



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

# News And Views



## Pastoral Perspective



“What do we need to do?” That’s a question that’s asked a lot during these coming weeks in preparation for Christmas. Maybe there are cards to be filled out and sent, presents to be bought and wrapped, trees to be decorated, baking to be done. All of

these things are well and good, but by themselves they don’t really get us ready for Christmas.

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, shares what he believes we need to do to get ready for the Lord’s coming. He begins chapter 4 of his letter by telling us we need to rejoice. Why are we to rejoice? We are to rejoice because the Lord is at hand. As Christians, we know in our hearts that God loved us so much He gave His only Son to be born into the world and become God and be with us. We can rejoice when we consider God’s great plan fulfilled in the Babe of Bethlehem.

What else do we need to do to be ready for the celebration of the Lord’s coming? Paul continues his encouragement of the Philippians (and us) by writing that we need to “let our reasonableness be known to everyone.” What do you think would happen if the basis of all we said and did was reasonableness? Children would reply to a request from parents, “Sure, that’s a reasonable thing to ask. I’ll be glad to do it.” Family members would really lis-

ten to one another and always be reasonable in their responses. What a change it would make in being prepared for celebrating Christmas.

Paul goes on with his letter, “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” We need to not let worries or upsets stifle our joy in the salvation that Christmas proclaims. The holiday time can bring some anxieties, but we can’t let them derail our celebration. Instead, we need to go to the Lord in prayer, giving thanks for His great gift of love, and letting Him know what help we need from Him. He is at hand every time we fold our hands in prayer.

Finally, Paul writes about what happens when we rejoice in the Lord’s coming, let our reasonableness be known to everyone, and go to the Lord with thanksgiving in our hearts. “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” God’s peace will establish protecting care in our lives. No one fully understands how this works, but we recognize it when the restive heart finds rest in the Lord. We recognize it when insatiable desires give way to contentment in the Lord. We recognize it when nervous fear dissolves into quiet trust in the Lord.

What do we need to do to prepare for Christmas? I trust you see it’s perhaps not what you would ex-

pect. It's not really about what we do at all. It's about our attitude and how we go about doing whatever we do. If we rejoice, are reasonable, and keep in thankful contact with the Lord, we will have a truly peace-filled Christmas. That is my prayer for us all. May God bless our preparation and celebration of God's life-giving gift of love.

Spreading, serving, and sharing with you,  
Pastor Carl

## **W-ELCA MISSIONS: COLLECTING HOLIDAY GIFTS**

As we round out our program year we are excited about getting into the holiday spirit this year with our mission support. We have 5 families from our local elementary school to support this holiday season. Look for opportunities to contribute in the narthex!

We are collecting gifts for the children and youth in each of the households as well as gifts and gift cards for the adults in the homes. We're looking for all kinds of items—from toys and clothes to gift cards for gas and groceries (Wal-Mart & Food for Less). We will be collecting these items through Sunday, December 11th.

If you would like to help us wrap the gifts for the families, please join us following the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 11th, to wrap all the gifts and get them prepared to deliver to the families in time for Christmas!



## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK**

**Sunday, December 11, 2016**

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.

Evangelism Board hosts the potluck. We welcome as many people as possible to help with the set up and clean up, etc.



## **MEYER MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

We were blessed this year with a generous donation from one of our St. Luke's family members, Lee Meyer. We have formed a committee to come up with a list of possible uses of the donated money, and we would like to hear your thoughts. The committee met on November 14th, and we recommended to the council that we pay off the remainder of our mortgage with a portion of this money.

The committee will spend the next few months evaluating other possible uses that will best serve our mission at St. Luke's. So far, we are considering opportunities in three categories: property improvements, benevolence donations, and reaching

out to the community to grow our congregation.

