



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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# News And Views



## 2013

### Pastoral Perspective



*"And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland...And a great road will go through the once deserted land. It will be named the*

*Highway of Holiness."*—Isaiah 35:5-6, 8

There is such a hopeful and positive outlook in this passage from Isaiah. With expectation and belief the prophet looks forward to the coming of the Messiah to the world and to the lives of God's people. It is pictured as a time when all that is wrong will be put right. Isaiah sees the Messiah coming like a force of nature, restoring things to a state of balance. Furthermore, a 'Highway of Holiness' will be opened. It will be the path of the faithful. It will be the sure route replacing the half-blind groping way of the past.

This was a powerful prophecy at the time it was given, hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Not only were God's people living in misery, they were also wavering in their religious convictions. There were massive uncertainties and terrifying areas of darkness. God's people didn't have a strong sense of knowing the Lord and being under His care. They were wondering what could possibly be the purpose of all that was going on. They

were wondering what God had to do with them at all.

Up against this situation came the promise from God that He would make the world whole again and provide a true pathway to Him. This was something to grab hold of. This was a hope in which to be established.

Much later, John the Baptizer sent messengers from his prison cell to ask Jesus, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting or should we keep looking for someone else?" Jesus told them, "Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the good News is being preached to the poor."—Matthew 11:3-5. Things were being set right through Jesus just as Isaiah had prophesied. Jesus is the true path to God. Blessed are those who believe in Him.

Today the world spins wildly on. We might well imagine ourselves as being once more in a dark and terrifying place. Look at the way we rush around at this time of year, trying to do so much, trying to please so many, thinking that we are prepared for Christmas if we get all our cards mailed, presents bought and wrapped, and parties and meals attended or hosted. What we desperately need is God as our focus. In preparation for Christmas, instead of asking yourself if you have everything done, ask Jesus with high hopes, "Are you the Messiah, the One who sets things right, the One who is the 'Highway of Holiness' to God?"

The answer will come back, "Yes, I am the

one. I make people whole. I provide a pathway to God. Prepare for my coming into your life anew. Expect it." With this expectation, in this purposeful waiting, the cards and presents and parties and meals take their proper place as times of sharing and expressions of love. The anticipation and belief that God will come regardless of the circumstances is really what you are looking forward to. Get caught up in this spirit of the season. And may you have a truly blessed Christmas.

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



As we approach the Advent and Christmas seasons and look forward to celebrating the greatest gift of all, we also celebrate those who have so diligently volunteered their time and talents over the past year. Many have been involved in helping us fulfill our mission through various work days, programs, events, and overall support. On behalf of the congregation, THANK YOU for your many efforts.

Coming up in December, we have our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 8th. We begin with a potluck lunch followed by the meeting. We will elect new officers and board chairs, review and approve the 2014 Budget, and report on the results of our stewardship campaign. Please mark your calendars and plan to join together in celebrating our accomplishments and looking ahead to the challenges before us.

As I have mentioned in my previous articles, the council has begun strategic planning with the objective being to evaluate where we are in meeting our mission and to determine how we meet or continue to meet our mission in the next 5-10 years.

We met on Saturday, October 26 to review the mission statement of St. Luke's that was developed several years ago. We then attempted to define who we are by identifying strengths and weaknesses.

We then had some very good discussion of the potential challenges that we face as we move forward and how we can possibly change weaknesses into strengths. We have a follow-on meeting scheduled for a Saturday in January to continue our discussion and develop feedback to the congregation on our efforts. These are not secret meetings behind closed doors, but initial meetings to develop information for sharing with the full congregation. We anticipate developing a questionnaire for the congregation to provide inputs on what's important from individual members' perspectives.

The goal of this effort is to have a plan for allowing us to fulfill our mission while addressing known challenges coming down the road as well as being able to adapt and address unknowns as they surface. This is not an easy chore but a very important one for the future of our congregation. If you have any questions, see me after church or put a note in my box in the church office and I will get back to you.

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.

See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Bob Behr

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### Thank You!

Many thanks go to everyone involved in the Thankoffering services. We are so blessed to have so many women in our congregation that give so fully of themselves.

*Holly Hoppman, 2013 Thankoffering Coordinator*

## Annual Reformation Sunday Heritage Potluck



All those who came enjoyed a great time of fellowship and a delicious selection of dishes representing many heritages: Greek, English, Danish, Norwegian, German, American, and Filipino just to name a few. A Reformation Day Fact sheet, prepared by Pastor Carl and Pauline Arndt, provided interesting information about Martin Luther and the Reformation. Did you know that the Protestant churches that we worship in today are the result of Luther's brave acts to restore the gospel—the good news of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ—to its rightful place as the cornerstone doctrine of Christianity?

