-Mar
Connell, Jennifer	6-Mar
Roberts, Renee	6-Mar
Jones, Ruth	10-Mar
Miller, Don	10-Mar
Bates, Ben	13-Mar
Ben-lesau, Donna	13-Mar
Madison, Sarah	16-Mar
Harrison, M	17-Mar
Marchuk, Inge	18-Mar
Saxby, David	23-Mar
Ricciardi, Kimiya	24-Mar
Schell, Norene	24-Mar
Light, Katie	25-Mar
Harrison, Bob	26-Mar
Moser, Al	26-Mar
Kiser, Karen	28-Mar
Whitehurst, Jim	28-Mar
Johnsen, John	29-Mar
Wood, Agnes	29-Mar
Behr, Bob	30-Mar
Sobkowsky, Kelly	30-Mar



Brooklyn Rae Moser was born on February 12, 2011, at 6:21 AM. She weighed 9 lbs., 11 oz. and was 21 inches. Brooklyn is the daughter of Alicia and Nick Moser, granddaughter of Al and Peggy Moser and niece of Jessie and Katie Iniguez. If you want to see pictures just

ask Peggy. Brooklyn is now home with her mom and dad.

Congratulations to the Moser Family!



### March Flowers

	Howard Triebwasser In Memory of my
6-Mar	wife, Pearl
13-Mar	Bruce & Karen Kiser 36th Anniversary; Linfor'sIn honor of Jerry's Father, Joe's one hundredth birthday; The Connell Family Celebrate Jenifer, Monica and Selena's birthdays.
20-Mar	Available
27-Mar	The Ireton's Celebrate Pat Lehman's birthday; Elsbeth Whitehurst Celebrate Jim's birthday



In an article in the Elk Grove Citizen on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, they highlighted the Art Program at Laguna Creek High School. There were two students in the article, Ashley Peterson

and our own, Julie Ireton.

"...A job as an artist does not provide a steady income. But for diligent and talented teens like Julie, who enter a trove of contests, prize money can be won. For others, winning a title in a contest, regardless of whether a monetary prize is involved, is priceless on their college applications."

Teenage ceramics artist Julie Ireton, 17, has numerous buyers of her work. We at St. Luke's are lucky to be owners of many of her beautiful creations.

"She's probably been the best ceramics student I've ever had, said Freddie Santana, a Laguna Creek High School ceramics teacher."

Julie hopes to have her own gallery one day,

but for now she creates for herself, her family and friends, as well as for our special events. In fact, there is likely to be a piece by Julie as a raffle prize at our Crab Feed.

Julie we are all so very proud of you.



# Kids Fun Page

### Forgiveness BRACELET

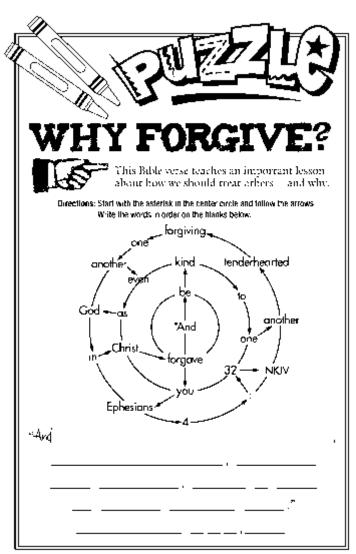
Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

### What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- · An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- · Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape.
- Thin ribbon or yarn.
- Small hole punch

### What you do:

- Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
- Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
- On the paper, write "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV).
- Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
- Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
- Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
- 7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.



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# Scenes Around St. Luke's





New After-Service Fellowship helpers always welcome





Our Christmas Angel Choir



The Sacramento Youth Band leading worship



One of many scenes from the Epiphany Breakfast in Jan.



### January 2011

### **OFFERINGS** (General Fund Only):

	This Month	Year to Date
Total Offering	\$14,461	\$14,461
Compared to Budget	\$280	\$280
Compared to Budget	2.0%	2.0%
Compared to 2010	-\$81	-\$81
Compared to 2010	-0.6%	-0.6%
Projected Year-End Bal- ance (Compared to budget)		\$12,289
Contributors:		
2011 (Current Year)	92	92Aver.
<b>2010</b> (Last Year)	89	89Aver.

