



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

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JULY
2013

Pastoral Perspective



When we think of a miracle we don't usually think of a sure thing. A miracle suggests the uncertain, the irregular—certainly not that upon which we can count. The thought of a miracle seems unreliable and unsure.

Let's consider another way to look at miracles. Let's look at how they appear to the eyes of faith. To the eyes of faith, a miracle is something that is as believable and sure as God's loving presence. A miracle is something that opens up new dimensions of the presence and power of God in Christ. These new dimensions are not to be seen so much as a "doing for" someone as they are a "participating in" the all sufficient power of God.

The beginning of a miracle is a negative situation. When we look at the beginning of Jesus' miracles in the Bible we see a crowd of four or five thousand people who are hungry and tired, we see someone who is blind or lame or deaf. On one occasion we see a wedding reception where the wine has run out—now that is a negative situation for sure! Participation in miracles is from a negative context. All of us have negative situations which are opportunities for participating in miracles. Financial challenges, sickness, danger—these are examples of negative situations that suddenly appear in our lives. We usually don't see them as opportu-

nities for participation in God's power for miracles, however. On the contrary, sometimes we feel that God has abandoned us at such times. Sometimes negative situations solicit an attitude of despair or despondency. The dialog between Jesus and the disciples before the feeding of the five thousand suggests that they didn't see any possibility of resolution to the negative situation of thousands of hungry people and little available food. It is not hard to identify with the feelings of the disciples. The seeming hopelessness of negative situations is a common experience. Sin, itself, is the master negative situation. It produces endless despair. Sin was the negative situation that prompted the miracle of Jesus' death and resurrection in order to win victory over it.

I believe the reason we can be so easily overwhelmed by the negative situations in life is that we have difficulty seeing how God could be for us and yet permit them to occur. This problem is as old as humanity. It stems from our forgetting God's creative goodness in the Genesis account and remembering only humanity's rebellion and the subsequent negatives in life. The miracle of God's presence and power in the midst of the negative situations is truly the Biblical message. God's presence and power is creative, redeeming, and life-giving.

To the eyes of faith, the negative situation is not an occasion for wondering, "Where are you, God?" It is an opportunity for considering, "How

can I participate in your presence and power in the face of this negative situation?" That's when the miracles occur. When we look at the lives of those strong in faith such as Abraham, Moses, Peter, Paul - we see the negative situations open up the way for participation in God's presence and power again and again.

For the disciples who couldn't see how five thousand people could be fed with five loaves and two fish, the answer was there all along. That answer was Jesus. Jesus is the Word of promise and possibility in the negative situations. Jesus always speaks to what is happening to free us from despair and hopelessness and make it possible for us to go forward in faith. Jesus is the affirming, renewing, redeeming, restoring Word.

So what is a miracle? Is it something unreliable and freaky? If we believe only in ourselves set in a stage of uncaring nature, it is. If we believe in Jesus, a miracle is always at hand to win a victory for us in the face of a negative situation. We can count on that more than anything. As we deal with negative situations in life, let's trust God for miracles. Let's participate in His presence and power through faith. Things might not work out exactly as we would imagine or plan. That's because the negative situation has changed their course. But because God loves us and we trust in Him, they will work out miraculously according to His great will and way.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,

Pastor Carl



A miracle of love!



The Presidents' Corner June was a busy month around St. Luke's. The WELCA started the month off with the annual Bunco fun and games with the proceeds going to their benevolent programs. At the Sunday June 9th worship services, we recognized those family and friends who were graduating from high school, trade school, or college. Then there was Father's Day celebration with pie and ice cream after the 10:30 service. And finally, the Fireworks stand opened up in late June with good fellowship and working together.

Have you seen the new "cry room" right off the sanctuary that has just been enlarged and redecorated? It certainly looks more inviting for our parents with small children or babies and provides needed space to change diapers, console a crying child, etc. while still being in the worship environment. Thanks to the Connell Family who donated the materials and labor to provide this fine addition. It has that added special touch. Check it out and give Phillip, Jennifer, Selena and Rachel a BIG thanks. If I missed anyone else who assisted in this project, please forgive my oversight.