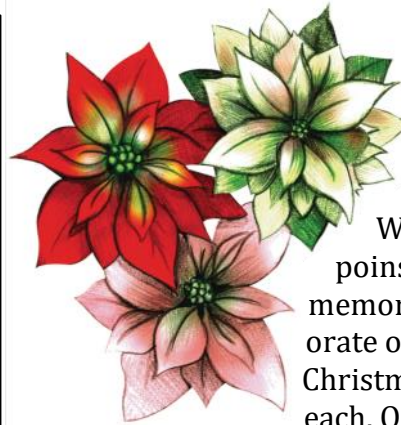
At the Annual Congregational Meeting, we will put out a suggestion basket. If you have an idea you would like the committee to consider, please be sure to write it down and drop it in. In particular, we would love to hear your ideas for reaching out to the community to draw people to St. Luke's. Our next committee meeting will be on December 15th, 2016; we will discuss the next steps for this benevolent gift.

## ADVENT HOME DEVOTIONALS & CALENDARS

Advent devotional booklets are available for your family in the church entryway. For children, there is an Advent window calendar, "What a Wonderful Gift." Open a different window each day in December to find a Christian picture and a Bible passage. The back of each Calendar leads your children on an "Advent Treasure Hunt" each day with a question, a riddle, or a fill-in-the-blank (answered or filled in when you open the window on the other side).

The family Advent devotional booklet, "A Quiet Chamber Kept for Thee," contains a Bible passage and a conversational prayer for each day of Advent.

Please take one each per family.

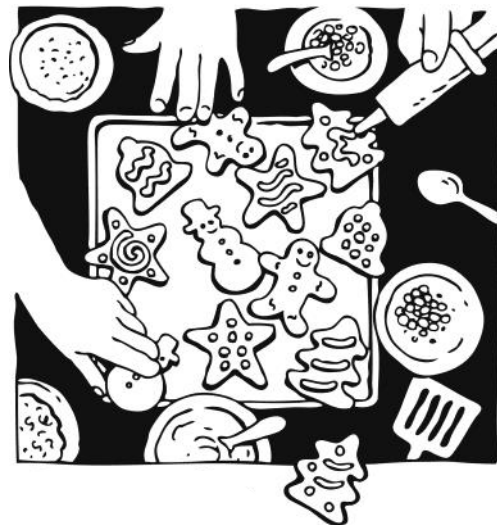


## POINSETTIA ORDERS

We are taking orders for poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. They cost \$10 each. Orders will be taken through December 12. 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 18, 24, and 25. You may pick up your plants after the 7:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve.

## W-ELCA CHRISTMAS GATHERING

W-ELCA's annual Christmas Gathering will take place on Saturday, December 10th, in Schultz Hall at 11:30 a.m. Bring a potluck dish to share for lunch. If you'd like to participate in a small gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift under \$10. Everyone who brings a gift will leave with a gift. We will also be doing a cookies exchange—the idea is you bring a dozen cookies and leave with a dozen different cookies of your choosing. Of course we will sing Christmas carols and celebrate the holiday together. Please join us!



## CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING PARTY

We will be decking the halls and setting up the congregational Christmas tree on Saturday, December 10, after the WELCA Christmas celebration, around 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fun and Christmas cheer.



## DOREEN IRWIN SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Doreen Irwin Singers rehearse in Schultz Hall each Wednesday evening. They are a very accomplished group of singers under the leadership of Doreen Irwin who will be a guest conductor at Carnegie Hall this spring. They will be presenting their Christmas concert at St. Luke's in the sanctuary on Friday, December 9, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10. If that is difficult for you, let me know, and I will be happy to get complementary tickets for you. Come enjoy this special musical treat for Christmas.

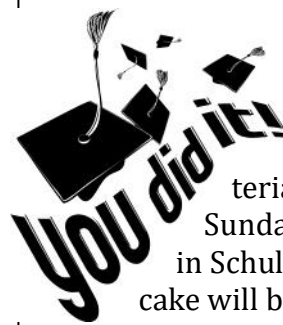
Pastor Carl



## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The choir's annual Christmas Cantata, under the direction of Music Director Brooke Barr, will be presented on Sunday, December 18, at 10:30 a.m. This year's piece is entitled "Celebrate the Joy and Wonder of Christmas." In addition to the Chancel Choir, it features the Children's Choir, the Bell Choir, and narration by Lauren and John Orcutt. Invite your friends and family for this inspirational and up-beat musical presentation. (Please note there will be no 8:15 service on December 18.)

