



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

Pastoral Perspective



“**A**nd when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and

streams will water the wasteland ... And a great road will go through the once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness.”—Isaiah 35:5-6, 8

There is such a hopeful and positive outlook in this passage from Isaiah. With expectation and belief the prophet looks forward to the coming of the Messiah to the world and to the lives of God's people. It is pictured as a time when things will be put right. Isaiah sees the Messiah coming like a force of nature, restoring things to a state of balance. Furthermore, a 'Highway of Holiness' will be opened. It will be the path of the faithful.

This was a powerful prophecy at the time it was given, hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Not only were God's people living in misery, they were also wavering in their religious convictions. There were massive uncertainties and terrifying areas of darkness. God's people didn't have a strong sense of knowing the Lord and being under His care. They were wondering what could possibly be the purpose of all that was going on.

They were wondering what God had to do with them at all.

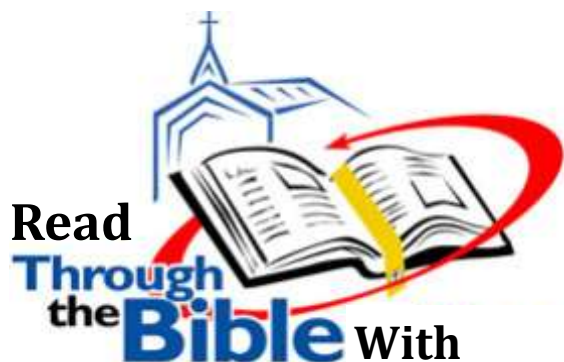
Up against this situation came the promise from God that He would provide wholeness for people, nourish the parched world, and provide a true pathway to Him. This was something to grab hold of. This was a hope in which to be established.

Much later, John the Baptizer sent messengers from his prison cell to ask Jesus, “Are you the Messiah we've been expecting or should we keep looking for someone else?” Jesus told them, ‘Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the good News is being preached to the poor.’”—Matthew 11:3-5. Things were being set right through Jesus just as Isaiah had prophesied. Jesus is the true path to God. Blessed are those who believe in Him.

Today the world spins wildly on. We might well feel as though we are once more in a dark and terrifying place. We yearn for the light of God to shine on us and the world. What we desperately need is to focus on God and His promises. That is where wholeness is to be found. So, instead of spending your time asking yourself if you are getting everything done in preparation for celebrating Christmas (which really seems never to be the case), take time to ask Jesus with high hopes, “Are you the Messiah, the One who sets things right, the One who is the 'Highway of Holiness' to God?”

The answer will come back, "Yes, I am the one. I make people whole. I nourish the parched world. I provide the pathway to God. Expect me to be in your life, making you whole." With this expectation, the light of the Lord's love will shine in you and through you. Get caught up in this spirit of the season. And then you will realize He really has come to be with you and the world with His love. That realization will allow you to have a truly blessed Christmas.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



The best way I know to learn the Bible is to read it. I'm aware, however, that the Bible is not always easy to read. The Bible is actually a collection of sixty-six books written over a very long period of time by a number of authors using different styles and languages. Without an understanding of how it all fits together and how the story is developing, it's easy to get bogged down and confused. It's hard then to apply the message to life or even grasp the message of the Bible at all.

I'd be honored to help you read through the Bible in such a way that you'd understand its message clearly and be able to apply its message to life situations effectively. This is what I propose.

First, let's break down the Bible into manageable daily readings. I'll provide material to help you understand what you're reading each day. Then, once a week, let's get together to discuss what we've read and how it fits into the big picture of the Bible and applies to our lives.

Sound good? Then join me for an orientation session on Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 9:15 AM in the Sanctuary Study Room or Tuesday, January 9,

2018 at 10:15 AM in the church office. If you decide you would like to join me in reading through the Bible, we'll get started the next Sunday and Tuesday. I'll have a schedule of daily readings for the first several weeks at the orientation meeting.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you'd like more information about this exciting opportunity to really learn the Bible.

Pastor Carl



ADVENT HOME DEVOTIONALS & CALENDARS



Advent home devotionals are now available. There is a family advent calendar with daily stickers and Bible verses. For adults, there is a devotional booklet based on the writings of the Reformers.

POINSETTIA ORDERS

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 through December 10.

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 December 17 and 24. You may pick up your plants after the 7:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve.





CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

We will be decking the halls and setting up the congregational Christmas tree on Saturday, December 9 after the WELCA Christmas celebration, around 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fun and partake in Christmas cheer.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The choir's annual Christmas cantata under the direction of Jane Fanucci will be presented Sunday, December 17 at 10:30. This year's piece is a reprise of a popular cantata presented two years ago entitled When Earth Received Her King. In addition to the Chancel Choir and soloists, it features the Children's Choir, and narration by Ron Webb. The Bell Choir will also perform a Christmas piece that day. Invite your friends and family for this inspirational and up-beat musical presentation. Please note there will be no 8:15 service on December 17.



Candlelight Service

Our traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting service will be held Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. This is a family oriented service featuring carols, readings and special music and highlights the light Christ brings to the world with the symbolic lighting of candles. Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 8:15 and 10:30 services on Sunday, December 24. Please note there will be no 11:00 p.m. service Christmas Eve.



W-ELCA HOLIDAY COLLECTION

As we round out our program year we are excited about getting into the holiday spirit with our mission support. We are collecting gifts for families from a local elementary school. 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 to clothes, gas gift cards and grocery gift cards (Wal-Mart & Food for Less). We will be collecting these items through Sunday, December 10th, 2017.

If you would like to help us wrap the gifts for the families, please join us following worship on Sunday, December 17th to wrap all the gifts and get them prepared to deliver to the families in time for Christmas!

W-ELCA CHRISTMAS GATHERING

W-ELCA will be having our annual Christmas Gathering on Saturday, December 9th in Schultz Hall at 11:30am. Lunch will be hosted! 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 cookie 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!



CRAB FEED PLANNING



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 3rd in Room 3 of the Sunday school wing. Pick up your refreshments, then join us as we discuss themes and pick a date for our 2017 Crab Feed!



Sunday December 10, 2017

The Evangelism Board hosts this potluck. Those planning to attend are asked to sign up on the sheet on the Opportunity Table so we are sure to have plenty of seating for everyone.



Congregational Christmas Card Exchange

If you would like to exchange Christmas cards with other members and friends of St. Luke's please put them in the Christmas card box located in the church entry.

calendar Sales



Can you believe that the end of the year is almost upon us? And because you're planning for the new year SLY is here to

help! We have your 2018 Wall calendars available for purchase while supplies last. These beautiful Wall Calendars are only \$7.00. They make great gifts and stocking stuffers for Christmas. All proceeds benefit our youth programs and activities. Thank you for your continued support. See Laura Tice or Samantha Basquez to purchase a calendar today!



Reformation Sunday Heritage Potluck

I would like to Thank , Ron & Pat Webb, Jack Fenske, Paul Maki, Ron & Lisa Petsch, Carol & Jerry Carney, Paul Maki, Pauline Arndt, Dorothy Haney for helping us set up on Saturday. Thank you Peggy for all of your help. The Evangelism Board is so Thankful for all of your Support. Also, Thank you Holly Hoppman for the Beautiful Art Work on the Place mats and Thank you Rochelle Jaeger for printing the mats.

We had so many wonderful delicious dishes for all to enjoy. Thank you Pastor Carl, Lucy Orcutt, Isabella Basquez, Sierra Etchison, Aiyana Tice and Ernestine Roberts for the Beautiful Program.

A Special Thank You to Eric Linblade and Kelly Boyer for doing all the Dishes.

Thank You

A Successful All Members Work Day

Despite the damp weather, an eager crew of 23 members participated in the October 21, All

Members Work Day. Many, much-needed chores were completed to prepare the church facilities for the rainy season. The Work Day concluded, at noon, with pizza for the workers, which all enjoyed. It was a very successful Work Day.

A partial list of chores completed is shown below.

- Cleaned the roof and gutters of debris.
- Disposed of the remaining "white sale" items.
- Cleaned the kitchen drawers.
- Cleaned the inside of cabinets with sinks.
- Accomplished other general kitchen cleaning.
- Picked up the trash throughout the grounds.
- Removed the excess debris from planters.
- Cleaned the Linfor's Memorial Fountain.
- Painted a large wall patch.
- Sanded and painted a fascia trim board.
- Cleaned the walkways and courtyard.

The Property Board thanks all who participated in the October 21 All Members Work Day. The list is lengthy (a blessing), but we would be remiss not to name the participants.

