



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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News And Views

Pastoral Perspective



The old school basics for a good education are the three “Rs”: Reading, (W)riting, and (A)rithmetic. Sticking to these three “Rs” can provide all that is really needed to be well educated.

The old school basics for a good education in the Lord are also three “Rs”—

Revelation, Reflection and Reinforcement. Sticking to these three “Rs” can provide all that is really needed to be well educated in the Lord. Paul’s experience of turning to God’s way from his own way as described in Galatians 1:11-24 shows these three “Rs” in action.

First off, there is Revelation. That’s the voice from outside. That’s God speaking to you. Jesus said to Paul, “Why are you persecuting me?” (see Galatians 1:15-16a and Acts 9:4) Paul had been trying to relate with God and others in his own way. That’s like trying to do arithmetic without paying attention to how it works. Paul just tried to apply his own rules and ways to life and relationship with the Lord. He ended up sure of himself and his answers, but he was completely wrong. God made that very clear to him. Perhaps you have tried to relate with God and others in your own way. You are so sure it must be right, but something happens that makes it very clear you are completely wrong. In my life, that has happened when I used to think if I just tried my best to please everyone, they

would be happy. Boy, did God ever make it clear to me that doesn’t work. I used to think I could solve everyone’s problems if I just tried hard enough. God revealed to me that was not possible and also was very self-centered. I used to think God didn’t want to have a relationship with me because I mess up and give into temptation. God has revealed to me that’s just not right. You get the idea? When God reveals to us our mistakes in relating with Him and others, He is working on educating us. That’s a good thing. We are learning and growing through these revelations.

It’s very important what we do with these revelations, however. That’s where the second “R” comes in—Reflection. After Jesus revelation to Paul and the all that happened to him then, Paul needed to reflect. In Galatians 1:16b-17, we read how Paul went away on his own for some time and really thought about what had been revealed to him and what it meant for his relationship with God and others. This is like the homework. It is so important to do if you are going to learn anything. Many times in school I would try to fake my way without doing my homework. It never worked very well. I didn’t really know what I was talking about and it showed. You just have to do your homework to really get a grasp of what the teacher is trying to teach you. When things are revealed to you about the way you are relating with God and others, you have got to reflect on the revelation until you get a grasp of how to do it God’s way. Otherwise you don’t really put the revelation to work in your life. Sometimes, I’ve had to have

something revealed to me several times before I have been really willing to reflect on it and learn from it. Thankfully, God is a very patient teacher, but He expects us to do our homework.

Happily, we are not alone as we are educated in the Lord. We have many opportunities for our third “R”—Reinforcement. Paul tells the Galatian Christians in chapter 1, verses 18-24 that after reflection, he went to Jerusalem to check himself out with the first followers of Jesus. This sharing reinforced Paul’s faith and his resolve to keep growing in the Lord. The reinforcing fellowship of the church is such an important basic in being educated in the Lord. We know that, but don’t always act on it. I remember when I was in college I thought it was pretty cool that I didn’t “have” to go to class. I had spent so many years with attendance strictly monitored, I loved getting to skip classes. I soon realized by doing that, however, I wasn’t learning much and I was getting into trouble. As an adult, no one makes you go to hear and share in the Lord’s word in worship, Bible study or other opportunities for reinforcement in the Lord. But skipping these opportunities makes it hard to get proper reinforcement of what God wants to teach you.

So as you consider how you can grow in the Lord, remember the three “Rs”. If you stick to them you won’t go wrong. You will have all that is needed for a great education in the Lord.

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl



If you like to sing, you are invited to join the Chancel Choir this Fall. No previous experience is required. There are no auditions and it is not necessary to

know how to read music. The choir currently practices on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and performs on Sunday mornings at the 10:30 worship service. Choir practice resumes Wednesday, September 5. Sunday mornings the choir gathers at 10:00 a.m. for rehearsal of the piece for the day.