Thank you to all those who helped with set up, food service and cleanup so that everyone could enjoy this special time of sharing.

In loving service,

*Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair*



## Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck

On Sunday, December 8, the Evangelism Board will be hosting the potluck for the Annual Congregational Meeting. Please sign up in the entry way so that we will know how many tables to set up. This is our last potluck of the year so you won't want to miss this special day of great food and fellowship.



The traditional Christmas candle-lighting service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. Christmas Eve Holy Communion will be celebrated at 11:00 p.m.



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.



Thank you to all our St. Luke's friends for the cards and phone calls during our 70th wedding anniversary, Harry's 92nd birthday and Adeline's injury. We miss you.

God Bless You All,  
Harry and Adeline Weston



Congratulations to Brenda and Jim Sulzmann at the birth of their grandson Samuel James Hromada. Samuel was born on November 8, he weighed 7lb 13oz and was 19 1/2 inches. Proud parents are Jaimee and Jan Hromada.



### SLY Calendars

Thank you to all who purchased the 2014 calendars from the St. Luke's Youth. We are just about sold out. The youth group really appreciates your continued support.



### Pumpkin Bread

SLY wishes to thank everyone for their generous donations of baking supplies for the pumpkin bread this year. Additionally, we wish to thank everyone who ordered bread and made very generous donations to the youth group activities fund. SLY is just rebuilding and we look forward to having some fun activities in 2014.



### St. Luke's Youth (SLY)

If you know of a youth between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade please encourage them to join our small, but mighty group. If you are interested in attending a Youth Board meeting you are encouraged to do so. They are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the church office. Contact Kirsten Ireton with any questions.



### Christmas Promise

W-ELCA  
Christmas Promise  
Our December  
Mission

This December, the St. Luke's Women of the ELCA, along with the entire congregation, has adopted a family via a wonderful organization called Christmas Promise. Christmas Promise is an organization that sends "Santa Claus" to approximately 250 families. Referral agencies, church organizations, and social workers forward "letters to Santa" from disadvantaged children to Christmas Promise and they fulfill the wishes of these children by sending Santa to their home on Christmas Eve. They deliver

Christmas blessings to the poorest of the poor. The families that are the recipients of the gifts are unaware that they have been selected. We are very excited to a part of this Mission this year.

Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, a tree will be set-up in Room 5 with gift tags as ornaments. Each gift tag will have an item that a member of our adopted family has on their Christmas Wish List. We encourage you to take one tag or as many tags as you are able to. There will be items that range from small things to large items. At this time we don't know exactly what the wish list is (we won't actually get the list until 8am on December 1<sup>st</sup>). All of the gifts must be returned to Room 5 by December 15<sup>th</sup>, as we have to have them back to Christmas Promises office on the 16<sup>th</sup>. You do not need to wrap your gifts. We will also gladly accept cash donations to make purchases of gifts that don't get picked from the tree.

Please feel free to contact Kirsten Ireton or Alison Thomas with any questions you might have about the Christmas Promise program or organization. We thank you in advance for the way our church continually shares our blessings so openly with those less fortunate than ourselves.



## Passing the Baton

It is with great pleasure that we announce the St. Luke's W-ELCA Nominating Committee's recommendations for the 2014 W-ELCA Officers and Board Members. Holly Hoppman -President, Katie Iniguez - Vice-President, Connie Reule – Secretary, Alison Thomas – Treasurer and the Missions Board is Peggy Moser, Pat Webb, Karen Linfor and Linda Duffek. We will vote on the committee's recommendations at the December 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party. I personally would like to thank the committee for

their hard work in coming up with such a wonderful slate of devoted ladies to lead our group in the coming years. I also would like to thank the outgoing Board Members who have worked with me tirelessly on the mission of spreading, serving and sharing. It was a wonderful year and we have done great things in Christ! ~ Kirsten Ireton, 2013  
W-ELCA President



## Thank You for the Pie!

Thank you all for contributing so generously to the Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social. Each and every year your contributions of pies are so generous and appreciated. The leftovers never go to waste; they are sent over to the Multi-Purpose Room to the marathon Narcotics Anonymous meeting that is held at St. Luke's every year.



Advent home devotionals will be available beginning Thanksgiving Eve. An adult devotional book by C.S. Lewis or a family activity book with glow-in-the dark stars can be picked up in the narthex.

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## Crab and Shrimp Feed

The first planning meeting for the 2014 Crab Feed will be after worship on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Keep a look out for more information about ticket sales throughout the month of December and into the new year.



The Board of Worship and Music is once again taking orders for Poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. The cost is \$10 each. Orders will be taken through De-

December 11. The Poinsettias will arrive December 15. You may pick them up after the 7:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Order forms are available in the narthex. Please place your order in the offering plate or turn it in to the office.