Note: Positive values (no +/- sign) means above; negative values means below.

### Other Special Gifts:

- a) Flowers \$238
- b) Sunday School 26.18

David Saxby Financial Secretary



This year's Midvices will focus on themes in the Old Testament that are fulfilled

and completed by the ministry of Jesus. We will also have available a magnificent Lenten daily devotional booklet with excerpts from the writings of C.S. Lewis. The services and devotional readings begin Ash Wednesday, March 9.



Our confirmation class continues to meet on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at 12:00 noon until 12:45 in the church loft.

We are planning activities on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month to include grades 6<sup>th</sup> thru High

School that will meet after the confirmation class. February 20th the SLY Group played Laser Tag @ Laser Force.

Each month a new activity will be planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Suggestions for activities are always welcome and appreciated. You can let Pastor Carl or myself know of any activity. You can also leave your suggestion in the Youth Mail Box in the church

office

The youth will be helping out at the Crab Feed serving – March 5<sup>th</sup> along with the Youth Band.

We will be hosting the Soup Supper for Lent on March 16th along with Education Board. I will email more Information regarding this event as the date gets closer.

Our 2011 calendars were a great success. We would like to Thank Ken Lentsch for selling the calendars.

We are still collecting cans & newspapers to help support the Youth.

If anyone knows of any service projects that the Youth could be a part of, please let me know. The Youth would like to be involved in a project this summer.

> Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Connell

UPDATE TO YOUR ST. LUKE'S DIRECTORY



An Update to the St. Luke's Directory will be forthcoming in April. Watch your Sunday bulletin for further news.

### St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Carl Hoppman, Pastor Phone: (916) 421-5039 E-mail: pr.carl@att.net March 2011 Event Calendar

Brooke Smith Music Director

E-mail: plnusader@yahoo.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Coming Eve  3/13— Daylight Savii  3/15 — News/Views i  4/17 — Palm Sunday  4/21—Maundy Thurs  4/22—Good Friday Se  4/24 — Easter Sunda	ngs Time Begins Deadline Sday Service 7:30 Pervice 7:30 pm	7.00 PM Executive Committee	7:00 PM Choir Practice	3	4	5 8:00 PM Annual Crab Feed - Doors Open 7:00 PM Dinner Served
8:15 AM & 10:30 AM - Communion 9:15 AM Gospel of John 12:00 PM -12:45 PM Confirmation Class	7:00 PM Chiristian Education Bd 7:00 PM Finance Board	8 10:15 AM Crossways 6:00 PM Property Bd	9 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Communion	10 7:00 PM Crossways	11	10:00 AM Music/Worship Bd 10:30 AM W-ELCA - Stone Soup Lunch
8:15 AM & 10:30 AM -Worship 9:15 AM Gospel of John	14 7:00 PM Evangelism Bd	15 10:15 AM Crossways 7:00 PM Council Meeting NEWS/VIEWS D'LINE	6:00 PM Lent Soup Supper 6:30 PM Service 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 PM Crossways	18	19
8:15 AM & 10:30 AM - Communion 9:15 AM Gospel of John 12:00 PM -12:45 PM Confirmation Class 2:30 PM Service @ Commons 6:00 PM Sac City College Chorale	21	22 10:15 AM Crossways	8:00 PM Lent Soup Supper 6:30 PM Service 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00 PM Crossways	25	26
8:15 AM & 10:30 AM -Worship 9:15 AM Gospel of John	28 7:00 PM Community Concerns Bd 7:00 PM Youth Bd	29 10:15 AM Crossways	6:00 PM Lent Soup Supper 6:30 PM Service 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	31 7:00 PM Crossways		



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

7595 Center Parkway Sacramento, CA 95823

Return Service Requested

Lent Soup Suppers / Services Weds Mar 9—Apr 13 6:00 PM Join Us!

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