To start the Fall Season, W-ELCA will hold our first meeting on Saturday September 8th, 2018 W-ELCA at Logan’s Roadhouse, 9105 West Stockton Blvd, Elk Grove 95758. Please meet at the church at 11:00 am if you would like to share a ride, or you can go to Logan’s directly and meet everyone at 11:30 am. A sign-up sheet is provided on the opportunity table so we are aware of those needing a ride that morning. The luncheon cost is \$12.99 (tax and tip not included) and meal choices include: Old-Fashioned Cheeseburger; Kicken’ Chicken Sandwich; French Dip Sandwich; Mesquite Grilled Chicken Salad; or Mesquite Grilled Steak Salad.

A short meeting will take place so we can discuss the upcoming Fall events that include the Fall Festival (October), ThanksOffering Service (November) and our Yearly Christmas Party.

A special thank you also to all who helped to make the Summer Bible Class a success. The classes were well attended and of course the food was great. Thank you Pastor Carl for leading the classes and as always bring new insights to our Bible Studies.

Yours in Christ,
Marlene Kiser,
WELCA President



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE WITH PASTOR CARL

I am honored to help you read though the Bible in such a way that you’ll understand its message clearly and be able to apply its message to life situations effectively.

We continue our reading with Psalm 79. If you haven't been with us previously, join a group now and you will quickly pick up the thread of the Biblical story. I'll provide material to help you understand what you're reading each day. Sessions will be held each week on Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Education Wing, Room 5 beginning September 16th and Tuesdays at 10:15 AM in the church office beginning September 18th. Come to whichever session best fits your schedule. You may change the session you attend at any time. Daily Bible readings will start on Sunday, September 9th for both groups and continue each day up to Thanksgiving. Daily Bible reading booklets are available on the opportunity table or call the church office to have one sent to you. The weekly group sessions will consist of an explanation of the passages read that week, consideration of questions and insights group members have, and application of what was read to daily life. Look forward to an exciting and Spirit-filled time this fall going through Scripture together!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BBQ/PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16.

Come celebrate the start of our Fall Sunday School and Adult Bible Study Classes.

Following the 10:30am service, everyone is invited to come to the courtyard for great food and fellowship.

The Evangelism Board will provide hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, condiments (mayo, ketchup, mustard and pickle relish), lettuce, tomatoes, onions, chips, cookies and beverages. If you can, we would love to have you bring a salad to share, but most importantly we want your company.

Please let us know if you are coming by using the sign-up sheet on the Opportunity Table. We want to be sure that we have plenty of seating and shade for everyone.

We will need help, especially from our wonderful men in our congregation, on the day before on Saturday, September 15th, at 9:00am, to set up the tables and chairs in the courtyard. We also need

extra help after the BBQ, including taking down the canopies, putting away the tables and chairs, and cleaning up the kitchen.

Looking forward to the great fellowship.

Carole Vance- Chair
Evangelism Board



All kids in 6th grade or older who haven't been confirmed yet are invited to take part in Confirmation class. Confirmation class is a 2-year-long youth Bible study, led by Pastor Carl, that takes the students through the entire Bible, giving them a solid grounding in biblical knowledge and a strong understanding of our faith. At the end of the class, on a special Confirmation Sunday, the students stand before the congregation and confirm their baptism. It is a chance for them to publicly affirm their faith, relying on God's promise of holy baptism, and pledge lifelong fidelity to Christ. It is a wonderful time of celebrating our young members' desire to embrace our faith and become full-fledged members of the church.

Confirmation class will be held from September to May on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The first class will be on Sunday, September 23. Class will be held in the Sanctuary Study Room from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Student Study Bibles to use for class will be presented to the Confirmation students on Sunday, September 23 at worship. Please sign up for the class on the opportunity table or call the church office to register so we are sure to have a Student Study Bible for each student taking part. Also on the sign up sheet is a place to indicate interest in acolyting or being a Psalm reader if that hasn't been done yet.

