



St. Luke's Lutheran Church
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Pastor Carl Hoppman
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2019

News And Views

Pastoral Perspective



Many would say the raising of Lazarus from the dead by Jesus is not the most important point of the event described in John 11. They would say the coming forth of Lazarus from the tomb is secondary to the anticipated cross-bearing and resurrection of Jesus. I wonder what Lazarus would

say about this. He who lay stone cold dead in the tomb; he who was given extra years to enjoy life; what might he say about his raising from the dead being secondary to anything else? Let's let Lazarus speak for himself. After all, how many people have opportunity to deliver their own eulogy? Let's hear what Lazarus might say if given the opportunity to speak.

"Something greater than my being raised from the dead? Something greater than my being reunited with my loving sisters? I don't take these blessings lightly. And yet I would agree there is something even greater than my coming forth from the tomb. I came forth to die again. Jesus' empty tomb means that the power of death has been conquered once and for all. I died a natural death. He entered willingly into the jaws of death to remove its powerful bite. Something better—you better believe it! But let me get at it my own way.

My eulogy is in three parts. First, I borrow a phrase that my sister spoke while I was in the grave and Jesus ordered it open. She said, 'Lord, by this time

he of course stinketh, for he has been dead four days.' She was describing the condition of my body. When I say, 'I stinketh', I also describe the condition of my spirit without God's grace. My sinful spirit has a stench about it. With Paul I would acknowledge that I am a child of God, yet I so often live a life curved in on myself. I am nothing without Jesus. I confess with Paul, 'The good I would, I do not; the evil I would not, that I do. O wretched man that I am.' Surely the stench of my carnal spirit, of my selfish heart, arises horribly to the nostrils of God. Thanks be to Jesus for His intercession and intervention for me upon the cross. Let the eulogies of others speak of magnificent motivations, their 'robes off their backs' noble deeds; but for Lazarus simply say, 'he stinketh'.

For the second part of my eulogy, I take from my Lord's words to my sister to reassure her and give her real hope. My Lord Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Even in odorous death, I am hidden in Jesus and so I live. Jesus met the enemy. He suffered my death. He alone is the resurrection and the life. When one enters 'the valley of the shadow of death', as I did, one is given the fruits of the gift of faith. All else is swept away. Only the crucified and risen Jesus is left. At my death, it was said, 'Jesus wept'. Imagine the Almighty, wrapped in human flesh, knowing what it means to weep, to grieve the loss of a loved one. He is the One who cries with you, Who surrounds your grief with His understanding and love. Yet His love won't quit there. He endures your death, your wages of sin, upon the cross. That is why He is the 'resurrection and the life'.

And now, to the third part of my eulogy. I would call it, 'I believe'. It comes from my sister's response to Jesus' question, 'Do you believe this'? She never specifically answered His question about dying and living again or about eternal life. She simply confessed, 'Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God'. My sister, bless her trust, cut across all the mysteries of life and death and confessed what she absolutely knew, 'I believe in You, Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God.' That's Who I believe in. I believe in this One—Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, was buried, and on the third day rose again. This One grants me eternal life.

So, say not about Lazarus that 'he was a good man'. Say only that without God's grace 'he stinketh'. Say not that 'if there is a heaven, he deserves to be there.' Say only that Jesus is his 'resurrection and life'. Say not about Lazarus that he knew all about God's ways. Say only that he believed with all his heart that Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God, died and rose for him."

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,
Pastor Carl

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

In preparation for Easter, we will be cleaning the altar area and polishing the brass and silver on Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to help with these tasks.



We will be decorating for Palm Sunday on Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m. If you have palms, please bring them to the church at that time. We can use both fan palms and the large fronds. You are welcome to stay a bit and help decorate the sanctuary. We can especially use the help of a

few gentlemen as the large branches can be pretty heavy.

Palm Sunday is April 14. As in the past, the service begins with the procession of palms where we

remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As the service progresses, the mood shifts to the consideration of Jesus' Passion. There will be special music provided by the Bell Choir and Chancel Choir.



PASSOVER LAMB DINNER

On Thursday, April 18, we will once again remember the Passover with our traditional lamb dinner. The observance begins at 6:00 p.m. with a ritual meal using specific foods to illustrate parts of the Passover story. The story of the plagues that God sent to persuade Pharaoh to release the Jewish slaves is told with pictures. The remembrance is especially designed for children to participate in the program. The ritual meal is followed by a full lamb dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets for the dinner will be available April 7th. Chicken can be ordered for those who do not eat lamb.