- > Chona/Paul Maki, son Joshua
- > Carol/Jerry Carney
- > Jack Fenske
- > Gaylen Everett
- > Dorothy Haney
- > Pastor Carl Hoppman
- > Kirsten/Ed Ireton
- > Bruce Kiser
- > Clarence Korhonen
- > Eric Linblade
- > Ben Briel
- > Peggy Moser
- > Leslie/Ron Pesch
- > Michael Schell
- > Faith Tomas
- > Mack Vance
- > Gail Weber
- > Ralph Zbrog

If we missed anyone, our apologies.

The next All Members Work Day will be in the spring of 2018. All are welcomed to participate. And again, thank you to those that participated in the fall Work Day.

Jack Fenske for the St. Luke's Property Board



Ken, Katie and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Sunday, 11/19 after worship refreshments!

*The sandwiches, salads and desserts were wonderful and so appreciated. Most of **all, the warm "welcome back" and fellowship was heartfelt and gratifying.***

May God bless you and keep you always!

Karen Linfor

Ken and Katie Light



Thank you to the women of St. Luke's Lutheran Church for the great lunch and their continued support of Courageous Connection and local foster youth. -Mike Jones



share a sole

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

WOW! St Luke's congregation has been busy in 2017! We started off with a fantastic response for Winter Sanctuary. Between a marvelous meal, homemade cookies, Sacramento Youth Jazz Band (fantastic as always) and an interesting movie, we're looking forward to March 11, 2018!

The Children's Clothing Closet (CCC) is becoming quite popular with families in the neighborhood, and our Coats for Kids was a wonderful success! We passed our 110 coats at Trunk or Treat, and over 20 families found goodies in the CCC for their families!

Pastor's Pantry has been quite busy all year, due to the homeless population in the area.

The Soup-er Bowl was a success and everything went to Elk Grove Food Closet.

Back-to-School Backpacks for Parkway Elementary and Charles Mack Elementary was gratefully received by both schools and I think some teachers were a little teary-eyed over their supplies!

This year was our first Annual Trunk-or-treat



event! We had 13 "trunks" about 100 plus kids and a whole lot of fun! I kept hearing "I can't WAIT for next year"!

Our 2nd year of the Share-a-Sole program was a great success - we fitted 160 children with new shoes and all those who participated had a great time! See photos above.

None of this can happen without YOU, the congregation of St Luke's Lutheran church. Thank you for your loving, giving spirits and may you be truly Blessed as we approach the Advent and Christmas season.

Yours in Christ, Faith Thomas

Trunk or Treat

Our first ever Trunk or Treat at St. Luke's was so much fun! We had our kids and kids from the local schools and neighborhood attend. In fact, we had a few parents ask if they can participate in the trunk decorating next year.

If Trunk or Treat is new to you; it is a fun and safe way for children to trick or treat. Each volunteer decorates their car and hands out treats. We also had games, face painting, food and contests. Thank you everyone who participated, volunteered and donated candy.



Our trunk decorating contest winner









Ron & Liza Paetsch

P.O. Box 234118

Sacramento, CA 95823

(530) 813-5002

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Cagle, Karen (916) 704-5532

Esparza, Vicki (916) 216-7240

Prouty, Shirley (916) 208-5198

Tanaka, Jan Please remove:
(916) 667-2084

Vogel, Cindy (916) 604-2854

Weber, Gail gailweber@gmail.com

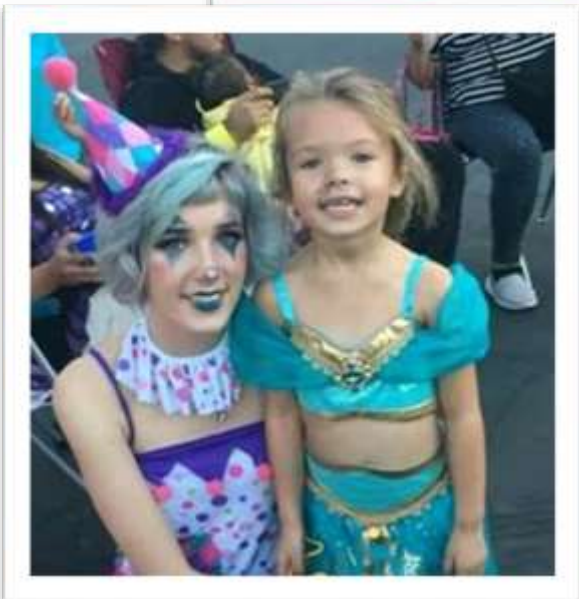


COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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://slelca.org/resources/>.