The Property Board had a work day on Saturday June 15th to catch up on some painting, grounds maintenance, etc. It was a great time of working together to make St. Luke's a better place to meet the needs of our congregation and guests. These quarterly work days help us maintain our facilities without the high labor costs and provide an opportunity for folks to share their various skills in many areas. Look for the next one coming up in the Fall and consider donating your Saturday morning to help improve the appearance and function of our facilities and grounds. Thanks to all who organized and participated this past month.

We have had at least two floral arrangements each week that adorn the altar for worship services. They are funded through donations from members who sign-up on the flower chart in the church narthex. The annual budget assumes that the flower donations will cover all of the altar flow-

ers' costs. When only one person or family signs up for a particular Sunday, other portions of the church budget must be diverted to cover the costs of the second arrangement. I noticed that sign-ups for the next few months are rather slim which would result in more unbudgeted funds being needed to cover the cost of flowers. I encourage you, if you are able, to consider signing up for altar flowers for a special occasion or remembrance.

See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Bob Behr



ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Evangelism Board served up pie and ice cream on Sunday, June 16, to show all the men in our congregation how much we appreciate them. Thank you to everyone who brought the delicious pies for all of us to enjoy. Special thanks to our board members for doing such a wonderful job setting up and serving. We also appreciate all those who put away the tables and chairs.

GREETERS Needed

Pat Hamilton appreciates everyone who has served as a greeter. It's so important to have someone welcoming people as they come in for worship. She has openings for July and August so please sign up (list is on the bulletin board in the entry way) or let her know you would like to serve. Choir members are especially encouraged to sign up.

Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair



SUMMER IS HERE

What tastes especially delicious on a warm summer day? On Sunday, July 14, the Evangelism Board will be serving their annual root beer and orange soda ice cream floats. Please join us for this special treat.



Worship CD's

We now have several members who are receiving the CD's and are enjoying the worship services even though they can no longer come to church. The response has been very positive.

If you or someone you know would like to receive the worship service CD's, please let me, Pastor Carl, or any member of our board know. We would be happy to bring one to you.

Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair



So very Precious!



Alexander Blair American Legion H.S.
Grandson of Ken & Debi Lentsch

Leola U. Davis John F. Kennedy H.S.
Granddaughter of Mary F. Harris

Ethan Enella Del Campo H.S.
Grandson of Jan Tanaka

Mackenzie Harrison Whitney H.S.
Granddaughter of Don & Norene Schell

Ben Ireton Laguna H.S.
Son of Ed & Kirsten Ireton

Nicholas Johnson Vista Del Lago H.S.
Grandson of Al & Irene Boschee

Elise Mihanovich Elk Grove H.S.
Daughter of Steven & Susan Mihanovich

Charles "Chach" Parent Highland H.S.
 Pocatello, Idaho
Son of Charles and Gayla Parent

Daniel Rosenzweig John F. Kennedy H.S.
Grandson of Ken & Debi Lentsch and
Shirley Prouty

Dennis Hisamoto Jr. UC Irvine
Brother of Christina Hisamoto



Dear Pastor Carl,

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Association, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for allowing us to hold the living with Alzheimer's Early Stage series. I very much appreciate the assistance you and Deanna provided these past couple of weeks. I look forward to future collaboration and opportunities to mutually serve our community. Please do not hesitate to forward on any concerned individual/family—I am more than happy to be of support.

Warmest regards,
Bonnie Chow



Our thoughts and prayers are with Kay and Charles Yakabe and family. Kay's mother, Fumi Oshiro died on May 6, 2013. Fumi is now resting with her Heavenly Father.



We wish to thank everyone for the prayers our family received during this difficult time. Charlie's sister, Jo Ann Galloway died on June 2.

Sincerely,
Charlie, Gayla and Chach Parent



Congratulations to Greg and Lauren (Harris) Olsen who were married on May 25. Wishing you love and happiness always.