If you would like to help decorate the congregational Christmas tree, come join the fun at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 12. Come hang a few Chrismons, en-

joy some hot chocolate, holiday goodies and great fellowship. All are welcome.



The choir will perform the Christmas Cantata, Make Room for Christmas, Sunday, December 22 at the 10:30 a.m.

service. There will be some special solos and a presentation by the children. Ron Webb will narrate. The bell choir will also perform at the service. Invite a friend, come enjoy some uplifting holiday music and watch for a special surprise!



The traditional Christmas candle-lighting service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. Christmas Eve Holy Communion will be celebrated at 11:00 p.m.



**December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**

Please come and share in the joy of the season with the ladies of W-ELCA at our annual Christmas Party. Bring your favorite appetizer/finger food or cookies to share. Make sure your singing voice is in tip-top shape because we, of course, will be singing Christmas Carols. There will be a vote on the new 2014 W-ELCA Board but lots of time to share in fellowship. Some of our crafter's items will even be available for purchase. You are encouraged to bring a friend, but please sign-up in the Narthex so we know how many to set-up for. Our December Mission is the Christmas Promise adopted family. See the article about Christmas Promise for more details. You can bring your donation to the party or pick your tags and bring them back by the 15<sup>th</sup>

# EPIPHANY Breakfast and Service

**Monday, January 6**

Please join us at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Room (Education wing Room 5) for our Epiphany Breakfast and Service. The Evangelism Board will provide breakfast casseroles and beverages. Please sign up in the entry way so that we will know how many plan to attend. If you would like to bring fruit, muffins, coffee cake or nut breads, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet. We welcome any nativity scenes that you would like to bring and share.

In loving service,  
Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair



**Diner's Groups  
New Groups  
Forming**

Our current dining groups shared meals together for September, October and November. If you like to eat and enjoy getting to know people better, then our small dining groups are for you. We will be taking sign-ups in December and January for new groups. Groups will be rearranged and will get together for meals or activities in February, March and April. Meals in homes may be potluck or the host(s) might provide them. If a meal is in a restaurant, it is understood that the group will split the check. If you have any questions, please call Triss or Carl Hoppman(714-3011) or Pat or Ron Webb (685-6345)



## **Dedication of Jerry Linfor Fountain Pergola**

On Sunday, December 8 at 11:30 AM we will have the Dedication of the Jerry Linfor Fountain Pergola. This is a beautiful addition to our courtyard and will be enjoyed by all.

*Thankful*

I would like to say, "Thank You" to Carolyn Andrews for being available to fill in when I am out of the office sick or on vacation. It is so nice to know that the Church office is not left unattended and that the needs of the Congregation are fulfilled. You are a blessing Carolyn.

In Christ,  
Deanna Dockter



# SLY Pumpkin Bread



**Our Youth  
Working  
Together**



**BLESSINGS  
FROM  
GOD**



**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S  
REPORT  
OCTOBER 2013**

**OFFERINGS**

(General Fund Only):

	<b>This Month</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Total Offering</b>	\$15,346	\$162,353
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	-\$354	-\$5,790
	-2.3%	-3.8%
<b>Compared to 2012</b>	\$1,850	\$5,190
	12.0%	3.30%
<b>Projected Year-End Balance</b> (Compared to budget)		
<b>Contributors:</b>		
<b>2013</b> (Current Year)	87	92 <sup>Aver</sup>
<b>2012</b> (Last Year)	80	88 <sup>Aver</sup>

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

**Other Special Gifts:**

- a) Sunday School
- b) Flowers \$140.00

*Ron Webb*  
Financial Secretary

**Council Highlights**

- We're seeing a shift in weekly Sunday attendance. Overall worship attendance has increased, but we want to all prayerfully consider ways to encourage especially 10:30 AM worshippers to come to worship regularly on Sundays.
- Congregational potluck and meeting is December 8<sup>th</sup>, following worship, where the congregation will elect the 2014 Council members on the ballot.
- The Council approved the 2014 Proposed budget to present to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting contingent on the giving pledges received between now and the congregational meeting.
- Community Concerns will be hosting a Winter Sanctuary night March 23.
- Starting in December on the second Sunday of the month three closing hymns will be chosen by the congregation during the service.
- Look out for the next Diner's group sign ups in the coming months.
- WELCA is sponsoring Christmas Promise this year for the congregation's holiday gift collection. Keep an eye out for a Christmas tree in the refreshment room. The ornaments that decorate the tree have items listed on them that can be purchased for this giving program this Christmas.
- The youth are making pumpkin bread loaves for sale.
- Council members met in October to begin strategic planning and will continue in the new year.



