



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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2018

News And Views

Pastoral Perspective



Epiphany is the season of celebrating the light of Christ in the world. It is a Greek word meaning "manifestation", "display", or "showing". The season is made up of the several weeks between Christmas and Lent. It begins on January 6 with the celebration of the coming of

the wise men who had followed the star to the manger in Bethlehem. We celebrate this day with an Epiphany Breakfast and Service in Schultz Hall at 9:30 a.m. Epiphany will be on a Saturday in 2018 so, hopefully, even more folks than usual can make it to the Breakfast and Service.

On the Day of Epiphany we hear the account of the coming of the wise men. This account has an almost story book quality that has captured the imagination of generations. There are songs and stories that romanticize the journey of these men. We mustn't, however, let any of this obscure the fact that there is much darkness in the account. In the background, behind the wondrous star and Babe of Bethlehem lie evil, terror, hatred and the forces of darkness at their worst.

That darkness gathered around the figure of King Herod. Herod was terrified when he heard the wise men ask, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews." Herod was king of the Jews! He perceived Jesus as a horrible threat to him. This is the same

darkness that can make someone in the family hate a new addition. I remember when I was twelve, the youngest child, my two nephews came to live with our family for two years. I was livid. I was so hateful. I still don't like to believe some of the mean things I did to them. I perceived them as a horrible threat to my being the center of attention in the family. I wanted to be rid of them. Herod wanted to be rid of Jesus. So he said to the wise men with sugary hypocrisy, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!" When the wise men didn't report back to him, Herod sent soldiers to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem under two years old to be assured he was rid of Jesus.

This episode is just one of many times the darkness railed against Jesus, the light of the world. Throughout His life, Jesus encountered the dark side of humanity and the world. He always continued to shine and was never overcome by it. He continues to shine in the midst of the darkness today and will overcome it!

As Christians, we continually struggle with the darkness of our sin and the dark consequences of the sins of others. But we know that Jesus is with us. In His light we have power to stand strong and not be overcome. There are times, to be sure, when the light of Christ seems dim, times when the darkness seems to be overwhelming us. But through it all, Jesus is there, shining His light on the situation. God's truth and love will prevail.

Continue to celebrate and live in the light of Christ long after the Christmas lights are taken down and the nativity scenes put away. Then Epiphany and every season will be filled with the light of Christ for you—the light no darkness can overcome.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



Epiphany Breakfast and Service SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018 9:30 A.M.

Evangelism hosts the breakfast and provides breakfast casseroles, coffee and juice. A sign-up sheet is available so we can be sure to have enough seating and food for everyone. Those coming will be encouraged to bring nut breads, coffee cakes or fruit to share as well as nativity scenes to decorate the tables.



On the Opportunity Table is the first of several reading guides for reading through the Bible. I have listed Bible passages for each day along with a brief explanation. If you miss a few days of Bible readings, you can still keep up by reading these explanations and not lose the thread of the story.

The Bible tells an amazing story! It is the story of our salvation. God created us for eternal relationship with Him. Although that relationship was jeopardized by sin, God never gave up on us. God kept His promise to restore us in right relationship through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When Jesus reappears, we and all believers will live together in renewed relationship with God for eternity.

This story unfolds through the pages of the Bible. If you want to really get into it, there is no substitute for reading it. I will have Bible reading guides available periodically. In addition to reading the daily passages, I invite you to join me Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary Study Room or Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the Church Office to discuss them.

Groups will start on Sunday, January 7 and Tuesday, January 9, 2018. You don't need to attend a group to use these reading guides, but we would love to have you join us. Feel free to share copies of these guides with your friends and family.

Pastor Carl



SLY youth would like to give a huge shout out and thank you to all who participated in helping make, bake and the donate with the pumpkin bread. We raised approximately \$600 to go towards future youth activities. We are so, so thankful to all of you!

We still have calendars left to sell for anyone who is still interested in getting one for the new 2018 year.

Laura and Samantha are looking forward to the new year of continuing to grow the youth group. Our next event is the Crab Feed, so we will soon meet to begin working out a plan of attack for the wonderful dessert sale! Please remember, your donations of baked goods are always delicious and appreciated, (but more about that in the coming months!)

W-ELCA

It was great to have so many folks come out for our Annual Christmas Gathering this year. We sang carols, had a lovely lunch, did a gift exchange, and a cookie exchange! We held elections for 2018 Board of Officers. Marlene Kiser was elected President and Triss Hoppman was elected as Treasurer. Katie Iniguez was re-elected as Vice-President and Connie Reule was re-elected as Secretary. Many thanks go to Carol Carney, Connie Reule, and Triss

Hoppman for the making the meal! Thanks to Rochelle and Jesse Jaeger for making the cupcakes! Thank you to Karen Linfor and Pastor Carl for leading everyone in Christmas Carols and I also want to thank all of the women who participated in the table decorating this year! It was great to see everything so festively decorated.