Our Maundy Thursday Holy Communion worship is at 7:30 p.m. At this special service we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples, his betrayal and arrest. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar to remind us of Jesus' captivity. We need several people to help with the stripping of the altar. A sign-up sheet will be available beginning April 7th.



Friday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m. we gather for the Service of Shadows. With several readings from the Bible and special hymns and anthems, we remember Jesus' sacrifice of himself on our behalf. As is our tradition, the congregation is invited to nail their burdens on the cross. The service concludes in silence and darkness.

Saturday, April 20 we will be preparing the chancel area for our Easter celebration. Please bring your greenery for the Living Cross and cut flowers to the church anytime Saturday. You may also bring cut flowers to worship with you on Easter morning and place them on the cross yourself.



Easter is Sunday, April 21. Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. The church will be adorned with Easter Lilies and the beautiful Living Cross. Easter breakfast will be served in the fellowship hall from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. An Easter egg hunt for children through the sixth grade starts at 10:00 a.m.



Linda Ferguson & Sue Fechter will Co-Chair our Easter Breakfast. Thank you Linda and Sue. We will need a number of volunteers to help set up, serve and clean up. We will need several volunteers to help set up Schultz Hall on Saturday April 20th at 9:30a.m. We will have

a sign up sheet for muffins, breads, servers and clean up on Sunday on the Opportunity Table.

Our Easter Breakfast is a great way for Fellowship.

EASTER LILIES

As a time honored tradition, The Board of Worship and Music is taking orders for Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning. The lilies may be given in honor or memory of someone or simply to the glory of God. Unfortunately,



our cost has increased this year so the requested donation per plant is \$12.00. Order sheets will be included in the bulletins in April. A list of the honorees will be included in the bulletin Easter Sunday. The lilies can be picked up after the 10:30 service Easter morning.



The Women of ELCA celebrated St. Patrick's Day at our March Meeting a little early. Lunch was a Potato Bar with all the different toppings. Judy Saxby lead the devotion with a reading about the true facts about St. Patrick, followed with a fun name game. Connie Reule read the February minutes for Gabby Cox. The Mission Support for the month was Courageous Connections.

The final W-ELCA Benevolence for 2018 was to the following organizations/groups: Adopt a Chaplain; Boys & Girls Club; Chicks in Crisis; My Sister's House; Samaritan's Purse; St. John's Program for Real Change; Courageous Connections; Elk Grove Food Bank; South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership; Mustard Seed School; Valley Hi Family Resource Center; ELCA Good Gifts; WarmLine Family Resource Center; CA Peace Officers Memorial Foundations; Star 6 Foundations; and Pastor's Assistance Fund.

April's Mission Support is the Kiwanis Family House. Gathering: socks (all ages), toilet paper, paper towels, sanitizer wipes.

Coming up in April will include a Passover Lamb Dinner planning meeting, April 7, following the service. Leading the planning meeting will be Triss Hoppman, with help from Connie Reule, Debi Lentsch, Carol Carney, and Marlene Kiser; but please remember that all are invited to attend this meeting. Passover Lamb Dinner is April 18th.

April also includes the start of the ticket sale (April 28, 2019) for our Annual Bunco Night on June 1st. Talking about Bunco, if anyone has borrowed any of the card tables from the room at the back of the

Schultz Hall could you please return them by May so we know how many card tables we will need for the Bunco Night on June 1st. Thanks in advance.

Yours in Christ,
Marlene Kiser,
WELCA President



First and foremost, SLY Leaders and Youth members would like to thank every one that was able to donate a dessert for our dessert table at the Crab Feed last month! A big thank you, also to those who took a chance on our youth, and tried out our new Childcare fundraiser! Our kids had a lot of fun, and this is something we will be offering for future St. Luke's events.

SLY Leaders and Youth members met for our regular monthly meeting on Sunday, March 10th. SLY leaders presented a proposed yearly event calendar. We are fine tuning the calendar and will be handing out the final draft at this month's meeting, Sunday, April 14th, immediately following church. We will also be filling Easter eggs for the annual egg hunt after/during this meeting. This is an all-hands-on-deck event, as we have a ton of eggs to fill! There is a basket in the Narthex for Easter candy donations. Please consider donating a bag or two of candy to help with this event!

The Easter egg hunt hosted by SLY will begin at 10:00 a.m. Easter morning, Sunday, April 21st. We have our Easter Bunny all set to take pictures with the kids beforehand and to kick off the egg hunt! We hope to see everyone there!

Any questions, comments, or concerns? Want to join the youth board? Please feel free to contact Laura Tice (916) 271-7566.

DINNER Groups

We discussed on how we can improve our Diners Group to include New Members and Members who do not normally get involved with our group. Our goal is to give them some love and attention. Pastor Carl will provide a list of New Members and Members.

