



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



2015

Pastoral Perspective



When I have a conversation with folks centering on the commandments, it soon becomes apparent that the setting in which these sacred words are often seen is that of a courtroom. In this courtroom, folks picture themselves standing beneath the awesome authority of

the Supreme Judge who is seated in solitary splendor high above in heaven. In this courtroom, there is no one like us who may sympathize with our human frailty, only a cold hard judge. So folks try to somehow justify themselves or find loopholes in the law that lets them off the hook.

When this is the way folks see the commandments, it is understandable that they try to twist them for personal purposes rather than for what God intends. An example of this is when some very religious people came to Jesus with a question to test him and hopefully discredit him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" They didn't really want to know what God intended for marriage. They wanted to twist God's guidelines for their own purposes. Jesus won't play this game, then or now. He knows that, in our sinfulness, even though two people are united in holy matrimony, they can fall into such a destructive relationship that the most loving thing to do is to allow the disillusion of the relationship before the people in it are destroyed. But that was never God's intention for

marriage, and there is no loophole in his guidelines that makes it good. On that day, the conversation revolved around marriage. It could just as easily have been about any of God's guidelines. The truth is, we can't justify ourselves before God by twisting His guidelines. We are much better off confessing our sinfulness, acknowledging the reality that we live in a sinful world, and then trusting that God's relationship with us is not a courtroom relationship, but rather a courtship relationship. That makes all the difference in the world.

The commandments are intended to be the guidelines within which the courtship between God and humanity is carried out. People in love don't try to find loopholes in the commitment they make toward each other. Certainly hurts and difficulties come up, but they are confessed, and forgiveness is offered and received. We aren't perfect. God knows that. Out of His great love for us, He sent Jesus to be with us and to take our sins and the sins of the whole world upon Himself, so we can relate with God and one another through that loving relationship. Trust in that relationship. Give thanks that Jesus understands your weakness and hurt. You are not alone. He will work with you through whatever is going on and will be with you all the way. He loves you.

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing with You,

Pastor Carl



FALL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

New Ministry Groups

As part of our fall stewardship program, we are re-organizing some ministry areas that need more participation. The sign-up sheets for altar care, communion servers, greeters, and ushers are often blank, and we need a better way to fill those positions, as well as welcome leaders and acolytes.

To address these needs, we are developing additional ministry groups to replace the sign-up sheets on the opportunity table. Everyone who is interested in a specific ministry area can join that group, and a coordinator will create a schedule for the year and send out reminders.

We already have leaders for altar care, communion servers, greeters, and ushers, but we need volunteers to coordinate the welcome leaders and acolytes.

This system has worked very well in other areas. For example, Barbara Manlapig coordinates the groups of readers, prayer leaders, and Psalm leaders; the Evangelism Board coordinates visitors' gifts, refreshments, and parish visits. These areas run smoothly and are always fully staffed.

By expanding this system to other ministry areas, we can provide more easy ways for you to help with our congregation's important ministries.



Ministry Fair

Ministry Fair

November 8th

After the service on November 8th, we will have a Ministry Fair. The boards will set up tables in the

courtyard or in Schultz Hall (depending on the weather). You can browse the various ministry groups, get more information, ask any questions, and sign up for the groups you want to join.

Please pray about these opportunities and consider joining one (or more!) groups to support our congregation.

Estimate-of-Giving Cards

At the Ministry Fair, we will also collect estimate-of-giving cards for the coming year.



COLD & FLU SEASON



As fall begins, we're entering the cold and flu season. We don't want anyone to miss church if they feel well enough to attend, but we don't want to spread germs either.

During the portion of the service when we shake hands and greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace, saying "Peace be with you" or similar words, please remain seated if you have been ill or are concerned about catching something. All those standing are invited to greet one another.

When people remain seated, feel free to wish them peace, but don't shake their hands; either they are contagious, or they need to protect their health and don't want to risk getting germs.





Pasta Dinner

PASTA FEED FUNDRAISER FOR KELLY SOBKOWSKY

Saturday, November 7,
at 6 p.m.

Kelly Sobkowsky has been battling end-stage liver disease and will soon have a live-donor transplant. Her niece Danyelle is selflessly giving Kelly part of her own liver so that Kelly will have a new lease on life. But Kelly's medical expenses are high. Please help us raise money to offset those expenses.