PRAYER CONCERNS

A prayer concerns sheet is available in the Narthex 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.



ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

THANKS YOU!

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





BIRTHDAYS



December 3	Katie Iniguez For Ben's 5th Birthday	Alanna Olmeda	December 01
December 10	JD & Gabby Cox For Glory of God	Carole Vance	December 03
December 17	Bernie Johnson For Glory of God	Kim Fenske	December 04
December 24	Karen Linfor In Memory of Tracy	Benjamin Iniguez	December 05
	Michael & Maria Schell in Memory of Winnie Schell's Birthday	Jared Kiser	December 05
	Jared, Rachel & Jacob Kiser & The Whole Family for Adalyn's 4th Birthday	Elizabeth Korhonen	December 12
December 31	Gail Weber In Memory of Daulton Kilpatrick	Betty Englund	December 14
		Emma Lou Collins	December 15
		Chet Madison	December 16
		Kristine Felgenhauer	December 17
		Marilyn Dorr	December 18
		Janette Payne	December 19
		Sylvia Kohler	December 21
		Triss Hoppman	December 25
		Robert Harrison	December 26
		Deanna Dockter	December 27
		Adalyn Kiser	December 31

NO FLOODED PARKING LOT THIS WINTER NEW PIPE INSTALLED

Last winter the parking lot flooded twice, and on both occasions, the water nearly ran into the church. Fortunately, the Property Board was able to hire a firm, each time, to pump out the water and partially clean the drain pipe by jetting – a significant expense. However, no damage occurred to the church facilities.

A high priority of the Property Board this year was to repair the storm drain before the 2017/18 rainy season. In August, the Board began seeking interested contractors. In total, six contractors were contacted – two were too busy, one pipe was too large for their operations, one submitted a “by hour” proposal that the Board did not accept, and two submitted acceptable proposals. The last proposal, was received on October 11. The acceptable proposals were based on a written, detailed Scope of Work that the Board prepared, in advance, for the work.

The costs of the two acceptable proposals are shown below.

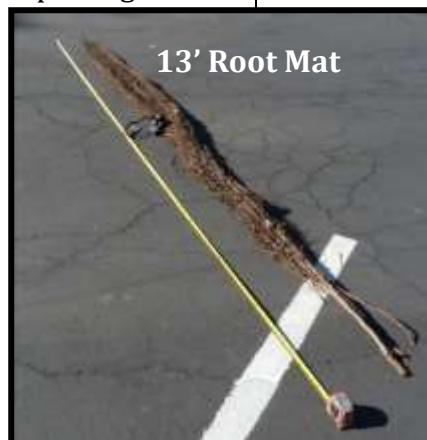
- \$12,480.00
- \$9,482.18

The lowest cost proposal was submitted by The Trenchless Company, which the Board accepted.

Council approved proceeding with Storm Drain project on September 19, including expending up to \$10,000.

The Trenchless Company crew, of two workers and a mini-excavator, began work on October 24. They essentially completed the work in two and half days. The work consisted of removing and replacing the existing drain pipe from the sidewalk to the hedge line (about 25 feet). In addition, two cleanouts were installed to facilitate cleaning the pipe in the future, both up and down stream.

The work discovered a number of specific problems with the drain line that caused the parking lot to flood last winter.



13' Root Mat

- Roots had intruded into the drain pipe and created a massive root mat.
- The existing cleanout cap, which was buried, had rusted out and fallen into the pipe.



More Roots

- Roots, up to two inches in diameter, had found their way down the existing cleanout and were growing inside the pipe. *See photo of more roots.*
- The 10-inch pipe was not properly connected to the 6-inch pipe, allowing roots to intrude.
- And last, but not least, the cable company had accidentally installed a two-inch conduit through the upper half of the six-inch drain pipe. *See photo of the conduit through the drain line.* Eventually, the cable company moved their conduit out of the drain pipe and repaired the broken drain pipe.

Unfortunately, the drain line is close to a large fir tree. And, the replacement work required the roots on one side of the tree to be cut. Time will tell whether the tree will survive. If it does not survive, the tree will have to be removed, which will add to the repair costs.