Congratulations to Pastor David Bentz who was ordained on June 23, 2013. He has been called to serve at St. Paul Lutheran Church 31903 475th Ave Elk Point, S.D. 57025. Blessings to David, Monica and Bethany as they work through the Lord in this special way.



All Members Work Day June 15

Despite the busy summer season and the day before Father's Day, an energetic group of nine took time out to make the June 15th "All Members Work Day" a success. On this warm Saturday morning, the group soon completed the list of planned tasks and was seeking more work, which the Property Board promptly provided. The work accomplished involved tasks that are necessary to keep St. Luke's buildings and grounds in a well-maintained condition.

On this Work Day, the tasks completed included the following:

- Sanded and painted the notches resulting from the installation of lock guards.
- Painted the recently-installed electrical conduits for the sprinkler systems.
- Sprayed the weeds/grass in the parking lot and walkway joints/cracks with Round Up.
- Removed trash and other "stuff" between the buildings and shrubbery.
- Removed dead and unwanted shrubs.
- Trimmed the shrubbery in selected areas.
- Weeded the planting areas on the west side on the church and east end of the Educational Wing.
- Re-stained the two benches by the church office.
- Worked on the sound system in Schultz Hall (*made considerable progress*).
- Re-installed the weather stripping on the recently-stained wooden doors.
- Power washed selected walkways, removing stains and dirty areas.
- Picked up and disposed of trash from the entire grounds.

The Property Board appreciates and thanks the members who participated in the June 15th "All Members Work Day". They are Bob Behr, Jerry Carney, Craig Eckels, Micki/Jack Fenske, Dorothy Haney, Paul Heaton, Eric Linblade, Mack Vance.

The next scheduled Work Day is on September 21. Mark your calendars now, so you do not miss this opportunity. The Property Board would welcome your help. And, the Board needs your help.

In closing, the Property Board once again thanks all for a successful, summer Work Day.

St. Luke's Property Board



NEW MOMS & GRANDMOMS!

Do you wonder how food you feed your baby is prepared? What is in it? Where did the fruit come from? Would you like to be able to safely preserve pureed fruits for your baby? Pauline & Walt Arndt, Sacramento County Certified Master Food Preservers, will present a free demonstration on Saturday, July 13 at 2 p.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. If you are interested, both moms and grandmoms, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



Bible Study
and Potluck

Starting July 10th at 6:00pm we will once again be having our weekly family potluck and Bible studies on Wednesday nights. The potluck will start at 6:00pm with Bible study at 6:30pm. So we can plan accordingly, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the set-up and clean-up of each of these nights. Since these weekly studies take the place of the monthly W-ELCA meetings, we would like to remind you that we will also be collecting school supplies for Parkway and Mack Elementary Schools during July & August. The need is so great for these schools and children, so if you can buy some paper, pens, colored pencils, or markers or even fill up a backpack with school supplies that would be wonderful and so much appreciated.

Kirsten Ireton
W-ELCA President



Baby Cry Room Update:

We are so blessed by the volume of families with young ones worshipping with us each week. Many thanks go to the Connell Family for their tremendous generosity. They have made a huge donation to the future of our congregation by completely remodeling, redecorating, and fully furnishing the cry room. If you haven't seen it yet, the room has a fully stocked changing table (with diapers, wipes, disposal bags and bibs), two gliding rockers, nursing covers, a highchair, and a play yard. The room has direct access to the small outdoor courtyard off the sanctuary along with a window to see into the sanctuary and a speaker in the room to hear the worship throughout services. We know the room will be put to good use with all those babies in worship each Sunday. So again we would like to say THANK YOU to the Connell Family for their gift.



Gods Work. Our Hands.

September 8th marks the 25th anniversary of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). To celebrate this milestone the ELCA is running the “Gods Work. Our Hands.” campaign asking congregations across the nation to do a service project on Sunday, September 8th. The Community Concerns Board is working with the W-ELCA Missions Board in collecting school supplies from now through September 8th. Following the congregational picnic on Sunday, September 8th we will fill backpacks with school supplies for students in need at Charles Mack and Parkway schools. We will do it together as one body, using our hands to do God's work.

