



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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Pastor Carl Hoppman
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News And Views



2012

Pastoral Perspective



Two days before he died, Martin Luther wrote, "We are beggars, it is true."

What an odd way to sum up a life—especially his life! This is a man who stood up to kings and councils, burned Papal Bulls, challenged sixteen centuries of church tradition and more than survived. This is a man whose written work fills 55 volumes, whose scholarly translation of the scriptures shaped the modern German language and whose courage reshaped the geography of Europe. Surely at the end of such a life there must be time for something more impressive than calling oneself a beggar. Yet, like his soul mate, Paul, any boasting was in his weakness, and the power of the cross.

The New Testament is filled with stories of folks who, like Luther and Paul, realized that they were but beggars before a gracious God.

There was the Canaanite mother who came begging Jesus to heal her little daughter. Jesus responded, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She replied, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly. (see Matthew 15:21-28)

There was the Roman centurion who approached Jesus on behalf of his Jewish servant who lay paralyzed in the centurion's home. Jesus said he would come and heal him. But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go' and he goes, and another 'Come' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith" ...And to the centurion Jesus said, "go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment. (see Matthew 8:5-13)

Not worthy. These words are a refrain on the lips of beggars who populate the pages of the New Testament. Zacchaeus, the short man who sat in a sycamore tree, hoping to just get a glimpse of Jesus as he passed by. The woman who suffered from a blood flow for twelve years and did not dare face Jesus. "If only I can touch the hem of his garment I will be healed," she thought. Bartimaeus, the blind beggar who boldly cried for mercy. At his death, the thief on the cross who simply asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom. Beggars all.

Yet each of these humble supplicants ends up more blessed than they could ever dare dream. They receive grace upon grace. As surely as the ex-

alted are humbled, the unworthy who come to Jesus are exalted.

We come to God with nothing, realizing that our morality, our good works are never adequate before the perfect God. We come vulnerable and poor or we don't come at all. In the third verse of Rock of Ages we sing, "Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling. Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace; foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die."

Actually we should want it no other way. If our being children of God depended on what we do, how much we have accomplished in the moral realm, how well we have performed, or even how sincere our faith is, we could never be certain we belong. We would always agonize over whether we had done enough and believed hard enough. And worse yet, we would tend to judge others harshly so that we would feel better about ourselves and what we have accomplished.

But when we realize, "We are beggars, it is true," we give up all pretenses and simply cling to Jesus for dear life. If our lives are filled with anything worthwhile we know it is because the Lord has been gracious to us, not because of anything we have done to earn it. We are always but beggars before a gracious God. We don't count ourselves better than anyone, but simply, as evangelist D.T. Niles reminds us, see ourselves as beggars telling other beggars where to find food.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



Summer is moving quickly and St Luke's has been busy with different activities and opportunities. The following are snapshots of what has been going on.

The fireworks booth was a great get together. Hard work by Larry Dockter and crew brought some additional funds for us to use on our facility or in the community. Many folks showed up, worked, hung out, etc. sharing time and talents for a successful operation. Thanks Larry for another great year at the fireworks booth!

St Luke's sent \$850 to the general scholarship fund at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in honor of Pastor Carl's 35th anniversary of his ordination into the ministry. Thanks to all who contributed marking this occasion and providing assistance to ministerial candidates.

Unfortunately we had a break-in in the sanctuary late on July 12 or early on July 13 and had a few items stolen to include electronics and communion chalices. This is the second break-in over the last few years with similar items stolen. The Council is discussing and looking to take action to evaluate and initiate steps to increase our security.

On an up note, we had a grand celebration in dedicating the new fountain area in Jerry Linfor's memory. In addition, Pastor Carl baptized two young children at the fountain. What a wonderful addition and one I'm sure Jerry would approve. Thanks to all who worked with Karen in bringing this fitting memorial to fruition.