## GRADUATION CELEBRATION FOR JULIE IRETON



Please join the Ireton Family at a potluck dinner to celebrate Julie's graduation from UC Berkeley with a degree in Materials Science and Engineering on Sunday, December 18th, at 5:00 p.m. in Schultz Hall. Ham, turkey, rolls, and cake will be provided, but please feel free to bring a salad or side dish to share. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to assist with planning; all are welcome to join in the fun! We hope that you will come and share with us and hear what is in store for Julie.



# Christmas EVE

Our traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held on Saturday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. This is a family-oriented service featuring carols, readings, and special music. It highlights the light Christ brings to the world through the symbolic lighting of candles. (Please note there will be no 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.)



Christmas Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 25.



## FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Dear St. Luke's congregation,

During a recent Worship & Music board meeting, we discussed the need for altar flower sign-ups. We all enjoy the beautiful bouquets that are displayed on Sunday mornings. As most of you know, they are usually given in remembrance of a loved one, a special occasion, or simply to beautify the sanctuary. Each bouquet costs \$20, which the church pays unless someone signs up to donate a bouquet for that Sunday.

We are asking that you prayerfully consider donating a bouquet in the future. You can take the flowers home to enjoy them, give them to a friend, or have them taken to someone who is ill and cannot be in church.

The Flower Sign-Up Board is by the door in the church entryway. Flower donation envelopes are available there as well. Thank you in advance for your usual kind, generous, and thoughtful response to the many needs of our church family.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

In His most precious name,  
Karen Linfor  
Worship & Music Board



## ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

### SLY Pumpkin Bread – Thank you!!!

Thank you to everyone who purchased pumpkin bread. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed making it! We had 145 orders for bread this year. Your generous donations help fund our youth group activities, like laser tag, movies, and social gatherings.

### SLY Calendars

There are still some remaining wall and pocket calendars for sale while supplies last. These items make great Christmas gifts. Wall calendars are only \$7 and the handy pocket calendars are \$6. See Kirsten Ireton to purchase.

### SLY Fun and Gatherings

Hey Youth Groupers! Next up for activities is a movie night & possible sleepover on Saturday, December 16th!!! Arrive at the church at 7 p.m., watch a movie, play games, hang out, maybe sleep (yeah, right!), and then have a pancake breakfast before heading home at 9:30 a.m. A permission slip for this fun event will follow. We need a female chaperone for the sleepover to happen. See Kirsten if you can help.

Our next SLY meeting will be on Sunday, December 4th, right after church in Shultz Hall. It's a quick meeting just to plan events, so be sure to be there and give your input and ideas.

## CRAB FEED

It's that time of year to start talking about the Crab Feed. If you are interested in helping with the Crab Feed, we'd love to have you join us for our first planning meeting after worship on Sunday, December 4th, in Room 3. Pick up your refreshments, then join us as we discuss themes and pick a date for our 2017 Crab Feed!



## SHARE-A-SOLE

On the morning of October 31st, a small but mighty group of us met at Charles Mack Elementary School. Through Share-A-Sole, a joint partnership between the Elk Grove Unified School District and the community of Elk Grove, we were able to provide new shoes to almost 200 children in need!