On Saturday, November 7th, at 6 p.m., we will have a Pasta Feed Fundraiser in Schultz Hall. Tickets are \$8.00 and can be purchased from Kirsten Ireton. You can also pay at the door, but please RSVP to Kirsten, so we can plan for the right amount of food. Dinner will include pasta, salad, bread, tea, and lemonade.

If you are unable to attend but would still like to make a donation, please feel free to place your donations in the offering (payable to St. Luke's); just write "Sobkowsky Fund" on the envelope.

Thank you for your support.

ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

Calendar Fundraiser

SLY has wall and pocket calendars on sale now. But hurry, because supplies are limited and we will surely sell out. Wall calendars are only \$6.00, and the convenient pocket calendars (with notepads) are only \$5.00. Proceeds benefit



youth activities. See any SLY member or Kirsten Ireton to get yours today!

Pumpkin Bread Fundraiser

Once fall comes around, everything turns into pumpkins! And at St. Luke's, it's no different. SLY is once again baking delicious loaves of pumpkin bread. You must pre-order your mini-loaves of bread by Sunday, November 15th. The bread will be delivered on Sunday, November 22nd, for a donation amount of your choice. Order forms will be available on the opportunity table. You can also contact Kirsten. Leave your name, phone number, and the number of loaves you would like.

SLY Members: Mark your calendars for Pumpkin Bread Baking on Saturday, November 21st, at 10 a.m. The process will take about 3-4 hours, depending on the number of orders we have. If you participate in the making and delivery of the bread (on Sunday), then a portion of the donations will go into your youth account. Parents are strongly encouraged to assist in this event. Many hands make light work!



VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day will be observed Sunday, November 8. Our veterans' banners will be on display that day. If you would like to add the name of a veteran to the banner, please contact the church office by November 5 with the person's name, branch of service, and dates of service. If the person was killed in action, please include that as well.



VETERANS DAY



THANKOFFERING SERVICE

On Sunday, November 22nd, the women of St. Luke's will be hosting the annual Thankoffering Sunday. We will be leading worship, gathered together to joyfully give thanks and praise for what God has given to us. If you are interested in participating in the service, please let Triss Hoppman or Karen Linfor know, or keep a look out for a sign-up sheet.

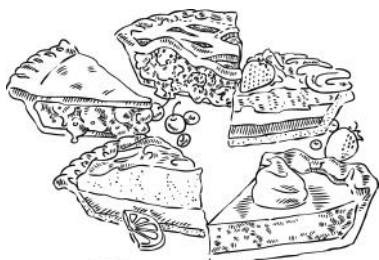
THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Thanksgiving Holy Communion will be celebrated Thanksgiving Eve, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. Join us in giving thanks for the abundance God provides.



The altar area will be specially decorated for Thanksgiving. If you have fall foliage, pumpkins, or other Thanksgiving decorations to include in the display, please bring them to church by 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 21.

Following the service, we'll be having our annual Pie Social. If you'd like to, please bring a pie to share. There's no such thing as too much pie, as all the left overs are donated to the NA marathon meeting that our resident NA groups host for those who need extra support through the holiday weekend. Any and all leftovers are always very welcome!



Pie Social

BELL CHOIR



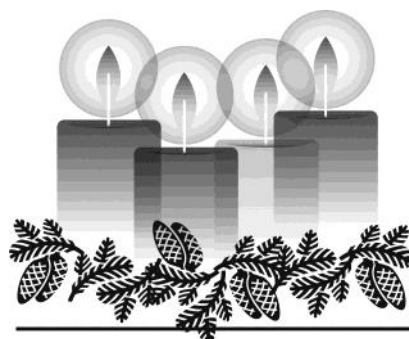
We are looking for 2 - 3 people who might be interested in joining the Bell Choir. Although the ability to read music is helpful, it is not required. No previous experience is necessary. The qualifications are the ability to use your hands, count to 4, and know your colors (most of the time, we use a color-coding system to identify the notes we need to play). The Bell Choir practices at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays in the office meeting room. We try to perform 6 to 8 times a year. The next performance will be at the women's service in November. We will also perform a Christmas piece some time in December. If you have any questions, talk to Holly Hoppman or Marlene Kiser.

