



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



Pastoral Perspective



"And peace on earth..."
—Luke 2:14

Peace has often been defined as the absence of conflict. But peace has a more positive meaning. It is a state of wholeness in which differences are held in a constructive and cre-

ative tension. This wholeness is called shalom in the Bible. It is the peace we need at this time of new beginnings.

We live in a divided world, and that division runs right through the human heart. Jesus brings the gift of peace to our divided world and hearts.

Wherever there are people, we tend to choose up sides—nation against nation, race against race, religion against religion. Natural and man-made differences become the causes for hostile division. The very differences that could enrich life are used as excuses to justify separating into hostile camps and squaring off against each other.

Jesus brings peace to this divided world. He does not obliterate the differences, but calls us to a wholeness of humanity in which the differences are seen as various gifts for the good and enrichment of all. Jesus was swept to the cross by the same forces that work against peace in the world, the divisive forces. But as he was lifted up on the cross,

he offered to the world a center around which the natural and man-made differences of humanity could become a richness to be celebrated.

Along with bringing peace to a divided world, Jesus brings peace to divided hearts. We are often at war within ourselves; we can be our own worst enemies. We need peace within. Insecurities, anxieties, and uncertainties all seem to plague us and tear us apart inside. I believe it is because of this inner conflict that persons are so quick to choose up sides over differences. The inner conflict is projected outward, and the outward conflict resonates with the inner battle. Choosing up sides over differences is a way of trying to deal with the inner conflict, a way of self-justification. So much persecution and oppression happens because folks do not deal constructively with their inner conflict but rather try to find individuals or groups to blame. The inner conflict is denied and ignored.

Jesus helps us deal with this inner conflict. He gives us peace with God through him. We do not have to engage in the awful charade of self-justification, of trying to deal with conflicts within by projecting them outward. Jesus helps bring the inner civil war to an end. He gives us a center around which to integrate our lives. He himself is peace, and he makes peace possible in our lives.

Do you need this gift of peace as you enter a new year? Do you struggle within yourself and with oth-

ers? Join me in asking Jesus to be your peace. Believe that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace for you and to help you to be at peace with others.

Spreading, Serving, and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



EPIPHANY BREAKFAST & SERVICE

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

Please join us in Schultz Hall for our Epiphany Breakfast and Service. Pastor Carl will share the importance of celebrating Epiphany, which means “manifestation” or “revelation”;

on this holiday, we rejoice in God’s revealing of Jesus as our Messiah and Savior.

We also celebrate the day when God led the wise men to Jesus, guiding them by the Star of Bethlehem:

The star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Matthew 2:9-11

Just as God set the bright star in the sky to guide the magi, so he will also shine a light for us to lead us to Christ.

The Evangelism Board will provide breakfast casseroles, coffee, and juice. You’re 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.



PSALM STUDY

The Psalm study starts again on the 10th (for the Sunday group), the 12th (for the Tuesday group), and the 13th (for the Wednesday group).

W-ELCA

Thankoffering Report



I want to thank everyone who participated in our annual Thankoffering Service in November. We are so blessed to have such a giving congregation. We received \$1609 in donations. This money will support many organizations in the tremendous work they do. Thank you!

December Missions

During December, W-ELCA supported our local elementary schools in a couple different ways for the holiday season. For Parkway Elementary, we collected small trinkets and gifts for their Santa’s Gift Shoppe, empowering the children at the school to purchase gifts for their parents for nickels and dimes. For Charles Mack Elementary, we collected



**THANKS
FOR THE GIFTS!**

gifts for three families—15 kids and 3 adults in total. Thank you to each person who donated trinkets, gifts, or wrapping supplies, or helped wrap all those gifts. It was all greatly appreciated by the schools and the families.

Welcome 2016!

Ending the Year and Starting a New One

We had a wonderful time at our December gathering. We ate, decorated cookies, sang songs, raffled off some prizes, and re-elected officers to the W-ELCA board, with the addition of Triss Hoppman to the Missions Board.

As the new program year starts, I'd like to welcome everyone to our first meeting of 2016 on Saturday, January 9th, at 11:30 a.m. in Room 5. At this first general meeting of the year, we will discuss and determine what organizations we would like to support with our 2015 benevolence money. If you have an organization that you'd like considered, please let me know.

Holly Hoppman
W-ELCA President

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

We didn't have a meeting in December because too many people were sick. Nevertheless, all our planned projects are moving forward, with the help of the ladies' group and the rest of the congregation. We coordinated with W-ELCA to gather Christmas gifts for needy families from Charles Mack Elementary, and we will deliver them once they are all wrapped. The Winter Sanctuary is still on schedule for February 28th, and we'll need help from the whole congregation.

We would like to welcome two new members to the Community Concerns Board, Jennifer Connell and Linda Duffek. Thank you for joining us.

Merry Christmas!

