



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
 (916) 421-5039  
[www.slelca.org](http://www.slelca.org)  
[stlukeschurch@att.net](mailto:stlukeschurch@att.net)  
 Pastor Carl Hoppman  
[carlhoppman@gmail.com](mailto:carlhoppman@gmail.com)

# News And Views



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## December

### Pastoral Perspective



We work really hard to get Christmas gifts that will be meaningful and useful to those on our Christmas list. The way they respond to these gifts is important to us. God has also worked really hard to get just the right Christmas gifts for you. The way you respond to these gifts is very important to Him.

First, God gives you the gift of forgiveness of your past sins. Jesus came into the world to make it plain that God has not given up on you. You are not off His Christmas list. Rather, new life is yours. That new life starts at the point of forgiveness of your past sins. Jesus paid the penalty for them. The appropriate way to respond to this gift is to cherish the gift of forgiveness and believe it is really yours. Jesus has come into the world to take your sins upon Himself so you can have this gift of forgiveness.

Second, God gives you the gift of help for present challenges. Suffering or sickness might hit you. Disappointment or frustration might come. Loneliness or doubt might afflict you. But take heart, God is with you. The coming of Jesus into the world gives you assurance of that. This wonderful gift enables you to go on in faith. This gift moves in mysterious ways; it may be help when you need it, spoken or acted through a friend or stranger. It may be a sense of peace that envelopes you in the midst of

your challenge. It may be the courage you find to stand up and go forward. God does not forsake you in your life challenges; he helps you. The proper way to respond to this gift is to thank God that He is always with you and believe that He loves you and will always help you with life's challenges.

Third, God gives you the gift of hope for the future. A light has come into the world that will never go out. That light is Jesus. He has come to dwell with you and guide you through this world to heaven. God has not forgotten the world. He is still in charge and will bring His plan of salvation to completion. The gift of hope lets you know that nothing in the world can stop God from fulfilling His plan. The proper way to respond to this gift is to thank God for having you and the whole world in His hands and to believe that nothing can undo God's plan of salvation for you and for His creation.

God gives these awesome gifts to you this Christmas. Your response to these gifts makes all the difference to Him. It would mean so much to Him if you would receive them with thanksgiving and use them often. He would be delighted if you would share them with others.

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing With You,

Pastor Carl





## ADVENT

Advent, which means “coming,” is the season leading up to Christmas, when we look forward to Jesus coming into the world. We expect and joyfully anticipate his birth as well as the end of times, when he will return to earth.



Advent home devotionals are now available at the Opportunity Table. This year, we have a family pop-up advent calendar and an adult devotional book, *Unto Us a Child Is Born*, by Henri Nouwen. Please take one, or one of each, per family.

## LIGHTING THE CANDLES IN THE ADVENT WREATH

During Advent, each service begins with the lighting of the candles in the Advent wreath. On the first Sunday of Advent, we light one candle; on the second Sunday, we light two; and so on until we light all five candles on Christmas Eve.

If you would like to light the candles at one of the services, you can sign up at the Opportunity Table. Please sign up as a family or with friends. Pastor Carl will give you the prayers and readings for the candle lighting.



## SANTA'S GIFT SHOP

For Parkway Elementary

We're gathering small, inexpensive trinkets to start a Santa's Gift Shop at Parkway Elementary School. At the shop, students can get gifts for their parents in a way that is simple, affordable, and convenient. This helps lessen the stress of the holidays so the kids can relax and enjoy the Christmas season. Please bring the items to church by the end of November.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We are taking orders for poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. The cost is \$10 each, and orders will be taken through December 13. Please place your order in the offering plate or turn it in to the office.



A list of the honorees will be printed in the bulletin on December 20. You may pick up your plants after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

## CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD BOX

Following our annual tradition, you are invited to share Christmas Cards with others in the congregation through the Congregational Christmas Card Box. The box will be in the church entryway for exchanging cards from December 6 through December 20. Please check for cards by Sunday, December 20.