Our salute to behind the scenes supporters this month recognizes Al Moser, "Mr. Security." Whatever the event at church, Al is usually lurking around the parking lot ensuring vehicles and folks are safe. He is also the unofficial "watchman and caretaker" for the facilities used by outside groups ensuring lights, AC and heating are off, and doors and windows are locked. He is a vital member of the St Luke's team. Thanks Al for all you do!

We continue to have many opportunities for folks to participate. I hope you will find something that allows your talents to assist us in furthering our mission to spread, serve, and share.

See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Bob Behr



Jerry's Memorial Fountain Dedication
(Sunday, July 15, 2012)
"I Thank My God When I
Remember You"

When we were looking for a project to honor Jerry, it never crossed my mind that we would be in a position to see this day come to fruition so smoothly, but I was very optimistic!

A little background:

At a church Council meeting a few months ago, the Property Board Chairman, Clarence Korhonen, suggested that a fountain be purchased to beautify the courtyard. After some discussion with Pastor Carl and the Property Board, it was agreed to go ahead with the project and make it "**The Jerry Linfor Memorial Fountain.**"

Jon Linfor and I began working on getting just the right fountain. We gathered pictures of various fountains and eventually agreed on the current fountain with matching benches and flower urns that were purchased through The Secret Garden. The project was underway!

On Sunday, July 1st, when I arrived at church I

thought I would just take a peek and see how things were coming along. I was pleasantly surprised at the progress that had been made...the slab was in, the slabs for the benches, the trellis' and flower pots in place – and brand new sod growing and thriving. Everything was in place for the fountain to be delivered July 3rd.

I can say with confidence that we, the Linfor family and friends, appreciate the memorial donations, the help and support that we have received during the last five months since Jerry passed away – the love we have been shown at every milestone in the process of grieving the loss of someone we loved so much has meant everything.

Jerry would have been 78 on July 14th and that's why the dedication of the memorial fountain on July 15th is even more special.

It is our desire that God will bless the use of the fountain for baptisms, and reflection, and that it will be a source of enjoyment by all who see it. It is our prayer that you will think of Jerry as you look at the fountain and its properties and remember him with fondness. We invite you to stop and sit on the benches, enjoy the sound of the fountain and the peaceful atmosphere.

We would like to thank the St. Luke's Property Board: Clarence Korhonen, Jerry Carney, Bruce Kiser, Ed Ireton, and also Kirsten Ireton and Jack Fenske. You are all wonderful! I hope I have not missed anyone who helped bring this special day to pass.

I am thankful for everyone who attended the dedication and baptism. I am thankful to Pastor Carl, for his help and support. Most of all, I thank God for giving Jerry to me to love for almost 21 years...he was a blessing to me and I will never forget him.

Karen Linfor
July 3, 2012



13th Annual Fireworks Sale

St. Luke's Fireworks Booth

It was another great year for selling fireworks and we had great weather too. If you remember last year's wild week where it started out at 60 degrees with rain and then ended on July 4th at 100 degrees! But none of that this year as we had mild and comfortable temps all week. We did have some slight gusty breezes every day which made holding down the pop-up awnings a little tricky (one was damaged beyond repair by the winds so we had to replace it). But otherwise, everything else hummed along smoothly.

We had food, snacks, water and other drinks provided by many folks including homemade items like chocolate chip cookies, brownies, lemon bars and much more. I especially want to thank Katie Ramsey for providing lunch one day again this year, and to Al & Irene Boschee for serving up a wonderful "eggs and bacon" breakfast casserole along with sweet rolls and complete with table settings for our July 4th! Thank you to both Katie and Al & Irene!

Again, we had a great time working at the booth because it's always nice to meet the new faces, welcome the returning customers, and to watch the excitement in the children's faces as mom and dad picked out their fireworks. That's the best part at the sale, the fun and fellowship we share with our neighbors and friends.

I'd personally like to say Thank You to all the volunteers who helped by working sales, setting up or taking down the booth or by visiting with us. Then there were those who gave refreshments or made other donations. Many different efforts go into making this event a success every year. Without all of you, it couldn't be done. Here's our list of volunteers and I hope I didn't miss anyone!

