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# News And Views



2012

## Pastoral Perspective



“What shall we do?” That’s a question that’s asked a lot these coming weeks in preparation for Christmas. Maybe there are cards to be filled out and sent, presents to be bought and wrapped, trees to be decorated, baking to be done. All of these things are well and good, but by themselves they don’t really get us

ready for Christmas.

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, shares what he believes we should do to get ready for the Lord’s coming. He begins chapter 4 of his letter telling us to rejoice. Why are we to rejoice? We are to rejoice because the Lord is at hand. As Christians, we know and have believed that God loved us so much that He gave His only Son to be born into the world and become the way for us to God. We can rejoice when we consider God’s great plan fulfilled in the Babe of Bethlehem.

What else shall we do to be ready for the celebration of the Lord’s coming? Paul continues his encouragement of the Philippians and us by writing that we should, “Let our reasonableness be known to everyone.” What do you think would happen if the basis of all we said and did was reasonableness? Children would reply to a request from parents, “Sure, that’s a reasonable thing to ask. I’ll be glad to do it.” Family members would really listen to one another and always be reasona-

ble in their responses. What a change it would make in being prepared for celebrating Christmas.

Paul goes on with his letter, “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” We are not to let worries or upsets stifle our joy in the salvation that Christmas proclaims. We are not to let anxieties that the holiday time can bring derail our celebration. We are rather to go to the Lord in prayer, giving thanks for His great gift of love, and letting Him know what help we need from Him. He is at hand every time we fold our hands in prayer.

Finally, Paul writes about what happens when we rejoice in the Lord’s coming, let our reasonableness be known to everyone, and go to the Lord with thanksgiving in our hearts. He lets us know that “The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” God’s peace will establish protecting care in our lives. No one fully understands how this works, but we recognize it when the restive heart finds rest in the Lord. We recognize it when insatiable desires give way to contentment in the Lord. We recognize it when nervous fear dissolves into quiet trust in the Lord.

What shall we do to prepare for Christmas? I trust you see it’s not perhaps what you would expect. It doesn’t really have to do with what we do at all. It has to do with our attitude and how we go

about doing whatever we do. If we rejoice, are reasonable and keep in thankful contact with the Lord, we will have a truly peace-filled Christmas. That is my prayer for us all. May God bless our preparation and celebration of God's life giving gift of love.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,

*Pastor Carl*



### **The Presidents' Corner**

We are blessed to have a staff that works together with Pastor Carl to provide worship leadership in music and administrative office support. As music director, Brooke brings her talents to the keyboard and direction of the church choir making our worship services uplifting and rewarding. As the office secretary, Deanna provides the necessary administrative support to manage the many details associated with the church operations. Thank you, Brooke and Deanna, for your outstanding contributions to the mission of St. Luke's.

To all who have volunteered their time and talents this past year, THANK YOU. We would not be able to fulfill our mission and support without your dedication.

As we look forward to the Advent and Christmas seasons, we at St Luke's have some important decisions to make for the year 2013 regarding our budget and filling several leadership positions for our Board Chairs and Officers.

A proposed budget has been approved by Council and will be out for review prior to the Congregational meeting on December 9. If you are not able to fulfill a leadership position, the Boards welcome anyone interested in serving the church and community.

So please mark your calendars to attend the Congregational meeting on December 9 following the 10:30 church service. We will start with a potluck lunch and then follow with the meeting to elect

new officers and board chairpersons, and review and approve the 2013 budget.

Finally, as we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons, may we find the time to think about the wonderful gift that arrived that night and changed the world forever. Let's continue to sing "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill for all."

Merry Christmas to all!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

*Bob Behr*



### **Reformation Sunday Was a Huge Success**

Our Annual Reformation Heritage Potluck was enjoyed by many. We had wonderful dishes representing many heritages: Greek, English, American, German, Norwegian, Filipino and others. There were cabbage rolls, pickled herring, sauerkraut cake, Norwegian pound cake, German pot roast, Mish Mash, homemade breads and so much more. No one left hungry!

We also had the opportunity to learn more about Martin Luther and the Reformation as we answered the questions that were printed on the placemats. Pastor Carl did a great job sharing the answers and, after 3 challenging tie breakers, Kirsten Ireton and Triss Hoppman took the top two prizes. Thank you to Pauline Arndt for the great idea for the placemats and to Paul Maki for printing them for us. We especially want to thank everyone who helped with setup, food service and cleanup.



We have one more potluck this year, so please be sure to come on Sunday, December 9, for the Annual Congregational meeting and potluck following the 10:30am service. Please join us for this special time of fellowship.