Please contact Lauren Orcutt or Pastor Carl if you have any questions. As Pastor Carl is getting closer to retirement, this may be his last complete Confirmation class. If you want your kids to go through Confirmation class led by Pastor Carl, now is the time to jump in!

Fall Festival

It is hard to believe that it is almost time again for the Fall Festival – Saturday, October 6, 2018, sponsored by WELCA, to raise money for our Benevolence program to support the less fortunate.

Due to the loving support and generosity of the members of our Congregation and other friends, the results of our White Elephant area last year was one of the best.

We are asking for your gently used white elephants no matter how large or small. You might say the larger items may be considered yard sale but we prefer to call everything “White Elephants”!

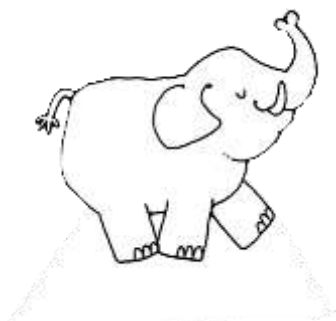
Note: Our new jewelry area was a great addition! Therefore we have a special request to bring any jewelry, that you would like to donate, as soon as possible so we will have time to sort it.

Please bring your items and put them in room behind Shultz Hall.

If you have any questions or concerns you may call either one of the Co-Chair ladies:

Carol Carney 916-335-0847
Judy Saxby 916-798-0825

Thanking you in advance for your support!



After a busy summer, our SLY members are back to the grind of school! Did you know that our members range from 6th graders up to seniors in high school? If you have a special kid in your life that is in this age group (11-17), who may be interested in joining SLY please contact Laura or Samantha for further information. Our next meeting will be on September 9th, following Church.



Please mark your calendars for our 2nd Annual congregational campout hosted by SLY! The campout will be held in the St. Luke's field near the parking lot, and is scheduled for the evening of Friday, September 28th. We will serve dinner and make s'mores and ask that participants bring a side dish to share. If you have questions regarding this fun event please call Laura 916-271-7566. We hope you can make it!

SLY members are trying to raise funds for the youth account, so please keep an eye out for more information about what we have planned! (Hint: It's a spaghetti feed with a twist!) We will tell you more when we have the details worked out :-)) We will also of course be selling our pumpkin bread as usual just before Thanksgiving!



community CONCERNS

August got off to a wonderful start with a bunch of backpacks!! To be specific, 122 of them! THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNBELIEVABLE SUPPORT! We had a fantastic turnout on August 6 for "the annual packing of the backpacks"! It looked like everyone had fun and the following Friday, the Ireton's, Katie Iniguez, Al Moser, Gail Weber and myself, delivered 61 filled backpacks and office supplies to Mack school and Parkway school. The schools were thrilled!

Our Sock Drive for the needy has been a great success as well. The bin will be removed from the narthex at the end of August, so please gather up any ol' (or new) socks you are planning to contribute and put them in the bin. Thank you!



October is not far away, and our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat is coming! Start thinking on how you can decorate your vehicle this year! We all had such fun last year!

And finally, our share-a-sole event to give new shoes to children of Mack school will be coming in November. This will be our third year we've participated in this project and it's always so heartwarming!

St Luke's members are such a wonderful, compassionate group of people, truly providing "GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS"! Thank you all and may God's blessings continue through you all!