ADVENT

Advent begins Sunday, November 29. Advent home devotionals will be available November 22. This year, you can choose a family pop-up advent calendar and/or an adult devotional book, *Unto Us a Child is Born*, by Henri Nouwen. Please take one per family.

We are also looking for families who would like to lead the lighting of the Advent wreath on the Sundays in Advent and Christmas Eve. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Carl.

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 from November 22 through December 13. Please place your order in the offering plate or turn it in to the office.



COMMUNITY CONCERNS

We had a short meeting on October 13, attended by Lynn Gavia, Pastor Carl, and Al Moser.

Over the next couple months, we'll be brainstorming and discussing what programs and activities we should plan for 2016.

Our school supplies drive was a great success. In addition, we recently discovered hundreds of unused pencils in a cupboard in the Education Wing, as we were cleaning and reorganizing; we delivered them to local elementary schools, too.



Winter Sanctuary: February 28th, 2016

St. Luke's is signed up to host Winter Sanctuary on February 28th. Winter

Sanctuary is a rotating winter shelter for adults experiencing homelessness in the Sacramento region. Sacramento Steps Forward organizes the program, screens the participants, and provides transportation; houses of worship throughout Sacramento County sign up to take turns hosting it in their facilities.

We will provide dinner and sleeping accommodations in Schultz Hall, as well as a lunch they can take with them.

We'll need plenty of volunteers to help cook and serve the dinner, prepare the lunch, and socialize with the program participants. Check out the sign-up sheet on the opportunity table for a full list of volunteer positions.

We also requested information from Sacramento Steps Forward about providing additional help for homeless veterans in the program. We will update you when we know more.

If you have any questions about Winter Sanctuary, contact Kirsten Ireton or Al Moser.

PROPERTY BOARD REPORT

A Successful Work Day

On the morning of September 26, the Property Board conducted a successful "All Members Work Day." The primary goals of this Work Day were to prepare the facilities for the wet weather and to spruce up the grounds. This work and other chores of lesser priority were quickly accomplished by the ambitious crew of 17 members who graciously participated in the Work Day chores.

The church is fortunate to have mature pine and redwood trees that shade the facilities. However, these trees shed a lot of needles and other materials, which dam up the gutters and roof valleys, causing flooding and other harm. Thus, a key chore for the fall Work Day was cleaning the tree droppings out of the gutters and valleys. This work was successfully completed by our "resident roof man," Bruce Kiser, together with his helpers, for all roof areas and gutters – a big job, well done.

Other tasks that were completed on this Work Day included (a) pruning the shrubbery within the rose garden and the small brick courtyard, (b) raking and hauling away the tree droppings from the west side of the sanctuary and Schultz Hall, (c) spraying vegetation within pavement areas with weed killer, (d) power-washing the foul-smelling pavement areas on the north side of the church facilities, (e) cleaning the Linfor memorial fountain, (f) painting the two foundations for the parking lot lights, and (g) picking up trash and cleaning the grounds in general.

The Property Board thanks the members who participated in this year's fall Work Day: Bob Behr,



Karen Cagle and son Karstan, Jerry Carney, Jack Fenske, Paul Heaton, Ed and Kirsten Ireton, Bruce and Karen Kiser, Clarence Korhonen, Latasha Lawrence and granddaughter Angela Hairston, Ken and Debi Lentsch, Joe Payne, and Brenda Sulzmann. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

The Property Board conducts two "All Members Work Day" events each year – one in the spring and one in the fall. Thus, if you missed this year's fall Work Day, plan on attending next spring. Your support will be welcomed.

Clarence Korhonen, Property Board Chairperson

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Sunday, December 13



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Sunday, December 13, after the service, the Evangelism Board will host the potluck for the Annual Congregational meeting. The meeting will focus on budget approval and elections.

