



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



2015

Pastoral Perspective



It's often the case that the one on top is the one who can take care of himself and get others to do what he wants. In school you'll see a top dog who has others following him. They are at his beck and call. At work you'll see a boss who, by his position, controls others, often for his

own self-interest.

Many of God's people in Jesus' time expected the one who would be their king, the biggest top dog of all, the biggest boss of all, to wield great power over others. They hoped he would consider them and their interests, but they took for granted that he would be the top dog, the boss.

And so it's really not so surprising that folks at the scene of the crucifixion would not acknowledge the convicted criminal, Jesus, as their king. The religious leaders viciously lashed out at him. The people ridiculed him. What kind of king was this, reduced to such a powerless state? Pilate had a plaque put on the cross that read, "Jesus of Nazareth: The King of The Jews," and the chief priests did everything they could to get the plaque taken down. Even one of the criminals crucified next to Jesus joined in the taunts.

But then came a lone voice—from the third cross. The man crucified on that cross proclaimed, "This

man has done nothing wrong." By contrast, this man had already confessed his own guilt and sinfulness. This dying man grabbed hold of something. He discerned in the person of Jesus a surging authority, a kingship, that the others and the world had missed completely. Here was a king like no other—a special king. And so the man expressed the hope of citizenship in Jesus' special kingdom: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

This convicted criminal received this beautiful response from Jesus: "Today, you will be with me in paradise." Jesus promised he would be at the side of this man with love and forgiveness even in the time of his deepest pain and anxiety and death. Jesus promised he would personally guide this dying criminal from this world to the heavenly kingdom. Jesus, in short, promised to be this man's king from that day to eternity.

I pray you realize that Jesus didn't come into the world to show such great power over you that you have to obey him or else. Jesus' authority is the authority of love and forgiveness, even in the midst of disobedience. For Jesus, the way to establish his kingdom was not with a throne of power, but a cross of forgiveness. Jesus is king, not by the power of coercion, but by the authority of love; not by threats and violence, but by forgiveness.

There are those who don't believe they need his

love. He is not king for them. There are those who don't believe they need his forgiveness. He is not king for them. But for those who know in their hearts they need his love and forgiveness, he is the real king. Jesus is beside you with his love and forgiveness. Don't be afraid. Submit to King Jesus. He cares about you and will be with you now and always.

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing with You,

Pastor Carl



ST. LUKE'S CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

"Confirmed In The Word"

I am very excited about the Confirmation material, "Confirmed In The Word." All 6th through 8th graders are invited to take part in this program. In two school years, it will give you a solid undergirding of Biblical faith for life.

This school year (September—May), we will consider the New Testament in depth by discussing about seventy New Testament passages. Next school year, for those who weren't in the class last year, we will consider the Old Testament in depth by discussing about seventy Old Testament passages.

I will lead the discussion each Sunday from 12 to 12:45 p.m. in the Youth Room (the room behind Schultz Hall). We will usually discuss two passages each Sunday. I will email the material to be discussed beforehand for those who would like to consider it ahead of time and for those who will be missing the next class session.

If a student misses a class session, I will count on a

parent or mentor to discuss the missed material with the student and sign the discussion sheet so I can be assured each student has discussed each unit.

At the end of the second school year, those students who have discussed all the units in class or with a parent or mentor will be eligible for Confirmation.

Confirmation will take place on May 15, 2016, for the eligible students. Confirmation is a very special event when each student states publically that he or she desires and promises that the faith in which they have been brought up will be theirs for life. It is accompanied by the blessing of the Holy Spirit and a celebration by the congregation.

Students don't have to be members of St. Luke's to take part. Please contact me for more information and registration material. Classes will start Sunday, September 20.

Pastor Carl

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kelly Sobkowski Needs a Liver Transplant

Dear Congregation,

It has been brought to the attention of the Council that a member of our church needs our help.

Kelly Sobkowski is currently undergoing treatment for liver cancer, with a transplant scheduled early next year. Please prayerfully consider donating whatever you can to assist Kelly with her expenses going forward.