In past years we have had a number of cards not

picked up. So this year we will take down the box after December 20. We will deliver cards addressed to shut ins. Other cards not picked up will be placed on a table for pick up on Christmas Eve. Cards left after Christmas Eve will be recycled. If you would like to share Christmas Cards with others in the congregation after December 20, please give them out personally.



## DECK THE HALLS

**Thursday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m.**

Falalalala... lalalala. We will be decking the halls with boughs of garland and setting up the congregational Christmas tree. All are welcome to join in the fun and partake in cocoa and Christmas goodies.



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK

**Sunday, December 13, 11:30 a.m.**

Join us for the last potluck of the year as we share with each other and enjoy delicious food.

After we eat, we will have the annual congregational meeting: the proposed 2016 budget will be presented for approval, and we will elect officers and board chairs. There



are copies of the proposed budget and nominees on the Opportunity Table if you want to review them before the meeting.

Please plan to come to this important meeting, and be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Opportunity Table, so we can provide enough seating for everyone.



# CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**December 20, 10:30 a.m.**

The choir's annual Christmas cantata, under the direction of our Music Director, Brooke Barr, will be presented Sunday, December 20, at the 10:30 service. This year's piece is entitled "When Earth Received Her King," and it features the children's choir, soloists Karen Linfor and Bob Behr, a women's trio, and narration. Invite your friends and family for this inspirational and up-beat musical presentation. Please note there will be no 8:15 a.m. service that Sunday.





# Christmas Eve

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## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Our traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. This family-oriented service, featuring carols, readings, and special music, will highlight the light that Christ brings to the world with the symbolic lighting of candles. Christmas Holy Communion will be celebrated at 11:00 p.m.

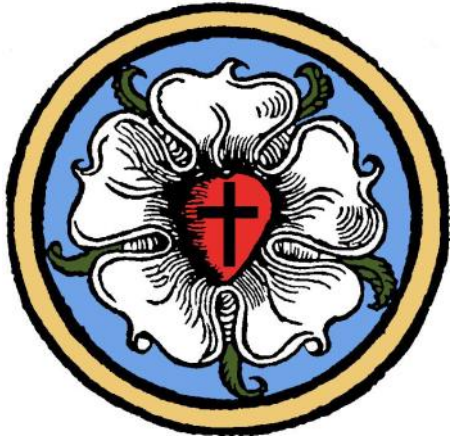


## EPIPHANY BREAKFAST & SERVICE

Wednesday, January 6, 9:30 a.m.

Please join us in the Fellowship Room in the Sunday School wing for our Epiphany Breakfast and Service. Pastor Carl will share the importance of celebrating Epiphany, which is God's revealing of Jesus as the Messiah and our Savior. The Evangelism Board will provide breakfast casseroles, coffee, and juice. Those coming are encouraged to bring fruit, muffins, coffee cake, or nut breads to share as well as nativity sets to display on the tables. Please sign up at the Opportunity Table so that we will know how many plan to attend.





## REFORMATION POTLUCK

We had a wonderful Reformation celebration with about 65 in attendance. The potluck did not disappoint as there were a variety of delicious dishes for all to enjoy. Blue, gold, red, black, and white were the colors of the day, as they are the colors of Luther's rose. As we colored our individual roses, Pastor Carl shared the symbolic meaning of the rose and explained what each color represents.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this such a special time of sharing: Carolyn Andrews, Pauline and Walt Arndt, Kelly Boyer, Dorothy Haney, Joyce Jensen, Peggy Moser, Lauren Orcutt, Laura Sondrini (Carole's daughter), Carole and Mack Vance, Pat and Ron Webb, and Pastor Carl.

Pat Webb, Chair  
Evangelism Board



## COMMUNITY CONCERNS BOARD

No meeting in November. Looking forward to

working on exciting plans for 2016 in December.

Al Moser  
Chairman

## THANK YOU

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, phone calls, and expressions of support for us during Ron's illness and my eye surgery. We are so blessed to be a part of such a loving, caring church family.

Pat and Ron Webb

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THOSE WHO

Hope

in the Lord

will renew their Strength.