## EPIPHANY Breakfast and Service

In January, we start the year with our annual Epiphany Breakfast and Service. **This year, because Epiphany falls on Sunday, January 6, we will have one service at 9:30 AM. The service and breakfast will be held in Schultz Hall.** Epiphany is always January 6<sup>th</sup> and many of you have not been able to attend the breakfast and service in the past because it was on a weekday. This is your opportunity to learn more about Epiphany and enjoy a delicious breakfast. Please mark your calendar now so you won't miss out. If you would like to bring fruit, a coffee cake, muffins, or a nut bread, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The Evangelism Board will supply the casseroles, coffee, tea and juice. We look forward to a joyful and sharing service.

In loving service,

Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair



Please mark your calendars for the annual W-ELCA Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 8 at 11:30 am. We will be revealing our Secret Sisters and enjoying a lovely luncheon. This year we will be having a special treat – a dance performance by Leonardo da Vinci Ballet Folklorico Club, a Mexican Folklore dance group. Please join us for this special time of sharing, food, and Christmas caroling. Be sure to sign-up in the church entry so we know how many to plan for.



All are invited to join in beautifying our sanctuary for the Christmas season. We will decorate for Advent on Saturday, December 1 at 10:00am. Our beautiful Christmas tree will go up and be decorated Thursday, December 6 at 7:00pm. Goodies will be served, so don't miss out on a great time of fellowship and Christmas cheer!



We will once again be taking orders for poinsettias to honor or remember loved ones. Orders will be accepted through December 9. The cost is \$10.00 each. Order forms will be available in the narthex or contact Holly Hoppman. The poinsettias will be displayed from December 16 through December 24. They can be picked up after Christmas Eve Worship.



Candle Lighting and Carol Worship  
7:00 PM

Candle Lighting Holy Communion  
11:00 PM



Sunday, December 23, at 10:30AM. The St. Luke's Choir, under the direction of Brooke Barr will present our annual Christmas Cantata. Note: There will be NO 8:15AM service that day.



The Sunday school children have been hard at work practicing their song for the Christmas cantata so don't miss out on their special performance on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am. Parents please have your children to church early that day so they can practice and get all organized. It is also important to bring them to church every Sunday so they can learn the music. More information and specific times will be distributed in class as the date approaches. If you have any questions please see Kirsten Ireton.



### Sacramento Children's Receiving Home

Please join Joyce Finnegan in collecting Christmas presents for children spending Christmas at the Auburn Blvd. Children's Receiving Home. You can choose an envelope in the church entryway for a boy or girl of different ages.



If you enjoy exchanging Christmas Cards with those in our congregation, you will find our mailbox for just such an occasion in the church entryway. All are welcome to exchange cards using this mailbox, but, don't forget to see if you also have cards to be picked up.



### Lutheran High School A Christmas Concert

Friday, December 7 at 7:00pm  
Where: St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church  
9165 Peets Street, Elk Grove, CA 95758  
To purchase tickets call: Lutheran High School  
916-691-2277.  
Tickets are \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 at door.



## Relay For Life of Elk Grove Team Friends in Faith – Ice Cream Fundraiser

Once again, members of St. Luke's are joining forces as Team Friends in Faith and supporting the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Elk Grove. The event will be held May 18-19, 2013 at Elk Grove High School. All are encouraged to join the team; it is a lot of fun! Last year we raised over \$3,500 for cancer research, support programs, and services. If you are a cancer survivor, we want to celebrate you – so please join the team!

Team Friends in Faith is having a fundraiser at Leatherby's Family Creamer on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 11am until 11pm. A portion of the ice cream sales, either dine-in or take-out, will benefit the Relay team. Flyers are available in the church entryway or from Kirsten Ireton. See her or Ed Ireton for information about Relay and how to join the team. [www.relayforlife.org/elkgrovec](http://www.relayforlife.org/elkgrovec)



**Relay For Life Walk**



### Council Highlights:

- The Stewardship presentation went really well. The material was really good and made some good points, we are getting responses. There are still others we are waiting for.
- We are replacing microphones; we have the CD player, but don't want to hook it up until it will be used.
- Winter Sanctuary has invited us to host this year. We will host 2/11/13.
- The choir will host Brooke's baby shower on January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Congregational Meeting and Potluck is 12/9
- The first Sunday in January, the 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be one service in Schultz Hall with an Epiphany breakfast.
- Kitchen and Schultz Hall are newly painted.
- Bob Behr contacted Synod about our facility use and exemption status. This will be reviewed further.
- The 2013 Budget was discussed and tabled for a special council meeting to be held prior to the Congregational meeting on 12/9 in hopes that more pledges will be turned in.