There's a sign-up sheet on the opportunity table—be sure to add your name. Don't miss out on the last potluck of the year!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Fall Festival Report

This year's Fall Festival and Family Fun Day was a tremendous success. Many thanks go to everyone who volunteered and supported WELCA; with your help we were able to raise \$2,744.43 for our annual benevolence. That's about \$650 more than last year! An event of this nature would not be possible without the help and support of many people, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone. I would like

to specifically recognize those who helped either with planning or throughout the day: Peggy Moser, Katie Iniguez, Al Moser, Pat Webb, Ofelia Ojeda, Faith Thomas, Carol Carney, Judy Saxby, Karen Linfor, Jerry Carney, Micki Fenske, Jack Fenske, Keri Furry, Joyce Jensen, Dorothy Haney, Linda Olsen, Connie Reule, Carolyn Andrews, Alison Thomas, Linda Duffek, Kirsten Ireton, Ed Ireton, Bob Behr, Paul Maki, Josh Bell, Marlene Kiser, Jeff Kiser, Triss Hoppman, and Pastor Carl! Hopefully you got to see Kirsten's television debut on Good Day Sacramento!

The money raised at the Fall Festival will be combined with the other funds raised this year to support other organizations locally, nationally, and internationally. With a portion of last year's benevolence fund, for example, we supported the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership, a local food closet that serves and supports families in need within our local community.

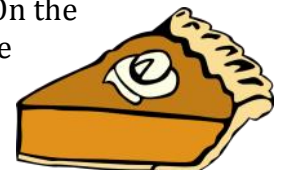
November Events

Our next meeting is on Saturday, November 7th (changed due to Katie Ramsey's memorial on the 14th), at 11:30 a.m. We will be collecting non-perishable food items to support the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership. You are welcome to join us as we come together for our last business meeting of the year. You're invited to bring a soup or salad to share!

On November 22, we will host the annual Thankoffering Sunday Service. On the 25th, we will host our annual Pie Social after the Thanksgiving Eve Service.



Women of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Comfort Committee

Finally, one part of W-ELCA that doesn't get highlighted often is our Comfort Committee. The Comfort Committee is a vital part of the ministry of the women at St. Luke's; it is so important to care for the families who are grieving and celebrating the life of a loved one who has recently passed. I would like to thank Pauline Arndt for her service as the outgoing chair of this committee and to recognize Peggy Moser and Triss Hoppman, who are heading up the committee moving forward. If you would like to support this ministry in any way, please let Peggy or Triss know!

In Christ's Service,

Holly Hoppman
WELCA President



FALL FESTIVAL— WHITE ELEPHANT REPORT

It is hard to adequately thank all of those who helped, in any way, with the white elephant sale. We had our best year so far, with an amazing profit of \$1,063.00.

Once again, your generosity was overwhelming. If you saw the overflow room, you would have known, for sure, how generous our congregational members are. Please know how much we appreci-

ate it! Thanks to your help and contributions, W-ELCA can send checks to many charities at the end of the year.

It would have been impossible to sort and sell all the donations without the support of so many. The W-ELCA ladies especially appreciate the men of our congregation for their help in making our job so much easier.

A special thank you to the following people who helped by putting up signs, sorting and pricing, selling, cleaning up, or just coming to show their support:

Bob Behr
Jerry Carney
Micki Fenske
Jack Fenske
Dorothy Haney
Mary Harris
Triss Hoppman
Joyce Jensen
Karen Linfor
Paul Maki
Al Moser
Peggy Moser
Linda Olsen
Connie Reule
Don Schell
Mack Vance
Pat Webb

A very special thank you to our "professional" salesperson, who was a tremendous help in sorting, pricing, and selling – Keri Furry, who happens to be Judy Saxby's daughter. It runs in the family!

Please, once again, start saving those little "white elephants" for the first Saturday in October 2016!

Thank you,

Judy Saxby and Carol Carney – Co-Chairs



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Justin Luke Barr

Justin was born on October 5th, 2015, at 9:15 a.m., to proud parents Dave and Brooke Barr and older brother Jesse. He weighed 8 pounds and 3 ounces and was 21 inches long. Congratulations, Barr family!



Isaac Maxwell Diaz

Deanna Dockter and Anthony Diaz, as well as older sister Victoria and proud grandparents Deanna and Larry Dockter, joyfully welcomed Isaac on October 15th, 2015, at 12:23 a.m. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 19 inches long. Congratulations to the Dockters and Diazes!

Let us rejoice with these families and give thanks for their new babies.