Volunteers

Ahn, Taehyun
Arimoto, Roy
Behr, Bob & Karen
Boschee, Al & Irene
Connell, Daniel
Connell, Phillip, Jennifer and Selena
Dockter, Deanna
Dockter, Larry & Deanna
Englund, Lisa
Fenske, Kim
Haney, Dorothy
Heaton, Paul
Hernandez, Stephanie
Hoppman, Holly
Hoppman, Pastor Carl & Triss
Iniguez, Jessie & Katie & tummy
Ireton, Ed & Kirsten
Jensen, Melissa
Johansen, Richard
Johansen, Ryan
Kiser, Bruce & Karen
Kiser, Jared, Rachel & Jacob
Kerian, Alison & Claire
Korhonen, Elizabeth,
Linfor, Karen
Mansfield, John
Moser, Nick & Brooklyn
Roberts, Jeremy, Renee & Bekka
Saxby, David
Shower, Megan, Micayla and Rylee
Sodergren, Marilyn
Tanaka, Jan
Villanueva, Selena
Webb, Ron & Pat
Wilson, Jacob
Zbrog, Ralph & Merle

Volunteers

Andrews, Carolyn
Arndt, Walt & Pauline
Bentz Family
Carney, Jerry & Carol
Morningstar, Mariah
Duffek, Linda
Fenske, Jack & Micki
Hamilton, Pat
Havey, Jason
Hernandez, Maria
Herrera, Maribel
Johansen, Bernie
Johansen, Ron
Kile, Melanie
Kiser, Erwin
Korhonen, Clarence
Lentsch, Ken & Debi
Mansfield, Amber
Moser, Al & Peggy
Ramsey, Katie
Sodergren, Sam
Thomas, Megan
Vogel, Cindy
Wilke, Mike
Woods, Frank

We started to worry after July 3rd that sales weren't going to be too good as we were down over \$3,000 to that point, but July 4th proved to be the sales day of all days. We sold over \$18,000 just that one day, the most of any July 4th before. That came out to \$1,400 each and every hour we were open! As for

total sales, we sold \$28,881.32, which was \$3,000 OVER our average and beat our prior best year by more than \$800. So it ended up a great year! After paying for the fireworks, sales taxes, the U-Haul, fees and other expenses, we'll be putting around \$9,600.00 in the bank to go towards property improvements here at St. Luke's. That's great! Just a final Thank You to all who helped and supported us by buying fireworks or by telling your friends and family to visit our booth. See you next year!

In His Name...

Larry Dockter
Fireworks Committee Chairman



Vi Gibson

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Visitation Address</u> | <u>Mailing Address</u> |
| 2929 Babson Drive Elk Grove, CA 95758 | 9540 Kind Court Elk Grove, CA 95624 |

Monica Willoughby, Dru Roberts & Ryder
(916) 317-8303
5813 12th Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95820



Congratulations to Monica Willoughby and Dru Roberts on the birth of their son, Ryder Dru Roberts. Ryder was born on June 27th, and weighed 7lb 12oz and 19 1/2" He is the grandson of Phillip & Jennifer Connell.



Our thoughts and prayers go out to Eric Linblade upon the death of his father, Jack Linblade, who is now with his Heavenly Father.



Ted Holms is now home with his Heavenly Father. Ted died June 3rd. A Memorial Service will be held on August 3rd beginning at 3:00pm at the Elk Grove Masonic Lodge



Baptisms: *Elizabeth Germaine Wilson, child of Erika Korhonen and Dean Wilson. Her sponsor is Alison Korhonen Kerian.*

Claire Michelle Kerian, child of Michael Kerian and Alison Korhonen Kerian. Her sponsor is Daniel Kerian

Clarence and Elizabeth Korhonen are Elizabeth and Claire's grandparents.