### 2013 Annual Family Crab Feed

A date has been set for the 2013 Crab Feed! Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 2nd, 2013. We will be having a Mardi Gras Masquerade, so grab your mask and join us! Doors will open at 6pm for social hour and enter your chance in the many wonderful raffle prizes available. At 7pm enjoy a full meal with Crab and Shrimp or Chicken. Adult tickets are \$45, Youth (ages 6 to 12) are \$15, and children age 5 and under are free. Tickets will be available starting December 1st. Please Contact Ken Lentsch 427-9188 for tickets or Holly Hoppman. We look forward to seeing you there!



I would like to thank Walt and Pauline Arndt for all they do to help with our monthly Newsletters. They give of their time so willingly and always with a smile and joy in their hearts. I couldn't ask for more.

In Christian Love,  
*Deanna*



Our Youth Group is **NO** longer collecting newspapers as a fundraiser. Please consider donating your used newspapers to an outside group to further the efforts of recycling.



- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| December 4  | Kim Fenske           |
| December 5  | Jared Kiser          |
| December 8  | Olivia Cooper        |
| December 8  | Bill Muhlig          |
| December 10 | Jeanne Cooper        |
| December 12 | Elizabeth Korhonen   |
| December 13 | John Litz            |
| December 14 | Betty Englund        |
| December 16 | Chet Madison         |
| December 17 | Kristine Felgenhauer |
| December 21 | Sylvia Kohler        |
| December 24 | Everett Maraspini    |
| December 25 | Triss Hoppman        |
| December 26 | Robert Harrison      |
| December 27 | Deanna Dockter       |
| December 29 | Derrick Mihanovich   |

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.



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|-------------|--|
| December 2  | <i>Deanna Dockter For My Dad Jerry's Birthday</i>          |
| December 9  |  |
| December 16 | <i>Ken &amp; Debi Lentsch For Anniversary</i>              |
| December 23 | <i>Don &amp; Betty Englund To Celebrate Christmas</i>      |
| December 24 | <i>Larry &amp; Deanna Dockter For The Love of Our Lord</i> |
| December 30 |  |

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Acolytes

Dec. 2 Daniel Encinas  
Dec. 9 Katy Etchison  
Dec. 16 Selena Connell  
Dec. 23 Joshua Bell  
Dec. 30 Katy Etchison

## Altar Care

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin  
10:30 AM

## Communion Servers

Al Boschee

## Counters

Dec. 2 Walter Arndt, John Johnsen  
Dec. 9 Don Schell, Bob Behr  
Dec. 16 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
Dec. 23 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser  
Dec. 30 Carolyn Andrews, Jack Fenske  
Micki Fenske

## Greeters

Dec. 2 Ed & Kirsten Ireton  
Dec. 9 Tracy Etchison, Sierra Etchison  
Dec. 16 Paul Maki, Chona Sison, Joshua Bell  
Dec. 23  
Dec. 24 Jack & Micki Fenske  
Dec. 30 Deanna Dockter & Granddaughters

## Head Ushers

8:15 AM Ron Franklin  
10:30 AM Larry Dockter

## Prayer Leaders

Dec. 2 Ruth Heaton  
Dec. 9 Triss Hoppman  
Dec. 16 Holly Hoppman  
Dec. 23 Nick Manlapig  
Dec. 24 Sylvia Kohler, Vivian Blazic  
Dec. 30 Ken Lentsch

## Psalm Leaders

Dec. 2 Elizabeth Wilson  
Dec. 9 Amber Mansfield  
Dec. 16 Aiyana Tice  
Dec. 23 Isabella Basquez  
Dec. 24 Micayla Shower, Derrick Mihanovich  
Dec. 30 Elizabeth Wilson

## Readers 8:15 AM

Dec. 2 Ron Webb  
Dec. 9 Eric Linblade  
Dec. 16 Kristine Felgenhauer  
Dec. 23 Phil Petersen  
Dec. 30 Christina Wilson

## Readers 10:30 AM

Dec. 2 Vivian Blazic  
Dec. 9 Kirsten Ireton  
Dec. 16 Nick Manlapig  
Dec. 23 Sylvia Kohler  
Dec. 24 Holly Hoppman, Triss Hoppman  
Dec. 30 Ruth Heaton

## Refreshments

Dec. 2 Dorothy Haney, Ofelia Ojeda  
Dec. 9 Congregational Meeting and Potluck  
Dec. 16 Jerry and Carol Carney  
Dec. 23  
Dec. 30 Ken and Debi Lentsch

## Visitor Greeters

Dec. 2 Thelma Williams  
Dec. 9 Pauline Arndt  
Dec. 16 Pat Webb  
Dec. 23  
Dec. 30

## Welcome Leaders

Dec. 2 Peggy Moser  
Dec. 9 Pat Webb  
Dec. 16 Chet Madison  
Dec. 23 Carolyn Andrews  
Dec. 30 Pauline Arndt



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

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**Congratulations to three of our expectant Moms  
Brooke Barr, Katie Iniguez and Alison Thomas**