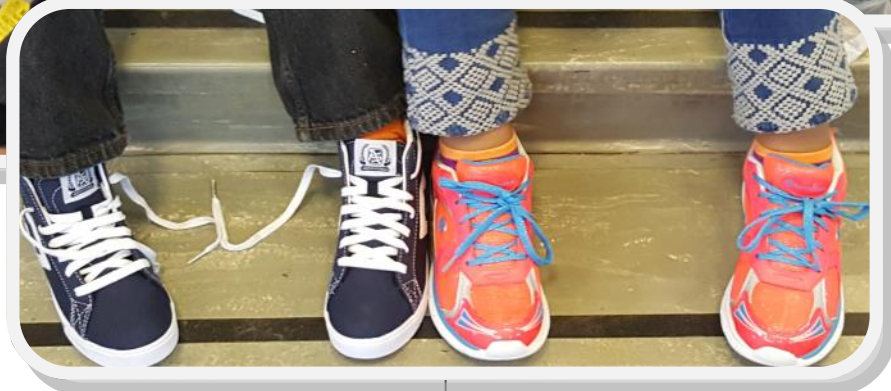
Faith Thomas, the leader of our merry band, divvied out jobs, and we went to work. No one would have guessed this was our first time participating in this event because we worked so well together. My mom (Peggy Moser) and I were tasked with entertaining the children while they waited. We arrived with an arsenal of (non-religious) songs, but we found out early that the kids were eager to talk! We talked about school, Halloween costumes, and new baby sisters as they waited anxiously to pick out their new shoes.

The best part of the morning was seeing their faces light up when we told them why they were there. Teachers from the school had provided us with the names of children in need, but the kids were not told about the project, so they had no idea why they had been called from class. It was a wonderful surprise to all of them - some clapped, some squealed, some jumped up and down, and the two mature sixth graders smiled politely. It was an amazing experience and one that I will look for-

ward to in the future.

A special thanks to everyone who donated shoes, as well as the handsome pick-up and delivery crew (Ron Franklin, Mack Vance, Bruce Kiser, Jerry Carney, and Jack Fenske). Also, we couldn't have done it without Pastor Carl and Al Moser at the check-in table, Carolyn Andrews communicating with the teachers, Lois Sherrets and Karen Linfor escorting the kids to and from their classrooms, and our very patient fitters, Kelly Boyer, Faith Thomas, Carole Vance, Pat Hamilton, and Shirley Prouty!

In His service,  
Katie Iniguez





On November 6th, 2016, we welcomed a new member into the family of Christ:

**John D. Rowland**

*Parents:* Jeremiah and Juliette Rowland

*Sponsor:* Alyssa Tamura

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, James is a reborn child of God and made a member of the body of Christ and our St. Luke's family.



## REFORMATION SUNDAY

I would like to thank Al and Peggy Moser (and granddaughter Brooklyn), Linda Olsen, Bruce Kiser, Kelly Boyer, and Mack Vance (and grandchildren Zach and Zoey) for helping to set up Schultz Hall on Saturday.

We had a wonderful potluck with a variety of delicious dishes for all to enjoy, and Pastor Carl showed a film of Martin Luther narrated by Rick Steves.

Thank you to all who helped with clean up and a special thank you to Peggy Moser for doing all the dishes.



## MINISTRY FAIR

We had a good response, and everyone seemed to really enjoy this time to get more information on our boards and ministry groups.

Thanks to all who volunteered to help further the mission of St. Luke's through our ministry groups and boards.

## THANK YOU

A small but ambitious crew took part in the All Members Work Day on Saturday morning, October 21. Many fall chores were accomplished. The roofs and gutters were cleaned of tree debris by Karen and Bruce Kiser. A huge job! The excess tree debris was used to mulch the planting areas.



In addition, the work day participants picked up trash, planted plants along the new wrought iron fence, pruned the plants, removed trash from the long-neglected planter at the north end of the Schultz Hall addition, repaired a chain link corner connection, and completed other general clean-up chores.

The Property Board thanks all who participated: Kelly Boyer, Karen Cagle and her son Carlson, Carol and Jerry Carney, Jack Fenske, and Karen and Bruce Kiser. Their dedication made the Work Day a success. Also, it should be noted that Bob Behr had a conflict, but stopped by and provided encouragement. Kelly and Carol furnished donuts and coffee, which were much appreciated.

The next work day will be held in the spring of 2017; all are encouraged to assist, if able. And again, thank you to the workers who pitched in.

St. Luke's Property Board  
Kelly Boyer, Chairperson

## PRAYER CONCERNS?

A prayer concerns sheet is available every Sunday on the Opportunity Table. Please feel free to write down any prayer requests you want to share with our congregation. Pastor Carl will include them in the prayers during the service.