Conduit in Drain Pipe

This project was under the direction of Clarence Korhonen, a long-time member of St. Luke's Property Board. Clarence has maintained contacts within the City of Sacramento and they became extremely useful during the project – initially to locate the location of where the St. Luke's drain

line tapped into the City's system, and later, to obtain a contact person for the cable company conduit installation. Without the City contacts, Clarence might still be on the phone to the cable company.

Enjoy a dry parking lot this winter and offer a prayer that the tree does not die.

Jack Fenske for the St. Luke's Property Board

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

October 2017

Comments:

- Positive news for the month. October's offerings 3.0% (\$532) greater than the Budget and 3.1% greater than the 2016 October offerings.
- However, offerings continue to lag for the year – 4.6% (\$8,596) less than the Budget and 2.1% less than 2016.
- The average number of contributors, for the year, has slightly increased from 2016 – from 88 to 89. For the month, the increase is more dramatic, five contributors.
- 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
 916-714-3626
LRFenske@comcast.net

General Fund (Only) Contributions		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$18,007	\$177,571
Compared to Budget	\$532	-\$8,596
	3.0%	-4.6%
Compared to 2016	\$537	-\$3,836
	3.1%	-2.1%
No. of Contributors		
2017 (Current Year)	91	89 avg.
2016 (Last Year)	86	88 avg.
Other Special Gifts		
Sunday School		\$49
Flowers		\$120
Memorials		\$600
Special Gift (Bell Choir)		\$600

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



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin
(10:30 a.m.)
December 3 Kelly Boyer, Ben Briel
December 10 Lydia Toloy
December 17 Steven Lee
December 24 Jennifer Connell, Rachel Kiser
December 31 Mary Harris, Faith Thomas

Communion Servers

December 3 Mary F. Harris, Kirsten Ireton,
Karen Linfor
December 24 Peggy Moser, Karen Linfor,
Marlene Kiser
December 31 Faith Thomas, Howard
Triebwasser, Kelly Boyer

Counters

December 3 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
December 10 John Orcutt, Bob Behr
December 17 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig
December 24 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser
December 31 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule

Greeters

December 3 Sande Heaton & Walt Arndt
December 10 Ralph & Merle Zbrog
December 17 Paul, Chona & Joshua
December 24 Ireton Family: Ed. Kirsten & Julie
December 31 Ron & Lisa Petsch

Prayer Leaders

December 3 Samantha Basquez
December 10 Bob Behr
December 17 Vivian Blazic
December 24 Kelly Boyer; Holly Hoppman
December 31 Larry Dockter

Psalm Leaders

December 3 Angie Martinez
December 10 Lucy Orcutt
December 17 Aiyana Tice
December 24 Elizabeth Wilson; Isabella
Basquez
December 31 Sierra Etchison

Head Ushers

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

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

December 3 Eric Linblade; Kirsten Ireton
December 10 Sarah Madison; Marlene Kiser
December 17 Phil Petersen; Al Moser
December 24 Lydia Toloy;
Barbara Manlapig; Marlene Kiser
December 31 Ron Webb; John Orcutt

Refreshments

December 3 Ofelia Ojeda & Carol Carney
December 10 Congregational Meeting and Potluck
December 17 Carole & Mack Vance
December 24 Evangelism Board
December 31 Christiana & Jacob Wilson

Visitors' Gifts

December 3 Gabby Cox
December 10 Carole Vance
December 17 Stephen Lee
December 24 Laura Sondrini
December 31 Pat Webb

Acolytes

December 3 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
December 10 Aiyana Tice, Ernestine Roberts
December 17 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
December 24 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi
December 31 Isabella Basquez, Aiyana Tice

Welcome Leaders

December 3 Mary Frances Harris
December 10 Pat Webb
December 17 Carolyn Andrews
December 24 Lydia Toloy
December 31 Carol Carney

Sunday School Teachers

December 3 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto
December 10 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez
December 17 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews
December 24 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice
December 31 Alison Thomas, Laura Tice



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

—7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823

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Return Service Requested

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE WONDERFUL EVENTS!



CANTATA

DECEMBER 17TH

10:30 AM



Christmas Eve

CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

DECEMBER 24TH

7:00 PM

DECEMBER 9TH
W-ELCA CHRISTMAS
GATHERING
11:30 AM

&



TREE DECORATING

1:30 PM