Al Moser
Community Concerns
Board Chair



THANK YOU

From the Valley Hi Family Resource Center

"The Valley Hi Family Resource Center would like to thank St. Luke's for opening your doors to our Winter Festival Celebration. It was a huge success. We had a total of 250 attendees enjoying their time with their families in activities, food, and entertainment. Almost every child who attended received a gift. Thank you for allowing us to utilize the space, it was the key to the success of the event.

Happy Holidays!
Valley Hi Family Resource Center"

ADDRESS CHANGE

Genie Sommer has a new address:

3585 Round Barn Blvd #217
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

(Only the room number has changed.)



CHRISTMAS CANTATA





Brooke Barr, our Music Director and pianist, and her new baby Justin

Altar Flowers

January 3 Joe & Janette Payne
in honor of all military troops who
are serving our country

Joe & Janette Payne
in honor of the seamen of the USS
Gonzalez and their families

January 10 Karen Linfor
for her birthday





January 2 Shirley Clark
 January 2 Kathryn Felgenhauer
 January 2 Darnell Osako
 January 3 Jacob Kiser
 January 3 Dru Roberts
 January 5 Nick Moser
 January 6 Pat Hamilton
 January 8 Lauren Orcutt
 January 10 Karen Linfor
 January 11 Melissa Jensen
 January 13 Deanna Dockter Jr.
 January 16 Walter Arndt
 January 19 Dennis Fischer
 January 24 Stella Loveless
 January 29 Amy Franklin
 January 30 Bernie Johansen
 January 30 Joe Payne
 January 31 Kirsten Ireton

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

November 2015

Offerings (General Fund Only)			
	This Month	Year to Date	
Total Offering	\$19,362	\$194,483	
Compared to Budget	\$1,232	\$3,790	
	7.0%	2.0%	
Compared to 2014	-\$319	\$4,120	
	-2.0%	2.00%	
Contributors			
2015 (Current Year)	88	89	avg.
2014 (Last Year)	88	85	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$27.46	
Flowers		\$310	

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

Ron Webb

Financial Secretary



**Finance
Update**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Head Ushers
 8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin
 10:30 a.m. Jerry Carney

Counters
 Jan. 3 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
 Jan. 10 Don Schell, Bob Behr
 Jan. 17 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig
 Jan. 24 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser
 Jan. 31 Jack and Micke Fenske,
 Carolyn Andrews

Prayer Leaders
 Jan. 3 Larry Dockter
 Jan. 10 Bob Behr
 Jan. 17 Pat Webb
 Jan. 24 Ron Webb
 Jan. 31 Alison Thomas

Psalm Leaders
 Jan. 3 Lucy Orcutt
 Jan. 10 Aiyana Tice
 Jan. 17 Hannah Encinas
 Jan. 24 Sierra Etchison
 Jan. 31 Amber Mansfield

Readers 8:15 a.m.
 Jan. 3 Kathryn Felgenhauer
 Jan. 10 Eric Linblade
 Jan. 17 Sarah Madison
 Jan. 24 Phil Petersen
 Jan. 31 Ron Webb

Readers 10:30 a.m.
 Jan. 3 Joe Payne
 Jan. 10 David Saxby
 Jan. 17 Faith Thomas
 Jan. 24 Alison Thomas
 Jan. 31 Laura Weaver

Refreshments
 Jan. 3 Ed and Kirsten Ireton
 Jan. 10 Dorothy Haney
 Jan. 17 Paul Maki and Chona Sison
 Jan. 24 Kelly Boyer and Lois Sherrets
 Jan. 31 Jacob and Christiana Wilson

Visitors' Gifts
 Jan. 3 Pat Hamilton
 Jan. 10 Joyce Jensen
 Jan. 17 Carole Vance
 Jan. 24 Pat Webb
 Jan. 31 Kelly Boyer

Sunday School Teachers
 Jan. 3 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto
 Jan. 10 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez
 Jan. 17 Alison Thomas, Debi Lentsch
 Jan. 24 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice
 Jan. 31 Alison Thomas, Debi Lentsch

New Ministry Groups
 The leaders of the ministry groups for altar care, acolytes, communion servers, greeters, ushers, and welcome leaders are hard at work arranging schedules for the new year. If you're in one of the groups, your group leader will contact you with your schedule soon.

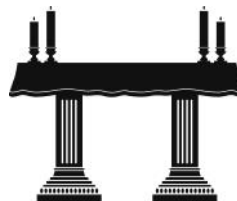
ACOLYTES



greeters



USHERS



Holy Communion

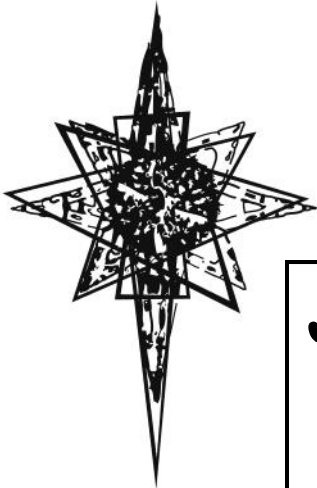


St. Luke's Lutheran Church
7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823

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January 6,
9:30 a.m.
Schultz Hall



EPIPHANY

Service & Breakfast