Our mission support collection this holiday season was for 5 families from Charles Mack Elementary School. The families we supported this year were incredibly grateful for all the generous gifts from St. Luke's. Among the families this year we had one family who had recently lost their home in a house fire. All in all we collected well over 100 gifts of clothes, pajamas, and toys for the kiddos along with towels, blankets and over \$600 in gift cards for the parents and grandparents that we were able to divide up between all the families. Many thanks to everyone who donated the gifts and gift cards. I also want to say thank you to everyone who stayed after worship on Sunday, December 17th to help wrap all the gifts. Finally, thank you to Katie Iniguez and Peggy Moser for contacting the school and the families as well as Peggy and Al Moser for making sure the gifts were all delivered to the families in time for Christmas!

In Christ's Service,

Holly Hoppman
W-ELCA Outgoing President,



CRAB FEED

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW! Contact Holly Hoppman or call our church office for tickets! Ticket prices are staying the same at \$45 for adults and \$15 for youth. This year's theme is SUPERHEROES!! So, grab your cape and swing on by!

If you are interested in helping with the Crab Feed this year, please let Holly know! We'd love to have you join us for our next planning meeting, after worship on Sunday, January 21, 2018.



DIRECTORY UPDATE

Marilyn Sodergren
2924 West Pintail Way
Elk Grove, CA 95757

Sharon Floyd
PO Box 3801
Sequim, WA 98382

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.



Shirley Clark	January 02
Kathryn Felgenhauer	January 02
Darnell Osako	January 02
Esther Battyany	January 03
Craig Eckels	January 03
Jacob Kiser	January 03
Nick Moser	January 05
Pat Hamilton	January 06
Merle Zbrog	January 07
Lauren Orcutt	January 08
Karen Linfor	January 10
Deanna Dockter Jr.	January 13
Walter Arndt	January 16
Kayla King	January 16
Dennis Fischer	January 19
Stella Loveless	January 24
George Dorr	January 26
Amy Franklin	January 29
Bernie Johansen	January 30
Joe Payne	January 30
Kirsten Ireton	January 31

Calling all Super Heroes!
Help us defeat Lord Dungeness
and his six legged crustaceans ...



Get your tickets today!

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

November 2017

Comments:

- **Very poor month for offerings!**
- Year-end statements for 2017 will be distributed in January 2018.
- 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



- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 7 | Ralph Zbrog
For Merle's Birthday |
| January 14 | <i>Needed</i> |
| January 21 | <i>Needed</i> |
| January 28 | <i>Needed</i> |

Sign up to provide flowers for worship.
 The flower chart is in the back of Narthex. Select the date, write in your name and the name of the person you want to remember, the event, or to the Glory of God.

General Fund (Only) Contributions		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
Total Contributions	\$14,687	\$192,258
Compared to Budget	-\$4,886	-\$13,481
	-25.0%	-6.6%
Compared to 2016	-\$4,463	-\$8,299
	-23.3%	-4.1%
No. of Contributors		
2017 (Current Year)	80	88 avg.
2016 (Last Year)	89	88 avg.
Other Special Gifts		
Sunday School		\$50
Flowers		\$200
Poinsettias		\$70
W-ELCA Thank Offering		\$1,635

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin
(10:30 a.m.)
January 7 Shirley Prouty, Karen Linfor
January 14 Lydia Toloy
January 21 Ben Briel, Steven Lee
January 28 Kelly Boyer

Communion Servers

January 7 Kelly Boyer, Bob Behr, Linda Duffek
January 21 Betty Englund, Pat Hamilton, Mary Frances Harris

Counters

January 7 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
January 14 John Orcutt, Triss Hoppman
January 21 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig
January 28 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

Greeters

January 7 Walt and Pauline Arndt
January 14 Jerry & Carol Carney
January 21 Mack & Carole Vance
January 28 Gabby Cox and Pat Hamilton

Prayer Leaders

January 7 Betty Englund
January 14 Tracy Etchison
January 21 Mary Frances Harris
January 28 Christina Hisamoto

Psalm Leaders

January 7 Angie Martinez
January 14 Amber Mansfield
January 21 Kimiya Ricciardi
January 28 Lucy Orcutt

Head Ushers

8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin
10:30 a.m. Craig Eckels & Michael Schell

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

January 7 Christiana Wilson; Maria Schell
January 14 Kristine Felgenhauer; Max Schell
January 21 Eric Linblade; David Saxby
January 28 Sarah Madison; Jan Tanaka

Refreshments

January 7 Kirsten Ireton and Patricia Lehman
January 14 Marc and Alison Thomas
January 21 Paul Maki and Chona Sison
January 28 Kelly Boyer and Lois Sherrets

Visitors' Gifts

January 7 Walt Arndt
January 14 Carol Carney
January 21 Carole Vance
January 28 Pat Webb

Acolytes

January 7 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
January 14 Aiyana Tice
January 21 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
January 28 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi
Isabella Basquez, Aiyana Tice

Welcome Leaders

January 7 Pat Webb
January 14 Gail Weber
January 21 Al Moser
January 28 Chet Madison

Sunday School Teachers

January 7 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto
January 14 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez
January 21 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews
January 28 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

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Sacramento, CA 95823

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