



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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News And Views

June 2012

Pastoral Perspective



“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive...” John 7:37-39a

When someone talks about rivers flowing out of folks' hearts, he must be using picture language. Just what is it that Jesus wants to illustrate with this picture of rivers of living water? If we had been there in Jerusalem on that dry dusty last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, a feast of prayer for rain, it wouldn't have been so hard to understand. After everyone had finished with their prayers for rain for the land, Jesus pictures the Holy Spirit as the supply of living water you and I need just as much as the dry land needs to be watered. And then He proclaims that whoever believes in Him will have rivers of this living water flowing from his heart.

When water is what you need, rivers are ideal. They provide a constant supply of water that doesn't dry up or run out. For God to provide us with the never ending flow of His Spirit is perfect because this provides us with an inexhaustible supply of living water. Jesus is making it clear that with Him there are no shortages, no dry seasons. In rain-poor Israel, every year could be a disaster if the needed rain didn't fall,

and so the whole nation joined in prayer for rain. But Jesus proclaims the ever-flowing supply of the Holy Spirit is ample for our whole lives; from the water splashed on a baby's head in Baptism to the last sip that wets the lips of the dying as we give thanks for life beyond death. There is no shortage of the water of life with God.

With rivers of living water, we also receive a tremendous resource for strength. Rivers can be great sources of power. The strong flow of living water provides us with a fantastic power source for life in this world. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we just don't have the strength we need to live as God's people. With it, we can face all things knowing we have an always adequate resource for strength.

So Jesus is promising something truly wonderful. When we come to Him and drink, our spiritual thirst is fully satisfied. When we come to Him and drink, we have strength for each day. Don't wait. Come to Him with whatever spiritual thirst you have and receive the water of life that will flow from your heart powerfully in love to help quench the thirst of others as well.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



The Presidents' Corner

Summer is nearly upon us, and at St Luke's we have a lot going on. We just finished a fun luau in support of the Music Programs, have a WELCA Bunco gathering the first weekend in June for their community benevolence outreach, and have the upcoming Fireworks Booth at the end of June through July 4 to raise funds for other programs in support of our Mission. Also beginning in July are the summer potlucks on Wednesday evenings followed by a continuing study of the Parables which began last summer. So there are lots of opportunities to join in the education and fellowship of St Luke's. We don't take the summer off but branch out to some different activities and opportunities to learn. We look to your continued support and involvement throughout the summer.

Congratulations to all graduates as you begin a new phase in your lives! Also congratulations to those who will be confirmed on June 10 and continue to grow in their walks with Our Lord.

We have a lot of folks who support our worship services behind the scenes. Julie Ireton has been preparing the acolytes each Sunday morning making sure they are robed as necessary and ready at the start of the worship service. Holly Hoppman and Craig Eckels operate the sound system to create a good sound environment for all to hear the Good News. Thanks Julie, Holly, and Craig!

I read a recent article by Colin Powell, former Army General and Secretary of State, regarding kindness and how we treat others. A statement that he took to heart was "Always show more kindness than seems necessary, because the person receiving it needs it more than you ever know. Kindness is not just about being nice; it's about recognizing another human being who deserves care and respect." This hit me right between the eyes. I think we do a decent job at St Luke's at being a welcoming place, but there are always situations where we can better treat everyone with respect, thoughtfulness, and a kind word. I know this is a challenge for me to sometimes reach "outside of my

box" but I also know it is important to understand that everyone has value and wants that value to be recognized. Taking care of our members and visitors and recognizing their contributions must be a high priority. I hope you'll join me in making this a priority to recognize the value and contributions of our members and share a kind word to visitors to St Luke's.

See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Bob Behr



Parables for Our Time

Among all the literary genres in the Bible, the parable is certainly a unique form of communication. What is a parable? A parable is a short narrative fiction; it has plot and characters. The English word "Parable" is a transliteration (letter for letter) of the Greek word *parabole*; *Para* meaning "beside" and *ballein* meaning "to throw". Parable in Greek is something thrown beside something else, that is, a comparison. The distinctive quality of the parable is its ability to release and empower the imagination. Parables often subvert our conventional thoughts with their poetic comparison. The power of Jesus' parables is the mysterious features that draw our attention and engage us. The parables enable us to have new insights whenever we read them with an open-mind. One thing we must not forget, however, is that the parables always have something to do with the kingdom of God. Upon the disciples' inquiry, Jesus remarks mysteriously: "You have been given the secret of the Kingdom of God, but for outsiders, everything comes in parables..." (Mk 4:11-12) What is it like to have the presence of God in our world? What is our biggest concern? It is very interesting how our concerns have changed historically. In early centuries of the church the urgent problem was death, since an average ancient lifespan of less than thirty years. In medieval years the problem



Comfort Committee

became guilt: How can we stand acquitted before the judgment of God? Churches set up penitential rites and often preached forms of judicial atonement. But now in this modern era the overriding concern is meaningless. Without meaning, we can only set immediate goals: "I will finish school, I will buy a car, I will get a job, I will make money, I will do this and that..." These may all be important goals but we don't want to end up saying: "I don't have a clue!" I believe parables can move us toward what Jesus called the "kingdom of God". Parable reading will surely guide us to understand our life in Jesus' kingdom. Coming this summer, we are going to have a parable study series here at St. Luke. The study will be held on Wednesday evenings in Schultz Hall July 11 – August 15. You are invited to join us for a potluck meal at 6:30pm, then a look at some of the parables that Jesus shares with us in the Bible. It is going to be fun and interesting from beginning to end. Remember, parables are not so obvious.