Thankfully,
Faith Thomas





B a c k p a c k
S t u f f i n g





Sept. 02	<i>Needed</i>
Sept. 09	Gabby Cox For JD's 82nd Birthday
Sept. 16	Ron & Pat Webb For Kevin's Birthday
Sept. 23	Pat Lehman In Memory of Bill Lehman's Birthday
	Gail Weber In Memory of Daulton
Sept. 30	Micki Fenske For Jack's 80th Birthday
	Michael Schell For Maria Schell's Birthday



Marlene Kiser	September 02
Cathy Davis	September 03
Pauline Arndt	September 07
Barbara Manlapig	September 07
Iva Bates	September 13
Noella Sondrini	September 21
Anthony Diaz	September 24
Ken Light	September 26
Jack Fenske	September 29
Lynn Gavia	September 30



MISSION LIFE

This is the fourth of several articles about Rev. Stan and Kris Niemi's missionary ministry in Papua New Guinea during the 1980s. The Niemis are new members of St. Luke's. They would be happy to share more with you about this exciting adventure and the importance of world missions. They come Sunday mornings to the 8:15 a.m. service.

Spiritual warfare

At one-point Uruepe's father was poisoned by someone and he died. The locals performed a Pindu ritual in which a piece of hair or clothing is attached to a pole and spirits are invoked to lead the holders of the pole to the guilty party Uruepe went with the group to keep them from doing something drastic, like killing someone and the pole lead them to Uruepe's sister-in-law because Uruepe was involved in the spiritual practices he was forced to take leave of absences for 1 month I believe he was just trying to help but the Church had its rules so Uruepe took the punishment well and came back after the month to be circuit president again. The people of PNG were traditionally animists and practiced ancestor worship(which I believed Most of the world practiced in antiquity I did a few funerals in Alkena

and the group going into the burial site would exit in exactly reverse order as came in the people of the burial party would continuously clean the area while there out of fear/respect



for their dead ancestors. You would never speak someone's name in the area for fear the dead might hear and cause harm the traditional sites where sacrifices were made to ancestors had beautiful old trees with no understory and they always felt like holy places to me

Places in the circuit the lowest part of Alkena circuit was Marapugl, about a two day walk and it was under 5000 feet elevation the only place with a swamp on the side of a mountain the swamp had leeches as well that would latch on to suck blood.

The welcome at the village was always more! with singing and prayers as we came to the prepared gate and the gate was opened with celebration for worship and feasting; one trip was during a fasting time due to a frost and we walked back to Alkena with one sweet potato for four people, I was very hungry by the time I returned home Kris I and our dog Stubby would take Sarah Out for a walk with Sarah in her baby carriage on the bumpy road stubby would get the local pigs a riled up and we'd

have to call him off because a pig can be dangerous for they really are fast later I had to kill Stubby because he killed a neighborhood duck and chickens and once the taste of



blood there is no going back to normal and a missionary cannot have his dog killing other people's food sometimes when Sarah was really fussy we'd drive the rough roads so that she would fall asleep Kris' parents: Warren and Joyce came to visit us in in Alkena(I think mostly because of Sarah and it was great to have them with us and their granddaughter. Warren helped me with a few

Projects around the house while Joyce couldn't get enough of her granddaughter! The local people put on a show for Us with a Headman pretending to be a Hagga Ye (a witch doctor he sang some songs and started a fire the old way by using sticks and friction to start a fire to mummu a



sheep we had purchased in Mount Hagen along with taro sweet potatoes and greens for a feast the locals were honored and impressed that Kris' Parents had made the long journey. Kris and I felt honored as well. The other end of the parish was near the Enga province where people spoke Enga as well as Kaugel

... to be continued ...

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Thank you to all for your prayers, well-wishes, cards, gifts, phone calls, transportation assistance and loans of equipment during my recent bout with gout. It made the pain much more bearable. I am truly blessed to be a part of St. Luke's family. In Christ,

Triss Hoppman

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

January 2018

Comments:

