



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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# News And Views



## 2013

### Pastoral Perspective



Peace has often been defined as the absence of conflict. That is a wonderful ideal, but not fully possible in a sinful world. Peace, however, can be looked at a bit differently. It can be seen as a state of wholeness in which differences are held in constructive and creative tension.

There is still some conflict involved, but it is constructive, not destructive. This wholeness is called Shalom in the Bible. It is this peace that the angels proclaimed on the first Christmas. We are different from one another in this world. Nonetheless, God sent His one and only Son to bring us together in true peace so we can use our differences to build one another up rather than try to tear one another down.

We live in a divided world, and that division runs right through the human heart. Jesus brings the gift of peace to our divided world and hearts. He is God's shalom or peace. Let's look at how this One who is God and yet became a man does this.

First, Jesus brings peace to our divided world. Wherever there are people, we tend to choose up sides—nation against nation, race against race, class against class. Natural and man-made divisions such as geography, language, culture, education, age, wealth, even religion degenerate into destructive divisions.

The very differences that could enrich life

are used as excuses to justify separating into hostile groups and squaring off against one another. I read of an experiment done in a classroom where all blue-eyed children were singled out by the teacher and discriminated against. It wasn't long before both blue-eyed students and non-blue-eyed students developed a self-consciousness based on this simple and natural difference of eye color. The difference degenerated into destructive division. I wonder how mixed up I would have been in this experiment as I have one blue and one brown eye! But I digress.

I heard of an experiment at a summer camp where the leader simply told some of the campers they could not enter the assembly hall. There was no explanation. The group inside went ahead with their program. After a rather long period of time the outsiders were called in and told to stand in the front of the rest of the group. Some were puzzled, others angry at being made to stand outside with no explanation while the rest of the group proceeded with their program. Then the leader told the group that the reason some were made to wait outside was that they were different and did not fit in with the rest of the group. Different? How were they different? After looking at one another someone noticed all the outsiders were wearing eyeglasses. Then the leader went on to say that all persons who wore eyeglasses were inferior and really did not fit in with those who did not wear eyeglasses. Those who didn't wear eyeglasses began to feel superior and look down on those who

did wear eyeglasses. There developed a feeling of discrimination and anger at those not wearing eyeglasses on the part of those who did wear eyeglasses. A very hostile attitude began to develop within the eyeglass group. Those who didn't wear eyeglasses started to put down those who did. The leader had to bring the experiment to a close before things got out of hand.

Ridiculous, you say. Yes, ridiculous. But so are many of the differences over which we shun one another and exclude one another from community.

Jesus brings peace to a divided world. He does not obliterate the differences, but calls us to a wholeness of humanity in which the differences are seen as various gifts of diversity for the good of all rather than things to fight over and hurt one another over. Jesus was swept to the cross by the same forces that work against peace in the world. But as he was lifted up on the cross, he offered to the world a transcendent center around which the natural and man-made differences of humanity can become richness to be celebrated and shared.

Along with bringing peace to a divided world, Jesus brings peace to divided hearts. The divisions of the world run right through the human heart. We are our own worst enemies in this regard. We are often at war within ourselves. We need peace within. Insecurities, anxieties, uncertainties, and so much more seem to plague us and tear us apart inside. It is because of this inner conflict that I suppose persons are so quick to choose up sides over differences. The inner conflict is projected outward, and the outward conflict resonates with the inner battle. Choosing up sides over differences is a way of trying to deal with the inner conflict, a way of trying to feel whole by tearing others apart. So much persecution and oppression happens because folks are not able to deal constructively with their inner conflicts and so try to find some one or some group to put down so they can feel better about themselves. The inner conflict is ignored or denied.

Jesus helps us deal with the inner conflict. The message of his birth, life, death and resurrec-

tion is that we are made whole in him and given peace. We do not have to engage in the awful charade of self-justification, of dealing with the inner divisions by projecting them outward. Jesus helps bring the inner civil war to an end. He gives us a center around which to integrate our lives. He who is himself peace, brings peace to us.

Do you need this gift of peace today? Do you struggle within yourself and with others? Hear Jesus say to you now: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you." (John 14:27) "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7).

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



If you missed the annual congregation meeting on Sunday, December 9, you missed some good eats and a good time of sharing. Thanks to the Evangelism Board for making sure all things were ready and for cleaning up afterwards. We passed the 2013 budget after having a fairly successful Stewardship drive and we ended up with 62 pledges. We would certainly like to see all members respond with their pledged support for the new year but we also understand that it sometimes is difficult to do so.

We also elected folks to continue or start serving new terms in positions of leadership as follows:

President - Bob Behr

Vice President - Howard Triebwasser

Community Concerns - Al Moser

Finance - Betty Englund

Continuing members are:

Secretary - Holly Hoppman

Financial Secretary - Ron Webb

Education - Missy Jensen

Treasurer - Larry Dockter

Worship & Music - Karen Linfor

Evangelism - Pat Webb

Property - Clarence Korhonen

WELCA representative - Kirsten Ireton

We always have many opportunities to volunteer for one of the various boards and become involved in helping St Luke's meet its mission. Please consider sharing your talents or learning something new by volunteering to assist us this next year. We are looking for someone who might be interested in rejuvenating our Youth program so if this is something you think you might want to do, let me or Pastor know of your interest.

Next month we will have annual reports of the various Boards' activities for 2012 and looking ahead. I look forward to working with you in 2013.