These were our first baptisms at the fountain. If you would like to have a family member baptized at the fountain, please contact Pastor Carl.



School Supplies & Baby Items

The St. Luke's Women of the ELCA will continue to collect school supplies in August for our local elementary schools. Additionally, we heard from the Evangelism Board that there is a great need for baby items, such as diapers, wipes, and formula, at St. John's Shelter. So, in addition to the School Supplies, we will be collecting baby items. We understand that times are difficult for everyone and we greatly appreciate the giving of every member. Together we can make a difference. Thank you for your generosity.



Saturday, October 6th

The Annual St. Luke's Fall Festival and Family Fun Day is fast approaching.

Start putting aside your White Elephants and household items! Also, we will gladly accept your paperback books for the Book Sale. If you are interested in helping out this year please speak with Kirsten Ireton and let her know which area you would like to help with. We sure hope the men will help with the Food Tent this year. Those Pancakes and Hot Dogs are always so good! The proceeds raised from this event benefit the W-ELCA Benevolence fund.

W-ELCA meetings resume September 8th at 11:30!
– Be sure to mark your calendar now. You won't want to miss this important meeting as we plan our Fall Festival.



What can taste better than a refreshing root beer or orange soda float on a warm Sunday afternoon! Just ask anyone who enjoyed one on Sunday, July 22. Special thanks to the board members for organizing and serving these wonderful treats.



It's Picnic Time—Sunday, September 9

Be sure to mark your calendar so you won't miss the Congregational Picnic. This will be a joint event hosted by both the Education and Evangelism Boards. It will include the Sunday School art auction and a BBQ lunch in our beautiful new courtyard. Hot dogs, Hamburgers, condiments and beverages will be provided. There will be a sign up sheet for those who wish to bring a salad to share.

In Christian Love,

Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair



- August 5 *Carolyn Andrews For Kennard's 21st Birthday*
- August 12 *Larry & Deanna Dockter Rejoicing in the Recovery of Linda Ede*
- August 19 *Deanna Dockter In Thanks To Kay Yakabe For Her Kindness*
- August 26



- We had a break-in on July 12th. Both of our communion chalices, the majority of our microphones and a few other odd and end electronics were taken with an approximate total value of \$3900. We will be looking into a way to better secure the facility and our property for the future. The council discussed possible options and will be moving forward with an assessment of the site to find all possible weaknesses.
- June's number of contributors was up from May, which is reassuring going into the summer, but not something to be taken for granted.

Property is working on a solution for the area where the asphalt meets the concrete in the breezeway and is in progress on the last of the Blumhardt Priority Projects. Make sure to mark your calendars for August 25th, the Property Board could use your help to work on projects all over the facility.

- The Evangelism Board is working with the Education Board on the Annual Picnic on September 9th.
- We will be hiring an organist from the Organist Guild's sub-list for the first Sunday of each month for the remainder of the year.
- WELCA is collecting school supplies through the end of the summer along with diapers, wipes, & formula in August.
- The council is reviewing more of the continuing resolutions and signed into effect the Continuing Resolution regarding our Sexual Harassment Policy.

The Linfor Family at the Fountain



Preparation and Completion of Jerry Linfor Memorial Fountain



13th Annual Fireworks Booth Sale And Sunday Morning Church Service



**Our enthusiastic
Pastor Carl leading us
in Worship.**



**Wherever two or more
are gathered in His
Name.**



Our Fireworks Booth is about so much more than just a fundraiser.



| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| August 3 | Jerry Carney |
| August 4 | Elsbeth Whitehurst |
| August 5 | Jason Havey |
| August 8 | Irene Boschee |
| August 8 | Don Schell |
| August 10 | Linda Duffek |
| August 16 | Vi Gibson |
| August 16 | Kay Yakabe |
| August 17 | Albert Minning |
| August 19 | Bertha Dahl |
| August 20 | Denise Lester |
| August 23 | Adeline Boschee |
| August 23 | Zoe Franklin |
| August 27 | Carolyn Andrews |
| August 29 | Harriet Urquhardt |



Hi All,

It's summer again and I finally have time to catch up on things like letter writing. I just finished up two summer elective classes: 'Mosaic Making' and 'Introduction to Holy Icon Painting' where I got to explore my artistic side along with some more physical forms of prayer and spirituality.

