



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



December 2014

Pastoral Perspective



For centuries the call has gone out for all the faithful to come and worship at Christmas time. Why? It certainly is not that your coming to the Christmas Cantata or Christmas Eve Service will automatically make all the difference for you. It is only too possible for you to come to worship at Christmas

time and get no more out of it than your coming together to open presents or to have a big meal. It can be just another thing to do. You might not be sure why you do all these things and sometimes don't even want to, but you feel you should.

If you realize in your heart why it is important for you to come to worship at Christmas time, however, your whole perspective on the holiday will change and your observances will take on new meaning. You are called to come to worship at Christmas time to hear the Good News that Christ has come to you. Through the Christmas Cantata presentation and Christmas Eve Service, you hear about how Christ willingly left Heaven to be born a baby in this sinful world. He came to live here and experience the same challenges you experience and more. He came to die for you on the cross so that you would have life in Him that can never be taken from you no matter how you get nailed by situations and circumstances.

Receiving this Good News gives all your Christmas observances new life. If you share presents then, it is to experience the joy of giving, for Christ has given so much to you. If you share meals, it is to celebrate your connection with others, because God has connected us in Christ's love.

Whatever you do this Christmas time, make coming to worship an important part of your holiday observance. Come expecting to hear the Good News of God's love for you in Jesus Christ. Come expecting to hear how Christ comes to you wherever you are in life. Please come. You won't be disappointed.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



Christmas Cantata

The choir will perform the Christmas Cantata, "The First Noel", Sunday, December 21 at the 10:30 a.m. service. There will be special solos and presentations by the children and the bell choir. Ron Webb will narrate. Invite a friend to come enjoy some uplifting holiday music and hear the Good News of God's love for us in Jesus. There will be no 8:15 a.m. service on that Sunday so we can all be together for the Cantata.



Wow! The Advent and Christmas seasons are approaching fast. It's a great time of year to celebrate together and reflect on the importance of the season.

With the end of the year approaching, we also have some changes in various leadership positions so we recognize and celebrate those who have so diligently volunteered their time and talents over the past years. Howard Triebwasser has served as Vice President for the past four years and has done some great things assisting me and leading other efforts across the board in my absence. Betty Englund is completing four years as the Finance Board chair and has been a vital cog in keeping our finances in order and working to keep us on track. On behalf of the congregation I thank them for their dedicated service.

Coming up in December, we have our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 14th. We begin with a potluck lunch followed by the meeting. We will elect new officers and board chairs, review and approve the 2015 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.

The council has had a few strategic planning sessions over the past two years 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. I hope to be able to provide a summary of those efforts to date either at the annual meeting or in the January News & Views. I believe we have all felt these sessions were helpful in moving ahead and taking on the challenges before us. I believe these types of sessions need to continue, when able, to help us plan ahead.

Finally, it has been a privilege to serve as your President over the past four years and to see

many challenges met with strong resolve and efforts by many to make St. Luke's a better place to Spread, Serve, and Share. Your dedication, support, and teamwork are what make St. Luke's a special place for us all. As I step down at the end of my term of office, I also want to offer a special thanks to Pastor Carl for his guidance and support over the years. And, as I have always ended my monthly newsletters,

See you in church!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Bob Behr



If you would like to help decorate the congregational Christmas tree, come join the fun at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 4. Come hang a few Christmas Tree ornaments, enjoy some hot chocolate, holiday goodies and great fellowship. All are welcome.

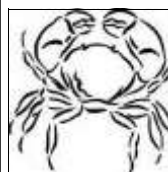


Advent home devotionals, an adult devotional book or children's Advent calendar, are available on the opportunity table. Please take one per family. We are also taking sign-ups for families who would like to lead the lighting to the Advent candles on the Sundays in Advent.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From Fred and Genie Sommer



Crab Feed Meeting

If you are interested in being involved in the annual Crab Feed, we will be meeting on Sunday December 7th following worship in Room 3.

Women of the ELCA

Thanks
for YOUR participation

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our annual Thankoffering service on November 23rd. We are excited about the mission opportunities we will be able to support with the donations received.



Our December mission support is for Christmas Promise again this year. On December 1st we will pick up the wish lists of the families we will be adopting this year. We have from December 1 to December 15 to collect the items (or monetary donations) then we deliver everything to Christmas Promise.