DIRECTORY UPDATE

Irma Lowe has a new email address and a new phone number.





Andrew Harrison	November 7
Ethan Dempsey	November 8
Judy Saxby	November 10
Billie Becker	November 11
Julie Ireton	November 14
Marc Thomas	November 15
Alison Korhonen-Kerian	November 16
Betty Ley	November 17
Mike Wilke	November 17
Rosary Jensen	November 22
Micki Fenske	November 27
Pastor Carl Hoppman	November 27
Bowen Dempsey	November 29

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



Altar Flowers

November 1	Al and Irene Boschee for their 65th anniversary
November 8	David Saxby for Judy's birthday
November 15	Walt and Pauline Arndt for Ken's birthday
November 22	Jacob and Christiana Wilson for their anniversary

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

September 2015

Offerings (General Fund Only)			
	This Month	Year to Date	
Total Offering	\$15,508	\$159,850	
Compared to Budget	-\$491	\$3,499	
	3.0%	2.0%	
Compared to 2014	\$118	\$6,211	
	1.0%	4.00%	
Contributors			
2015 (Current Year)	87	91	avg.
2014 (Last Year)	72	86	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$14.50	
Flowers		\$40.00	

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

Ron Webb
Financial Secretary



**Finance
Update**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes

Nov. 1 Daniel Encinas
Nov. 8 Isabella Basquez, Elizabeth Wilson
Nov. 15 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
Nov. 22 Joshua Bell, Morgan Furry
Nov. 29 Daniel Encinas

Altar Care

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

Communion Servers

Peggy Moser, Crystal Boettcher,
David Saxby

Counters

Nov. 1 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
Nov. 8 Don Schell, Bob Behr
Nov. 15 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig
Nov. 22 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser
Nov. 29 Jack and Micke Fenske,
Carolyn Andrews

Greeters

Nov. 1 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
Nov. 8 Ed and Kirsten Ireton
Nov. 15 Carole and Mack Vance
Nov. 22 Women of the ELCA
Nov. 25 (Thanksgiving Eve) *Needed*
Nov. 29 *Needed*

Head Ushers

8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin
10:30 a.m. Larry Dockter

Prayer Leaders

Nov. 1 Joe Payne
Nov. 8 Janette Payne
Nov. 15 John Orcutt
Nov. 22 Ladies' Day
Nov. 29 Sylvia Kohler

Psalm Leaders

Nov. 1 Amber Mansfield
Nov. 8 Angie Martinez
Nov. 15 Lucy Orcutt
Nov. 22 Ladies' Day
Nov. 29 Aiyana Tice

Readers 8:15 a.m.

Nov. 1 Kathryn Felgenhauer
Nov. 8 Eric Linblade
Nov. 15 Sarah Madison
Nov. 22 Ladies' Day
Nov. 29 Phil Petersen

Readers 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 1 Kirsten Ireton
Nov. 8 Marlene Kiser
Nov. 15 Sylvia Kohler
Nov. 22 Ladies' Day
Nov. 29 Ken Lentsch

Refreshments

Nov. 1 Ed and Kirsten Ireton, Lynn Gavia
Nov. 8 Jerry and Carol Carney
Nov. 15 Paul Maki, Chona Sison
Nov. 22 Mack and Carole Vance
Nov. 29 Kelly Boyer, Joyce Jensen

Visitors' Gifts

Nov. 1 Joyce Jensen
Nov. 8 Carole Vance
Nov. 15 Walt Arndt
Nov. 22 Joyce Jensen
Nov. 29 Thelma Williams

Welcome Leaders

Nov. 1 Ron Zoesch
Nov. 8 Pat Webb
Nov. 15 Chet Madison
Nov. 22 Carolyn Andrews
Nov. 29 Pauline Arndt

Thanks,
Everyone!





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

Return Service Requested

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«Head of House» «Last Name» «Spouse»
«Address»
«City» «Zip»

November 8th

*after the worship
service*

As part of our fall stewardship program, we're developing new ministry groups. Come to the ministry fair to browse, ask questions, and sign up!



Ministry Fair

- Communion servers
- Welcome leaders
 - Altar care
 - Greeters
 - Acolytes
 - Ushers



*We will also collect
estimate-of-giving
cards at the fair*