We will form new groups for every other month, May, July and September. Groups will be for 6-8 and we will invite New Members or orders to join us. We will have a sign up sheet on the Opportunity Table by March 31st.

CRAB FEED



Our 18th Annual, Mardi Gras themed, Crab Feed was a great success! We had close to 200 people in attendance and over 30 volunteers helping with every aspect of the night to pull off such a fun night. A big thank you goes out to the volunteers that made this event such a success. From everyone who help with initial planning steps to the wonderful and dedicated crew that has helped year after year, this could not have happened without you!! Thank you! Many thanks go out to all our generous donors as well; on the next page is a list of all the organizations and people that donated either their time or efforts to this event. With slightly fewer people in attendance this year, we were able to raise just about \$7,500 for ministry and property projects around St. Luke's. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Holly Hoppman
Crab Feed Chairperson



To all our generous donors and volunteers

Aerospace Museum of California	Texas Roadhouse	Carol Carney
B Street Theatre	The Commons at Elk Grove	Dorothy Haney
Bed, Bath & Beyond	The Cookie Jar	Larry Dockter
BJ's	The Cotton Club	Deanna Dockter
Black Bear Diner	The Habit Burger Grill	Marlene Kiser
Boulevard Bistro	The Old Spaghetti Factory	Duane Kiser
Chicago Fire	The Popcorn Store	Rochelle Jaeger
Chili's	The Secret Garden	Triss Hoppman
Color Me Mine	Trader Joe's	Carl Hoppman
Cracker Barrel	Jack's Urban Eats	Jeff Kiser
de Young Legion of Honor Fine Arts Museum	Vampire Penguin	Bruce Kiser
Edible Arrangements	Kevin Webb	Karen Linfor
Leatherby's	Kathy and Vern Rose	Kirsten Ireton
Logan's Roadhouse	Ron and Pat Webb	Mike & Linda Duffek
Mac Que's Barbeque	Cheryl Franklin	Kelly Boyer
Mimi's Café	Pat Lehman	Carolyn Andrews
Nina's Flowers & Gifts	Paulette Pfannenstiel	Paul Maki
Nugget Market	Pauline Arndt	Justin Tice
Oil Stop	Chris Blair & Melody Palmer	Laura Tice
On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina	Debi Lentsch & family	Samantha Basquez
Outback	Jack Fenske	St. Luke's Youth Group
Paesano's	Micki Fenske	Monterey Trails HS Key Club
Palermo Ristorante	Bob Behr	Florin HS Key Club
Pamper Me Spa	Ron Webb	Franklin HS Key Club
Romano's Macaroni Grill	Pat Webb	Elk Grove HS Key Club
Sacramento History Alliance Museum	Alison Thomas	Sac City CKI Club
Dave Saxby	Katie Iniquez	Judy Saxby





MARDI GRAS CRAB FEED





The family of Jerry Carney wants to sincerely thank the members of the congregation for the unbelievable expressions of sympathy, in so many ways, due to his passing on February 13, 2019. So greatly appreciated are the many cards, kind words, visits, phone calls, gifts, memorial gifts and all those who were able to attend his Memorial Service on March 8, 2019 as well as those who were there in spirit and those who contributed wonderful food for the lunch.

We also thank Pastor Carl for making the memorial what we so wanted it to be, as well as all of the caring, loving support that he gave to the family prior to the Memorial. As we all know Pastor Carl has a very special gift from God, when it comes to officiating for a memorial. We sincerely thank Ron Webb for doing the readings, Kim Stangl for reading the poem, Larry Dockter for Ushering, Jane Fanucci for playing the Organ, Selena Connell for being the amazing greeter, and Karen Linfor, along with Pastor Carl for beautifully singing two of Jerry's very favorite songs. We so appreciate Triss Hoppman, and the Comfort Committee and others, for all of their hard work, in providing such a fantastic, wonderful, lunch, for all to enjoy, allowing family and friends to have time to share with each other.

Our hearts are broken but we know Jerry is with his Heavenly Father and we can rejoice in that, until we meet him again.

May God Bless All of You

Love from,

Carol, Bryan, David, Melanie and all the rest of the family.

Community Outreach

We researched on how we could reach out to our Community. Lauren Orcutt found a company that will send out 12,000 Postcards with information on St. Luke's Easter Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Service. The Postcards will be mailed to our Community here near St. Luke's Lutheran Church and North Laguna. This project was previously approved by our Congregation two years ago as part of the Myers Memorial Fund distribution.



April 13, 2019
8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Please join us to beautify our church on Saturday, April 13 for the Spring season.



