



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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# News And Views



## 2012

### Pastoral Perspective



In conversations with folks, when the concern centers on the commandments, it soon becomes apparent that the setting in which these sacred words are so often seen is that of a courtroom. In this courtroom, folks picture themselves standing beneath the awesome authority of the Supreme Judge who is

seated in solitary splendor high above in heaven. In this courtroom, there is no one like ourselves who may sympathize with our human frailty. So folks try to somehow justify themselves or find loopholes in the law that let them off the hook.

When this is the way folks see the commandments, it is understandable they try to twist them for personal purposes rather than for what God intends. An example of this is when some very religious people came to Jesus with a question to test him and hopefully discredit him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" They really didn't want to know what God intended for marriage. They wanted to twist God's guidelines for their own purposes. Jesus won't play that game, then or now. He knows that, in our sinfulness, even though two people are united in holy matrimony, they can fall into such a destructive relationship that the most loving thing to do is to allow the disillusion of the relationship before the people in it are destroyed. But that was never God's intention for marriage and there is no loophole in his guidelines

that makes it okay. On that day the conversation revolved around marriage. It could have just as easily been about any of God's guidelines. The truth is, we can't justify ourselves before God by twisting His guidelines. We are much better off confessing our sinfulness and the reality that we live in a sinful world and trusting that God's relationship with us is not a courtroom relationship, but rather a courtship relationship. That will make all the difference in the world for us.

You see, the commandments are intended to be the guidelines within which the courtship between God and humanity is carried out. People in love don't try to find loopholes in the commitment they make toward each other during courtship. Certainly hurts and difficulties come up, but they are confessed and forgiveness is offered and received. We aren't perfect. God knows that. Out of His great love for us, He sent Jesus to be with us and take our sins and the sins of the whole world upon Himself so we can relate with God and one another in the loving relationship God would have with us. Trust in that relationship. Give thanks that Jesus understands your weakness and hurt. You are not alone. In His love, He will work with you through whatever is going on and be with you all the way.

And in God's time, the vision John records in his Revelation will finally come to pass: "And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the

throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'" (Revelation 21:2-4)

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,  
*Pastor Carl*



Throughout this past year I have been trying to highlight the many activities and occasions that St Luke's offers to

its members and the community. These opportunities are all geared toward helping each one of us grow individually and expand our Christian mission "to spread the good news, serve those in need, and share the victory of Jesus Christ throughout the world." In order for us to continue to work to fulfill this mission, it entails the dedication of the entire congregation to work together using the three "T's": time, talent, and treasures.

Time is a difficult element for many of us to provide to the church's mission. Everyone has busy lives with family, work, and pastimes and trying to offer up time to do the church's work just doesn't fit into one's schedule. However, without the many hours of church volunteers leading and serving on church boards, it is difficult for the church to continue to meet its objectives. As an example, this past year we were unfortunately without a leader for the Community Concerns Board. Since the other boards were unable to provide effective oversight of these programs, our outreach to the community has not been up to our desired level to effectively "spread, serve, and share."

Talent is the special gift we all have in one area or another that can be generously given to lead or support some of the special activities of the church. The talents of many are necessary for

overseeing and participating in the various programs here, such as, worship services and leaders, Sunday school teachers and helpers, and participants and helpers for property board work days, financial planning and oversight, and evangelism events. We are blessed to have a core of dedicated volunteers but need to continue to expand participation through new ideas and everyone's involvement.

Treasures are the financial commitments one makes to assist the church in meeting its financial needs for staffing, facilities, and programs. It is sometimes viewed as a difficult subject for many. We are all aware of the economic challenges of today and each individual or family has different circumstances that they must face. The church faces similar challenges to remain viable and meet the expectations and needs of its members. As a result, we develop budgets that are geared toward meeting our ministry needs based on the funds that the church members pledge or expect to contribute in the church year. At St Luke's we accept the challenge to bring before the congregation a budget that effectively balances expected needs with expected resources.

In the upcoming stewardship campaign, I hope you will seriously consider what you would like St Luke's to be and how you can assist St Luke's with your time, talent, and treasures to fulfill its mission to spread, serve, and share. See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,  
*Bob Behr*



### **It's Time To Begin Planning**

It's time once again to get started working on our Annual Family Crab Feed for 2013. We will have our first meeting on Sunday, November 18th following the 10:30 AM service. There are many decisions to be made, so please join us. If you have never volunteered for this event in the past, this is your chance to join in the excitement.