So find those sales and stock up on school supplies for this celebration. You can bring any donations to the church office or to the Wednesday potlucks throughout July. The schools have specifically asked for backpacks, paper, and facial tissue. We are collecting all types of supplies including, but not limited to: backpacks, lined paper, printer paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters, crayons, color pencils, rulers, erasers, binders...

The Community Concerns Board will be selling “Gods Work. Our Hands.” t-shirts with our congregation’s name on it to commemorate the day. The shirts are \$8 a piece and we will be taking pre-sale orders. Look for a sign up sheet in the church narthex entry and be sure to sign up by Sunday, August 4th, if you are interested in a shirt.

Shirt sizes run from Youth Small to 4XL.



- While our Projected Year End balance is in the surplus all boards should be aware of the money they have in their lines of accounting.
- The cry room will be dedicated on Sunday, June 23rd. Thanks to the Connell’s for remodeling it and fixing it up.
- Jane Fanucci is back on board as organist and working with us on Communion Sundays.
- Missy will be leading the summer study with a study on Grace.
- More people are needed for Greeters for July and August.
- Sunday, September 8th is the Congregational Picnic/BBQ. Everyone will be asked to bring a salad to share.
- We were billed for electrical work done on the switch for the light over the sound board. Council approved the payment of the \$462.00 for the electrical installation above the soundboard even though it was an unbudgeted item.



Play Ball!



Another Successful BUNCO!

Once again the W-ELCA BUNCO was a huge success. Approximately 90 people came out on June 1st to play BUNCO and enjoy a pasta dinner. The women's group raised almost \$1900.00 for their benevolence fund through the ticket sales, raffle and donations. Larry Dockter was our MC again this year and we can't thank him enough for the outstanding job he does for us every year! I would personally like to thank the BUNCO Committee for the tireless efforts that go into planning this event.

A special thank you to Peggy Moser, Katie Iniguez, Al Moser, Dorothy Haney, Carol Carney, Irma Lowe, Carolyn Andrews Julie Ireton and everyone else who helped set-up, clean-up and donated a raffle prize—I apologize if I am leaving anyone out. We couldn't possibly put on these events without the hard work and dedication of all of the members of this fine church community. Thank you for the Bottom of my heart!

In Christ,
Kirsten Ireton



Luau Time Will Be Here Soon

The Annual Worship & Music Luau is scheduled for the evening of September 21st this year—time to get your grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts ready, and practice for the Hula Hoop contest. Mark your calendars for a good time of fellowship, great food and fun. Proceeds of this event go toward the music ministry of St. Luke's.

Aloha,
Karen Linfor



All Smiles!

**FINANCIAL
SECRETARY'S REPORT
MAY 2013**

OFFERINGS (General Fund)

| | This Month | Year to Date |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Total Offering | \$15,308 | \$81,853 |
| Compared to Budget | \$152 | -\$3,807 |
| | 1.0% | -4.8% |
| Compared to 2012 | \$2,153 | \$698 |
| | 16.4% | 0.90% |
| Projected Year-End Balance (Compared to budget) | | \$2,432 |
| Contributors: | | |
| 2013 | 96 | 94 Ave |
| 2012 | 76 | 89 Ave |

Note: Positive values (no +/- sign) means **above**; negative values

Other Special Gifts:

- a) Sunday School -
- b) Flowers \$40.00

Ron Webb
Financial Secretary



Sunday Service - Ushers Needed

Are you looking for a way to help during the Church Service? Do you like to say "Hi"? Do you like to answer questions or to help people? Do you like to give hugs or want to find a way to get to know other members of the Church better? Whether you answered "yes" to any or all of those questions, have you considered being an Usher? We're looking for Head Ushers and Assistant Ushers and you can do any or all of these things!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested along with a description of the role of Head Usher. The role of the Head Usher is to prepare the Church for the Sunday Service (everything except for the duties of the Altar Guild) and it takes less than an hour on Saturday to prepare for service and then serving during each Sunday 10:30am Service. Assistant ushers are available as needed and appointed by the Head Usher to assist with the activities of the Sunday Service. Head Ushers normally sign-up for a month at a time (but other schedules can be accommodated) and Assistant Ushers can serve when needed and available, no need to sign up.