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Drafts of the minutes from the Council Meetings are available in the office, posted on the bulletin board. They will be updated every month after the council meets. They are also available on the church website at <http://slclca.org/resources/>.



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Given by:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 4  | Jack and Micki Fenske<br>For Kim's birthday  |
| Dec. 11 | <i>Needed</i>  |
| Dec. 18 | Thelma Williams and John Johnsen<br>In memory of our parents,<br>Millie and John Johnsen |
|         | The Ireton Family<br>For Julie's Graduation from<br>UC Berkeley today!                   |
| Dec. 24 | Carl Hoppman<br>For Triss Hoppman's birthday   |
|         | Jared, Rachel, and Jacob Kiser<br>For Adalyn's 3rd birthday                              |

# FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

October 2016

## Comments:

- October was a five-Sunday month.
- Offerings for October were good—5% above budget.
- The year-to-date totals remain on track—slightly above budget.
- Annual statements for 2016 will be distributed in January 2017.
- Please use numbered envelopes, when feasible. Thank you.
- If you need numbered envelopes, either see me or drop a note in the offering.
- When using pew envelopes, please write legibly. Thanks.
- If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jack Fenske  
St. Luke's Financial Secretary

| General Fund (Only) Contributions |            |              |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Data                              | This Month | Year to Date |
| <b>Total Contributions</b>        | \$17,470   | \$181,407    |
| <b>Compared to Budget</b>         | +\$834     | +\$4,178     |
|                                   | +5.0%      | +2.4%        |
| <b>Compared to 2015</b>           | +\$2,199   | +\$6,286     |
|                                   | +14.4%     | +3.6%        |
| No. of Contributors               |            |              |
| <b>2016</b><br>(Current Year)     | 86         | 88 avg.      |
| <b>2015</b><br>(Last Year)        | 74         | 89 avg.      |
| Other Special Gifts               |            |              |
| Sunday School                     |            | \$26         |
| Flowers                           |            | \$160        |
| Memorials                         |            | \$25         |

*Note: Plus values are good; minus values are not.*



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin  
(10:30 a.m.)  
December 4 Carol Carney, Marlene Kiser  
December 11 Steven Lee  
December 18 Connie Reule, Nancy Minning  
December 25 Triss Hoppman

## Communion Servers

December 4 Connie Reule, Janette Payne,  
Al Moser  
December 25 Peggy Moser, Kelly Boyer,  
Faith Thomas

## Counters

December 4 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule  
December 11 Don Schell, Bob Behr  
December 18 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig  
December 25 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

## Greeters

December 4 *Needed*  
December 11 Cathy Davis, Gaylen Everett  
December 18 Gail Weber  
December 25 *Needed*

## Head Ushers

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

## Prayer Leaders

December 4 John Orcutt  
December 11 Alison Thomas  
December 18 *Cantata*  
December 24 Ron Webb  
December 25 Al Moser

## Psalm Leaders

December 4 Lucy Orcutt  
December 11 Aiyana Tice  
December 18 *Cantata*  
December 25 Amber Mansfield

## Readers (8:15 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.)

December 4 Ron Webb; Al Moser  
December 11 Sarah Madison; Peggy Moser  
December 18 *Cantata*  
December 24 John Orcutt, Alison Thomas  
December 25 Laura Tice

## Refreshments

December 4 Ofelia Ojeda & Dorothy Haney  
December 11 *Congregational Meeting & Potluck*  
December 18 Mack & Carole Vance  
December 25 *Christmas*

## Visitors' Gifts

December 4 Laura Sondrini  
December 11 Steven Lee  
December 18 Pat Hamilton  
December 25 *Christmas*

## Welcome Leaders

December 4 Pat Webb  
December 11 Chet Madison  
December 18 Carol Andrews  
December 25 Pauline Arndt

## Sunday School Teachers

December 4 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto  
December 11 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez  
December 18 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews  
December 25 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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# CHRISTMAS



# CANTATA



December 18,  
10:30 a.m.