Your Address books!

Irma Lowe
7231 Saga Way
Sacramento, CA 95828

Kelly Sobkowsky
62 Park Vista Circle
Sacramento, CA 95831

Dennis & Janice Fischer
8827 Mohamed Circle
Elk Grove, CA 95624



Anthony Neidich	April 01
Michele Clemens	April 03
Larry Dockter	April 06
Don Englund	April 09
Clarence Korhonen	April 12
Marilyn Sodergren	April 16
Matthew Spear	April 16
Charles Yakabe	April 16
Megan Gadreault	April 17
Heidi Harrison	April 17
Reuben Jones	April 19
Kamryn Olsen	April 19
Mary Frances Harris	April 20
Cheryl Menezes	April 20
Connie Reule	April 24
Rylee Shower	April 25
Lisa Englund	April 27
Lisa Olsen	April 28
Rachel Kiser	April 30



April 7 *Needed*

April 14 **Marlene & Duane Kiser**
For Betty Olsen's Celebration of
Heavenly Birthday

April 21 **Mary Frances Harris**
For her Birthday

April 28 *Needed*



Richey Family
Craig, Karen, Lauren & Dixon

8130 Suarez Way
Elk Grove, CA 95757
916-897-2921

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

January 2019

Comments:

- After a terrific January, the February monthly totals are slightly down.
- However, the 2019 contributions are off to a good start, as the YTD data shows.
- A concern is the significant decrease in the number of contributors.
- Annual contribution statements for 2018 were distributed in January 2019. If you did not receive a statement, or need a replacement, contact me.
- When making a special contribution, please clearly mark in large, bold letters what the contribution is for. Thank you.
- 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	\$15,403	\$34,465	
Compared to Budget	-\$1,087	\$1,700	
	-6.6%	5.2%	
Compared to 2018	-\$780	\$2,468	
	-4.8%	7.7%	
No. of Contributors			
2019 (Current Year)	74	74	avg.
2018 (Last Year)	85	87	avg.
Other Special Gifts			
Sunday School		\$7	
Flowers		\$225	
Memorials		\$325	
Special Gifts		\$300	

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



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin
(10:30 a.m.)
April 7 Brenda Sulzmann, Carole Johnson
April 14 Kelly Boyer, Faith Harper
April 18 Peggy Moser, Marlene Kiser
April 21 Carol Carney, Shirley Prouty
April 28 Dave Saxby

Communion Servers

April 7 Ralph Zbrog, Kelly Boyer, Shirley Prouty
April 18 Merle Zbrog, Linda Duffek, Betty England
April 21 Mary Frances Harris, Kirsten Ireton, Marlene Kiser

Counters

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

Greeters

April 7 *Needed*
April 14 *Needed*
April 21 *Needed*
April 28 Marlene & Duane Kiser

Prayer Leaders

April 7 Merle Zbrog
April 14 Ralph Zbrog
April 18 Marlene Kiser
April 21 Bob Behr
April 28 Kelly Boyer

Psalm Leaders

April 7 Sierra Etchison
April 14 Aiyana Tice
April 21 Lucy Orcutt
April 28 Amber Mansfield

Head Ushers

8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin
10:30 a.m. Ralph Zbrog

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

April 7 Ron Webb; Betty Englund
April 14 Christiana Wilson; Tracy Etchison
April 18 Karen Linfor
April 21 Ron Webb; Faith Harper
April 28 Christiana Wilson; Mary F. Harris

Refreshments

April 7 Carol Carney & Ofelia Ojeda
April 14 Mack & Carole Vance
April 21 Easter Breakfast
April 28 Needed

Visitors' Gifts

April 7 Pauline Arndt
April 14 Pat Webb
April 21 Steven Lee
April 28 Carol Carney

Acolytes

Dec 2 Darnell Osako, LaRayna Osako-Cain
Dec 9 Noella Sondrini, Anthony Basquez
Dec 16 Claire Kerian, Elizabeth Wilson
Dec 23 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi
Dec 30 Amber Mansfield, Angie Martinez

Welcome Leaders

April 7 Merle Zbrog
April 14 Betty Englund
April 21 Pat Webb
April 28 Al Moser

Sunday School Teachers

Dec 2 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto, Peggy Moser
Dec 9 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez, Peggy Moser
Dec 16 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews, Peggy Moser
Dec 23 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice, Peggy Moser
Dec 30 Alison Thomas, Laura Tice, Peggy Moser



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

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Sacramento, CA

Return Service Requested

Celebrate Easter with us!

Easter Sunday, April 21

Worship Service

8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

will be served *from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.*
in Schultz Hall

Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m.