On behalf of the Evangelism Board, I want to thank all those who have faithfully served refreshments this year: Carolyn Andrews, Walt and Pauline Arndt, Jerry and Carol Carney, Larry and Deanna Dockter, Lynn Gavia, Dorothy Haney, Ed and Kirsten Ireton, John Johnsen, Ken and Debi Lentsch, Paul Maki, Ron and Susan Myers, Ofelia Ojeda, Chona Sison, Carole and Mack Vance, and Thelma Williams. They make it possible for all of us to enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship after our worship services. We also thank everyone who has provided all the delicious baked goods and other treats during the year as well as those who help set up and put away tables and chairs. We appreciate every one of you.

If you would like to serve refreshments next year, please let us know and we will be happy to show you what to do.

On Sunday, December 9, we will be hosting the potluck for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend so you won't miss the last potluck of the year.

It's been a wonderful year and we feel so blessed with all the support we have received for our Evangelism programs.

In loving service,  
*Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair*



Thank you all who sent me cards on my 97th birthday. I had a birthday cake with a candle in it and the whole kitchen staff in their white coats surrounded our table at dinner time and sang Happy Birthday to me. They asked me to make a wish, but I didn't expect them to ask what I wished for—which was "I'd like to make it to 100."

We would love to be back in our "Own Church" and with our friends.

Thank you again,

*Fred Sommer and Genie too.*



Judy Saxby and Carol Carney want to thank everyone for their amazing support to make the White Elephant sale, at the Fall Festival, such a fun and rewarding time.

We could not have done it without all of you who helped with the signs, set up, selling, clean up, donating and purchasing. Special thank you to Jerry Carney, Micki and Jack Fenske, Pat Hamilton, Dorothy Haney, Mary Harris, Karen Linfor, David Saxby, Don Schell, Mack Vance and Christiana Wilson for all their hard work. Must mention Kirsten Ireton who was behind the scenes making sure our day went well. Please start saving those White Elephants for next year - we will be back!



The 2012 Fall Festival was another huge success and we can't thank everyone enough for all your generous donations and hard work. This year we raised just over \$2,400 which will benefit many local charities as part of our Women's Benevolence. We sold out of our vendor spaces – thank you to Deanna Dockter & Peggy Moser for the work they put into getting and organizing this huge task. Everyone pulled together and we had many great donations of White Elephant items, books, plants and yummy Country Store goodies. The Food Tent was a success; the pancake's kept coming and the hot dogs & pulled pork sold out early this year. We had wonderful feedback from the vendors; everyone can't wait to do it again next year. Most importantly, we accomplished our mission as a church to spread, serve and share in the Victory of Jesus Christ.

Our next event is our Women's Group Luncheon on November 10 at 11:30 am. We will be sharing soups & salads – please sign up in the Church entry. We are collecting canned food and non-perishable food items for the Elk Grove Food Bank.



For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have been setting aside coins and small offerings every day to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life. At a Thankoffering service, women bring their Thankofferings together to give thanks to God in worship and fellowship. Thankofferings go in full to support the churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA. At St. Luke's we will celebrate our annual Thankoffering Service on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please look for sign-up sheets in the Church Entry and help us make this another special event. If you have any questions about how you may assist, please speak with Karen Behr.

- The safe has been installed and is in use.
- There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for Altar care, Communion Servers, and Head Ushers.
- We are over budget on the flower line item, so starting in January we will be charging \$20 per bouquet to cover rising flower costs and Sundays when only one person signs up for flowers.
- Adult Sunday school started October 7th.
- God's Apps has been temporarily discontinued.
- We are getting a bicycle rack at no cost; it will be installed on the concrete near the entry to the inner courtyard next to the rose bed.
- Painting of the kitchen, Schultz Hall, and Schultz Hall bathrooms will begin November 12th. Packing up of the kitchen will take place Friday, November 2nd at 9am for anyone who can help.
- The Fall Festival was a big success. WELCA raised \$2400 (\$100 more than last year).
- Council decided to divide up the \$850 that was being held in the community concerns fund. \$500 will be sent to the Sacramento Children's Home Crisis Nursery Program to help children and families with children ages 0-5 that need emergency child care or overnight care where there are dire situations. The remaining \$350 will be kept to host a Winter Sanctuary event for homeless in the area in early 2013.
- Council approved a motion that would only allow kitchen use when an authorized person of the church is available to open, supervise, and close the kitchen after use. A continuing resolution will be written to detail the policy and procedure.
- Proposed 2013 budget will come to council next month before going to the congregation for approval at the Annual meeting on Sunday, December 9th. Stewardship Program will kick off on November 4th; it is a Lamp Lighter theme and will continue Sunday November 11th.



At the October Worship & Music Board meeting, it was pointed out that the budget for altar flowers is overrun, due to the rising cost of flowers, passed on to St. Luke's by our florist.

With this in mind, the W&M Board has come to the decision that beginning January, 2013, the price **per bouquet** for altar flowers must be increased to \$20.00. It is our feeling that the bouquets are well worth the new cost.