Taehyun Ahn, Minister in Training



Who could ask for more—those who joined us for our outreach lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory enjoyed a delicious meal and a wonderful time of sharing. Everyone asked when can we do this again!



Ice Cream Social

We will be honoring our wonderful men with a pie and ice cream social on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17th. Be sure to stop by after the service for your favorite slice of pie and share in the fun.



For the month of June, we have two open Sundays for after service refreshments. If you would like to help serve on either Sunday, June 10 or Sunday, June 24, please let me know.

Pat Webb, Chair

We have all been faced, from time to time, with the loss of a loved one and know what a traumatic experience it can be to deal with the grief and then the planning of a memorial service and reception for those in attendance following the service.

Here, at St. Luke's we are blessed to have a Comfort Committee, sponsored by W-ELCA, to help the grieving family with the reception, following the service. For those that don't know, the committee is a group of volunteers that, **organized by a chair person**, sets up the room, serves the food and then cleans up after the reception is over.

What the Comfort Committee is lacking currently is a Chair Person. We gratefully thank our past chair, Margaret Crooks for her time and energy.

The **Chair Person** is in contact with Pastor, after he coordinates the plans with the family; **they then call the committee volunteers to set-up, serve, clean-up, and participate** in this very rewarding ministry. **If the Chair Person is available, they come and help** as one of the volunteers. **You do not even have to purchase any of the food; that is taken care of for you.**

There is a sign-up sheet in the Church Narthex for Comfort Committee Volunteers. We encourage retired couples to participate together but, of course, are so appreciative of anyone that would be willing to be added to the list. You are not expected to do anything that you are not physically able to do and you will be working with someone who has served on the committee in the past.

If you are interested **in being the Comfort Committee Chair** or have questions please call Kirsten Iretton at 916-684-8910 or sign up in the Narthex.



Thank you for your many expressions of love and understanding during Bob Allen's illness. Your compassion has been a tremendous blessing for us. Bob died May 19. A memorial service, followed by lunch, will be held Friday, June 8 at 11:00 AM at St. Luke's.

Triss, Carl and Holly Hoppman



St. Luke's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

Update on Blumhardt Fund:

- The parking lot and the Schultz Hall Addition are still being worked on.
 - Total expended so far: \$95,558.12
- Total remaining: \$11,064.51

Pastor's Report:

- Monthly Worship Attendance is down
- This summer Taehyun will lead the parables study.

Treasurer's Report:

- YTD Net Income (Income over Expenses): \$4,910.56.
- Mortgage Loan balance is \$66,708.19. Check-book balance is \$27,354.38

Property:

- The Signage project is underway and signs are being installed all over.
- Parking lot crack sealing is being prepped.
- Schultz Hall addition is being worked on.
- Work day is being planned.
- Work on the Linfor Memorial and Courtyard replacement will start on Monday, May 21st and should be done by end of the month.

Education:

- Graduation Sunday is June 3rd
- 4 will be confirmed on Confirmation Sunday, June 10th

Evangelism:

- Refreshment help is needed. Sunday, June 24th, and all 4th Sundays in even months.

Community Concerns: in need of a chair

Worship and Music:

- Memorial Day Banners are being updated for Memorial Sunday.

WELCA:

- Mother's Day Luncheon was a success!
- Bunco is June 2nd, get your tickets!

New Business:

- Continuing Resolutions
We have been reviewing and revising some of the CRs.
CR-2005-3 Sexual Harassment - under review

Next meeting will be June 19, 2012 at 7pm.

Submitted by Holly Hoppman, Council Secretary



13th Annual Fireworks Sale June 28th - July 4th

It's that time of year again and this will be our 13th year for having a fireworks booth. Wow, just seems like yesterday when we started this venture. The funds we raise from the sale of fireworks is used for the many projects around the church that always come up.