Make your donation payable to St. Luke's Lutheran Church. It is tax deductible. Write "Kelly S. Fund" on your check and on the envelope; you can mail it to the church, drop it by the office, or put it in the of-

fering plate.

This is a very stressful time for Kelly and her family, and we know her church family is willing to help her. Most importantly, keep her in your prayers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

In His service,

Paul Maki
Council President



PSALM STUDY DISCUSSION GROUPS

Starting September 13th, 15th,
and 16th



The Psalms touch on a wide range of emotions such as joy, anger, peacefulness, frustration, despair, happiness, and anxiety. Considering and discussing these honest expressions of feeling can draw us closer to the God who made us and loves us so very much. Pastor Carl will lead this discussion-based study that will help us speak honestly to God and to one another.

There will be three groups:

- Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:00 a.m. in room 3 of the education wing
- Tuesday mornings from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. in the church office conference room
- Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. in the church office conference room

A sign-up sheet is available on the Opportunity Table in the back of the sanctuary, or you can call the church office to sign up (421-5039). The groups will start meeting on Sunday, September 13; Tues-

day, September 15; and Wednesday, September 16.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC & BBQ

It's Almost Here—Sunday,
September 13!



**Come Celebrate the Start of Our Fall Sunday
School and Adult Education Classes**

Following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, September 13, everyone is invited to come to the courtyard for great food and fellowship.

The Evangelism Board will provide hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, condiments (mayo, ketchup, mustard, and pickle relish), lettuce, tomatoes, onions, chips, cookies, and beverages. If you can, we would love to have you bring a salad to share, but most importantly we want your company!

Please let us know if you are coming by using the sign-up sheet on the Opportunity Table at the back of the sanctuary. We want to be sure that we have plenty of seating and shade for everyone.

We also need help—especially from the wonderful men in our congregation—the day before the picnic (Saturday, September 12, at 9:30 a.m.) to set up canopies, tables, and chairs in the courtyard. We also need extra help with clean-up after the BBQ, including taking down the canopies, putting away the tables and chairs, and cleaning up the kitchen.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there!

Pat Webb
Evangelism Board Chair





“GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS” SERVICE DAY

School Supplies Drive

Immediately after the congregational picnic on September 13th, we’re gathering in Schultz Hall to fill backpacks with donated school supplies. The Community Concerns Board has been gathering the supplies, and the Women of the ELCA have provided the backpacks.

We will bring the filled backpacks to Charles Mack Elementary and Parkway Elementary, where they will be given to students who cannot afford backpacks and supplies on their own.

This is a wonderful way to support our local community. With our donations, we can bring joy to many students and make sure they all have a fair chance to succeed in school, regardless of their economic circumstances.

Please join us for this fun and important event! Wear your “God’s Work, Our Hands” shirt if you have one.

We’re still accepting donated supplies—drop them off in the church entryway or church office any time up to September 13th.



LUAU

Worship & Music Fundraiser



It’s time for the Worship and Music Board’s annual “fun-raiser” Luau. Don’t miss the fantastic food, fun activities, and fabulous prizes.

Join us on Saturday, September 19, in Schultz Hall.

The doors open at 5:00 p.m. for games, contests, fellowship, and appetizers. Wear your gaudiest Hawaiian shirt for the ugly Hawaiian shirt contest!

Dinner begins at 6:15; we’re serving delicious Kalua pork and Hawaiian barbecued chicken, as well as salads, side dishes, and hors d’oeuvres.



A dessert auction will be held after dinner. You and your friends can bid on delicious homemade desserts to share at your table or take home.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the chancel choir, children’s choir, and bell choir.

Tickets are \$5 for children 3 to 12, \$15 for 13 and up. Children under 3 are free. All proceeds go to support the music programs of St. Luke’s.

Tickets are available starting August 23 from members of the Board of Worship and Music: Janette Payne, Karen Linfor, Mary F. Harris, Peggy Moser, and Triss Hoppman.

CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES

Choir practices resume in September for all choirs.

Chancel choir practice begins Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. in choir loft. If you want to join, talk to Brooke Barr, Karen Linfor, or Peggy Moser.