- Dec. 3 Carole Vance
- Dec. 4 Kim Fenske
- Dec. 5 Jared Kiser
- Dec. 8 Olivia Cooper
- Dec. 10 Jeanne Cooper
- Dec. 12 Elizabeth Korhonen
- Dec. 13 John Litz
- Dec. 14 Betty Englund
- Dec. 16 Chet Madison
- Dec. 17 Kristine Felgenhauer
- Dec. 19 Janette Payne
- Dec. 21 Sylvia Kohler
- Dec. 24 Everett Maraspini
- Dec. 25 Triss Hoppman
- Dec. 26 Robert Harrison
- Dec. 27 Deanna Dockter Sr.
- Dec. 29 Derrick Mihanoavich

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

Dec. 1

Dec. 8

Dec. 15 *Ken and Debi Lentsch For 24th Anniversary*

Dec. 22 *Karen Linfor For the Beauty of the Season;  
Don and Betty Englund For the beauty of the Season;  
Thelma Williams and John Johnsen In Memory of our Parents John and Tillie Johnsen*

Dec. 24 *The Dockter's For the Joy of the Season*

Dec. 29 *Jeff and Kelly Boyer For Our Anniversary*



We welcome into the family of Christ Stephanie Amanda Espinoza who was baptized on November 3. She is the child of Elizabeth Brasier and Cody Espinoza.

We welcome Dallas Cannon King into the family of Christ. Dallas was baptized on November 10. Dallas is the child of Ronald and Whitney King.

# **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

## **Acolytes**

Dec. 1 Daniel Encinas  
 Dec. 8 Ryan Johansen  
 Dec. 15 Amber Mansfield  
 Dec. 22 Joshua Bell  
 Dec. 29 Katy Etchison

## **Altar Care**

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin  
 10:30 AM Peggy Moser, Triss Hoppman

## **Communion Server**

Peggy Moser, Betty Englund and Pat Hamilton

## **Counters**

Dec. 1 Walter Arndt, Bob Behr  
 Dec. 8 Don Schell, Bob Behr  
 Dec. 15 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
 Dec. 22 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser  
 Dec. 29 Carolyn Andrews, Jack Fenske  
 Micki Fenske

## **Greeters**

Dec. 1 Laura, Aiyana and Amelia Tice  
 Dec. 8 Mack and Carole Vance  
 Dec. 15 Ron and Debbie Johansen  
 Dec. 22  
 Dec. 24 Jack and Micki Fenske  
 Dec. 29 Tracy and Sierra Etchison

## **Head Ushers**

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

## **Prayer Leaders**

Dec. 1 Marlene Kiser  
 Dec. 8 David Saxby  
 Dec. 15 Larry Dockter  
 Dec. 22 Sylvia Kohler  
 Dec. 24 7:00 PM 11:00 PM  
 Peggy Moser Janette Payne  
 Dec. 29 Joe Payne

## **Psalm Leaders**

Dec. 1 Elizabeth Wilson  
 Dec. 8 Micayla Shower  
 Dec. 15 Sierra Etchison  
 Dec. 22 Aiyana Tice  
 Dec. 24 7:00 PM 11:00 PM  
 Amber Mansfield Isabella Basquez  
 Dec. 29 Micayla Shower

## **Readers 8:15 AM**

Dec. 1 Phil Petersen  
 Dec. 8 Christiana Wilson  
 Dec. 15 Kelly Boyer  
 Dec. 22 Maribel Herrera  
 Dec. 29 Ron Webb

## **Readers 10:30 AM**

Dec. 1 Alison Thomas  
 Dec. 8 Ken Lentsch  
 Dec. 15 Joe Payne  
 Dec. 22 Janette Payne  
 Dec. 24 7:00 PM 11:00 PM  
 Kirsten Ireton Peggy Moser  
 Dec. 29 Larry Dockter

## **Refreshments**

Dec. 1 Ofelia Ojeda  
 Dec. 8 Potluck and Congregational Meeting  
 Dec. 15 Dorothy Haney  
 Dec. 22 Mack and Carol Vance  
 Dec. 29 Ken and Debi Lentsch

## **Visitor Gifts**

Dec. 1 Carole Vance  
 Dec. 8 Joyce Jensen  
 Dec. 15 Pat Webb  
 Dec. 22 Carolyn Andrews  
 Dec. 29 Pauline Arndt

## **Welcome Leaders**

Dec. 1 Peggy Moser  
 Dec. 8 Pat Webb  
 Dec. 15 Chet Madison  
 Dec. 22 Carolyn Andrews  
 Dec. 29 Pauline Arndt



**St. Luke's Lutheran Church**  
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**Candlelight  
Service  
7:00 PM**



**Christmas  
Holy Communion  
11:00 PM**