They will soar on Wings like Eagles;

They will run and not grow Weary, they will  
Walk

And not be Faint.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to my St. Luke's Family. Your support and prayers have lifted my spirits and given me strength. My journey is not over, however I know I do not walk it alone.

With Love,  
Kelly Sobkowsky and family

Thank  
You!

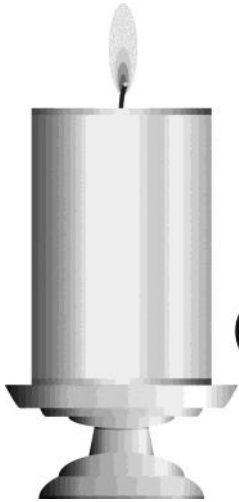


## MINISTRY FAIR

At our first Ministry Fair, folks learned about various ways to serve St. Luke's through our Ministry Groups and Boards.

If you haven't yet returned your stewardship packet, with your Ministry Group and Board signup sheet and your offering estimate for 2016, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.





## Deaths in Our Church Family

### **Esther Becker**

Esther Becker passed peacefully into the nearer presence of her Lord on October 16, at the age of 100. A memorial was held at St. Luke's on October 22.

Esther served the Lord through St. Luke's in many ways. Let us give thanks for her life among us and for the new life she has with Jesus for eternity. Pray for her daughters, Betty Englund and Lucy Becker, and for their families, as they share together in the Lord's tender love.

*Thank You*

Betty Englund would like to thank everybody for all the prayers and cards, Pastor Carl for all his support and for the beautiful memorial service, and the Comfort Committee for the delicious lunch they served after the service.

### **Katie Ramsey**

Our prayers are with Katie Ramsey's husband Kenneth Hayes, her brother Walter Ramsey, and her sisters Marian Shaw and Alice Foye. She also had many nieces, nephews, and extended family, all of whom will miss her greatly.

Katie died on October 20th. A memorial service

was held here at St. Luke's on November 14th, followed by a wonderful meal served by our dedicated Comfort Committee.

*Thank You*

The family of Katie Ramsey to thank Pastor Carl, for sharing with Katie during her time of need, and the Evangelism Committee, for their visitations with her during her illness. We also want to thank Triss Hoppman and Peggy Moser, the Comfort Committee chairpersons, along with all those who volunteered to prepare the food and serve at the gathering that followed her memorial service.

Katie loved St. Luke's and greatly missed her friends on Sunday mornings.

### **Lou Juan Marie Hubbard**

Lou Juan died and was taken by Jesus to the heavenly kingdom on September 26. Please pray for her three sons and their wives (Steven and Karyn, Thomas and Christine, and Richard and Kim), as well as her seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, during this time of mourning. A memorial service was held at St. Luke's on October 24.

### **Betty Jean Litz**

Betty passed away on October 9 and was received by her Lord into the heavenly kingdom. She was active at St. Luke's in several areas of ministry for many years. Please give thanks for her full life among us and the new life Jesus has won for her, and pray for her five children (Robert, Edgar, Gary, Dianne, and Cara), 13 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. A memorial was held at St. Luke's on October 17.



*With Sincere Sympathy*



December 6

December 13 Ken and Debi Lentsch  
for their anniversary

Kristine Felgenhauer  
for her birthday

December 20 Phil and Jennifer Petersen

December 24 Thelma Williams and John Johnsen  
in memory of their parents,  
John and Millie Johnsen

Ron and Pat Webb  
in praise and thanksgiving to God for  
all His many blessings

December 27 Larry and Deanna Dockter for  
Chandler's 13th birthday

Ron and Cheryl Franklin  
in memory of their parents



## SUPPORT ALTAR FLOWERS

Every week, members of our congregation help provide flowers to decorate the altar. To sign up, check the flower chart on the Opportunity Table, at the back of the sanctuary.

Select the date, write in your name, and specify the dedication. You can dedicate the flowers to a person you want to remember or honor, to an event you want to commemorate, to thank God for his blessings, or to praise His glory.

The flowers will be ordered for you for the selected date and delivered to the church by the florist.