Christmas Promise wraps and has a Santa deliver the gifts to the families on Christmas. The families that the program supports are families that would otherwise not be able to have such a celebration. We'll be collecting gifts at our next gathering on Saturday, December 13th, in Schultz Hall. We'll be closing out the year and celebrating the season together. All are welcome to join us as we gather to eat, and sing some Christmas carols. See you at 11:30am on December 13th!

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We are 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 December 14. The Poinsettias will

be up for December 21 and Christmas Eve worship. You may pick them up after the 7:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Order forms are available on the opportunity table. Please place your order in the offering plate or turn it in to the office.



Christmas Eve

Traditional Candle-Lighting Service
7:00 PM

Holy Communion
11:00 PM



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.



We welcome Alexander Richard Iniguez into the family of Christ. He was baptized on November 16, 2014. He is the son of Jesse and Katie Iniguez. His sponsors are: Nick and Alicia Moser. Big brother is Benjamin and proud Grandparents are Al and Peggy Moser and Richard and Cheryl Iniguez.



A Request from the Property Board

As you are probably aware, the church does not have full-time custodians or maintenance workers who continually check all facilities. As a result, “things” can happen and go unnoticed for several days or even several weeks. By “things” I am referring to break ins, graffiti, needed repairs, unsatisfactory landscape work or janitorial work, and similar issues.

Thus, if you notice anything regarding the church facilities that needs attention, please notify the Property Board, by sending an email to Deanna at the church office. If you do not have email, call the church office.

When alerting the Property Board, please include sufficient details so the Board can understand the issue and, hopefully, can resolve the issue. It is critical that you include the date and time that you first noticed the issue. Also, be as specific as possible.

The Property Board thanks you for your assistance.

Clarence Korhonen, Chairperson
St. Luke’s Property Board



SLY Pumpkin Bread Thanks!!!

Thank you to everyone who purchased pumpkin bread. There were 106 orders for pumpkin bread this year. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed making it! Your generous donations help fund our youth group activities.



SLY Fun and Gatherings

Hey Youth Groupers! Next up for activities is Laser Tag on Saturday, December 13th!!! More information and a permission slip for this fun event will follow. You really don’t want to miss out on all the fun that we are having. Come help plan these activities by coming to the SLY Youth Meetings on the first Sunday of every month at 12:45. We eat pizza too! Don’t want to come alone? That’s OK, bring your friends – let’s grow this youth group!



Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck

On Sunday, December 14, the Evangelism Board will host the potluck for the Annual Congregational meeting. You will find a sign-up sheet on the opportunity table so be sure to add your name and plan to take part in the last potluck of the year.



Reformation Sunday

In October we celebrated Reformation Sunday with our Annual Heritage Potluck hosted by the Evangelism Board. This is always a favorite and this year’s potluck did not disappoint as we had a wonderful variety of dishes, a challenging quiz on Martin Luther and the Reformation and great fellowship. Thank you to all those who helped with set up and food service. Special thanks goes to Bob Behr, Micki and Jack Fenske, Dorothy Haney and Ron Webb for doing all the dishes and cleaning up the kitchen.

In loving service,

Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair



Soul Stitchers

The Soul Stitcher's, St. Luke's recently formed crochet group named after a suggestion by Mary Francis Harris, will meet again on Monday, December 1, at 2 p.m. at Peggy Moser's home. Beginning and advanced crocheter's are welcome. Yarn and crochet hooks are being donated. All we need is you!

Robin Zoesch



Epiphany Breakfast and Service

Tuesday, January 6
at 9:30am

Come celebrate Epiphany, God's revealing of His Son, Jesus, to the world. Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us for our annual Epiphany Breakfast and Service in the Fellowship Room located in the Sunday School wing. The Evangelism Board will provide breakfast casseroles, coffee and juice. You are welcome to bring muffins, coffee cake or nut breads to share. You are also encouraged to bring one or more nativity sets to be displayed on the tables. Following the breakfast, Pastor Carl will share a special message about Epiphany.

Be sure to look for the sign-up sheet on the opportunity table.

In loving service,

Pat Webb, Evangelism Chair



Community Concerns

We have lots of projects planned—working with the ladies group on gathering school supplies for local schools, the Winter Sanctuary project in March. Watch out, we may call on our church family to help. Clothes have been delivered to St. John's Shelter.