If you need any additional information, please see the Usher Coordinator, Larry Dockter, or call the Church Office.



July 3 Ken Lentsch
 July 4 Harold Sodergren
 July 5 Bruce Kiser
 July 6 Clifford Landaker
 July 7 Bekka Roberts
 July 8 Rosie Johnson
 July 11 Joan Wilkinson
 July 12 Nick Manlapig
 July 16 Al Boschee
 July 18 Hazen Simkins
 July 21 Bill Cooper
 July 21 Greg Olsen
 July 24 Juanita Guilbeau
 July 26 Bob Janes
 July 27 Pat Webb

July 7 Debi Lentsch for Ken's Birthday;
 Joan Mooney In Memory of Don
 Mooney;
 Duane and Marlene Kiser For
 Anniversary

 July 14 Karen Linfor In Loving Memory of
 My Precious Jerry (Linfor);
 Larry and Deanna Dockter For
 Bekka's 5th Birthday

 July 21
 July 28 Bob Behr In Memory of Karen and
 Bob's Anniversary



If your birthday is this month and you are not on our list please notify the church office, so we can update our files.



Loving Sisters!

Dear Pastor Carl,

Thank you for allowing our Shades of Praise teen choir to again meet at your excellent facility this year. We greatly appreciate being able to rehearse our music drama and choreography in the spacious classroom as well as the outside courtyard. Some of your church members attended our performances of "Night at the Bible Museum #2" in May and June, and we trust that they had an enjoyable experience. Hopefully, more people will be able to see our presentations next season.

We look forward to continuing to rehearse at your excellent location next fall.

Most Gratefully,
Eric and Candy Rainwater

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes

July 7 Daniel Encinas
July 14 Katy Etchison
July 21 Selena Connell
July 28 Joshua Bell

Altar Care

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin
10:30 AM

Communion Servers

Bob Behr, Nick Manlapig and Pat Hamilton

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

Counters

July 7 Walter Arndt, John Johnsen
July 14 Don Schell, Bob Behr
July 21 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
July 28 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

Greeters

July 7 Ofelia Ojeda
July 14 Thelma Williams and John Johnsen
July 21 Connie Reule, Nancy Minning
July 28

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

July 7 Barbara Manlapig
July 14 Triss Hoppman
July 21 Holly Hoppman
July 28 Sylvia Kohler

Psalm Leaders

July 7 Isabella Basquez
July 14 Elizabeth Wilson
July 21 Micayla Shower
July 28 Amber Mansfield

Readers 8:15 AM

July 7 Phil Petersen
July 14 Christiana Wilson
July 21 Kelly Boyer
July 28 Maribel Herrera

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

July 7 Tracy Etchison
July 14 David Saxby
July 21 Judy Saxby
July 28 Betty Englund

Refreshments

July 7 Ed & Kirsten Ireton, Lynn Gavia
July 14 Annual Root Beer/Orange Floats
July 21 Paul Maki and Chona Sison
July 28 Jerry & Carol Carney

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

Visitors Gifts

July 7 Thelma Williams
July 14 Kelly Boyer
July 21 Carole Vance
July 28 Carolyn Andrews

Welcome Leaders

July 7 Peggy Moser
July 14 Pat Webb
July 21 Chet Madison
July 28 Carolyn Andrews



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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**St. Luke's
Fireworks Booth**



Located in the Food Source Shopping Center
Mack Road and Valley Hi Drive

Hours 9:00am to 9:00pm

All funds raised go to support the efforts of our
Property Board