This spring I was approved for ordination in the ELCA. Now I just have to finish my last 7 units of seminary and find a church. We will find out what region I've been assigned to in early October. We're all hoping that it will be on the West Coast and preferably somewhere near family. I can hard-

ly believe after more than 5 years of study, the end is finally in sight.

Monica is in school full-time this summer, taking *Public Speaking, Human Ethics* and *West African Dance*. She's on schedule to finish her Associate of Science this December and then she plans to enroll in a dental hygiene program wherever we get assigned.

Bethany just finished a week of camp at Mr. Cross, and this week she's off to a day camp here in the Bay Area that promises to teach kids to be "Forest Ninjas". I'm expecting her to come home dirty, tired and ecstatic. Next week she's off on her first solo plane ride to visit her aunt and uncle in Seattle. When she gets back and Monica gets out of school we're going to go camping for 4 days before school starts up again.

Right now I'm looking forward to my last semester of seminary. This fall I'll be taking '*Luther: Cross and Consolation*', '*History of Christianity II*' and singing in the PLTS Choir. I'm also continuing to work as the apartment manager for PLTS and as the Youth and Family Minister at Lutheran Church of the Cross here in Berkeley. I'm so grateful for all the prayer and financial support you've all given me. We never could have made it this far on our own. We hope to see you all again soon.

Yours In Christ,
David, Monica and Bethany Bentz



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes

August 5 Daniel Encinas
August 12 Katy Etchison
August 19 Selena Connell
August 26 Joshua Bell

Altar Care

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin
10:30 AM Peggy Moser

Communion Servers

Karen Linfor, Carol Carney,
Larry Dockter

If you are unable to serve as acolyte, altar care or communion server as scheduled, please call the church office at 421-5039.

Counters

August 5 Walter Arndt, John Johnsen
August 12 Don Schell, Bob Behr
August 19 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
August 26 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

Greeters

August 5 Jan Tanaka
August 12 Jan Tanaka
August 19 Jan Tanaka
August 26 Larry & Deanna Dockter

If you would like to be a greeter, please call Pat Hamilton at 682-3818.

Head Ushers

8:15 AM Ron Franklin
10:30 AM Jerry Carney

Prayer Leaders

August 5 Barbara Manlapig
August 12 Peggy Moser
August 19 Vivian Blazic
August 26 Samantha Basquez

Psalm Leaders

August 5 Amber Mansfield
August 12 Isabella Basquez
August 19 Micayla Shower
August 26 Elise Mihanovich

Readers 8:15 AM

August 5 Christiana Wilson
August 12 Ron Webb
August 19 Eric Linblade
August 26 Mirabel Herrera

Readers 10:30 AM

August 5 Susan Escobar
August 12 Karen Behr
August 19 Al Moser
August 26 Kirsten Ireton

If you are unable to serve as prayer leader, psalm leader or reader as scheduled, please call Nick Manlapig at 383-9376.

Refreshments

August 5 Dorothy Haney, Ofelia Ojeda
August 12 Ken & Debi Lentsch
August 19 Jerry & Carol Carney
August 26 Walt & Pauline Arndt,
Thelma Williams, John Johnsen

If you would like to help provide and or serve refreshments, please call Pat Webb at 685-6345.

Visitor Greeters

August 5 Thelma Williams
August 12 Pat Webb
August 19 Pauline Arndt
August 26 Bertha Dahl

Welcome Leaders

August 5 Peggy Moser
August 12 Pat Webb
August 19 Chet Madison
August 26 Carolyn Andrews

**Thanks
for
Serving!**



What Wonderful Volunteers



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

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