I want to thank Mack Vance for his help in recycling cans and plastics for our Youth.

Helping others,
Al Moser



Apartment Number Change:

Carole Edwards
10700 Coloma Road #39
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670



We welcome our new members.

Crystal Boettcher (916) 825-8147
Dominique
5924 Stallon Way
Sacramento, CA 95823

Paul Edwards (916) 716-0170
10700 Coloma Road #39
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Linda Olsen (916) 422-7005
4720 B Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823

Lisa Olsen (916) 422-7005
5720 B Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823



December 3 Carol Vance
 December 4 Kim Fenske
 December 5 Jared Kiser
 December 12 Elizabeth Korhonen
 December 14 Betty Englund
 December 15 Emma Lou Collins
 December 16 Chet Madison
 December 17 Kristine Felgenhauer
 December 19 Janette Payne
 December 21 Sylvia Kohler
 December 25 Triss Hoppman
 December 26 Robert Harrison
 December 27 Deanna Dockter Sr.
 December 29 Derrick Mihanovich



Dec. 7
 Dec. 14 *Ken and Debi Lentsch 25th Anniversary*
 Dec. 21 *Joe and Janette Payne for daughter Sarah's 29th birthday; Thelma Williams and John Johnsen in loving memory of our parents*
 Dec. 24 *Karen Linfor for the beauty of the season; Larry and Deanna Dockter for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ*
 Dec. 28 *Kelly and Jeff Boyer for 6th Anniversary and Ty's 3rd birthday*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT OCTOBER 2014

OFFERINGS (General Fund Only):

	This Month	Year to Date
Total Offering	\$16,878	\$170,682
Compared to Budget	\$250	-\$6,322
	1.5%	-3.6%
Compared to 2013	\$1,532	\$8,329
	9.1%	5.00%
Contributors:		
2014 (Current Year)	75	85 Aver.
2013 (Last Year)	87	92 Aver.

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

Other Special

a) Sunday School
\$8.44
 b) Flowers \$160.00

Ron Webb
Financial Secretary

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes

Dec. 7 Daniel Encinas
Dec. 14 Isabella Basquez, Elizabeth Wilson
Dec. 21 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
Dec. 28 Joshua Bell, Morgan Furry

Altar Care

8:15 AM Cheryl Franklin
10:30 AM Linda Olsen

Communion Servers

Howard Triebwasser, Carol Carney, Karen Linfor

Counters

Dec. 7 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
Dec. 14 Don Schell, Bob Behr
Dec. 21 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
Dec. 28 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

Greeters

Dec. 7 Connie Reule, Nancy Minning
Dec. 14
Dec. 21
Dec. 24
Dec. 28

Head Ushers

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

Prayer Leaders

Dec. 7 Triss Hoppman
Dec. 14 Bob Behr
Dec. 21 Mary F. Harris
Dec. 28 Ron Zoesch

Prayers Christmas Eve

7:00PM Joe Payne
11:00PM Kirsten Ireton

Psalm Leaders

Dec. 7 Amber Mansfield
Dec. 14 Angie Martinez
Dec. 21 Aiyana Tice
Dec. 28 Daniel Encinas

Psalm Leaders Christmas Eve

7:00P M Sierra Etchison
11:00 PM Elizabeth Wilson

Readers 8:15 AM

Dec. 7 Kelly Boyer
Dec. 14 Eric Linblade
Dec. 21 Sarah Madison
Dec. 28 Phil Petersen

Readers 10:30 AM

Dec. 7 John Orcutt
Dec. 14 Lauren Orcutt
Dec. 21 Joe Payne
Dec. 28 David Saxby

Readers Christmas Eve

7:00 PM Janette Payne
11:00PM Judy Saxby

Refreshments

Dec. 7 Ofelia Ojeda
Dec. 14 Congregational Meeting and Potluck
Dec. 21 Mack and Carole Vance
Dec. 28 Walt and Pauline Arndt and Joyce Jensen

Visitors Gifts

Dec. 7 Carole Vance
Dec. 14 Thelma Williams
Dec. 21 Joyce Jensen
Dec. 28 Carolyn Andrews

Welcome Leaders

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



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

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Christmas Eve



7:00PM



11:00 PM