The children’s choir meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday in Room 2 of the Education Wing. Contact Judy Saxby if your child wants to participate.

The bell choir meets at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the church office meeting room. Talk to Holly Hoppman if you’re interested.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We need a few more people to assist with altar care and help serve communion. We invite you to join us in this very meaningful ministry!

If you are interested in joining the Altar Care Team, you can sign up to help out for one month. The sign-up sheets are on the Opportunity Table in the back of the sanctuary.



For worship to run smoothly each week, we need 2 altar care workers. On non-communion Sundays, they put away the brass altar-ware and make sure the altar flowers are picked up after the 10:30 service. For communion Sundays, the altar care workers set up communion before the 8:15 service and clean up after the 10:30 service. This really entails no more than 15-30 minutes each Sunday.

If you are new to altar care, our experienced members will assist you. We have also developed a clear and helpful instruction guide.

We also need 3 communion servers for the 10:30 communion services.

If you have any questions, you can contact Janette Payne or Triss Hoppman.



BABY SHOWER

Brooke and Dave Barr



The Board of Worship and Music is hosting a baby shower for Brooke, our wonderful music director, to celebrate the upcoming birth of her baby boy. Join us after the church service on Septem-

ber 20th, in the multipurpose room. All are welcome to attend! We encourage those who would like to help to bring sandwiches, salads, or desserts.

W-ELCA

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Brunch Hosted by the W-ELCA Board



As summer comes to an end, W-ELCA has many exciting opportunities for everyone to get involved. Come to our annual brunch to hear about them and to spend time with your fellow women of St. Luke's. On Saturday, September 12th, we'll meet in Room 5 at 11:30 a.m. No need to bring food, as your W-ELCA Board will be hosting the brunch.

We will be collecting hygiene items and school supplies for two local organizations: Moral Values and Courageous Connections.

Moral Values is an organization that teaches values to the young people it serves. Services are provided to as many as 85 children at one time. They also feed and house children in need, provide educational support, and advocate for their wellbeing.

Courageous Connections is a non-profit located in Elk Grove that works to improve the life experiences and outcomes of current and emancipated foster youth.





CHURCH CLEANUP DAY

All-Member Work Day

On Saturday the 26th, at 8:30 in the morning, we're going to clean, tidy, and spruce up the church. Come join us if you have the time—we need all the help we can get! You don't need to bring anything or have any special skills; just come when you can and we'll put you to work.

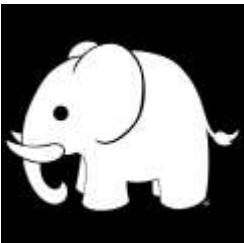


FALL FESTIVAL AND FAMILY FUN DAY

Come to St. Luke's on Saturday, October 3rd, for our Annual Fall Festival and Family Fun Day, organized by W-ELCA. The festival will be open from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come browse the booths filled with white elephant items, books, plants, stuffed animals, clothes, baked goods, and other yard sale and vendor items. Join us for breakfast in the morning or lunch in the afternoon!

Planning is underway, and we're excited about this year's event. If you are interested in helping out, please look for sign-up sheets on the Opportunity Table, or let Holly Hoppman know. You can also sign up to bring baked goods and treats for our Country Store.

We're looking for items for donation for the Fall Festival. We're collecting White Elephants now; we're accepting everything but clothing. Our Books & Plants Booth is requesting donations of any paperback books or children's books.



If you or someone you know is interested in renting a space at the Fall Festival and Family Fun Day, please contact the church office (421-5039) or Peggy Moser (606-7880).

For more information, you can also visit our website: <http://slelca.org/news/fall-festival/>

We hope to see you there!

In Christ's Service,

Holly Hoppman
W-ELCA President



ANNUAL HERITAGE REFORMATION SUNDAY POTLUCK

Sunday, October 25

Please mark your calendars! This is a special annual tradition in which we celebrate the Reformation, our Lutheran heritage, and our personal family heritages. More information and a sign-up sheet to follow in October.



COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Board Meeting Report

School supplies are still being gathered, and we have asked the whole congregation to participate. We will sort the supplies at our next meeting, on

September 8th. The whole church will help fill the backpacks on the "God's Work, Our Hands" service day. We will distribute the filled backpacks to Parkway Elementary School and Charles Mack Elemen-



tary School the week of September 14th.

Since our last meeting, we have received our order from Old Lutheran for St. Luke's "God's Work, Our Hands" t-shirts, and most have been sold. We will be ordering some smaller sizes. We're also looking into making some different types of t-shirts, such as tie-dye.

We have not yet set a date for St. Luke's Winter Sanctuary 2016. More information to come.

Al Moser
Community Concerns Board Chair

CHILDREN IN CHURCH



Children of all ages are very welcome in our church—we want them to feel at home in our house of worship. Parents, you can relax. Young children are wiggly and sometimes noisy, but do not worry. We enjoy having chil-

dren here and don't mind when they make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Cry Room / Nursing Room

If you need to leave the service with your child, you can find the nursery directly to your right as you leave the sanctuary. It has rocking chairs, a playpen, a high chair, bibs, a changing table, diapers and wipes, a first aid kit, and other supplies. We have speakers hooked up so you can still listen to the service.



Sunday School

In September, we start a new section of our Sunday School materials, with all new characters and themes. Most Sundays, the children will read a

Scripture text and then watch a video that illustrates and discusses it in a kid-friendly way. Songs, games, activities, and crafts help the kids explore and enjoy the message.



Children stay in the main service for a few songs, prayers, Scripture readings, and a Children's Time with Pastor Carl. Then they follow the Sunday School teachers to the Education Wing.

After the service, please pick up your kids—they can't leave the Sunday School room until you do, and neither can the teachers! (And all of them are anxious to get to the snack table.)

During the Service

Encourage your children to learn and participate while they're with you during the service. Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastor, helpers, ushers, choir, etc. Let them copy you as you worship, pray, and read the responses.

Sometimes, sitting toward the front of the sanctuary, where they can see and hear better, can help kids pay attention and feel less bored.

As you enter the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, the usher will give each kid a Children's Page as well as a bulletin; it has a picture to color that is related to the sermon. This gives them something to do that still focuses on the message.

Children are more than welcome to stay with their parents, instead of going to Sunday School, to experience the entire service. Some kids switch back and forth between going to Sunday School and staying with their parents.





Stephanie helping Pastor Carl preach



St. Luke's Youth—Monster Mini-Golfing



Stephanie, Megan, and Sarah playing in the courtyard after church



Assistant secretary Lucy hard at work



We welcome these members into the family of Christ:

River Abraham Dempsey

Parents: Ethan and Meredith Dempsey

Sponsor: Amanda Harvey

Ethan Martin Dempsey

Parents: Larry and Marsha Dempsey

Amanda Marie Harvey

Parents: Larry and Marsha Dempsey

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. By water and the Holy Spirit, River, Ethan, and Amanda are re-born children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



The Dempsey family has joined St. Luke's congregation—welcome!

Ethan & Meredith
Bowen (age 3)
River (age 1)

We are truly excited they have made the commitment to join our church family and follow the Lord with us.

**DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS
AND ADDITIONS**

Birlew, Linda
5924 Stallion Way
Sacramento, CA 95823

Brasier, Elizabeth
Stephanie Espinoza
7248 Diana Way
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 856-6555

Dempsey, Ethan and Meredith
Bowen and River
3835 Aetna Spring Way
Sacramento, CA 95834

Heaton, Paul and Sande
(916) 509-9623
Paul's email: paulheaton@comcast.net
Sande's email: strezise@att.net

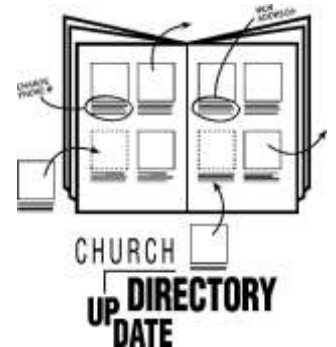
Johnsen, John
jojjo@aol.com

Ramsey, Katie
7804 Sandilands Way
Sacramento, CA 95828
(916) 688-1216

Vang, PengXue and Rose
Jai Lia, Izaiah, Ezekiel, Jun

Williams, Thelma
jojjo@aol.com

If you have any additional corrections to the directory, please call or email the church office—(916) 421-5039 or stlukeschurch@att.net. Thank you!





SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



September 2	Marlene Kiser
September 4	Elise Mihanovich
September 5	Esther Becker
September 7	Pauline Arndt
September 7	Barbara Manlapig
September 13	Iva Bates
September 23	Angela Hairston
September 23	Patricia McClendon
September 24	Anthony Diaz
September 24	William Lehman
September 24	Ronald Myers
September 25	Mildred Franklin
September 26	Jeff Boyer
September 29	Jack Fenske
September 30	Helen Fischer
September 30	Lynn Gavia

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



Sept. 13	The Carneys for their 56th anniversary
Sept. 20	Larry and Deanna Dockter for Anthony's birthday Ron and Pat Webb for Kevin's birthday
Sept. 27	Larry and Deanna Dockter for Gage's 9th birthday Kelly Boyer for Jeff's 50th birthday

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

July 2015

Offerings (General Fund Only)			
	This Month	Year to Date	
Total Offering	\$16,041	\$124,345	
Compared to Budget	-\$1,663	\$2,123	
	-9.0%	2.0%	
Compared to 2014	\$1,326	\$4,408	
	9.0%	4.00%	
Contributors			
2015 (Current Year)	86	90	avg.
2014 (Last Year)	73	89	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$10.14	
Flowers		\$180.50	

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

Ron Webb
Financial Secretary



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes
 Sept. 6 Daniel Encinas
 Sept. 13 Isabella Basquez, Elizabeth Wilson
 Sept. 20 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
 Sept. 27 Joshua Bell, Morgan Furry

Altar Care
 8:15 a.m. Cheryl Franklin
 10:30 a.m. Karen Linfor, Mary F. Harris

Communion Servers
 Karen Linfor, Connie Reule

Counters
 Sept. 6 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
 Sept. 13 Don Schell, Bob Behr
 Sept. 20 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig
 Sept. 27 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

Greeters
 Sept. 6 Sande and Paul Heaton
 Sept. 13 Gail Weber, Rebecca Weber
 Sept. 20 Kelly Boyer, Lois Sherrets
 Sept. 27 (Needed)

Head Ushers
 8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin
 10:30 a.m. Kelly Boyer

Prayer Leaders
 Sept. 6 Pat Webb
 Sept. 13 Laura Tice
 Sept. 20 Alison Thomas
 Sept. 27 Faith Thomas

Psalm Leaders
 Sept. 6 Hannah Encinas
 Sept. 13 Sierra Etchison
 Sept. 20 Amber Mansfield
 Sept. 27 Angie Martinez

Readers (8:15 a.m.)
 Sept. 6 Kelly Boyer
 Sept. 13 Kathryn Felgenhauer
 Sept. 20 Eric Linblade
 Sept. 27 Phil Petersen

Readers (10:30 a.m.)
 Sept. 6 Bob Behr
 Sept. 13 Linda Birlew
 Sept. 20 Larry Dockter
 Sept. 27 Tracy Etchison

Refreshments
 Sept. 6 Ed and Kirsten Ireton, Lynn Gavia;
 Esther Becker's family will provide a
 cake to celebrate her 100th birthday
 Sept. 13 Congregational BBQ & picnic
 Sept. 20 Paul Maki, Chona Sison
 Sept. 27 Jerry and Carol Carney

Visitors Gifts
 Sept. 6 Pat Webb
 Sept. 13 Crystal Boettcher
 Sept. 20 Thelma Williams
 Sept. 27 Carolyn Andrews

Welcome Leaders
 Sept. 6 Peggy Moser
 Sept. 13 Pat Webb
 Sept. 20 Chet Madison
 Sept. 27 Carolyn Andrews

*Thanks
 for
 Serving!*



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

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Luau



Annual Worship & Music Fundraiser



~ September 19 ~

5:00 p.m.



Fantastic food, fun activities, and fabulous prizes!