- July was a five-Sunday month.
- The contribution results this month are essentially a repeat of last month, which is fantastic! Read on.
- July's offerings were 7.5 percent above last year's offerings; however, the Year-to-Date figure still lags last year's YTD figure. But, the lag is decreasing, which is encouraging.
- The offerings in July exceeded the month's Budget, as it did in June. Again however, the YTD for the month is slightly below the YTD Budget figure.
- Note: The celebration of Pastor Carl's 40th anniversary in the ministry was held in July 2017. This is the key reason for the difference in the number of contributors in July.
- In July, a mid-year statement of contributions was distributed to each contributing member. If you did not receive a statement, contact me.
- 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	\$19,912	\$120,440
Compared to Budget	\$1,382	-\$3,166
	7.5%	-2.6%
Compared to 2017	\$1,217	-\$5,863
	6.5%	-4.6%
No. of Contributors		
2018 (Current Year)	87	86 avg.
2017 (Last Year)	97	89 avg.
Other Special Gifts		
Sunday School	\$17	
Flowers	\$180	
Memorials	\$200	

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



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin
(10:30 a.m.)
Sept. 02 Carol Carney, Shirley Prouty
Sept. 09 Lydia Toloy
Sept. 16 Karen Linfor, Kelly Boyer
Sept. 23 Steven Lee
Sept. 30 Connie Reule, Nancy Minning

Communion Servers

Sept. 02 Kelly Boyer, Linda Duffek,
Betty England
Sept. 16 Pat Hamilton, Mary Frances Harris,
Kirsten Ireton
Sept. 30 Karen Linfor, Marlene Kiser,
Peggy Moser

Counters

Sept. 02 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule
Sept. 09 John Orcutt, Triss Hoppman
Sept. 16 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig
Sept. 23 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser
Sept. 30 Nancy Minning, Connie Reule

Greeters

Sept. 02 Steven Lee, Jan Tanaka
Sept. 09 Gabby Cox, Pat Hamilton
Sept. 16 *Needed*
Sept. 23 Ralph & Merle Zbrog
Sept. 30 Cathy Davis, Gaylen Everett

Prayer Leaders

Sept. 02 Christina Hisamoto
Sept. 09 Betty Englund
Sept. 16 Tracy Etchison
Sept. 23 Mary Frances Harris
Sept. 30 Holly Hoppman

Psalm Leaders

Sept. 02 Amber Mansfield
Sept. 09 Angie Martinez
Sept. 16 Lucy Orcutt
Sept. 23 Aiyana Tice
Sept. 30

Head Ushers

8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin
10:30 a.m. Craig Eckels
Readers (8:15 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.)
Sept. 02 Sarah Madison; Karen Linfor
Sept. 09 Phil Petersen; Bob Behr
Sept. 16 Ron Webb; Al Moser
Sept. 23 Christiana Wilson; Kelly Boyer
Sept. 30 Sarah Madison; Larry Dockter

Refreshments

Sept. 02 Kirsten Ireton & Pat Lehman
Sept. 09 Marc & Alison Thomas

Picnic

Sept. 23 Kelly Boyer & Lois Sherrets
Sept. 30 Jacob & Christiana Wilson

Visitors' Gifts

Sept. 02 Pauline Arndt
Sept. 09 Carole Vance
Sept. 16 Carolyn Andrews
Sept. 23 Joyce Jensen
Sept. 30 Carol Carney

Acolytes

Sept. 02 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
Sept. 09 Aiyana Tice, Ernestine Roberts
Sept. 16 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez
Sept. 23 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi
Sept. 30 Isabella Basquez, Aiyana Tice

Welcome Leaders

Sept. 02 Gail Weber
Sept. 09 Al Moser
Sept. 16 Chet Madison
Sept. 23 Kelly Boyer
Sept. 30 Mary Francis Harris

Sunday School Teachers

Sept. 02 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto
Sept. 09 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez
Sept. 16 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews
Sept. 23 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice
Sept. 30 Alison Thomas, Laura Tice



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Sacramento, CA 95823

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Return Service Requested

St. Luke's Board of Worship and Music
invites you to attend our 8th Annual



September 22nd, 2018

Doors open at 5pm

for fellowship and activities

Dinner at 6:15pm

Tickets: \$15.00

Youth (4-12yrs): \$5

Children 3 & under are free