The flowers are a beautiful addition to our sanctuary and are supplied by you, the congregation, for many different occasions; birthdays, anniversaries, memorials, thank-you's, secret sisters, and the list goes on and on.

We wish this price increase was not necessary, we pray that you will continue to order them as you have in the past for your flower needs.

A new flower calendar will be posted soon for your use in planning for next year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the Worship & Music Board.

Thank you, as always, to our wonderful church family for your continued support!

In Service to Him,

*Karen Linfor*  
*Worship & Music Chair*



We are taking orders again this year for poinsettia plants to decorate our Sanctuary for the Christmas season. The plants will be \$10 each and can be donated in honor or in memory of someone in your life. The poinsettias will be up starting Sunday, December 16th, and will be available for pick up after the 11pm Candle Light Service on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th. Keep a look for order forms starting November 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Hoppman or someone from the Board of Worship and Music.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and all the love you have sent my way during this very trying time for my family and me. I'm feeling so much better. Still not 100%, but I'm on the up slope and I'm hoping to return to church soon.

If I didn't know before, I know now that Angels are everywhere and many of them are right here in St. Luke's congregation. My family and I feel so blessed to have each of you in our lives.

God bless each of you, and again THANK YOU!

*The Andrews Family*  
*(Carolyn, Lajuan and Kenny)*



**Wednesday  
November 21, 2012  
7:00 PM**

Join us in thanking our Lord for our many blessings.



**Welcome  
Our New  
Members**



**River City Blue Star Moms**

On Saturday, November 10, 2012 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church from 11am to 1pm the River City Blue Star Moms invite the Veterans of St. Luke's Church to join us for a Veterans Luncheon.

There is a sign-up in the church entryway. Please sign-up and join us for a Veteran's Thank You!

Barbara Tears, President



November 1	Kurt Golchert
November 7	Andrew Harrison
November 10	Judy Saxby
November 11	Billie Becker
November 14	Julie Ireton
November 15	Marc Thomas
November 16	Alison Kerian
November 17	Betty Hansen
November 17	Betty Ley
November 17	Mike Wilke
November 22	Rosary Jensen
November 27	Micki Fenske
November 27	Carl Hoppman



November 4	Al & Irene Boschee For Anniversary
November 11	The Ireton Family For Julie's 19th Birthday
November 18	
November 21	Jerry & Carol Carney Thank You For All Our Blessings
November 25	

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Acolytes

Nov. 4 Daniel Encinas  
Nov. 11 Katy Etchison  
Nov. 18 Selena Connell  
Nov. 25 Joshua Bell

## Altar Care

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin  
10:30 AM Megan Shower, Deanna Dockter

## Communion Servers

Bob Behr, Karen Behr, Karen Linfor

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

## Counters

Nov. 4 Walter Arndt, John Johnsen  
Nov. 11 Don Schell, Bob Behr  
Nov. 18 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
Nov. 25 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

## Greeters

Nov. 4 Paul and Ruth Heaton  
Nov. 11 Tracy and Sierra Etchison  
Nov. 18 W-ELCA Thankoffering Sunday  
Nov. 25 Larry and 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 Phillip Connell

## Prayer Leaders

Nov. 4 Larry Dockter  
Nov. 11 Samantha Basquez  
Nov. 18 W-ELCA Thankoffering Sunday  
Nov. 25 Peggy Moser

## Psalm Leaders

Nov. 4 Aiyana Tice  
Nov. 11 Isabella Basquez  
Nov. 18 W-ELCA Thankoffering Sunday  
Nov. 25 Derrick Mihanovich

## Readers 8:15 AM

Nov. 4 Phil Petersen  
Nov. 11 Christiana Wilson  
Nov. 18 W-ELCA Thankoffering Sunday  
Nov. 25 Maribel Herrera

## Readers 10:30 AM

Nov. 4 Betty Englund  
Nov. 11 Alison Thomas  
Nov. 18 W-ELCA Thankoffering Sunday  
Nov. 25 Ken Lentsch

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

## Refreshments

Nov. 4 Ed & Kirsten Ireton, Lynn Gavia  
Nov. 11 Baby Shower For Katie Iniguez  
Nov. 18 Paul Maki and Chona Sison  
Nov. 25 Larry & Deanna Dockter

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

## Visitor Greeters

Nov. 4 Thelma Williams  
Nov. 11 Pauline Arndt  
Nov. 18 Bertha Dahl  
Nov. 25 Carolyn Andrews

## Welcome Leaders

Nov. 4 Peggy Moser  
Nov. 11 Pat Webb  
Nov. 18 Carolyn Andrews  
Nov. 25 Pauline Arndt



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

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Mary F. Harris' Baptism