You can pick up your flowers after worship if you want to take them home. You can find them in the Altar Guild room (behind the choir loft) after the 10:30 a.m. service. Or you can leave your flowers at church, and they will be delivered to members or friends of the congregation who are sick or shut in.

A donation of \$20 per bouquet will cover the cost. We can have up to four arrangements per week.

## W-ELCA DECEMBER MEETING

**December 12, 11:30 a.m.**

W-ELCA's December meeting will be on Saturday, December 12, at 11:30 a.m. We're asking folks to bring a salad or sandwiches to share—look for sign-up sheets on the Opportunity Table. We'll have lunch together, sing Christmas carols, and celebrate the season. Everyone is welcome!

We're collecting items for the Santa's Gift Shop and gifts for our adopted families through the local elementary schools.

Holly Hoppman  
W-ELCA President



# PUMPKIN BREAD

St. Luke's Youth Fundraiser



\* THIS MONTH'S \*  
**birthdays**

December 3	Carole Vance
December 4	Kim Fenske
December 5	Benjamin Iniguez
December 5	Jared Kiser
December 8	Olivia Cooper
December 10	Jeanne Cooper
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
December 29	Derrick Mihanovich
December 31	Adalyn Kiser

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

*Correction:* Christine Herndon's birthday was missing last month—it is November 19.



## FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

October 2015

Offerings (General Fund Only)			
	This Month	Year to Date	
<b>Total Offering</b>	\$15,271	\$175,121	
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	-\$940	\$2,559	
	-6.0%	1.0%	
<b>Compared to 2014</b>	-\$1,607	\$4,439	
	-10.0%	3.00%	
Contributors			
<b>2015</b> (Current Year)	74	81	avg.
<b>2014</b> (Last Year)	75	85	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$15.75	
Flowers		\$100	

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

Ron Webb

Financial Secretary



Finance  
Update

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Acolytes

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

## Altar Care

8:15 a.m. Cheryl Franklin  
10:30 a.m.

## Communion Servers

Kelly Boyer, Faith Thomas

## Counters

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

## Greeters

Dec. 6  
Dec. 13  
Dec. 20  
Dec. 24  
Dec. 27 Steven Lee

## Head Ushers

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

## Prayer Leaders

Dec. 6 Triss Hoppman  
Dec. 13 Holly Hoppman  
Dec. 20 Mary Francis Harris  
Dec. 27 Daniel Encinas

## Psalm Leaders

Dec. 6 Hannah Encinas  
Dec. 13 Sierra Etchison  
Dec. 20 Amber Mansfield  
Dec. 27 Angie Martinez

## Readers 8:15 a.m.

Dec. 6 Phil Petersen  
Dec. 13 Ron Webb  
Dec. 20 Christiana Wilson  
Dec. 27 Kelly Boyer

## Readers 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 6 Al Moser  
Dec. 13 John Orcutt  
Dec. 20 Lauren Orcutt  
Dec. 27 Janette Payne

## Christmas Eve Readers

7:00 p.m.  
11:00 p.m. Judy Saxby

## Christmas Eve Prayer Leaders

7:00 p.m. Tracy Etchison  
11:00 p.m. Betty Englund

## Refreshments

Dec. 6 Ofelia Ojeda  
Dec. 13 Congregational Meeting & Potluck  
Dec. 20 Mack and Carole Vance  
Dec. 27 Kelly Boyer, Lois Sherrets

## Visitors' Gifts

Dec. 6 Joyce Jensen  
Dec. 13 Steven Lee  
Dec. 20 Choir Cantata  
Dec. 27 Thelma Williams

## Welcome Leaders

Dec. 6 Ron Zoesch  
Dec. 13 Pat Webb  
Dec. 20 Chet Madison  
Dec. 27 Carolyn Andrews

## Sunday School Teachers

Dec. 6 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto  
Dec. 13 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice  
Dec. 20 Alison Thomas, Tracy Etchison  
Dec. 27 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
7595 Center Parkway  
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# CHRISTMAS



# CANTATA



December 20,  
10:30 a.m.