This will be our 6th year in our current location - on the corner of Mack Road and Valley Hi Drive in the Food Source parking lot. We're looking for a lot of volunteers so please consider all the ways you can help out this year. Here's some ideas where you can help -

Sell fireworks in the booth (must be at least 18 years of age to work in the booth) - training provided and you're never alone

Come by and visit for a few hours for fun and fellowship and we'll challenge you to a game of

Fireworks Booth Bingo! You do not have to be 18 for this or the following:

- Bring snacks or drinks to the booth
- Wave flags or banners to attract others to the booth (maybe in an Uncle Sam costume?)
- Buy your fireworks from our booth
- Encourage friends and family to our booth
- Arrive at 8:30am to help unload the truck
- Stay late to pack up everything into the truck

If you can volunteer to work in the booth, there will be a sign-up sheet soon in the Narthex to reserve your favorite time (s). The booth will open at noon on June 28th, and then every day after that from 9am to 9pm through July 4th (note that we can stay open until 10pm if we're really busy which is usually on July 3rd and 4th).

Everyone has been very supportive in past years, and it's so appreciated by all. Remember, all funds raised go to a great cause!

If you have any questions about the fireworks booth or about how you can help as a volunteer, just call or see me. We do have a lot of fun every year (including Fireworks Booth Bingo), so don't miss out.

In His Name...

Larry Dockter, Fireworks Booth Committee Chair



Graduation Sunday, June 3

If you have a family member graduating from High School or College, please let us know their name and name of school. Please let the office know as soon as possible so they can be honored on Graduation Sunday.



Our Summer Sunday school will be led by Melissa Jensen, Debbie Porter and Julie Ireton. They will be doing art projects to share with the congregation in the fall along with a bake sale.

Adult Summer Bible Study



Coming this summer, we are going to have a parable study series here at St. Luke. The study will be held on Wednesday evenings in Schultz Hall July 11 – August 15. You are invited to join us for a potluck meal at 6:30pm and study at 7:00pm.

W-ELCA Mother's Day Luncheon





Worship & Music Luau

Worship and Music would like to thank you for another very successful Luau which was held on Saturday, May 19th.

We had an excellent turnout – the games were fun and the food was delicious. Our profound thanks to Triss Hoppman for organizing the food, to Holly Hoppman for her organizational skills – the choir for providing sumptuous deserts – the Bells for their gorgeous music and to Brook Barr and the St. Luke’s choir for bringing Elvis and Hawaii to the party. We would also like to thank all those who assisted with the games, the setup, the cooking, cleaning, and any help that was given to make this successful.

Karen Behr’s brother, Myron Jansen, also attended and treated us to a sing-along while accompanying us on his ukulele.

It is my understanding that our profit was substantial, and these funds will be put to good use by our illustrious choir director, Brooke, as she purchases music for the upcoming season.

If you are interested in singing praises to our God and enjoying the benefits of being a choir member, I invite you to think about it over the summer and be ready to join us when choir starts up again in September.

I pray that God will continually bless each of you,

Karen Linfor
Chairperson
Worship & Music

Worship & Music Luau



Fun & Games



For All Ages





June 1 Paul Heaton
 June 2 Mikaela Falwell
 June 3 Phillip Connell
 June 3 Phillip Petersson
 June 6 Mikayla Dockery
 June 14 Marcella Minning
 June 15 Peggy Moser
 June 21 Lucy Becker
 June 21 Shirley Prouty
 June 24 Juanita Guilbeau
 June 26 Joshua Anderson
 June 27 Susan Mihanovich

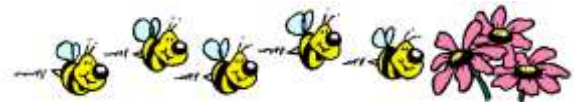
June 3 *The Dockter's For All The Dad's*
 June 10 *Bob & Karen Behr For Alison & Marc's Anniversary*
 June 17 *The Englund's For Their 51st Anniversary*
 Al Moser For Peggy's Birthday
 June 24 *Etchison Family To Celebrate Sierra's 6th Birthday*

If you have a birthday this month and your name is not on this list, please call the church office so we can update our files.



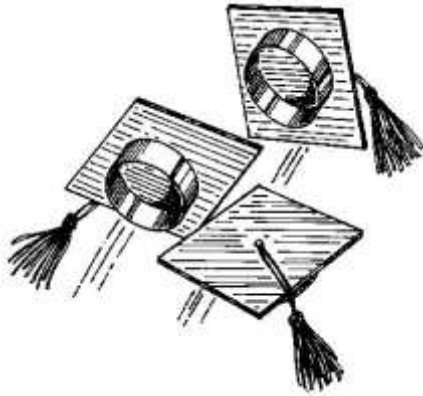
June 10

Please join us in honoring Selena Connell, Joshua Bell, Daniel Encinas and Katie Light for completing their Confirmation studies. We here at St. Luke's are so blessed to hear our Confirmands talk about their Faith Journeys.



If you would like the opportunity to order flowers for our "Sunday Services" you will find our "Flower Chart" on the east wall of the Narthex as you enter the church. The cost is \$14 per arrangement. Envelopes are provided for payment to "St. Luke's Church." Please place envelope (marked "flowers") in offering plate.

Please contact Pat Webb or the office, should you have any questions.



Graduation Sunday

June 3, 2012



Confirmation Sunday

June 10, 2012



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

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