See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Bob Behr



### 2013 Annual Family Crab Feed

Join us on Saturday, March 2, 2013 for our 12th Annual Shrimp and Crab Feed. We will be having a

Mardi Gras Masquerade, so grab your mask and join us! Adult tickets are \$45, Youth (ages 6-12) are \$15, and children 5 and under are free. Please contact Ken Lentsch at 427-9188 for tickets. WE look forward to seeing you there!

Feel free to contact Ken Lentsch ahead of time and he will have your tickets ready and available on any Sunday that is convenient for you. Must have payment and stubs back no later than February 17th.



### Epiphany

## One Service on Sunday, January 6! At 9:30 AM (with Breakfast)

Sunday, January 6, at 9:30 AM, there will be an Epiphany Breakfast/Service in Schultz Hall. Epiphany is always on January 6, so the traditional Epiphany Breakfast/Worship has been on a weekday since the Evangelism Board began the tradition, here at St. Luke's, four years ago. Since that time it has fallen on a weekday and attendance has been limited to those free to attend. Since it is on a Sunday in 2013, we have planned this special service so all can attend. If you have a special manger scene you would like to have displayed, please bring it with you. (This will be the only service on this date).

Please sign up in the narthex if you wish to bring fruit, muffins, coffee cake or nut breads.

If you have a favorite manger scene you would like to share, please bring it so it may be displayed on a special table.



Our 2013 After Service Refreshment Calendar is now posted in the Fellowship Room, Room #5. If you enjoy this special time of fellowship and would like to help serve refreshments this year,

please sign up on the calendar or let me or any member of the Evangelism Board know and we will be happy to get you started. Donations of juice and/or refreshments are always appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who helped set up, serve or clean up for our December congregational potluck and meeting. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

In loving service,

Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair

## 2012 In Review



**Annual Crab Feed 80's Theme**



**A Few of Our Wonderful Volunteers  
Thank You For All You Do  
Around St. Luke's**

The Property Board would like to thank the firefighters from Sacramento Metropolitan-truck 50 for ascending to great heights to replace light bulbs in the sanctuary. A job well done.



**Jerry Linfor Memorial**



**Luau**



**Sunday School Art Auction**





We welcome Andrew John Roberts and Ryder Dru Roberts who were baptized on December 16. Andrew Roberts' sponsors are the congregation. Ryder's God parents are: Daniel Connell, Christopher Orsburn, Kristin Willoughby and Rachel Kiser. We welcome Andrew and Ryder into the family of Christ.



**For Brooke & Dave Barr  
It's A Boy**

Brooke and Dave's baby shower will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2013 following the 10:30am service. It will be hosted by the Choir and Worship & Music. Lunch will be served. It will be in the Multipurpose Room. All are welcome to help celebrate this joyous event.



- January 1 Johnathan Dockery
- January 1 Alfred Kaiser
- January 1 Manuel Ojeda
- January 2 Shirley Clark
- January 2 Kathryn Felgenhauer
- January 3 Jacob Kiser
- January 5 Nick Moser
- January 6 Pat Hamilton
- January 9 Betty Litz
- January 10 Karen Linfor
- January 11 Melissa Jensen
- January 12 Shirley Martsch
- January 13 Deanna Kay Dockter
- January 16 Walter Arndt
- January 18 Wesley Lester
- January 19 Dennis Fischer
- January 24 Stella Loveless
- January 26 Susan Landaker
- January 29 Amy Franklin
- January 30 Bernie Johansen
- January 31 Kirsten Ireton
- January 31 Tracy Light



- January 6
- January 13 The Dockter' For Deanna's Birthday
- January 20
- January 27

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Acolytes

Jan. 6 Daniel Encinas  
Jan. 13 Katy Etchison  
Jan. 20 Selena Connell  
Jan. 27 Joshua Bell

## Altar Care

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin  
10:30 AM Marlene Kiser, Deanna Dockter

## Communion Servers

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

## Counters

Jan. 6 Walter Arndt, John Johnsen  
Jan. 13 Don Schell, Bob Behr  
Jan. 20 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
Jan. 27 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

## Greeters

Jan. 6 Carole & Mack Vance  
Jan. 13 Larry & Deanna Dockter  
Jan. 20 Paul & Ruth Heaton  
Jan. 27

*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 Ken Lentsch

## Prayer Leaders

Jan. 6 Alison Thomas  
Jan. 13 Betty Englund  
Jan. 20 David Saxby  
Jan. 27 Tracy Etchison

## Psalm Leaders

Jan. 6 Amber Mansfield  
Jan. 13 Aiyana Tice  
Jan. 20 Isabella Basquez  
Jan. 27 Micayla Shower

## Readers 8:15 AM

Jan. 6 Kelly Boyer  
Jan. 13 Maribel Herrera  
Jan. 20 Ron Webb  
Jan. 27 Eric Linblade

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

## Readers 10:30 AM

Jan. 6 Al Moser  
Jan. 13 Samantha Basquez  
Jan. 20 Susan Escobar  
Jan. 27 Larry Dockter

## Refreshments

Jan. 6 Epiphany Breakfast, Evangelism Board  
Jan. 13 Baby Shower For Brooke & Dave Barr  
Hosted by, Worship & Music  
Jan. 20 Paul Maki, Chona Sison  
Jan. 27 Pending

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

## Visitor Greeters

Jan. 13 Pauline Arndt  
Jan. 20 Thelma Williams  
Jan. 27 Pat Webb

## Welcome Leaders

Jan. 6 Peggy Moser  
Jan. 13 Pat Webb  
Jan. 20 Chet Madison  
Jan. 27 Carolyn Andrews



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

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**Welcome  
2013!**